

Caring for the Cotswolds

Summer 2024 Update



**Cotswolds
National
Landscape**

© Ian Grundy-Campbell/Creative Sustainability CIC, youth event
at Westonbirt Arboretum

Silver Lining Sculpture

Earlier in the year, a large Beech Tree was felled due to disease in Abbey Grounds Park, Cirencester. However, the green team at Cirencester Town Council knew it was destined for more than just the wood chipper...

To preserve the tree's legacy and engage young people with their local history and landscape, the felled tree has been transformed into a **natural play feature** - celebrating the town's heritage!

This spearheads what Cirencester Town Council hope to be a **series** of natural play features across their parks to **encourage more young children to engage with nature**.

Three animals of **local historic and cultural significance** have been hand-carved into the tree:

- a hare
- a phoenix
- a 'Cotswold Lion' sheep

(Scroll down to see the fantastic carvings and find out reasons behind the animal choices!)



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Hare



The significance of **hares** in Cirencester stems from the discovery of the **Roman Hare Mosaic** in 1971. The town now has a Hare Nature Trail, featuring **giant hare sculptures** - one of which is just a few meters away from this tree!

The **Phoenix** is a longstanding symbol of Cirencester; prominently **featured in the Town Council's crest**; and celebrated through the annual Phoenix Festival - **held in Abbey Grounds**.

Phoenix



Lastly, we all know and love our **Cotswold Lion** sheep!

Cotswold Lion



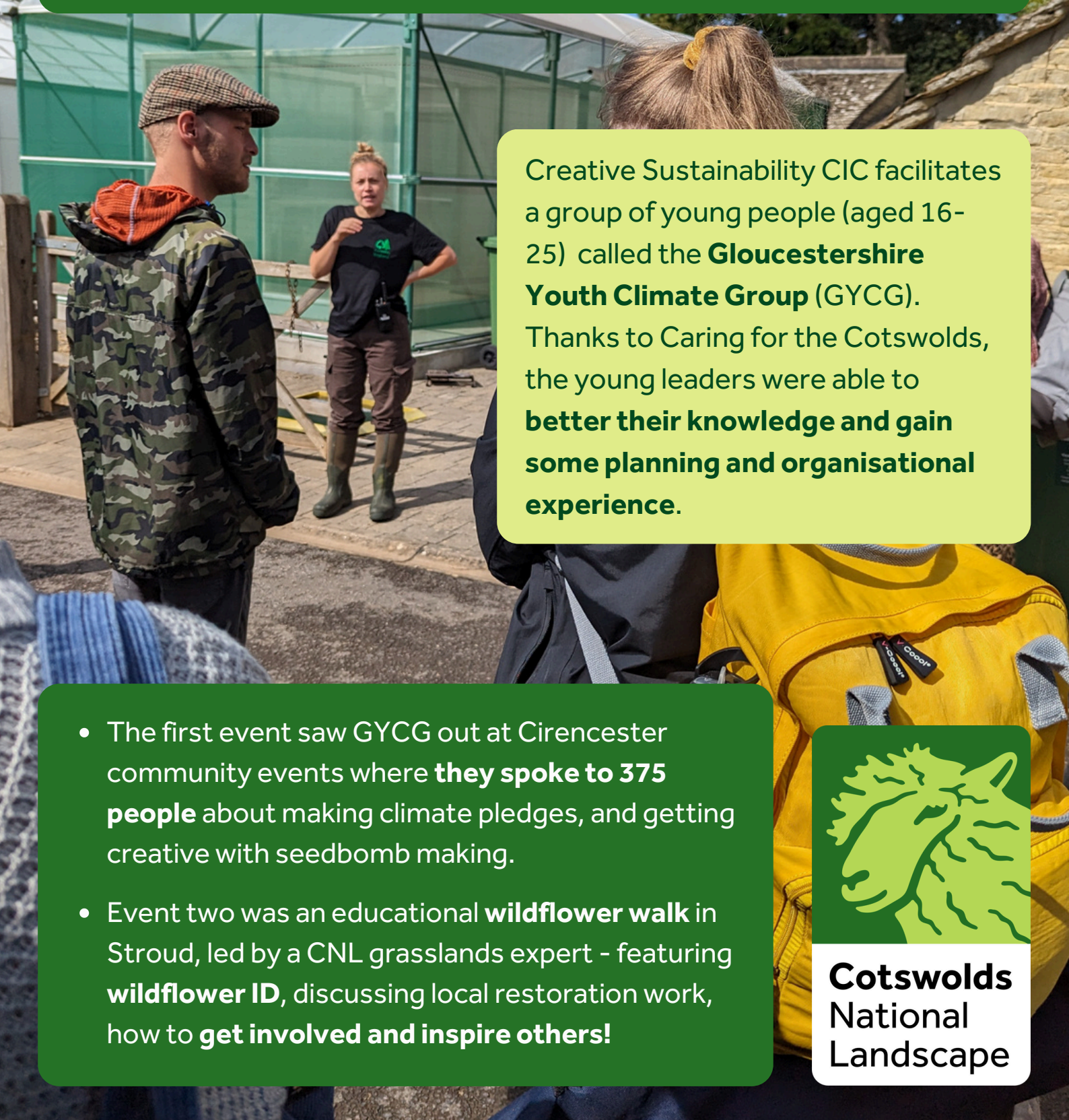
The **rare breed** is renowned for its thick wool and symbolises the **Cotswolds' significant wool trade history** - and the part Cirencester played as a trade hub.



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Empowering Young People

Three events across Gloucestershire created by and for young people aged 16-25 to engage with the environment and climate action.



Creative Sustainability CIC facilitates a group of young people (aged 16-25) called the **Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (GYCG)**. Thanks to Caring for the Cotswolds, the young leaders were able to **better their knowledge and gain some planning and organisational experience.**

- The first event saw GYCG out at Cirencester community events where **they spoke to 375 people** about making climate pledges, and getting creative with seedbomb making.
- Event two was an educational **wildflower walk** in Stroud, led by a CNL grasslands expert - featuring **wildflower ID**, discussing local restoration work, how to **get involved and inspire others!**



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- Lastly, Forestry England and Creative sustainability hosted a **Green Careers Day** at Westonbirt Arboretum.
- Five Forestry England staff members - **varying from Learning Assistants to Civil Engineers** - talked through their experiences getting into the **conservation sector** and fielded questions during **fun forestry activities** (a favourite was calculating how much carbon is stored in a tree by measuring it!)



All events were free to attend, with all food and travel costs subsidised to be as inclusive as possible.



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Conserving Heritage

Four benches from this historic railway in Tetbury have been a meeting spot for decades but without upkeep from the now disused railway, they began to deteriorate.

Before



After



Tetbury Railway Station **opened in the 1880s** and while the station hasn't been used for transport since the 1990s, a recent conversion has breathed **new life** into the local hub.

The Goods Shed, where the original GWR benches lie, got a new lease of life in 2016 when it was **converted into an Arts Centre and café**. The refurbished benches mark a new era for the area that **conserves it's history** and celebrates it's future!



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Super Supporters

Thank you to all of our incredible business members who keep Caring for the Cotswolds running - every contribution means another project that can be funded, and another way that the Cotswolds stays a special place to live, work and visit.

The scheme is now closed to new applications for the year, with an estimated re-opening in January 2025.

With thanks to:

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[Cotswolds Farm Park](#)

[Cotswolds Distillery](#)

[Country Walkers](#)

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For more details about the scheme or Cotswolds National Landscape please visit [our website](#).

If you'd like to become a supporter, or discuss a project idea, please contact Nina Stubbington at nina.stubbington@cotswolds-nl.org.uk



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