

Press release

For immediate release – Thursday 2 July

Wildlife and Countryside Link appoints new Chair of Trustees

Dr Hazel Norman has been appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link). The appointment was made by Link Trustees in June 2015, and Hazel takes up her position immediately.

Link is a forum and networking body for 45 voluntary organisations concerned with the conservation and protection of wildlife and the countryside. Taken together its members have the support of over 8 million people in the UK and manage over 750,000 hectares of land.

Executive Director at the British Ecological Society (BES) since 1995, Dr Norman has been instrumental in setting the strategic direction for the BES, which is an organisation that fosters the study of ecology and leads on policy and educational issues.

On her appointment, Dr Norman said:

‘I am delighted to be appointed as Chair of Trustees at Wildlife and Countryside Link, especially when the organisation is at such an important and exciting stage in its development. At a time when natural systems are being pushed beyond their limits, it has never been more important for decision-makers to understand the consequences of putting our planet under pressure’.

‘Our new strategic plan lays out a challenging, ambitious but entirely achievable vision, which builds on Link’s core strengths. It will increase the influence of Link, and thereby its members, helping the environment sector have greater influence and impact with policy

makers. We will also be more effective at providing a forum for members to network, collaborate and speak with one voice. I am looking forward to working with Link's members, staff and Board of Trustees to deliver our strategic objectives.'

Director of Link, Dr Elaine King, said:

'Hazel's approach is perfect for our member-led organisation as she is both consultative and persuasive. She also has the experience and ambition to ensure that Link delivers its new five year strategy for our members. I am delighted that Hazel has been appointed Chair of Trustees and am really looking forward to working together over the coming years.'

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Notes to editors

Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) brings together 45 voluntary organisations concerned with the conservation and protection of wildlife and the countryside. Our members practise and advocate environmentally sensitive land management, and encourage respect for and enjoyment of natural landscapes and features, the historic and marine environment and biodiversity. Taken together our members have the support of over 8 million people in the UK and manage over 750,000 hectares of land.

For media enquiries or interview opportunities please contact Sarah Bernard
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