

Report to Saltash Town Council, March 2025 Bob Austin

Chair, Friends of Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve

Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve spans over 150 acres of diverse habitats, including grasslands, mudflats, wetlands and woodlands. Owned by Antony Estate and managed by Cornwall Wildlife Trust under a 25-year lease, the land is farmed using traditional Cornish methods that encourage biodiversity and maintain habitats.

The Friends of Churchtown Farm is a community group of volunteers set up in 2001 to protect and enhance the reserve's diverse habitats, supporting conservation efforts through regular volunteer activities and community engagement.

The 25-year lease is due for renewal in August this year, and the Friends of Churchtown Farm have been engaged in early conversations with Antony Estate and Cornwall Wildlife Trust to explore the possibilities for ensuring the Reserve's ecological richness is maintained for future generations.

Several town councillors have been involved in these early conversations, but we are now at the stage of asking Saltash Town Council for its formal involvement. We would be grateful if the Town Council could:

- set up a working group to take these discussions forward with us
- allow the use of the Guildhall for meetings necessary to conclude the negotiations