

## 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: 28<sup>th</sup> June 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?

- Case study documents are being written up to summarise previous Green Skills projects.
- The next Green Skills project has been announced. This will begin on 10<sup>th</sup> July at Stukeley Meadows in Huntingdon. Please email [biodiversity@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) for more information or follow the link to fill out an application form - [Green Recovery Upcoming Courses](#).



**GREEN SKILLS PROJECT**  
**CASE STUDY 1: HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK**  
 1st March – 21st April 2023

**WHAT DID THE PROJECT INVOLVE?**

The purpose of the project was for the 5 participants to help increase biodiversity of invertebrates and encourage kingfishers to nest on site by creating a new habitat with different organic materials. The project involved:

<b>Construction of bird and bat boxes</b> to support bird and bat life.	<b>Picnic table refurbishment</b> to help make the site accessible for people to enjoy nature.	<b>Construction of a naturally weaved fence acting as a brace for the mound</b> , using willow and hazel branches, moving soil to bring the ground up to the level of the top of the lake and consolidating, adding Type 1 MOT, gravel, sand and limestone in layers to the mound to attract different invertebrates.
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**OUTCOMES:**

**INCREASED BIODIVERSITY**  
 The team of participants have made a difference to the available habitat for invertebrates and a nesting site for kingfishers at HCP. This in turn will increase the biodiversity of different invertebrate species including solitary bees and a variety of beetles. The construction of bird and bat boxes have also provided further habitats.

**BEFORE**



## 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?

- This week, Glendales, have been on site at Priory Park in St. Neots to conduct an eDNA test at the pond. This is to explore if there is presence of Great crested Newts. What's an eDNA test? Environmental DNA (eDNA) testing is a scientific method used to detect species by collecting DNA that is released into the water by plants and animals in a host of ways: from their skins, faeces, mucous hair, eggs and sperm, or when they die. This method provide clues about the species present without disrupting the ecosystem.
- The Project Manager presented the Biodiversity For All projects at the APSE Energy Event on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. This event shared case studies in tackling the climate, change and sustainability agenda. You can read more about this event [here](#).
- HDC's Graduate Ecologist and Project Manager visited Hill Rise Park in St. Ives for a biodiversity audit.

## Community Driven Delivery

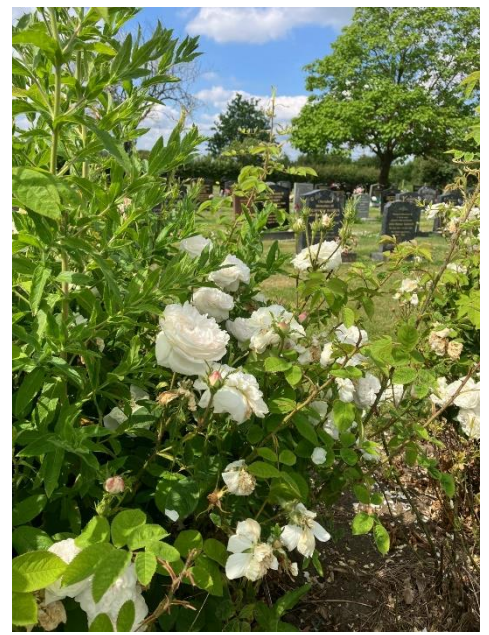
### The Vision:

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 Ramsey Road Cemetery and Offords' Millenium Green for biodiversity audits.





## 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 **282** to a total of **12,689** and identified species have increased by **12**, totalling **2,089**. There are currently **1,029** Huntingdonshire residents signed up to log observations through the iNaturalist app.
- This week, observers found (amongst many!) :

European Greenfinch



Eurasian Coot



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



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