

'We find plans for this cull both cruel and irresponsible on the part of the National Trust. Wildlife in this country is already suffering due to climate change and loss of habitat, and the last thing the rare wild boar needs is to be persecuted and demonised by a body that has previously vowed to try and help wildlife on its land.'

'Rather than wiping out wild animals because of their proximity to humans, why not educate the public on how to safely interact with them? The chance to interact with wildlife is exciting and rewarding for many, and a huge reason many visit spaces such as those owned by the National Trust.'

Claire Bass, Executive Director of Humane Society International UK said:

'As a National Trust member I'm extremely disappointed that they're looking for a solution to a perceived wildlife problem down the barrel of a gun. We expect the National Trust to respect and protect animals, not hire hitmen the moment they're mildly inconvenient. The humane solution here is educating visitors and maybe additional fencing, we strongly urge the National Trust to reverse its decision to cull.'

Philip Mansbridge, UK Director of IFAW, said:

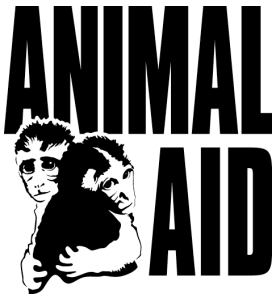
'As a nation of animal lovers, I am sure many people in the UK would be shocked to hear of plans to cull this rare and shy wild animal. We urge the National Trust to rethink its plans and work instead to educate the public and humanely manage interactions between people and wildlife on its estates.'

Dr Mark Jones, veterinarian and Head of Policy at Born Free, said:

'The National Trust manages a large amount of land which is a vital haven for wildlife in our increasingly human-dominated world. The trust cannot go killing wild animals just because they are regarded by some as an inconvenience. There is no evidence to suggest wild boar on its land are a significant threat to people or other wildlife. As a National Trust member I urge the organisation to think again.'

Notes for Editors

- For more information, please contact Jade Emery at Animal Aid by email (jade@animalaid.co.uk) or phone (01732 364546 ext 233)
- A copy of the full letter is available on request



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL
UNITED KINGDOM



IFAW
International Fund
for Animal Welfare



For immediate release: 22nd November 2018

Leading animal protection organisations condemn National Trust's plans for boar cull

Following media reports regarding plans to cull boar on the National Trust's Stourhead Estate, animal protection groups Animal Aid, Humane Society International UK (HSI UK), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Viva!, and Born Free have co-signed a letter addressed to Tim Parker, Chair of the National Trust, expressing their objections to the wild boar cull that is planned at the Trust's estate in Wiltshire.

The National Trust is reported to be planning to kill wild boar on its Stourhead estate in Wiltshire due to members of the public feeling intimidated by them. The cull has already attracted criticism across social media and from environmental campaigners.

The letter notes that wild boar are notoriously shy, and such drastic action by the National Trust would suggest that there have been dozens of attacks, while the fact remains that confrontations are a rarity.

Boar lived wild in Britain until the thirteenth century. Subsequently, there were a number of reintroductions from continental herds by royalty and aristocracy for the purposes of hunting. All of these animals died out or were killed during the seventeenth century and, for 300 years, there were no boar living in Britain until the 1980s when farmers began to farm them. Escapees from farms were able to establish wild herds.

The groups believe it is unethical to cull the wild boar, and that culling such animals contradicts the National Trust's previous pledge to help reverse the decline of wildlife.

The letter concludes by calling on the Trust to redirect the funds used for this cull to wildlife education programmes – *'We call on the National Trust to end its plans for a boar cull, and instead redirect the funds that would be used on tragically bringing a premature end to the lives of these rare creatures, into educating both the public, and the National Trust's own staff about wild boar, understanding their behaviour and how to properly and safely interact with them.'*

Jade Emery, Wildlife Campaigner for Animal Aid said: