

PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

Everyone's Evenlode: a £3million investment by Thames Water in the Evenlode catchment as part of their Smarter Water Catchments initiative. The project has four key themes: 1) Water quality, 2) Biodiversity, 3) Natural flood management and 4) Education & Outreach. CNL is responsible for delivering the fourth theme and the project team consists of: Ros, Rowan and a new member of the team TBC.

Lead: James Webb (for engagement) and Mark Connelly (for conservation)

Contribution to core costs: The funding from Thames Water includes hosting costs.

- Update: 683 children/young people under the age of 16 from 13 different schools had taken part in education sessions by the end of Q1.
- Update: Ruth left the team in August to concentrate on her university studies and we are currently recruiting for her replacement.
- Update: the team has been incredibly busy over the summer with events, shows and festivals, all of which are listed on the website.

Engaging children and young people: three applications were approved in 2021 that provide support towards nature-based **education, training and skills for young people**. The project will utilise the existing rural skills resource and grow our engagement with young people. In October 2021, the surplus funds from the Kingfisher Trail auction were also dedicated to this area of work.

Lead: James Webb, Partnerships and Fundraising Lead

Contribution to core costs: One of the external bids supported the Rural Skills Officer and Partnerships and Fundraising Leads salary. Activity costs supported by two external funders.

- Update: Following Ed Bonn's departure, all booked outreach sessions with schools and charities were honoured and delivered by James Webb/ external trainers.
- Update: The opportunities offered to young people in Q1 & Q2 were really fantastic and well received by the schools and young people.
- *Update: New to Nature is a scheme to help under-represented groups gain work placements in the environment sector. Up to 90% of the salary is funded by the scheme. An Expression of Interest was submitted w/c 5 September 2022.*

BATHSCAPE Landscape Partnership: CNL is one of the delivery partners for the project, funded by NLHF, which will create recreational routes for a variety of audiences within the setting of Bath. Contract value just under £90,000. A Trails and Access Officer is leading on project delivery, supported by the Access and Volunteer Lead. There is also significant volunteer involvement.

Lead: Becky Jones, Access and Volunteer Lead

Contribution to core costs: £25,000 to fund a Trails and Access Officer (1.5 days per week over 2.5 years) and £4,000 towards line management support (Year 1 only)

- Update: Nicole is leading a series of walks for the Bathscape Walking Festival (10-25 September) <https://www.bathscape.co.uk/event/bathscape-walking-festival-4/>
- Update: Nicole has run a welcome and introductory session at the University of Bath for the new Circuit of Bath Rangers, to compliment the essential first aid and safety that they have attended. Tools and equipment, mapping etc. have been provided for the Rangers to take up their new roles.
- Update: Nicole continues to work with contractors and volunteers to complete improvement works along the Circuit of Bath route.
- Update: The Circuit of Bath guided walks have been completed across a series of weekends over the summer months.

SUPPORTING NATURE

Severn Trent Water: Through **Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands** (GCG) CNL is a strategic partner in the 'Great Big Nature Boost' programme that aims to improve biodiversity across 50,000 hectares in the Severn Trent region. The three-year partnership agreement runs from 01 April 2021–31 March 2024 and is worth approx. £40,000 per year, with an additional £20,000 agreed for 2022 (£140,000 total contract value). It will allow the GCG team to restore 20 hectares of wildflower grassland in 2021 and 2023, and 30 hectares in 2022.

Lead: Anna Field, GCG Programme Officer

Contribution to core costs: 15% of contract value

- Update: Full work schedule planned for 2022. In May, June and July the team carried out baseline botanical surveys and volunteer training. Seed harvesting started in early July through to August followed by ground preparation and seed spreading in September/October. The team also presented at events and guided walks throughout the summer - see the website more details.
- Update: GCG is now working in partnership with the Evenlode Smarter Catchment Initiative this year to restore 10 hectares of grassland. The work must be match funded by the landowner on a 50/50 basis. GCG has also agreed to carry out habitat assessments (worth £5,000) over the winter/early spring to identify prime locations for future wildflower grassland restoration work in the Evenlode catchment

National Grid 'Landscape Enhancement Initiative': to enhance landscapes impacted on by National Grid's pylon lines. CNL does not develop the detailed proposals or deliver the projects but only we can submit applications so if we don't do this there will be no spend in the Cotswolds. Payments are made annually to CNL in advance so there is no negative impact on cash flow. Three projects have been approved and funded:

1. Cheltenham's Escarpment Grasslands (£66,292)
2. Hampnett to Chedworth Boundary Restorations; dry stone walling (£94,456)
3. West of Winchcombe Landscape Enhancements; dry stone walling across Nottingham Hill (£57,860)

Lead: Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

Contribution to core costs: None

- Update: The proposal for the Bridgeman Landscape at Lodge Park (National Trust) was approved in May (project value £285,000 / LEI grant £200,000).

National Grid 'Visual Impact Provision': In addition to the LEI (listed above) National Grid also run a landscape scale programme called Visual Impact Provision (VIP), which has the objective of removing pylons in protected landscapes and undergrounding the cabling. Andy Parsons and Mark Connelly visited the Dorset AONB to meet see a current project (c£116m) to remove 22 pylons. The beneficial impact on landscape and visual impact will be enormous. National Grid has contacted a range of stakeholders about delivering a similar scheme in the CNL. The undergrounding will start west of Winchcombe and follow the route of the Cotswold Way National Trail as far as Dowdeswell Reservoir (just outside Cheltenham). Around 20 pylons will be removed. Andy, Mark and Ed Macalister-Smith (in his role as Chair of CTAP) are on the project steering group.

Lead: Andy Parsons (CEO) and Mark Connelly

Contribution to core costs: TBC

- Update: National Grid has run five community events to raise awareness of the scheme, which have been well received.

- Update: The Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project in the CNL is now live on the National Grid website: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/cotswolds-project>

Big Chalk: A programme of projects and activity that aims to connect calcareous habitat across landscapes from the south coast to the top of the Cotswolds and Chilterns. Short term bid to Natural England (NE) for initial development with a longer-term plan for a significant Lottery bid, amongst others.

Lead: Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

Contribution to core costs: unknown at this early stage

- Update: no significant updates since the last paper.

SEPTEMBER 2022