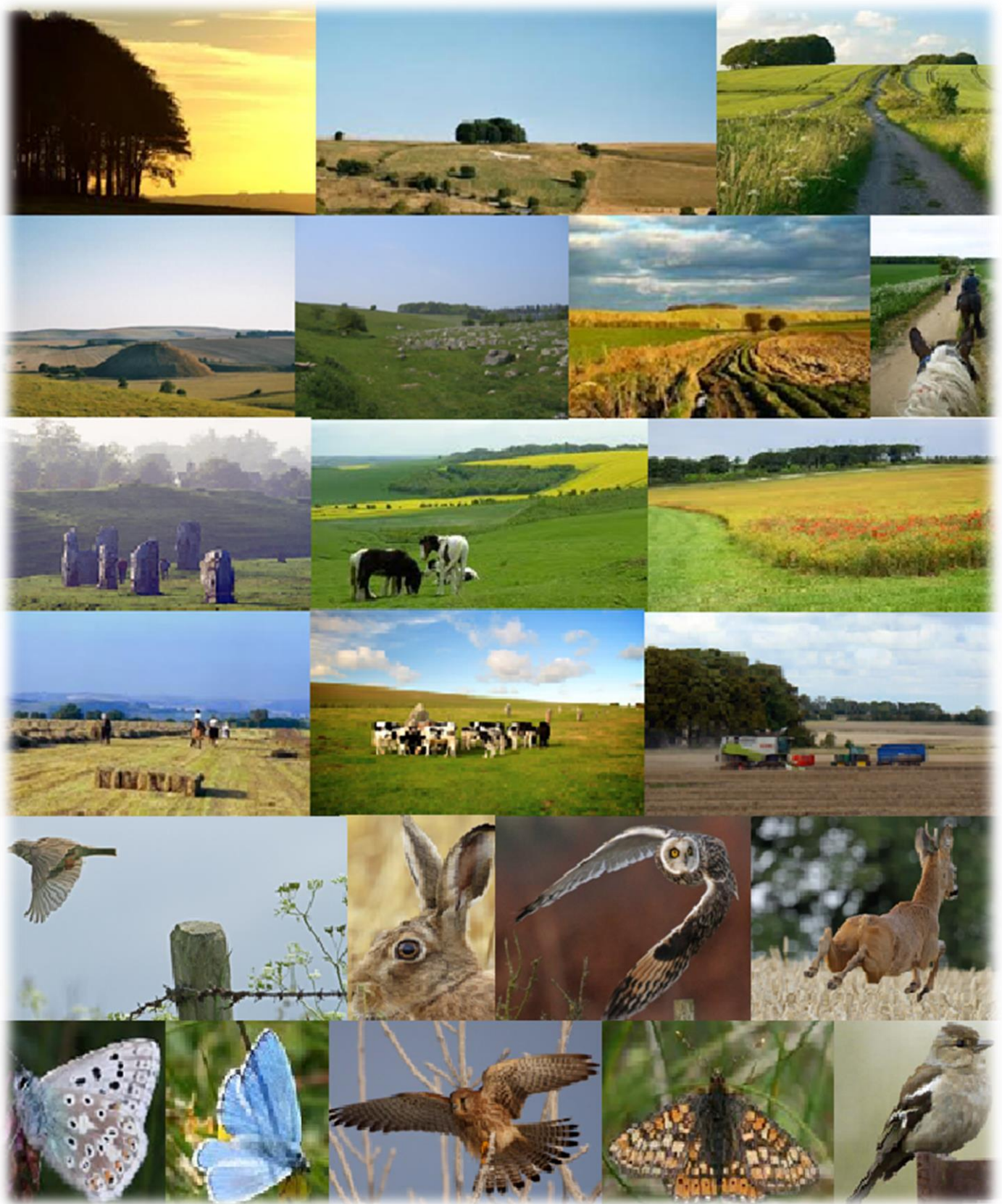
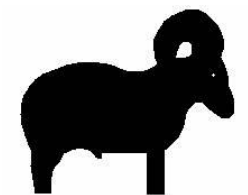


The Marlborough Downs: Space for Nature



Seventh Annual Report



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The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership

