

Bathscape - Revitalising our landscape for people, communities and heritage

Bathscape aims to reconnect people and communities with Bath's unique landscape setting in ways that benefit people, communities and heritage through a range of activities and events that will encourage greater public use, enjoyment and appreciation of its heritage values.

The **Bathscape project area** is a unique, inspiring landscape encompassing the City of Bath World Heritage Site (WHS) and its setting. It lies at the southern edge of the Cotswolds AONB. Administratively it's in the West of England region within the eastern part of Bath & North East Somerset. The project area is 101km², of which 79km² comprises natural features including woodland, grasslands, river corridors, common land, parkland and green spaces.

The project area lies wholly within the Cotswolds National Character Area (NCA107). The southern part of this NCA is characterised by the steep Cotswold scarp which forms the backdrop to Bath along with the open downs separated by valleys with villages nestled along their sides. An outstanding quality of Bath is the close relationship of the city with this surrounding landscape.

The Bathscape Partnership Board exists to develop and deliver a programme of activity which brings a co-ordinated approach to the care of the area defined as Bathscape.

In pursuit of this purpose, the Board will promote and implement a programme of work that best realises opportunities to enhance the heritage, landscape and wildlife value of the setting of the City, and to improve access and understanding to this setting. In particular by:

- Engaging community in its care and enjoyment
- Engaging with potential stakeholders to gain support for the programme.
- Establishing a collaborative way of working amongst partners to ensure that common objectives are achieved and not just individual priorities.
- Securing funding to achieve these objectives
- Reviewing progress annually

Heritage Lottery Fund- Landscape Partnership Scheme

In November 2016, Bathscape received support for £1.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This includes a round one grant of £176,800 (77% of the total eligible development work cost of £228,900) towards the development of a detailed second round application in 2018.

This is a summary of the projects and activities that will be explored through the development stage.

Understanding the need

The Partnership has undertaken extensive work to develop an understanding of the audience for Bathscape and its heritage, and make an assessment of local community and heritage needs by considering the following evidence base:-

- A profile of the Bathscape project area drawn from the 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation' published in September 2015
- An analysis of the B&NES Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- The need for the project identified in strategic plans and Council priorities
- The results of an extensive consultation with the local community, voluntary groups, landowners, partner organisations, residents and professional officers working across a variety of sectors
- Knowledge of the audience for the Bathscape area and its heritage drawn from surveys and other evidence
- The need for the project from a landscape conservation perspective, drawn from research into landscape character, biodiversity and grassland evidence and woodland condition.

Activities to address the need

Themes – proposed activities have been grouped under the following themes:

- **Conserving & Restoring** – projects and activities that will enable the heritage to be better managed and in better condition
- **The Therapeutic Landscape** – projects and activities that develop the therapeutic tradition associated with the heritage of Bath to support health and wellbeing through greater contact with the landscape and natural environment
- **Access** – projects and activities to improve access to the landscape and natural environment and reduce physical and other barriers
- **Learning Training & Skills** – activities to improve the understanding and skills of target audiences, volunteers and participants

1. Conserving & Restoring

Projects and activities that will enable the heritage to be better managed and in better condition are:-

Looking after the Landscape will achieve improved land management practice to open-up and maintain historically important views and vistas across the landscape. The project will include agreeing a schedule of important views/vistas (identifying their management needs, monitoring by volunteers and working with land owners and managers to foster good-practice land management). The project will consider the need for replacement trees and woodland and a strong community input will be vital for its success

Grasslands for the Future will provide targeted support to landowners and land managers to improve the management of species-rich grasslands

Grassland Restoration Volunteers will work with land management partners to improve the management of species-rich grasslands including surveying, recording, looking and practical management works

Woodlands of Bathscape will implement a range of initiatives to ensure that woodlands are better managed to reverse the decline in their condition which threatens their

landscape, biodiversity and amenity value. Measures will include support for landowners to develop management plans and obtain Countryside Stewardship Grants, advice and skills training, timber marketing support, 'community wood lot' arrangements and co-ordination of pest control measures.

Trees of Bathscape will support volunteers to survey and collect data on candidate veteran trees, significant landscape and field trees and inform action to conserve trees and/or enhance their settings as part of wider projects/ B&NES Council work. The project will also investigate opportunities for communities to set up friends groups to adopt/manage key community woodland areas.

Bathscape Small Grant Scheme will establish a new small grant scheme to support landowners to undertake critical landscape conservation and enhancement work which fall outside the scope / parameters of the Countryside Stewardship scheme. A grant award will be conditional on a farm visit by a land management advisor and this will promote better management of the heritage

Caring for Heritage at Risk will promote better management and care of historic features within Bath's landscape, and also lead to better recording, interpretation and access. This will include the Wansdyke and 16 other sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments and locally identified historically important heritage sites) in the Bathscape area. Volunteers will be trained to survey and assess the condition of heritage features and scope land management requirements. Management plans will be produced and restoration works identified to prevent further decline and improved management

2. The Therapeutic Landscape

Projects and activities that develop the therapeutic tradition associated with the heritage of Bath to support health and wellbeing through greater contact with the landscape and natural environment are:-

Landscape on Prescription will deliver a range of activities to benefit the community of Twerton working in partnership with Wessex Water's Collaborative Public Health Project to help support people signed up to green/social wellbeing projects to prevent need for medication.

