



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: 23rd August 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 <u>here</u>.

What has been achieved this week?

- Groundwork East and project participants only have one week left to go until they finish the project at <u>Stukeley Meadows</u>. They are making good progress and are setting the liner for the pond in this week. The celebration of the project will be happening next Thursday!
- The seventh Green Skills course has been confirmed for October 2024 at our newest park, <u>Berman Park</u>!

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?

 Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to enhancing the biodiversity of our key green spaces and we are excited to announce that a Green Hay Transfer from Hinchingbrooke Country Park to Huntingdon Riverside is currently underway!



- The rangers are preparing to do a first trial transfer from Hinchingbrooke Country Park to Huntington Riverside. Data is currently being collected on the donor and recipient site so that we can compare over the coming years whether this has been effective and we can refine the methods.
- What is green hay?



 Separate to the Biodiversity for All funding, the Biodiversity team have been working with St. Neots Market Town Development team about bat habitats at another key site in Huntingdonshire – St. Neots Riverside Park. As part of the <u>Market Town Investment</u> programme, the Old Falcon building is being explored and feasibility studies are being

carried out about the space and it's value and heritage. MKA Ecology have been carrying out ecology work on site and have found bat roosts. To ensure that mitigation is at the forefront, the Biodiversity team have met with MKA Ecology this week to determine a mitigation plan for the bats, looking at potential trees at St. Neots Riverside Park to install bat boxes should works proceed. Things the team were looking for include location of the tree in relation to the Old Falcon (the closer the better), age of the tree, surrounding habitat, existing bat features (holes and crevices already make good habitats). The team have selected 6 trees in total for day roosts bat boxes and 2 areas secluded for the hibernating boxes. The team will be working collaboratively with the Arboriculture team to make this happen.



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, our Graduate Ecologist, Lola, continues to write the Community Biodiversity Grant Scheme reports and recommendations, which are typically over 10,000+ words each. In the meantime, check out Lola's video about completing the biodiversity site audits across Huntingdonshire <u>here</u>.

The Vision:

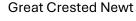
Mapping

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 two weeks, observations have increased by 250 to an overall total of 14,016 and identified species have increased by 27, totalling 2,180.
 There are currently 1,072 Huntingdonshire residents signed up to log observations through the iNaturalist app.
- This week, observers found (amongst many!):

Meadow Grasshopper







Marmalade Hover Fly





Knopper Gall Wasp

• Don't forget to download the iNaturalist app to log your species findings across the district!

