

## Great Dixter Biodiversity Policy

Great Dixter is a 15<sup>th</sup> century house that was the home and inspiration the renowned gardener and author, Christopher Lloyd. The Estate consists of 6 acres of gardens, 4 acres of meadows, 14 acres of pasture and approx 30 acres of woodland. It is now owned by the Great Dixter Charitable Trust. The Trust aims to manage the garden and wider estate in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. A strategy to protect, maximise and increase the existing biodiversity estate-wide will be adopted through the development of sustainable management practices and monitoring.

Great Dixter Charitable Trust is committed to:

- Comply with all applicable environmental legislation and codes of practice relating to biodiversity.
- Develop and implement biodiversity plans for all habitats on the estate.
- Ensure no net loss of biodiversity and habitats value within the site (in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive) through appropriate mitigating action.
- Use local and national biodiversity Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) to guide management decisions.
- Establish ongoing monitoring for biodiversity indicators, taxa and species (e.g. BAP priority species and invasives).
- Undergo appropriate environmental impact assessments and providing ecological mitigation and enhancement measures prior to major site developments taking place.
- Develop partnerships with conservation groups to provide and receive resources for surveys and achieve mutual benefits.
- Develop the interpretation of the site for educational purposes in line with learning at Great Dixter for both adults and children through training and workshops.
- Dissemination of information to promote biodiversity conservation practices locally and nationally, through media and educational facilities.

Progress towards achieving these goals will be regularly reviewed at quarterly meetings of the Biodiversity Committee. An annual report will be produced and presented to the Trustees at the Annual General Meeting.

December 2011