

Fairy Meadow Fund – Note on Site Search



Can you help us find land for our first Fairy Meadow ?

The Fairyland Trust* has raised £20,000 over recent years for the 'Fairy Meadow Fund' <http://www.fairylandtrust.org/fairy-meadow-fund/>. Our idea is to buy some land which is currently low in wildlife value and convert it into a 'meadow' by resowing it with native wildflowers. 97% of our traditional lowland meadows have been lost, and once common flowers, bees, butterflies and birds are in huge decline thanks to intensive farming practices. This makes it much harder for families to find a places where children can explore nature, or even for a picnic in a pleasant meadow. The [core mission of the Fairyland Trust](#) is to introduce young children to nature, something which [over 85% of adults agree is 'vital'](#).

The £20k will have to cover all the associated costs at least of acquiring and initially securing the land so we may have about £12k to purchase land although additional fundraising is possible if we find a compelling site.

The Trust is well known for creating Magical Workshops through which children can learn about nature in a creative and imaginative way, using authentic British nature-based folklore ([see those for Hire here](#)). It also runs the Fairy Fairs (last held at Sennowe Park in May 2016 – see this [short video](#)) and The Real Halloween (this year at Holt Hall, October 29th and 30th). It sends travelling workshops all over the country and the events attract visitors from across the UK. The Trust is based in Norfolk and most of its Supporters and many of its 6,000 followers live here so we are first looking for a Norfolk site.

These funds have been raised by small voluntary fundraising activities, donations of 'wages' from the crew working at events and from a contribution on the ticket price paid by visitors to the events, for which we receive no grant aid or sponsorship.

What It Will Be Like and The Sort of Place We Need

The idea is to create a quiet and pleasant place for families to visit, enjoy some nature, and for example, to picnic. It's not intended as an event site but would need to be reasonably **accessible**. Unless it is within walking distance of housing, or a bus or train route, many people are likely to visit by car. This means that so being near to some sort of **parking**, or with scope to cheaply create on-site parking (and where this is not likely to be a planning issue), would be important. Having a nice **view** or **aspect** is important and **sloping** land would be great for picnics and taking in the scenery.

While fens, marshes and damp meadows can also be full of flowers, naturally well drained land, with an open aspect, would be ideal. Some hard-standing would also be an advantage.

The best **soil type** would be **nutrient poor** as that allows a greater diversity of flowers to live alongside one another but we would be open to buying **farmland**, and then spend some year trying to reduce the fertility.

Finally, for reasons of making good on our promise to donors it is essential to us that we can end up owning the land in perpetuity, so we are not considering leases or licences for land, only **purchase**.

Once We Find Some Land ...

Any suggestions as to how to increase our purchasing power by **grant aid / adding extra funding** to the project would be very welcome. A site where a landowner was willing to sell **more adjacent land** in future would be ideal.

Offers of contributions as technical **help in-kind** are also very welcome, both to deal with land search and purchase (eg Land Agents, Estate Agents, Solicitors), and in planning and management of the site.

The Trust would also be happy to collaborate with a landowner who has an adjacent site which The Fairy Meadow could **complement**, for example a nature reserve which has more restrictive access due to high nature value. Our intention is to create something with increased nature value but which is robust to allow visitor use. The degree of final **public access** and the type of **management** would be site dependent.

If you think you can help please contact: Chris Rose chris@fairylandtrust.org Tel: 01328 711526. 12 Jolly Sailor Yard, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1LA

Please do not suggest land to look at unless you first establish that the land is for sale, or you first contact the landowner and confirm that s/he would consider selling it to the Trust.

Thank you

www.fairylandtrust.org

*Registered charity 1089771
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All donations gratefully received [here](#)