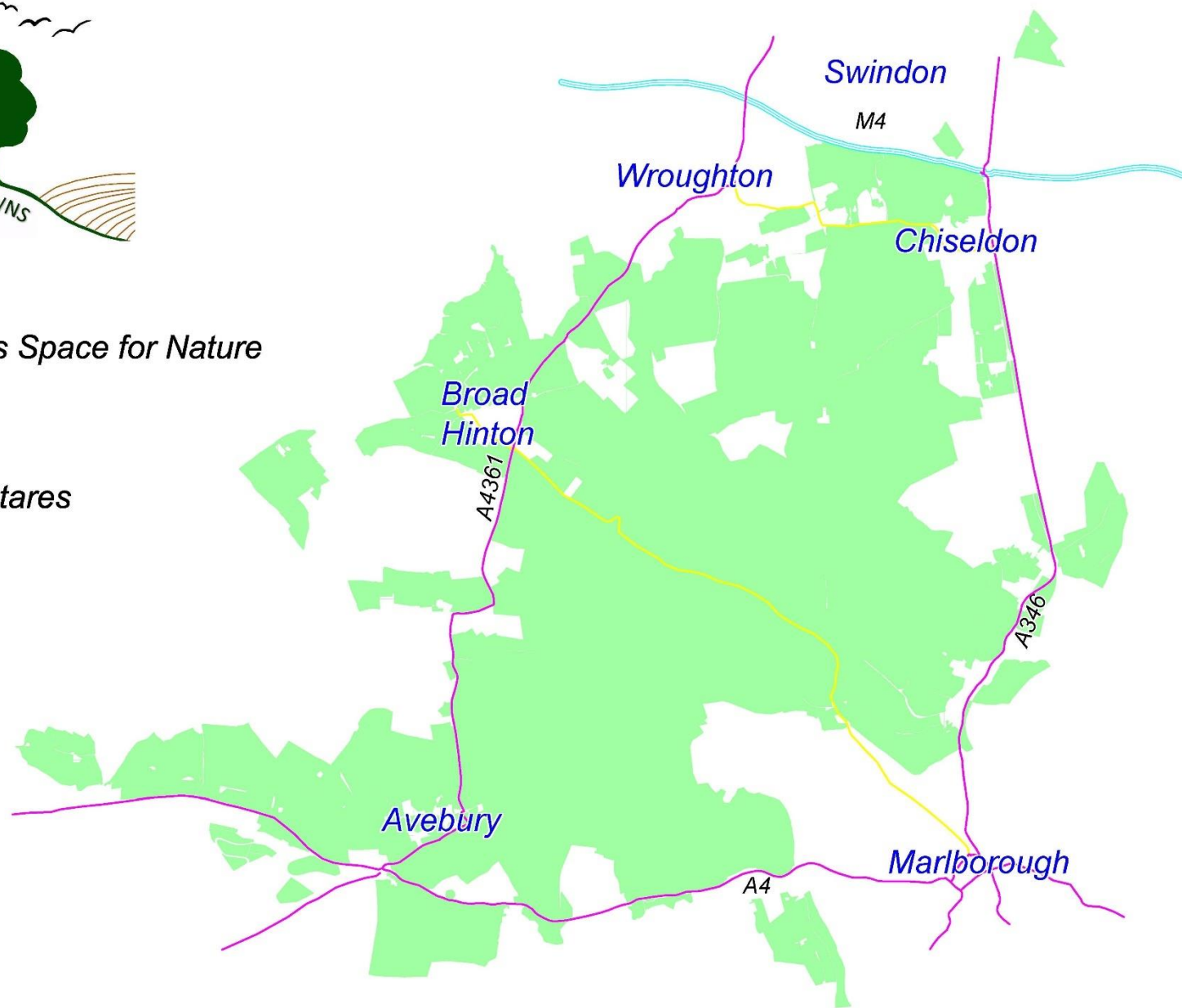
Summary of achievements April 2018 to March 2019

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Marlborough Downs Space for Nature
31 March 2019:
60 members
31 holdings
Approx. 10,200 hectares






INTRODUCTION

As the Marlborough Downs farmers begin their eighth year of working together to make Space for Nature, it's good to reflect back on what we've achieved. This facebook post from April 2018 just about sums it up:

**The Marlborough Downs: A Space for Nature**...

9 April 2018 · 🌐

Even on a miserable day like today, the Downs never fail to lift my spirits, and the amount of frog spawn in Catherine's pond is truly amazing! When I think about how much was there before our project started - ie NONE! - I realise what a massive impact we're having on the landscape and wildlife of this very special corner of England. Is it possible to feel humble and proud at the same time?!





