

Appendix B: Report of progress of charities and landowner's activities for biodiversity in the Peterborough Area

Peterborough Environment City Trust

Community outreach

- Over the last couple of years, PECT have seen an increase in the demand from individuals, neighbourhoods, and communities to actively be involved in activities to support their local environment. This includes the conservation and the creation of nature rich areas, such as community growing spaces, tree planting, wildflower meadows, pond restoration and habitat creation for declining bird, bat, and bee species.
- Between October 2021 and December 2022, 730 people were engaged in 65 environmental events. Based off of minimum wage, this represents around £44,000 of labour donated to the JCC project by local employers.
- PECT have been working with inner city schools delivering The Royal Forestry Society's Junior Forester Award. The award gives young people an insight into a career in forestry, as well as the practical ability to aid in woodland management in their schools and local communities.
- As part of the B-lines project, five schools had wildflower areas created within their school grounds which can be used as part of many schools' outdoor classroom practical sessions. One school had a three-day B-Line program with a subject expert Dr Mike Ramsey going into the school to deliver pollinator-based sessions. Their own wildflower area created involved 533 students and twenty-six members of staff.
- Forest for Peterborough project has been a successful large scale public engagement activity, which include the following benefits:
 - Increase in areas across Peterborough that have been improved; environmentally, aesthetically and will contribute better towards climate change mitigation
 - Local people and volunteers have developed new skills in planting and maintenance of trees and plants and have a better appreciation of the importance of pollinators
 - The trainee gained skills in site surveying; tree selection processes; tree and site management principles, including planting, pruning and after-care which will enable them to secure work in the natural environment sector and will lead to recognised sector experience and with additional qualifications.
- As part of the John Clare Countryside project the following was completed
 - In May of 2022, 200 children planted sunflower seeds.
 - 370 packets of native wildflower seeds were given out.
 - 9 Wellbeing Walks, 2 geocaching days and 65 environmental events were held.
 - 3 BBC radio interviews were attended reaching an audience of over 87 thousand people for each interview.
 - Attended 5 village fetes and festivals between May and August 2022.

Biodiversity improvements

- In partnership with Peterborough City Council and Buglife, PECT have been delivering the local element of the national B-Lines programme. B-Lines is an initiative aiming to reverse the decline in pollinator populations by creating a network. In total, twenty-five wildflower sites were established by eighteen separate groups or organisations. Two resident groups (Botolph and Woodston) were both long standing groups with a formal structure and have created and are maintaining two sites. Other groups included an informal group of bereaved parents whose children were laid to rest in Fletton Cemetery and wanted a small wildflower area establishing in remembrance. Five school grounds had wildflower areas created and thirty-five schools were involved in receiving the seed bomb kits.

- Over 3,000 wildflower seed packets have been distributed to residents across the city and over 4,000 seed bombs were distributed to schools and young people group. Originally the seed bomb kits were expected to deliver in excess of 6,000 seed bombs, however it was noted that the seed bombs were being made slightly larger and so the individual number of seed bombs was reduced to accommodate the increased size of the Seed bomb; the quantity of seed supplied in the kits was the same.
- The Green Recovery Challenge funding has enabled PECT to continue to successfully deliver the Forest for Peterborough programme and plant over 12,025 trees. This has led to improvements in the local natural environment and supported retention and recruitment within the natural environment team at PECT. It has meant PECT now has planted 129,700 trees against our 230k target
- As part of the John Clare Countryside project the following was completed
 - 419 native trees planted.
 - 280m² wildflower meadows were created or restored.
 - 1.6km of double hedgerow planted
 - 2 new Barn Owl boxes put up.
 - 5 ponds restored and 3 bog gardens created.
 - 1 rainwater harvester made to a unique design.
 - 18,800 plug plants and wildflower bulbs planted.

