

## 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024



#### Jobs and Skills

##### **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?

- Volunteers and the amazing team at Hinchbrooke Country Park worked hard in preparation for the Wild About Huntingdonshire event scheduled for last weekend. Ensuring the park was looking its best and safe for its visitors, but sadly due to flooding, this was postponed.
- GreenSkills 7 started on 2nd October at Berman Park in St Ives, we look forward to sharing updates (and of course photos) over the coming weeks. While on site, volunteers will be doing things like.
  - Woodland and shrub management
  - Overseeding the amenity grassland, potentially wildflower strips if there is time.
  - Tree planting
  - Other activities related to the City and Guilds qualification

**All the above activities are designed to give both the volunteers the best experience in working on a project that makes a real difference to our Open Spaces, and also maximum benefit to improving the site for nature and biodiversity.**

- Julie has been working on the contract extension for the Greenskills project to ensure that there are 5 more Greenskills projects that will go into 2025.
- Read about all the latest Green Skills Case Studies recently uploaded to our website here - [Green Jobs and Skills - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)



## 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.

### **Alternative Land Management**

*Just over half of district council-maintained land is what is known as amenity grass – grass that is intensively maintained and closely mown every 2-3 weeks between March and October. We manage and maintain just over 256 hectares (2.56 million m<sup>2</sup>) of which 52% is amenity grass and in terms of biodiversity, is currently classed as Poor.*

*Our commitment is to:*

- *alter how we manage 25% of these areas by allowing grass to grow to meadow grass and cutting once a year*
- *increase the number of floral meadows we sow by 25% over the next four years (currently 1.4 hectares)*
- *increase the tree canopy by adopting and implementing a four-year tree planting programme (approximately 10,000 trees).*

### **What has been achieved this week?**

- The ALM data collection, is progressing.
- Unfortunately, last week and the beginning of this week the weather was too bad to be out surveying and we've had to press pause, but this will resume once flooding subsides.
- We should have a schedule of work from our delivery partner Glendale in the next week, so will be sharing details of what's happening and when for both Hill Rise Park and Priory Park as soon as we have that information. We are keen to make sure that users of the parks are as excited as we are about the work that's to come!

**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?**

On the field map vs digitised map of one of our grant applicants. Reports are now finished, and they are going through a quality check process now, but they will be ready to be sent out very soon



**BIODIVERSITY FOR ALL**

**RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL NATURE DAY**

Wednesday 30th October  
 King George V Playing Field (Park Road Field)  
 10am - 12noon

**JOIN THE MAYOR AND OTHERS FOR A FUN FILLED TIME IN NATURE.**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING...**

- Help to plant some bulbs
- Positioning of the bird and bat boxes
- Make a bird feeder
- Nature Activity Sheets

**FREE TO ATTEND**

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL, BoSH!

Ramsey Town Council received a Community Grant from us earlier this year, as part of their plans to improve Biodiversity they are hosting a community planting day in October.

## 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

The species of the month for September was the **Great willowherb!**



#### This year

September species of the month is the Great Willowherb.

319 observations

223 species

116 identifiers

65 observers



#### Last year

last year: September species of the month is the Common pheasant.]

195 observations

131 species

114 identifiers

46 observers



- Observations have increased by **73** to an overall total of **14,458** and identified species have increased by **30**, totalling **2,243** There are currently **1,798** Huntingdonshire residents signed up to log observations through the iNaturalist app.



**What is iNaturalist?**

**Citizen Science**

Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed.

**seek**  
by iNaturalist

**iNaturalist**

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

The graphic features a vibrant green background with a butterfly and leaves. It includes three QR codes: one for the 'seek by iNaturalist' app, one for the 'iNaturalist' app, and one for the 'iNaturalist' app. Below the QR codes are the App Store and Google Play logos.