

EXTERNAL BIDS AND INVESTMENT

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 a new project team has been recruited:

- Rosalind Marsden, Education Officer, (3 days PW) started November 2021
- Ruth Rudwick, Community Outreach Officer (2 days PW) started November 2021
- Rowan Wynne-Jones, Education & Community Outreach Officer (3 days PW) started January 2022

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

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

- Update: the team has begun planning activities with schools and community groups across the Evenlode catchment.
- Update: the project has already received some good publicity: CNL press release, BBC Radio Glos interview and an article in the Feb edition of Cotswold Life.

Young People and Rural Skills: 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: Rural Skills Officer salary (1 day PW) supported by an external funder and the Kingfisher Trail surplus over two years. Activity costs supported by two external funders.

- Update: Six work experience placements for local students' summer/ autumn 2021
- Update: In early December a pilot was run for youth leaders from Gloucester.
- Update: In late December woodland sessions delivered for children and young people at the Notgrove Estate. This work was part of the Holiday Food Programme and attracted additional funding of £3K.

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: The Circuit of Bath walking route has been marked and initial route improvements carried out by Wardens, Ramblers' and Nicole Daw, Trails and Access Officer.
- Update: Nicole Daw and Wardens led a series of walks for the Bathscape Walking Festival (11–26 September) and work is now in progress for the creation of a series of maps / description pdfs and GPX files covering the circular route for the Bathscape / CNL website.
- Update: Nicole now working to support the creation of 19 further walks as part of the agreed project and further improvement works after April 2022.

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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 (£120,000 total contract value). It will allow the GCG 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 GCG team has successfully completed Year 1 of the Partnership Agreement – creating/ restoring 20 hectares during 2021; we have invoiced Severn Trent Water £40,000. The team are now planning the schedule for Year 2 of this three-year programme.

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 Bridgeman Landscape at Lodge Park has gone to the national panel with a recommendation for approval.

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). 18 pylons will be removed. Andy, Mark and Ed Macalister-Smith (in his role as Chair of CTAP) will be on the project steering group. The first meeting is on 8 February.

Lead: Andy Parsons (CEO) and Mark Connelly

Contribution to core costs: TBC

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

- Following a successful site visit with NE to Cleeve Common in 2021, NE agreed to fund the development costs. The requested figure was £30,000, although this will be directed through another Big Chalk partner. Consultants have been engaged and a programme is in place – target for completion mid-March 2022.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND NATURE

A417 'Missing Link' - Designated Funds

Please see agenda item 11 for more details.

JANUARY 2022