

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: 19th 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?

- Work has started off well at the sixth Green Skills at Stukeley Meadows with 9 participants joining the course! Materials have started to arrive onsite daily and updates are to follow in the coming weeks.



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: **Or apply here!**

T: 07736132497
E: eve.lucas@groundwork.org.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.

What has been achieved this week?

- Having consulted with members of the public and Huntingdonshire District Council's planning team, plans for the strategic sites, Priory Park and Hill Rise, have been discussed this week. The Biodiversity team are now in a position to go ahead and instruct the chosen supplier to go ahead. The team will keep residents and park users updated over the Summer about the timings of these works.
- Other key sites across Huntingdonshire have been internationally recognised with five awards this week - four [Green Flag](#) awards and one [Bees Needs](#) awards for sites such as Priory Park, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Little Paxton Pits and St. Neots Riverside Park (its first Green Flag this year), signifying alignment with high green space standards for nature and people. Contributing to the success of this award, was the Biodiversity for All Green Skills project with Groundwork East that improved the site's biodiversity in Winter 2023. You can read the full press release [here](#) and our work with Groundwork East [here](#).



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, all survey work as part of the Community Biodiversity Grant Scheme has been completed. This week's final site was Buckden's Recreational Ground Pond (please see photos below). The Graduate Ecologists are now focusing on completing their reports and recommendations, which are typically over 10,000+ words each.



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 **129** to an overall total of **13,129** and identified species have increased by **11**, totalling **2,120**. There are currently **1,044** Huntingdonshire residents signed up to log observations through the iNaturalist app.
- This week, observers found (amongst many!):

Meadow Grasshopper



Grey Heron



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

