

Green Setting of Bath Bid

An update on the bid for the Landscape Partnership scheme for Bath's setting – February 2014



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Why do we need a Landscape Partnership?

There is growing recognition of the need for action to manage and enhance the city's green assets. This would involve better stewardship, to engage people in the care and enjoyment of these assets and to safeguard the wildlife of the city. Many people are not well connected to the landscape on their doorstep, and partners want to see those most disconnected from it able to care and enjoy it too. This work is best achieved collaboratively; it cannot be done by one organisation alone, and that is why we are forming a partnership. We want your input in the development of the partnership's work programmes, and also in making these programmes happen.

Bath is one of only two cities which are World Heritage Sites (the other is Venice). The World Heritage Site includes very little of the surrounding countryside that forms the setting of the city, but the setting is important because:

- It forms the visual backdrop within which the city is experienced and appreciated. The surrounding hills provide views of the city and likewise the fields and woodlands of the hillsides are seen from the city centre.
- It's an important element in developing an understanding of Bath, its reason for existence, character, shape, size etc. Historically, the setting had distinct physical links to the city providing food, building materials, employment, water, energy and lines of communication to surrounding communities and industries. For some it is still an important place for recreation and transport links to neighbouring towns and villages.
- It provides a critical range of habitats supporting rich and varied wildlife

Through the Landscape Partnership, a bid is being prepared to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will seek up to £3 million to provide much needed action over a 5 year period to better look after Bath's setting, and to ensure everyone in Bath benefits from its landscape.

What is the vision for the partnership?

By 2020 the green landscape that embraces and nurtures the World Heritage City of Bath will be cherished and valued by all those that live and visit there. The people of Bath will recognise the significance of its landscape, not only through its association with Bath's unique Roman, Georgian and spa heritage, but also to the quality of their contemporary lives. They will have understood how the landscape has supported Bath's development from the earliest times and appreciate the interdependence of city and landscape. All parts of the community - particularly those least connected with Bath's heritage - will have explored new places, volunteered their time and learnt to treasure their natural heritage. They will have become champions and advocates for the continuing protection of Bath's landscape just as they defend and support the city's natural and built heritage. This sense of stewardship towards the landscape means that it is better looked after for both wildlife and people, for generations to come. The full spa experience has been revived in Bath: the landscape is recognised as therapeutic as well as living, and everybody who visits or lives in Bath sees the landscape as a part of Bath's experience.

What will the project achieve?

We anticipate the partnership will make a real difference in the following areas:

Benefits for People

- Unprecedented access to nature
- Maintain vistas and green space for health and recreation
- Well cared for routes for health and recreation
- Bath skyline walk and linking routes
- Increased participation in caring for Bath's setting
- Schools education programme
- Nature and Beauty learning programme
- Fun and adventure outdoors
- Gain appreciation of Bath's culture by learning about the setting
- Story of stone is heard
- Arts programme to explore and express the picturesque
- Stewardship skills learnt
- Self-confidence and awareness of Bath gained through skills
- People employed looking after its setting

Benefits for Communities

- Communities proud to be involved in LP
- Those least engaged with heritage value and contribute to it
- More people using natural greenspaces
- Tangible health benefits of landscape
- Resilient land management sector
- Local food: grown and eaten

- Tourism business promoting access
- Resilient to climate change

Benefits for Heritage

- Landscape better cared for because they are better valued
- World Heritage Site Setting vulnerability identified and addressed
- Manage vegetation for views and landscape character
- Achieves more unity of effect in managing land
- Grazes hillsides effectively for wildlife
- Scrub invades by design not neglect
- Water meadows for flood alleviation
- Water meadows for wildlife
- Water meadows for recreation
- Tributary river restoration
- Otters and Water Voles flourishing
- Planned care of woodlands and tree belts
- Trees adapting to changing climate
- Woodland wildlife flourishing
- Skyline tree age structure
- Bigger, better and more joined up habitats
- Volunteer wildlife surveys and monitoring
- Understand and value historic landscape features
- Monuments no longer at risk
- Revive the therapeutic role of landscape
- Geological conservation and recording
- Conservation of quarrying features

What have we done so far?

