



# SAVING MINSTERLEY MEADOWS CAMPAIGN SEEKS PROJECT COORDINATOR

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**STOP PRESS** Meadows group seek project coordinator to deliver National Lottery Heritage fund grant to secure long term future of 5000 GREEN-WINGED ORCHIDS IN MINSTERLEY, SHROPSHIRE

Following a 10-month campaign by local people and nature conservationists, Middle Marches Community Land Trust and Marches Meadow Group have purchased two hay meadows and are now looking for a project coordinator to help secure them for the future.

Thanks are due to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, 367 donors, Morris & Co ,100+ supporters and a hard-working group of volunteers on the Steering Group.

The Meadows are nationally important and are amongst the best flowery grasslands in Shropshire. They support over 5,000 Green-winged orchids. This is a species which has severely declined over the last 100 years and over 90% of Shropshire's Green-winged orchids are in these two hay meadows.

Over £158 000 has been raised by donations from local people and organisations, and a £10,000 grant from Defra was facilitated by Shropshire Hills National Landscapes staff. Thanks to National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund have awarded a grant of £224 000 which covers a contribution to the purchase of the meadows, the ongoing work to manage them, and funds to support local people to care for them and engage with young people to learn about them. This includes a local art project, activities and events as well as working closely with local primary and secondary schools.

**Richard Keymer, Chair of Middle Marches Community Land Trust** says “We are delighted to announce the purchase of Minsterley Meadows and in being able to secure the future of such an important wildlife site well loved by local people. Our thanks to all the many people who have contributed to the Appeal in different ways and especially to The National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery players, and to our dedicated group of local supporters”.

**Peter Carty, Chair of Marches Meadow Group** “This is a fantastic achievement to protect a rare example of an old hay meadow full of flowers and other important wildlife including fungi. Such places are arks of wildlife from where we hope to collect seed and material to spread into new meadows that our members are creating or restoring. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors and thanks to the Heritage Fund for supporting this appeal”

**Geoff Rogers, Chair, Minsterley Parish Council.** "The Parish of Minsterley greatly appreciates all those who have secured the purchase of Minsterley Meadows saving it for future generations. A great effort has been made by all those who have made donations and also by everyone connected with the Middle Marches Community Land Trust. We thank you all.

**Richard Tongue, Chair, Worthen with Shelve Parish Council**

"Worthen with Shelve Parish Council is always extremely happy to support local environmental projects; the Minsterley Meadows Appeal instantly leapt out to us as vitally important to the preservation of a critical community asset loved by all, and we were glad to be able to help in any way we could."

**Additional information**

**About The National Lottery Heritage Fund** - As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#).

Over the next ten years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

We help protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

We are passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund  
[www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)

**Middle Marches Community Land Trust**

The Middle Marches Community Land Trust is owned and managed by local people to protect, conserve, restore and enhance our environment through the stewardship of land.

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>

**The Marches Meadow Group** was established in 2015 to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of species-rich hay meadows, grasslands and unimproved pastures.

<https://www.marchesmeadowgroup.com/>

**Job vacancy documentation can be found at:**

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/job-vacancy/>

