

## The Magog Trust

Since taking on responsibility for the Stapleford Parish Pit in January 2022 from the Parish Council, The Magog Trust has been managing the site in accordance with a plan devised by The Wildlife Trust. Along with the Magog Down, it has been awarded County Wildlife Status. It has also been accepted as a Local Geological Site by the Cambridgeshire Geological Society on account of interesting features in its exposed slopes.

A prime aim of the Trust is to promote the conservation of the chalk grassland and its associated flora and fauna. The Trustees are particularly pleased to note that some rare butterflies have been spotted on the Down, particularly the Chalk Hill Blue and the Green Hairstreak.

The retirement village proposed for the outskirts of Stapleford received planning approval from the inspector upon appeal. The Trust has agreed to take on the ownership and management of the associated countryside park, to be called Chalk Hill Down. A plan for its development and management is currently being prepared, with the aim of restoring the land to chalk grassland, similar to the North Down. There is a degree of uncertainty at present because the proposed busway (Cambridgeshire South East Transport Scheme - CSET) is likely to impinge upon the countryside park in a manner yet to be determined. Although the Trust does not see itself as a campaigning organisation, the Trustees are opposed to CSET, principally on the grounds that it will despoil an attractive part of the greenbelt and the view of the landscape from Magog Down. The Trust is supporting the "Better Ways For Busways!" campaign group which will oppose CSET at the public enquiry in 2023.

Chris Bow  
Chairman  
2 May 2023