We have now set up an interim partnership board to develop the collaborative approach needed and to decide what the partnership's work programme should include, and a small working group to support the technical development of the bid. A bid is registered with the Heritage Lottery Fund, and they are expecting an outline bid to be submitted by the end of May.

Partners have set out a working vision of the difference the partnership will make. We now need the projects that will make this happen – and this is where we need your support now.

Call for Projects

We are now considering and developing ideas which the partnership can deliver over the 5 year life of the project. We need your input **now** to help develop these project ideas. It does not have to be a fully developed proposal; just something that you think will help us make the differences we intend. With a strong set of projects to deliver, the Landscape Partnership could receive funding of up to 90% of the projects costs. Please get in touch if you are developing a project that could be funded or better achieve its purpose through the partnership.

We are developing projects with the following themes

A landscape through time

- Building blocks
- Landscape Past
- Future landscapes
- Waterways

A living landscape

- Nature Knowledge
- Extending & linking
- Connecting with Nature
- 'Eat the View'

A Landscape for the community

- My Greenspace
- Enjoying and Exploring
- Views and Vistas
- Landscape Therapy

Speak with David Hodd the Bid Development Officer to find out more.

Next steps

With a strong selection of project ideas put forward by early March, the partnership board will consider which of these should be included within the bid in May.

These shortlisted projects will lead to further development and submission as one application to the HLF in May. This submission will still be for outline projects, and we have more time to work out the details needed to make the project particularly effective.

Projects which are not included within the Landscape Partnership bid may still be picked up by some or all partnership members, and alternative means of supporting their funding and delivery would be explored.

Who is helping develop the bid?



Bid Development officer – David Hodd, Cotswolds AONB

David is a freelancer, who has worked in nature conservation, outdoor recreation and community development over the last 20 years. Having worked for local authority, government agency and charitable sectors, David has a wide range of experience in building collaboration to achieve landscape wide conservation work.



Chair, Interim Partnership Board – Dr Marion Harney, University of Bath

Marion is the Director of Studies for Conservation of Historic Gardens and Cultural Landscapes at the University of Bath. Her main interests are in eighteenth century landscape and literature and the digital recreation of 'lost' landscapes. Marion is a trustee of the Garden History society and member of the City of Bath World Heritage Site steering committee.