928

200


Boost Post


People reached


Engagements


 You and 67 others

3 comments 2 shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share



OBJECTIVE 1 – To deliver evidence-based conservation activities on a landscape scale

1.1 Biodiversity tailoring

Detailed knowledge of what's happening beyond individual farm boundaries has enabled us to deliver on a landscape scale.

1.1.1 Existing Stewardship agreements

Following a farm walk which included sight of a flock of over 200 corn buntings, one HLS agreement amendment application was submitted to re-configure the ELS element to exchange some low-value options for those to support farmland birds. At time of writing (July 2019), we are still waiting for confirmation that this has been approved.

Three and a half years into the funding period we have now reviewed all existing ES agreements and amended where appropriate to align with group objectives. Going forward, effort will be concentrated on supporting new CS applications and agreements.



1.1.2 New Stewardship agreements

Two MDSfN CS mid tier applications were submitted this year, and members were supported by the facilitator as follows:

- a) An initial meeting was held for potential applicants. This delivered an outline of the structure of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, scheme requirements ('terms and conditions'), and application process. Topics covered included the difference between mid and higher tiers, the principles of the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package, and a brief overview of the broad spectrum of annual management options, supplements and capital items (henceforth collectively referred to as 'options') that are available. The importance of the CS statement of priorities for the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs and the objectives of the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature project were emphasised, and opportunities to support these via farm CS agreements were discussed.
- b) For each member, a list of relevant options was drawn up which included all activities supporting local CS priorities and group objectives that could be possibly be delivered by

a CS agreement on their farm – an MDSfN ‘wishlist’ of options to be considered by the farmer when designing their application. The intention was to help members understand which options they should focus attention on, and to encourage them to include as many as possible to ensure delivery across a broad spectrum of CS and group priorities.

MDSfN wishlists were tailored according to several factors including:

- Features present on the holding – eg priority habitats and species, watercourses, woodland, archaeology, etc.
 - The type of farming system in place – ie arable, livestock, mixed
 - Livestock availability, where relevant – eg cattle, sheep, owned, grazier, etc.
 - Current farming practices – eg min till, spring cropping, winter grazing, etc.
 - Known issues – eg weed burden, badgers (TB), public access, etc.
- c) Members attended a workshop on how to complete their Farm Environment Record and were given the opportunity to discuss relevant priority options further with the facilitator and with one another.
- d) Once members had got to the stage where they had a good idea which options they wanted to include in their applications they were offered further guidance on how to deliver the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package. This covered an overview of why the package is important on the Marlborough Downs; how the WPFWP area should be calculated; the area requirements for winter and summer foraging areas; and which options might best deliver the WPFWP in the context of the downland landscape and the priority species present.
- e) Finally, once the draft application was completed, an endorsement meeting was held with each applicant. This involved going through the fine detail of the suite of individual options selected and the proposed areas and locations of each, in order to ensure that the application was fully consistent with the local CS priorities and the MDSfN group objectives.

1.1.3 Dissemination of best practice

The facilitator continues to use a variety of media to disseminate best practice, including:

- Monthly updates (April, June, July, October, November, December, January, March). Missing months are those when the facilitator was busy doing BPS and Stewardship claims (May) and CS applications (August) or was on leave (September).
- 6th annual Spring Celebration (April 2018, 38 attended):
 - Bee Roadzz – Jemma Batten
 - Wildlife Friendly Food – Tim Martin
 - Wildlife and Countryside Quiz
 - Farmland Birds – Matt Prior

- Wildlife Champion Award (David White)
- 7th annual Seasonal Supper (October 2018, 57 attended):
 - New Environmental Land Management Scheme – John Law
 - Farmland Birds – Matt Prior
 - Hedgehogs – Hugh Warwick
- Our website – www.spacefornature.net – and social media accounts



