

EXTERNAL BIDS**SUPPORTING NATURE**

Severn Trent Water has recently launched its 'Great Big Nature Boost' programme, with the aim of improving biodiversity across 50,000 hectares within their region. We have successfully applied to be a Strategic Partner through the **Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands (GCG)** project. The three year partnership agreement will run from 01 April 2021–31 March 2024 and is worth approx. £40,000 per year (£120,000 total contract value). It will allow the team to restore 20 hectares of wildflower grassland each year. GCG is currently supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; this new partnership demonstrates a big step forward towards sustainability beyond their funding, which ends in February 2022.

Lead: Anna Field, GCG Project Asst.

Contribution to core costs: 15% of contract value

- Update: The content of the partnership agreement has been signed and the partnership promoted via social media channels

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.

Lead: Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

Contribution to core costs: None

- Payments for the first year's funding for two of the projects have been received and forwarded to the delivery partners.
 1. Cheltenham's Escarpment Grasslands £66,292.
 2. Hampnett to Chedworth Boundary Restorations (dry stone walling) £94,456
- All the acceptance documents for the third project are in place. We are awaiting the bank details of the delivery partner and the payment from National Grid. **West of Winchcombe Landscape Enhancements; dry stone walling across Nottingham Hill.** First year grant £57,860.

- Restoration of the Bridgeman Landscape at Lodge Park.

The full application was submitted on 29 July. Initial feedback was that it was considered to be "robust".

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 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

- Following a successful site visit with Natural England (NE) to Cleeve Common, which included their Chief Executive, National Nature Recovery Lead and Area Team Leaders, NE has agreed to fund the development costs requested in its entirety. The requested figure was £30,000. Details for the grant paperwork and consultancies will be worked out following a meeting in early September. The

funding is likely to be directed through another Big Chalk partner to enable the reclaiming of VAT on the expenditure.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

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.

- Update: the main circuit of Bath is now waymarked and safe for users in time for the Bathscape Walking Festival in September.

Rural Skills & Young People: three applications approved that will provide 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.

Lead: James Webb, Partnerships and Fundraising Lead

Contribution to core costs:

- £7,000 from Wates Foundation for Rural Skills Officer salary - one year funding – no geographical restriction

Contribution to activity costs:

- £24,200 from Thames Water Community Fund for activity provision - two years funding – east & north Gloucestershire/ west Oxon, i.e. Thames Catchment
- £3,000 from Summerfield Trust for activity provision - one year funding – Gloucestershire only

Thames Water Smarter Catchment plan: a £3million investment by Thames Water in the Evenlode catchment. Smarter Water Catchments aim to achieve further benefits and better value by tackling multiple challenges together, recognising the environment as a system, the value that can be offered by harnessing natural processes, and capitalising on opportunities of greater scope and scale. There are several strands to the Evenlode plan, which primarily aims to improve water quality by targeting the farmed landscape and community engagement. There is also an education/ engagement aspect, which will involve employees hosted by CNL.

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

Contribution to core costs: The funding from Thames Water for CNL includes hosting costs for two new posts:

- Education Officer (full time) up to March 2024
- Outreach Officer (3 days PW) up to March 2025