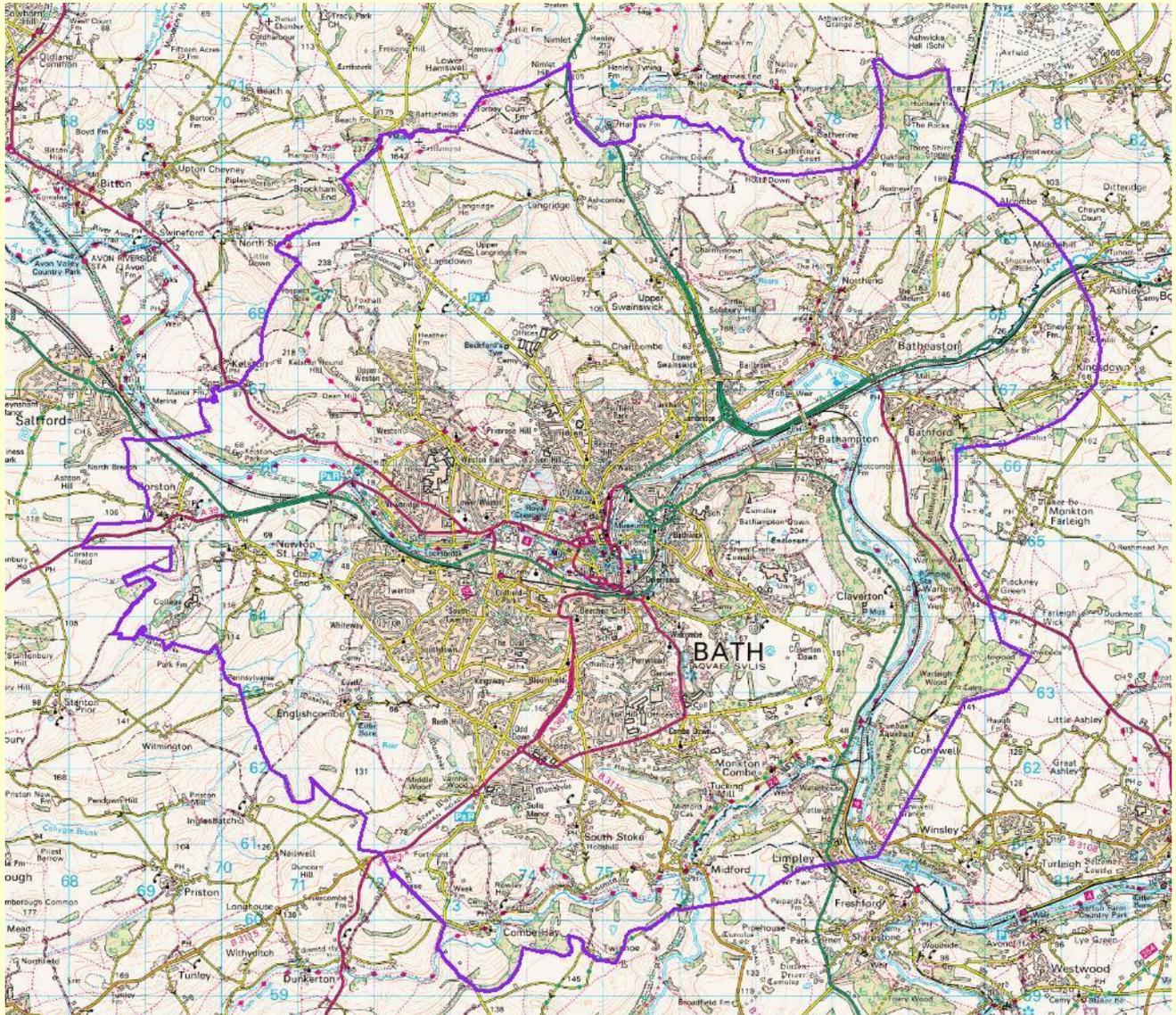
Most of the work is the collaboration of the many organisations, staff and community representatives working in and around Bath. The following organisations are already active in putting this partnership bid together:

- Avon Wildlife Trust
- B&NES Council
- Bath Preservation Trust
- Bath Spa University
- City of Bath World Heritage Site team
- Cotswolds AONB
- Federation of Bath Resident's Associations
- FWAG SW
- Joint Local Access Forum
- National Trust
- Natural England
- University of Bath
- Wiltshire Council

...and more are becoming involved in developing the partnership's work programme. We welcome your involvement.

Where will the Landscape Partnership operate?

Our provisional boundary for the partnership, broadly speaking, is the setting for the world heritage site. It is shown here:



Landscape Partnerships – What are they?

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) gives grants to sustain and transform Britain's heritage – in all its forms. One way in which it does this is through Landscape Partnerships, a very successful and popular HLF grant programme. Since 2004, HLF has supported 91 landscape partnerships schemes, with grants totalling £135.4m.

Landscape Partnerships are about helping a community to come together to address the needs of a distinctive area of landscape. So one starting point is a landscape with distinct quality, usually between 20km² and 200km² in area. Successful LPs have focused on river valleys, ranges of hills, forested areas, wetlands, islands, coastal areas, damaged industrialised landscapes, and so on. The other starting point is a genuine and effective partnership of public, private, social enterprise and voluntary bodies, with one lead partner.

Landscape Partnership schemes vary greatly but typically they will consist of say 20 or 30 projects which between them must achieve three things:

- Benefits for the heritage so that it is better managed, in better condition and recorded,
- Benefits for people - so that they develop heritage-related skills, learn more about heritage and volunteer more, and
- Benefits for communities – so that they have less environmental impact, engage more with the heritage, and gain from working in, living in or visiting a more attractive place.