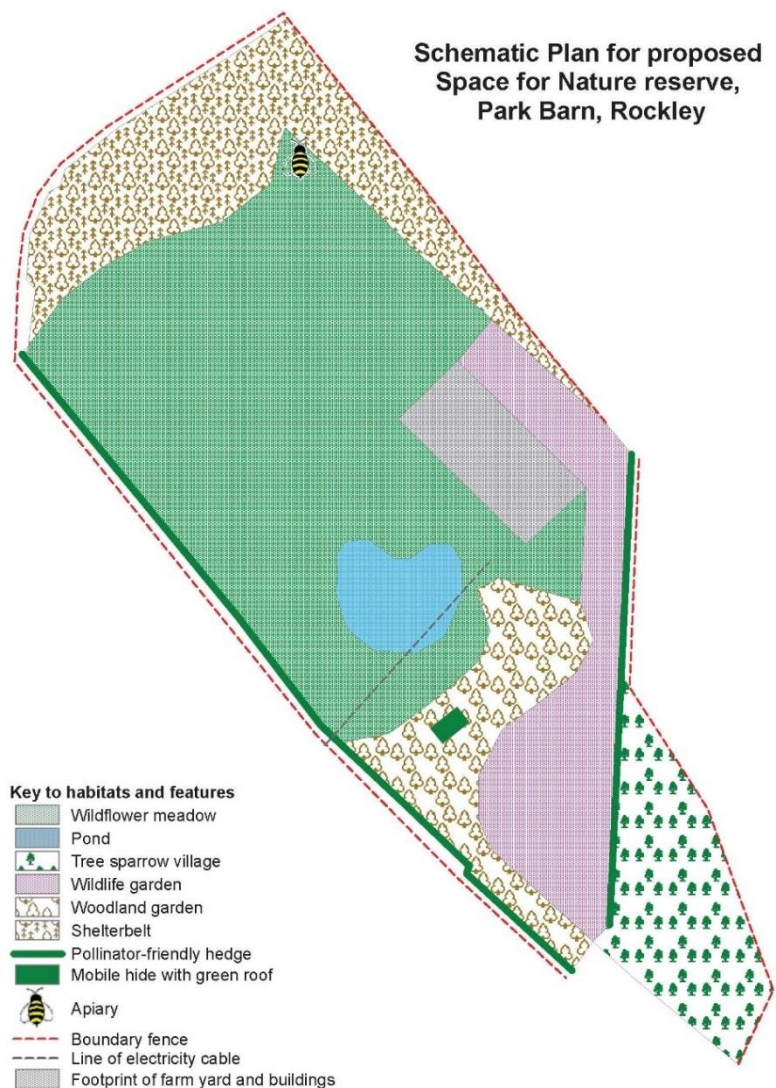
In addition, the project director/facilitator carried out 25 farm visits during which the project, its aims, delivery and/or achievements were the subject of at least part of the conversation.

Other 'best practice' activities associated with particular habitats and/or species are detailed under the relevant Objective headings below.

