

Cotswolds Conservation Board Site Visits, Workshops and Briefings

Thursday 5th October 2017, Cotswolds Discovery Centre, Northleach



Programme

9.15 Tea and coffee available in the Cotswold Lion café

9.45 Depart for site visits:

- A rural skills taster programme for schools

A visit to either Burford School, Kingham Hill School or the Wychwood Project (Site to be confirmed closer to date) in order to demonstrate a Rural Skills programme specifically designed for, and aimed at, young people.

This Rural Skills programme, which is envisaged, will be delivered in partnership with The Wychwood Project and Stow Valleys Project.

The programme will provide participants with the training and experience to pursue career pathways within the wider Countryside Industry. For example, as a Lantra qualified Dry Stone Waller or as a Countryside Ranger for a wildlife trust or local authority.

Skills and training received through courses such as the Lantra Brush-cutting certificate, scything and meadow management, black-smithing and stone masonry, will provide invaluable practical knowledge.

The visit would allow an opportunity to discuss the objectives of the programme, possible locations for it and possible challenges.

led by Ed Bonn

- Visit to Moreton-in-March to explore routes for the Cotswold Gateway Project

A visit to one of the Gateway Site Locations, which is being developed as part of the Board's bid to the Growth Fund. Each Gateway Site will have an interpretation board promoting local walking and cycling routes.

We will discuss some of the challenges and opportunities of promoting access from town centres and how we can apply the gateway idea more widely across the AONB.

The group will explore how well the welcome and orientation works when you get off the train. Then there will be a walk into the town centre to look at possible sites for the interpretation board. A walk along part of the Moreton Eight path, that the Town Council have recently created, will form part of the visit.

led by Richard Watson

- Cotswolds LEADER programme led by James Webb

A Visit to Vegetable Matters Farm Shop

Taskers, May Lane, Ebrington, Gloucestershire, GL55 6NJ

They received a LEADER grant of £48,849 towards the construction of new farm shop, which opened on 12th July 2017.

The farm shop employs 3 new members of staff so scores well in terms of LEADER outputs. The owners, Peter and Amanda Drinkwater, are pleased with the finished outcome but they have found the LEADER process difficult at times. They will be able to provide an insight into the process from an applicant's perspective.

The building is constructed of high quality materials and is low rise. As a result, it is sympathetic and blends into the agricultural landscape. The bricks were reclaimed from a demolition site in the west midlands giving it an attractive and individual rustic look. There is a 12 inch composite roof to keep cool in summer/ warm in winter and in keeping with adjacent agricultural buildings so scores well on environmental credentials. Internally, there are some nice features such as a Ferguson tractor wheel chandelier – a nod to the farming heritage. Outside, the farm shop has fantastic views from the terrace overlooking the valley where the vegetable are produced.

led by James Webb

13.00 A Cotswolds lunch in the café

13.30 To continue with a working lunch during two briefings and workshops:

- A Cotswolds National Park proposal
- A Cotswolds menu for a future agri-environment and rural development programme

16.30 tea and depart