Langdyke Countryside Trust

Community outreach

- Over the course of 2021 LCT greeted ten external speakers, hosted 18 events, and brought more than 250 people together.
- LCT were blessed with some fantastic speakers and guides covering a wide variety of topics from the origins of The Langdyke Countryside Trust to John Clare's link with local archaeology, the future of nature conservation, Nightingales at Castor Hanglands, the importance of trees in the landscape, past present and future and the Geology of John Clare Countryside. Our external speakers and guides included; Enrique Moranmontero, National Restoration Manager at Tarmac; Jeremy Mynott, author and emeritus fellow of Wolfson college Cambridge; Mark Cocker, award winning author and journalist; Garden Designer and Gardeners World presenter Adam Frost; Geraint Richards, Head Forester for The Duchy of Cornwall; Tony Kirkham, Head of Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services at Kew Gardens; Christine Reid, Principal Conservation Advisor at The Woodland Trust and Dr Jonathan Larwood, Natural England, Senior Specialist.
- 82 people made a pledge to garden for wildlife over an area equivalent to three times the footprint of Peterborough Cathedral and 29 people joined LCT for a walk during COP26, discussing all things nature related and making personal pledges to reduce their carbon footprint including; eating less meat, reducing air miles and volunteering in John Clare Countryside.
- Membership of LCT currently is up on previous years at 216.

Biodiversity improvements

- The Trust is currently raising funds to purchase a further 23 acres of land along the Maxey Cut. Christ's College Pits are two large restored gravel pits, surrounded by native trees and shrubs and providing excellent habitat for dragonflies, ducks and wading birds. The site is used by many species including turtle dove, gadwall, wigeon, teal, snipe, lapwing, grey heron, redshank and little egret, along with four-spotted moths and glow worms. If successful, this land purchase would link the Trust's land holdings in this area, creating a continuous block of land between Helpston, Maxey and Eton that is managed for nature and for people to enjoy nature. The Trust's total land holding would then total just under 200 acres.

- Bainton Heath has seen the number of species present increase significantly across the board, with over 179 more invertebrate species over a ten year period. The site has large numbers of species of liverworts, mosses, and lichens. Management of the site to promote biodiversity continues including a series of new ecological enhancements.
- Eton Maxey Pit continues to see a wide number of visiting birds, include extremely rare species such as Bittern and Marsh Harrier as well as large numbers of more common birds. Starling murmuration's occurred again. In particular, the local turtle dove population had another good year and there were notable populations of Man 24 Orchid and Autumn Ladies Tresses again this year. It is hoped that the creation of new scrapes on the Eton Maxey Pit reserve should boost Lapwing and Redshank populations next year.
- Vergette Wood Meadow has a wide variety of invertebrate and plant species with over 153 floral species being observed. The Sand Martin boxes have been occupied during the first year of operation and five Elm saplings have been planted.
- Swaddywell Pit has had a reduction in overall grazing level to allow more scrub to emerge. Overall this should benefit the insects and encouraging numbers of quite rare Grizzled and Dingy Skipper butterflies have been observed, and most importantly their food plant locations pinpointed for protection.
- Lots of other smaller projects have also continued or been started, such as the collaboration with PCC, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust and PECT to start the John Clare Countryside Verges Working Group.

Nene Park Trust

Community outreach

- Over the last year the Nene Park Trust has been developing a management plan for its wider portfolio of land neighbouring the River Nene. This has helped the Trust prioritise its nature restoration work, alongside achieving wider farming and public engagement objectives.
- The Trust's share farming scheme has seen more land being managed with rare breed livestock helping deliver key nature conservation objectives. This has included expansion of the Red Devon herd and the first successful year of the Trust's direct meat sales initiative.

Biodiversity improvements

- Exciting projects have been delivered at the Trust West Holmes and Sutton Meadows sites using the RSPB's rotary ditcher, with feasibility work ongoing with the Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency on a more significant restoration scheme at West Holmes, reconnecting the River Nene with its floodplain.
- The Trust is coming together with the Peterborough and District Angling Association, to produce an ecological management plan for its lakes and fishery, working with the Environment Agency and a local consultant. This will see the production of a list of ecological enhancement projects which the Trust will work with these partners to deliver, with a key aim of improving fish recruitment and refuge, with the possibility of creating a significant area of new reed bed.
- As part of Cambridgeshire's District Licencing Scheme for Great Crested Newts, several ponds have been restored across Nene Park Trust's land holding working with the Wildlife Trust BCN. A number of new pond sites are also being investigated.
- Green hay was also taken and spread on arable reversion land, next to the Castor Flood Meadows SSSI, to try and extend the fantastic floral diversity of this site onto neighbouring land.

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