1.1.4 Space for Nature Reserve

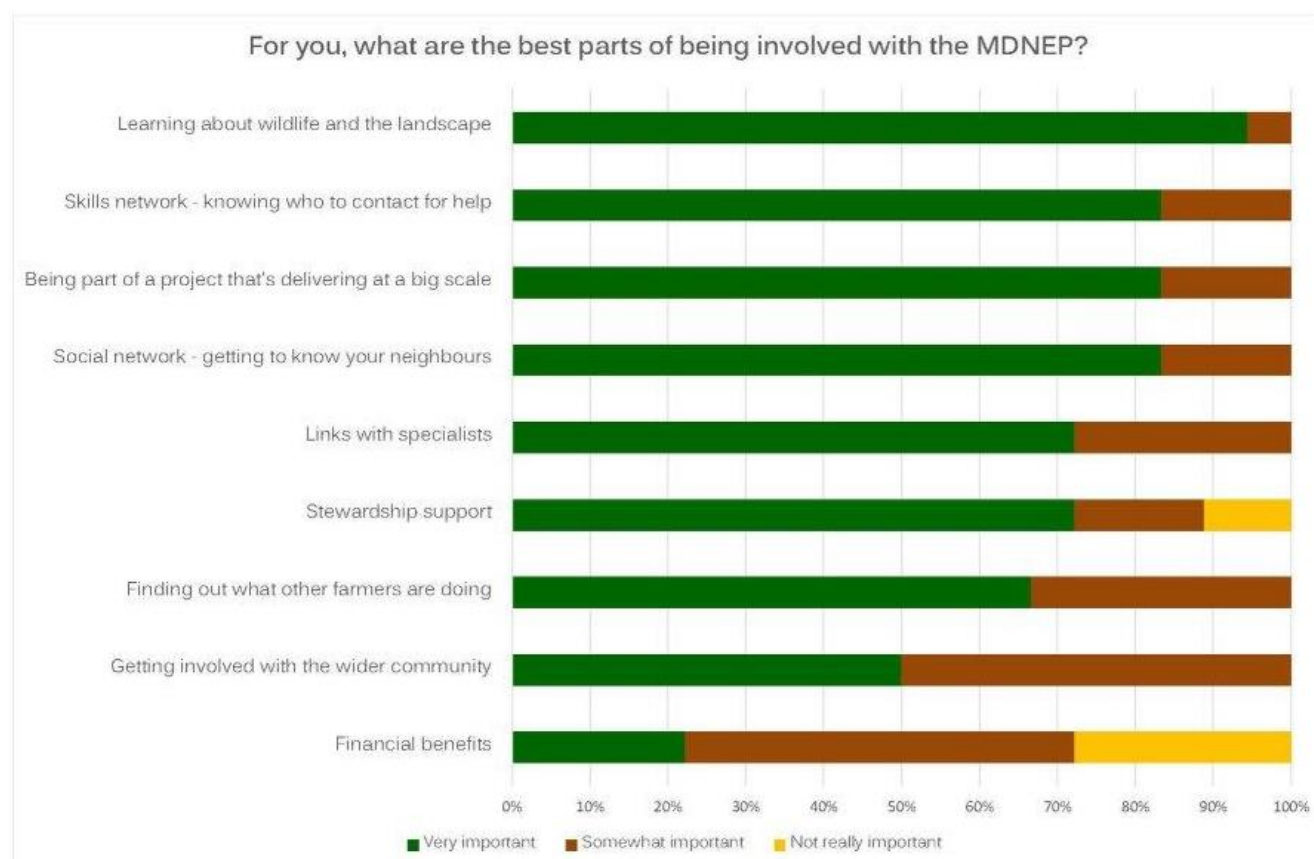
We have begun work to create a private nature reserve for the purposes of demonstration, education, research and monitoring. Right is a sketch map showing the area and proposed habitats and features.

To date, work has been undertaken to cut and remove vegetation from the central area and to clear the bulk of the site of self-seeded scrub and non-native trees, leaving the shelterbelt and the woodland 'garden' area.



1.1.5 Partnership working and project activity review

The board and project management team believe that it is essential to continually review and improve the way in which the Space for Nature project is delivered to members, and to this end an online survey was undertaken in the autumn of 2018. A full analysis of all responses can be seen at Annex 4, but overall those who responded were happy with what was on offer and with their involvement. There were some useful suggestions for future consideration.



1.2 Supporting local conservation businesses

Now the that project is in its seventh year, we have excellent relationships with many local businesses and other organisations involved in farming, conservation, land management, and other countryside activities, and communicate and collaborate on an *ad hoc* basis.



OBJECTIVE 2 – To enable appropriate management of semi-natural wildlife habitat

2.1 Better woodland management

Our efforts to establish a community woodland programme unfortunately came to naught for several reasons:

- Our application for funding (Plunkett Foundation Making Local Woods Work) was unsuccessful as our proposals didn't fit the standard model;
- Oliver Cripps, the North Wessex Downs AONB officer who was keen to develop this collaborative approach to managing small scattered woodland is no longer working in the area;
- There wasn't enough commitment from individual farmers to keep the momentum going without Oliver's input.

However, we do have a small area of woodland within the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Reserve (see 1.1.4) and will use that to demonstrate best practice. We have also applied for funding for 500 beech trees to plant around existing beech clumps, which are characteristic features of our downland landscape.

In order to promote better management of woody habitat (rather than woodland *per se*) we delivered two practical workshops – one on Trees for Bees and one to enhance an existing tree sparrow village – and have applied for funding for a 650 m stretch of tree sparrow corridor.