HLF will also help fund the staff and support costs that are needed for this. But they will not support: big capital expensive projects; expenses that cover legal and/or statutory duties; and projects which mainly benefit private individuals.

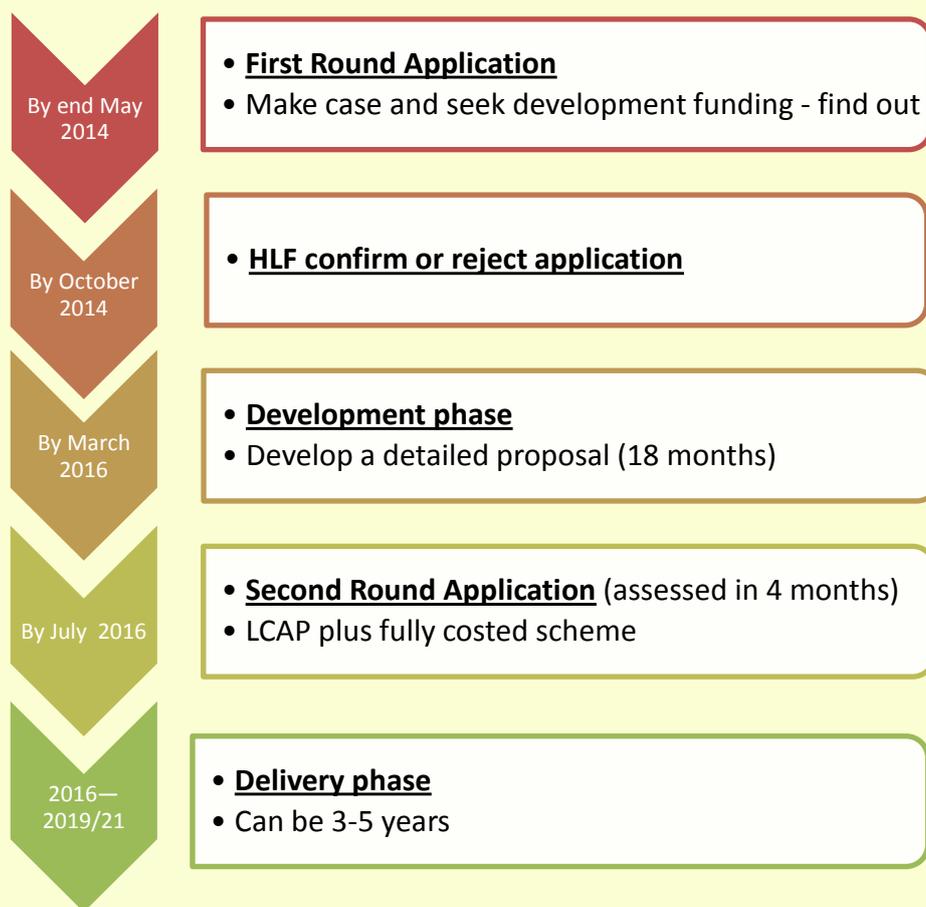
Bids are made and assessed in two phases: first round bids for the whole scheme in outline are placed in an annual, national competition, assessed by HLF trustees, and must be in by 31 May. If successful, the partnership is given the funds (say £150,000) to develop a bid to the detailed operational level for a second round bid. If successful at the second round, the implementation phase can run for up to 5 years. Typically schemes are supported with grants of between £1 and £3 million for this second, delivery phase.

There is no guarantee that a bid to HLF will succeed. Last year, for example, there were more than £50m of bids and only £21m was awarded to support 9 bids spread across the UK. As well as this, putting a bid together involves a lot of work and calls for a serious commitment to partnership working from the outset. But those who have succeeded in the past speak enthusiastically about the experience and have achieved remarkable outcomes: and, even if the bid were to fail, the experience of building the partnership is not wasted.

To read more, see:

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/landscapepartnerships.aspx#.UcMi4OfVC3E>

The timetable for the bid



Get in Touch

To find out more about the project, and to take part in its development please contact the bid development officer:

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