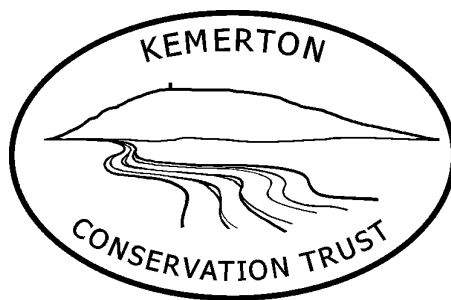


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PRESS RELEASE 25 February 2009
**Orchards' Future Looks Rosy as Conservation Charity Celebrates
Grant Award**

Kemerton Conservation Trust (KCT) is delighted to announce it has just been awarded a grant of £19,800 for orchard restoration and conservation in Kemerton as part of a nationwide partnership project led by the National Trust.

The National Trust's **Conserving and Restoring Traditional Orchards in England** project is being funded by Natural England as part of **Natural England's Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund**, which supports projects that help to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 as part of the Europe-wide Countdown 2010 initiative.

The grant, which will run until March 2011, will provide funding for KCT to resume the restoration and wildlife management of orchards at Kemerton, including orchard mapping and assessment of existing trees, restoration of older trees, pruning where required and some replanting. A major survey of orchard wildlife will be carried out using recent and fresh data, and efforts will be made to identify many of the unnamed trees. The grant donors hope that the local community will get involved through volunteering and that marketing of the fruit will be stimulated.

Thanks to earlier work by KCT in this field, and support from the local trained volunteer group 'Kemerton Orchard Workers' and others, the Trust already has experience in restoring and managing orchards and therefore may be asked to host visits from other participants and orchard owners.

"Receiving this grant is excellent news for the trust. KCT has five orchards under conservation management and the possibility of restoring two more but a lack of funds has restricted work in recent years. With this long term funding now secured, KCT will be able to restore and monitor these valuable wildlife habitats. I view this funding as reward for everyone's hard work." John Clarke, KCT Conservation Advisor

For further information on the work of the Trust go to www.kemerton.org

Notes for editors

Kemerton Conservation Trust is a local conservation charity based in Kemerton, Gloucestershire. For further details of any of the above or quotes, please contact our Press Officer, Kate Aubury on 07765 334 776 or kate@aubury.co.uk

About Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund

The Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund supports projects that will help achieve the UK government's commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, through delivering the objectives of the England Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plans. The commitment

to halt biodiversity loss was made by European leaders at the 2001 EU Summit in Gothenburg and the Countdown 2010 initiative is a Europe-wide programme which seeks to raise awareness of this target.

About the ‘Conserving and restoring traditional orchards in England’ Project

The project aim is to contribute towards the targets of the UK Habitat Action Plan (HAP) for Traditional Orchards through restoration and creation. Activities will include identifying existing work and developing a central point of information for all Traditional Orchard work. The project will identify Traditional Orchards within England in urgent need of restoration. Although the National Trust will be leading on all activities, this project could not take place without the expertise and involvement of our partners.

About Natural England

Natural England is here to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings.



About The National Trust

The National Trust is a charity whose aim is to ensure that green places, historical buildings, coastline, countryside and our heritage is here for ever, for everyone.



THE NATIONAL TRUST

for ever, for everyone