2.2 Wildlife corridors and stepping stones

2.2.1 Trees for Bees

200 trees and shrubs were planted to provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators from spring to autumn, including:



Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) – flowers mid February to April
Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) – flowers March to May
Field maple (*Acer campestre*) – flowers April
Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) – flowers April
Hawthorn (*Cretagus monogyna*) – flowers May
Common lime (*Tilia x europaea*) – flowers June
Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) – flowers July
Wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) – flowers August

We also planted 600 snowdrops to provide very early (January) forage.

2.2.2 Tree sparrow village

We enhanced an existing tree sparrow village by coppicing moribund elder and planting 100 Trees for Bees. These will attract bees and other invertebrates, some of which will in turn end up as food for tree sparrow chicks.



2.2.3 Tree sparrow corridor

Going back ten or fifteen years, Manor Farm supported a small tree sparrow colony of about a dozen birds. In 2012, when we started working together for wildlife on the Downs, the farmer there decided he wanted to do something to increase numbers and so did everything possible to achieve this. We focused on an old double hedge running up the middle of the farm either side of a barn where tree sparrows were nesting in boxes supplied by Wiltshire Ornithological Society. Part of the hedge was coppiced and gapped up, and we added an additional two rows of a specially designed mix of shrubs tailored to tree sparrows to make the hedge thicker and wider – a tree sparrow corridor. A tree sparrow seed mix was planted alongside the hedge and some serious year-round supplementary feeding undertaken. More nest boxes were installed as the existing ones filled up, and now on that site we have an overwinter population of well over 300 tree sparrows, with 49 pairs fledging 438 chicks in 2018. Not satisfied with this, we have applied for funding to plant an additional two rows of shrubs alongside another stretch of this hedge to improve the habitat further not only for tree sparrows, but a whole range of farmland birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

2.2.4 Chalk grassland

We continue to manage and monitor our grassland restoration sites, and have used these and other 'stepping stone' sites on member farms for workshops to demonstrate best practice, identify wildflowers, and learn about pollinators.



2.3 Better water management

Now that all our ponds are well-established, and as a result of the interest sparked by the pond water quality survey undertaken in 2016-17, our focus has widened to the broader River Kennet catchment. Interventions to mitigate diffuse pollution and contribute to flood management are CS priorities in this area and we held a workshop in February to look at this in more detail.

As a direct result of the workshop, we commissioned Viridian Logic to prepare an opportunities map of the Kennet and Og catchments to identify the most efficient locations to make interventions against soil erosion, the reduction of diffuse pollution (phosphates and nitrates) and flood mitigation. Going forward, we intend to work with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer to use these maps to inform any new CS applications and to give members information on where the best place to use EFAs and voluntary measures to ensure that run off and pollutants don't reach our watercourses.



OBJECTIVE 3 – To consolidate populations of species of national and local importance

3.1 Space for Birds: Marlborough Downs farmland bird project

Matt Prior continues to co-ordinate our three-pronged approach to farmland bird conservation:

1. Year-round feeding opportunities for adults and spring/summer insect food for chicks
2. Nesting habitat
3. Protection from predators where predation significantly threatens breeding success

3.1.1 Feeding and foraging habitat

Most of our members continue to provide overwinter stubbles, sown wild bird mixes and/or nectar mix plots via existing ELS or HLS agreements, and/or do so on a voluntary basis.

Members were also encouraged to double drill a strip about 100 m from the edge of a spring-sown crop to provide nesting habitat for corn buntings, and to provide song posts for calling males in the form of wooden plant canes. The impact of this intervention will be monitored by Matt later in the year.

3.1.2 Supplementary feeding

Having agreed amendments with Natural England on all eligible Environmental Stewardship agreements, members now put out 21.5 tonnes of supplementary bird feed annually between December and April, and some continue to feed year round at their own expense .



Provision for a further 2.5 tonnes was included in CS applications due to start on 1 January 2019 but unfortunately agreements weren't issued until this year's hungry gap was over so we won't see the benefit of this until the coming winter.

Members purchased a further six giant feeders and project funds purchased an additional four for the MDSfN bird hide area. in an effort to exclude non-target species (deer, rodents, pigeons, etc.) from feeders, our farmers are becoming increasingly creative!

