

Biodiversity for All – 2024

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority awarded Huntingdonshire District Council a three-year £1.35 million bid to accelerate the delivery of measurable biodiversity net gain in Huntingdonshire. This will be delivered through five key themes – CPCA Overview, Jobs and Skills, Strategic Open Spaces, Community Driven Delivery and Mapping. Four of these themes have developed into their own work programmes - please see project updates below.

Project Updates: 12th July 2024



The Vision:

To increase local green skills to help tackle the biodiversity crisis and facilitate further green jobs, bringing local stakeholders and residents together to support nature, educate and contribute towards a Net Zero Huntingdonshire. Find out more [here](#).

What has been achieved this week?

- This week, the sixth Green Skills project has started at Stukeley Meadows with 9 participants joining the course! This week HDC's Graduate Ecologists have been on site to conduct a baseline biodiversity audit so that we can monitor the biodiversity levels before and after the project, and in years to come.



Join our next
Green Recovery Project at Stukeley Meadows!

Want to help improve your local green space, work on your mental health, and achieve a **City & Guilds Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture?**

- > Start date: 10th July 2024
- > Gain careers advice and support
- > 10am-3pm Wed - Fri, for 8 weeks, Age 19+
- > Engage with nature and increase your conservation knowledge
- > £50 voucher upon course completion and PPE provided!
- > Improve your confidence, motivation, and well-being

If you are interested in finding out more: drop by Huntingdon Jobcentre on the 11th, 19th, 24th, 27th of June or the 4th of July!

Or call, text, email Eve: [T: 07736132497](tel:07736132497) [E: eve.lucas@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:eve.lucas@groundwork.org.uk) [Or apply here!](#)



Strategic Open Spaces

The Vision:

To prioritise key HDC strategic sites across Huntingdonshire for biodiversity development. The aim is to gather evidence, engage with the community to co-design and deliver on projects to boost biodiversity on these sites.

What has been achieved this week?

- Results have come back from the eDNA test at the pond in Priory Park. This eDNA test was carried out to explore whether there is a presence of Great Crested Newts at the site. The results have come back **negative**, which now helps the Biodiversity for All team firm up the designs with Glendales to support biodiversity development at Priory Park.
- This week, HDC's Graduate Ecologists have undergone Great Crested Newt training. Although there is no presence of Great Crested Newts at Priory Park, there is a presence across the district e.g. Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. This training, which awards the ecologists with a licence, will help support Biodiversity for All plans. To work in areas with a presence of Great Crested Newts, ecologists need a licence to survey or conduct land management activities that affect these species. You can read more here - [Great crested newts: protection and licences - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Community Driven Delivery

The Vision:

To encourage and enable others within Huntingdonshire to increase biodiversity through community engagement and delivery.

What has been achieved this week?

- This week, further site visits were made to Offords Millennium Green. The Parish Council applied for the biodiversity community grant to help with the renovation of the existing pond on the Millennium Green. For the Graduate Ecologists to adhere to HDC's health and safety, our One Leisure lifeguard (qualified in open water) came along on site to help complete biodiversity audits. Having a lifeguard trained in open water on site, allowed HDC's Graduate Ecologists to carry out kick sampling. Kick sampling is a useful method for collecting invertebrates from shallow waters. The technique involves moving the stones or sediment of a body of water by foot and catching the sample in a sturdy hand net.



Offords Millenium Green:

Read more about the public open space here - [Millennium Green – Offord Cluny & Offord Darcy Parish Council \(offords-pc.gov.uk\)](http://offords-pc.gov.uk)



Mapping

The Vision:

To collate data, collecting observations of species on sites. To inspire and educate future generations to raise awareness of biodiversity and the part they play in the ecosystem.

What has been achieved this week:

- iNaturalist statistics – In the past week, observations have increased by **91** to an overall total of **13,000** and identified species have increased by **4**, totalling **2,109**. There are currently **1,040** Huntingdonshire residents signed up to log observations through the iNaturalist app. The graph below shows an overall increase in monthly Huntingdonshire observations with peaks being in Spring and Summer!
- This week, observers found (amongst many!):

Cinnabar Moth (Caterpillar)



Gatekeeper Butterfly



White Clover



Common Snowberry



Read about what has been observed across the district this week by following 'Huntingdonshire's Complete Biodiversity' project on the iNaturalist app!

SEARCH 'iNATURALIST' IN YOUR APP STORE OR SCAN QR TO DOWNLOAD APP

