



THE COUNTRYSIDE
RESTORATION TRUST
CREATING A LIVING AND WORKING COUNTRYSIDE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Embargo: None

21st July 2009

Barn Owl Bonanza

The Countryside Restoration Trust is experiencing a Barn Owl Bonanza on its Lark Rise Farm in the village of Barton in Cambridgeshire. With many areas of Britain having a disastrous year, Lark Rise is bucking the trend with two successful nests on its four hundred acres. One more successful nest is just off the farm, with the adults doing much of their hunting on Lark Rise.

Robin Page, Chairman of the CRT says: **“It is brilliant – one nest has already had three healthy young leave the nest and the other has four chicks about to leave. It has been a good year – with yet two more nests in the parish on an organic farm run by Mick Radford. Barn Owls returned to us in 2001 and we believe that the chicks produced have allowed the barn owl population to expand outwards with barn owls reaching the RSPB’s Hope Farm this year about six miles, as the owl flies, from Lark Rise Farm”.**

Tim Scott, the CRT’s tenant at Lark Rise is pleased with the continuing success: **“The barn owls are not thriving by accident”,** he says. **“We have introduced many features that produce the voles and mice that the owls need to feed on. We have permanent hay meadows; grass margins are around all our cereal fields and we manage our land for wildlife at the same time as we try to produce quality crops. Our methods can be easily followed by any land owner wanting to farm sympathetically with wildlife”.**

Ends

Notes for Editors:

For further information, please contact The Countryside Restoration Trust office on 01223 262999 or email info@livingcountryside.org.uk.

The Countryside Restoration Trust is a farming and conservation charity which aims to protect and restore Britain's countryside with wildlife-friendly and commercially-viable agriculture. The Trust is committed to promoting the importance of a living and working countryside through education, demonstration and community involvement.

The Trust is establishing a network of demonstration farms across Britain which, using sensitive farming methods, will show how to protect wildlife, produce quality, seasonal food and preserve our countryside for future generations.

The Trust is also using living, working farms as educational centres of expertise to inspire farmers, land managers, the general public and politicians.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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