Many of our farmers who don't have Stewardship agreements also feed overwinter, again at their own expense, and this year one of our members experimented with growing sunflowers for seed. This blaze of yellow on the downland landscape attracted a lot of attention and even featured on the BBC website! Half the plot was harvested and distributed for feeding, and half left for the birds to help themselves.



3.1.3 Farmland bird events

In April 2018 one of our members hosted a Dawn Chorus Walk which brought together local ornithologists, farmers and friends of the project.

In March 2019 members were invited to visit Lower Pertwood Organic Farm in the south of the county for a tour led by ecologist and ornithologist Nick Adams, who has been working very successfully with the landowner to increase the population of corn buntings on the farm.

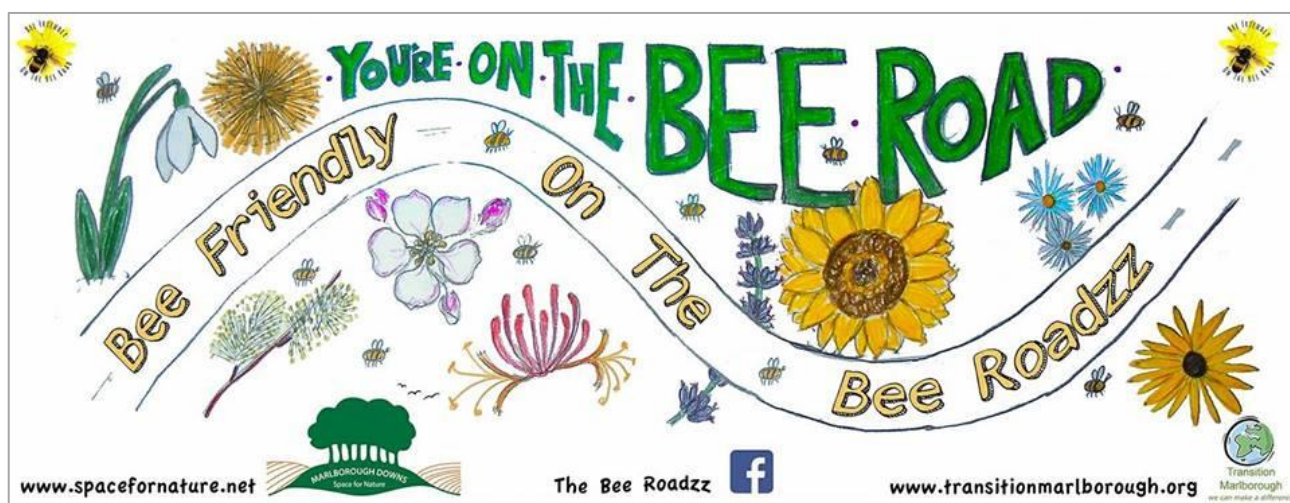
3.2 Widespread species

3.2.1 Pollinators

With increasingly alarming reports in the media about the significant decline in pollinator and other insect populations, we joined forces with Transition Marlborough to develop and deliver the Bee Roadzz initiative. This involved members hosting events to raise awareness of the needs of bees and other pollinators, and to offer practical ideas about how local communities can become more bee friendly.

A full report of activities carried out over the year can be found at Appendix 1, and highlights included various events during launch week in April 2018; our annual Summer Farm Walk led by a conservation officer from the Bumblebee Trust when we were joined by farmers from Farmer Guardians for the Upper Thames; the distribution of 11,000 bee friendly spring flowering bulbs to community groups for planting in public spaces; building bug hotels with the National Trust at Avebury; and an open farm morning co-hosted with Carer Support Wiltshire, a charity which

works with people who care for family members with special needs, addictions, and/or disabilities.



3.2.2 Butterflies and Bats

Our annual Butterfly Walk, led by a member of Wiltshire Butterfly Conservation, was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather, but this year's bat walk was very well attended.

3.3.3 Edible plants

We held two foraging workshops, one in April and one in October, when farmers and friends joined Fred the Forager from The Wild Side of Life to find out about the wide range of edible plants found on our farms. As well as learning how to identify lots of species, each time we cooked up a feast using some of the things we found.



