



## **VINE RESEARCH PROJECT**

PROJECT TITLE

**“THE NATURE OF CONSERVATIONISTS”**

RESEARCH QUESTION

**“HOW WELL DO ORGANISATIONAL AND  
INDIVIDUAL ASPIRATIONS MATCH”**

This subject is being offered by VINE as a research project suitable for an MSc student, or other researcher as appropriate.

Brief information is provided below to help prospective researchers to familiarise themselves with both VINE and the research topic. It is expected that discussions will then take place with the researcher’s supervisor and the nominated VINE Steering Group Member(s) prior to the researcher putting forward a detailed proposal for approval. Close liaison will then be required throughout the life of the project with periodic progress reports at intervals to be agreed.

VINE will expect high standards of courtesy to be maintained with those who are contacted or later contribute to information collection.



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### **WHAT IS VINE:**

VINE (Values In Nature and the Environment) is a network for nature conservation practitioners to explore:

- ideas and inspiration relating to the philosophy, ethics, culture and practice of nature conservation;
- what inspired us to take up careers, or get involved in voluntary work;
- and what nature conservation is really for.

Everyone involved with VINE, including the Steering Group, are volunteers.

### **VINE's DEVELOPMENT:**

- After an initial period of development in 2004/5 we came of age in 2006 with launching of our website and e-discussion forum.
- In March 2008 we formed ourselves into a not for profit organisation with our own constitution and elected Executive Committee.
- In April 2008 we held our first international conference at Lancaster University on the topic of: "Inspirational Nature, harnessing passion, inspiration and creativity for nature conservation".
- This was followed in August 2008 with a review meeting involving core members of VINE to agree a 'vision for VINE in 2011'.

These events identified our need to understand more about nature conservation practitioners - their current thinking about the practice of nature conservation and current issues about working as nature conservationists and how these relate to their personal beliefs and inspiration, as a basis for planning VINE's future work.



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### RESEARCH:

The research needed is:

- to devise a questionnaire in liaison with Members of the VINE Steering Group that will explore the questions outlined above;
- to circulate this to nature conservation practitioners in government, non-government, voluntary and charitable nature conservation organisations;
- to carry out some in-depth interviews with key respondents;
- to analyse and draw conclusions from all the responses.

(VINE Steering Group Members can provide some initial contact points in the major relevant organisations).

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

To express an interest in this survey proposal or for more information please contact: Sophie Lake, VINE Secretary, Tel; 01929 558103; email: [sophie@vineproject.org.uk](mailto:sophie@vineproject.org.uk) (\*).

(\* NB. The nominated VINE Steering Group Member will be finally decided depending on the location of the researcher).

We look forward to hearing from anyone who may be interested in undertaking this survey.

More info about VINE is available on our website at:

<http://www.vineproject.org.uk/>

### On behalf of VINE's Research Sub-group:

- Judith Hanna, Social Science Principal Specialist Natural England;
- Kathy Hodder, Senior Lecturer - Conservation Ecology, Bournemouth University.
- Matthew Oates, National Trust Nature Conservation Adviser.
- Tim Kemp, First Step Associates.
- Sophie Lake, VINE Secretary.
- John Bacon, VINE Chair.



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