Connecting with Nature will provide support for schools, children's centres, and other outdoor education locations supporting children and young people to experience / learn about nature in outdoor settings and the wider Bath landscape

Bathscape Nature Watch will work with partners or other specialist providers to deliver a programme of 10 Bathscape Nature Watch events per year, with up to 75% of events targeted at disadvantaged communities

Bathscape Gym / Practical Management Activities will establish regular work parties combining health & exercise with practical management works with links to GP referral scheme / communities of need / communities of interest within the Bathscape area

Therapeutic Walks Programme will benefit communities by using the schedule of 'Cure Walks' developed by Bathscape and other local promoted routes, to provide a programme of led-walks for a range of walking abilities with the main focus on the less

able walker / communities of need / communities of interest. It will also deliver an annual Bathscape Walking Festival

Connecting Families with Landscape will support B&NES Youth Service to work with children and families (through the Connecting Families Programme for young people & carers, and parents in challenging situations) to provide opportunities to skill share and build family relationships for health and wellbeing, and to support future independent access and engagement with local landscape and natural environment

Bathscape Outdoor Seasonal Celebration Events will develop a programme of seasonal outreach celebration workshops and assemblies in schools/children's centres in disadvantaged communities. Workshops will enable children to learn about and celebrate the heritage through the seasons and art, bringing communities together and helping to increase individual physical and emotional wellbeing and sense of connection to place

2. Access

Projects and activities to improve access to the landscape and natural environment and reduce physical and other barriers are:

Bathscape Circular Path will establish a new promoted route around Bath along with improvements to key green radial routes linking the city centre and the communities of Bath with the circular path route. The project will focus on improving access and links from disadvantaged communities and improving the accessibility of the network through targeted signing and access for all improvements. This will benefit communities throughout Bath

Bathscape Gateways – Linking City and the Landscape will involve a series of targeted improvements to key sites around the Bathscape Circular Path and green radials to improve links between the city, the communities of Bath and the wider landscape setting. This will include practical improvements and explore opportunities for communities to use Park & Ride services to explore and access the landscape including the potential for subsidised/free transport for targeted hard-to-reach audiences

Area and local hubs will establish a series of area and local hubs where local people and visitors can obtain information and interpretation on Bathscape

Cure Walks and Carriage Rides: Published Walking Routes will develop a series of walking routes based on the theme of the 'therapeutic landscape' linking to the C18th tradition of doctors prescribing 'cure walks' to aid mental and physical wellbeing. This will benefit local communities, target audiences and visitors

Easy Access Routes and Photo / Video Trails will develop a network of easy access routes that will allow people, including those with mobility issues, young children, people pushing baby buggies, or older people, to gain access to key sites within the landscape. All photo / video trails will be publicised, with specific emphasis on developing a strategy for publicising the photo trails to people with disabilities, which will include production of a downloadable accessibility leaflet

Active Landscape will support visits for target audiences / hard-to-reach groups from disadvantaged communities to access and enjoy the landscape by different means, including canoeing, cycling and supported walking.

4. Learning Training & Skills

Activities to improve the understanding and skills of target audiences, volunteers and participants are:-

Habitat Recording and Monitoring will facilitate the on-going monitoring of the habitats of the Bathscape project area including species-rich grasslands and woodlands; the project will include skills development and training for volunteers in habitat monitoring and species identification

Bathscape Community Skills will provide a range of learning, training and skills development programme. There will be a focus on provision of skills programme within disadvantaged areas where needs in the skills and training domain are particularly high. Skill development areas will include habitat management, rural skills, green space care and management, growing and horticulture, surveying and recording, outdoor learning, supporting outdoor activities for health and wellbeing, developing interpretative resources, heritage research, project management, event management, marketing and promotion, work planning, volunteer leadership, risk assessment and first aid

Bathscape Training Placements will enable students from local colleges and universities to gain experience of working on a project that benefits heritage, people and communities

South West Bath Primary Schools Learning Project will involve training and support sessions for the teachers so that they can use the resources independently in future years to make it self-sustaining

Bathscape Interpretive Media will develop of a wide range of interpretive media for Bathscape, including interpretative panels, signing, a new Bathscape web site, printed information, electronic media, heritage displays and arts interpretation. Volunteers and participants will receive training and develop interpretative media skills in a range of areas so that they can help develop the different types of media

Tree Survey Training will provide skills training for volunteers undertaking surveys of veteran trees, significant landscape trees and woodland, and field trees

Bathscape Intergenerational Oral History Project will include skills training for volunteers in how to carry out oral history work

Bathscape Intergenerational Oral History Project will gather memories of people who have lived and worked within the project area with the memories / stories used to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the heritage.

Dated: November 2016