

## PRESS RELEASE

# World-Class Planting at the Heart of Modern Norfolk Nature Reserve

Nestled into the stunning Wensum Valley, just 11 miles inland from the north Norfolk coast is Pensthorpe Natural Park, a modern nature reserve which counts Piet Oudolf and Julie Toll amongst its list of garden designers.

Pensthorpe has six gardens within its 700-acre estate, which encompasses a diverse range of natural habitats including ancient woodland, farmland, lakes, wetlands and a wildflower meadow.

**The Millennium Garden**, which contains over 100 different plants made up of 90 different species of perennials, 22 different types of grass, and six different types of shrubs is most notable for having been designed by world-renowned plantsman Piet Oudolf.

Launched in 1999 it was the first public garden to be designed by an emerging Oudolf, still relatively unknown in the UK at that time. Ten years later, by which point he was recognised as one of the world's most foremost plantsman, Oudolf returned to oversee the redesign and replanting of his original garden with a decade's more experience under his belt. The Millennium Garden notoriously shows off his famous perennial drifts of sub-alpine, steppe and prairie plants.

Since Piet's return, the garden has been developed once more with the addition of a stunning island and 'Monet-style' bridge, creating a looped walkway for visitors.

The garden has been a huge undertaking for both Pensthorpe and Piet, so garden lovers are advised to take a trip to view what promises to enrapture visitors from July to December.

The serene and reflective **Wave Garden** is designed by Julie Toll, a six time Gold Medal Winner at Chelsea Flower Show, and demonstrates planting in a wide variety of conditions. Its framework of gently rolling yew hedging and simple planting structure ensure that the Wave Garden enjoys lush foliage throughout the year. Situated beneath a canopy of native oak and birch trees, this shaded lakeside garden offers a romantic landscape, which has been further enhanced by atmospheric, locally produced sculptures.

The Wave Garden is a particularly beautiful spot and is enhanced by the **Wave Line Garden**, an extension to this already popular area. Created to inspire a feeling of calm, the Wave Line Garden has been structured by semi-circular seating areas which focus on the sculpture 'Nest', intended to encourage visitors to reflect while they nest in the serene surroundings.

Meandering from the park entrance and leading out to the wetlands of the reserve is the **Wildlife Habitat Garden**, which is planted with species to naturally entice insects and mammals. It is designed to demonstrate to visitors how wildlife corridors, thoughtful planting and garden structure can create wildlife-friendly outdoor space at home. This inspiring garden provides food and habitat for Dragonflies, Bats, Moths, Damselflies, Bees, Garden Birds, Butterflies and Amphibians.

The newest garden in the collection is the **Corten Infinity Garden**, which lines the walkways around eco play area, Hootz House. Structured by an impressive curved piece of Corten, which boasts its characteristic rusty colour, the garden is a natural attention grabber featuring the banana plant and ginger plant, both vibrant and colourful species. This beautifully manicured garden naturally entices visitors from the viewing gallery towards Hootz House and improves movement around the reserve.

Playing an important role in the ecology of the Wensum Valley is Pensthorpe's **Wildflower Meadow**, which is one of the largest in Norfolk. With its stunning array of Orchids and Wildflowers this traditionally managed meadow is a haven for Dragonflies, Butterflies and Banded Demoiselle Damselflies and is a notorious hunting ground for barn owls. Stroll the boardwalk Nature Trail in summer to enjoy a blanket of colour, or in autumn expect to see rare breed Norfolk Long Horn Sheep who are used to graze the meadow after it has been mowed.

Teeming with life and its diverse selection of Wildflowers, its no surprise that the Wildflower Meadow attracted the attention of BBC2's Great British Garden Revival as a base for filming in the height of summer.

Those inspired by the planting and landscapes of the gardens at Pensthorpe can visit the Shop to purchase a range of plants found in the gardens, along with useful items for encouraging wildlife into their gardens at home.

### **2018 Events for Garden Lovers**

#### **Wildflower Meadow Evening Walk – 13<sup>th</sup> June**

Join Pensthorpe's Reserve Manager Richard, for a guided stroll to identify the plethora of species living within north Norfolk's largest wildflower meadow. Includes a glass of prosecco. Dinner optional.

7pm – 9pm.

£12pp members/£18pp incl. dinner. £15pp non-members/£21 incl. dinner.

*Call 01328 863628 or visit [pensthorpe.com](http://pensthorpe.com) to book.*

#### **Guided Tour of the Millennium Garden – 18<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Join Pensthorpe's Head Gardener Jonathan for an early evening walk around Piet Oudolf's first public UK garden; the first of his works to undergo a redesign a decade later. Includes a glass of prosecco. Dinner optional.

6pm – 8pm

£12pp members/£18pp inc. dinner. £15pp non-members/£21 inc. dinner.

*Call 01328 863628 or visit [pensthorpe.com](http://pensthorpe.com) to book.*

#### **Norfolk Nursery Network Specialist Plant Day – 9<sup>th</sup> September**

The Norfolk Nursery Network return for their seventh annual event bringing with them an array of unusual plants available to buy and a wealth of growing know-how. Well worth a visit for those with green fingers!

Time: tbc

Entry fee: tbc

*No booking required.*

For more information about Pensthorpe visit [pensthorpe.com](http://pensthorpe.com) or call 01328 851465.

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### **Editors Notes**

Pensthorpe Natural Park is on the A1067, one mile from Fakenham and just over 20 miles from the city of Norwich. Open all year, 1st January – 28th February 10am – 4pm, and 1st March – 31st December 10am to 5pm. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Entry prices: Adults £11.95, Seniors £10.95, Children £10.95, Under 3's free. Annual Members are free. Parking is free.

£3 off per person during Winter (January and February).

Online booking discount of £1 per person applies to tickets booked in advance (except during winter pricing).

**For more information, images or press passes please contact Rachael Shakespeare on [rachael@rs-pr.co.uk](mailto:rachael@rs-pr.co.uk) or 07833 940 000.**