OBJECTIVE 4 – To offer a range of opportunities for people to engage with the landscape of the Marlborough Downs

OBJECTIVE 5 – To provide high quality access for all

4.1 Marlborough Downs SfN events

Over the course of the year we organised a range of meetings, events, talks, walks, workshops, visits and multi-media material to promote best practice amongst our members, to inform the public about our work, and to educate everyone on wildlife, countryside and farming subjects. Some of these have already been mentioned, but in total we co-ordinated 43 events, activities and publications, including:

| | | |
|--------------|----|---|
| April | 5 | Spring foraging with Fred |
| | 11 | Visit by Bishop Nicholas of Salisbury (Chair of C of E's Environmental Working Group and lead bishop for Environmental Affairs) |
| | 12 | Spring Celebration (3 speakers, quiz, Wildlife Champion award) |
| | 17 | Bee Roadzz launch event (4 speakers; wildflower seed sales) |
| | 18 | Pollinators and Plants Information Day (with National Trust Avebury) |
| | 19 | Planting for pollinators with Little Angels pre-school group |
| | 19 | Family Fun on the Farm |
| | 22 | Wildflowers for pollinators farm walk |
| | 30 | April newsletter |
| May | 2 | Seed bombing with Chiseldon Cubs |
| June | 10 | Open Farm Sunday |
| | 12 | Talk to Avebury Society |
| | 18 | June newsletter |
| | 21 | Summer Farm Walk with Bee Conservation and Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames |
| | 22 | Ogbourne St George School visit to East Farm |



| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| July | 7 | Farm walk with Marlborough Permaculture Group |
| | 27 | July newsletter |
| August | 12 | Butterfly Walk (cancelled due to bad weather) |
| | 14 | Meeting in Somerleyton re new farmer group |
| September | 3 | Making 200 seed bombs for the Railway Path |
| | 7 | 4x4 safari with winners of Open Farm Sunday Bee Hunt |
| | 23 | Sunday Seed Stroll (cancelled due to bad weather) |
| October | 10 | October newsletter |
| | 13 | 4x4 safari with winners of Open Farm Sunday Bee Hunt |
| | 14 | Bat Walk |
| | 16 | Catchment management workshop (cancelled due to CSFO illness) |
| | 21/22 | Bulb planting weekend (6000 bulbs planted) |
| | 31 | Autumn foraging with Fred |
| November | 3 | Open Farm Morning with Carer Support Wiltshire |
| | 24/25 | Bulb planting weekend (3000 bulbs planted) |
| | 26 | Trees for Bees (volunteer event) |
| | 28 | Seasonal Supper (3 speakers; MDSfN calendar; bulbs for bees) |
| | 30 | Willow wreath workshop (fund raiser) |
| | 30 | November newsletter |
| December | 6 | Build a bug hotel (volunteer event) |
| | 22 | December newsletter |



| | | |
|-----------------|----|---|
| January | 27 | January newsletter |
| February | 21 | Catchment management workshop |
| | 23 | Wellie Amnesty Week |
| | 24 | Coppicing at Rockley tree sparrow village (volunteer event) |
| March | 14 | March newsletter |
| | 18 | Open planning meeting |
| | 20 | Earthworm workshop |
| | 27 | Visit to Lower Pertwood Organic Farm |

4.2 Health and wellbeing

As has been mentioned, the project has established a link with Carer Support Wiltshire. We have been approached by The Harbour Project, which works with asylum seekers temporarily accommodated in Swindon. Many of these people come from rural areas and we would like to be able to offer them the opportunity to get out in the countryside and away from the city. We are also in discussions with a residential care home in north Wiltshire about how we might work with some of their residents on reminiscence therapy and other activities.

Unfortunately, we have no capacity to develop these relationships without additional resources, and to this end we intend to apply for lottery funding in the coming year.

4.3 Schools and education

Our primary school programme has really blossomed this year, with one of our members visiting four school classes to talk about food, farming and wildlife. We also hosted a school visit to East Farm (part paying for coach hire using project funds), where children learnt about making space for nature.



During our Bee Roadzz campaign, we held a couple of events with pre-school groups, and both pre- and primary schools took part in the bulb planting weekends.

4.4 Volunteer Group

As has been mentioned, we held various volunteer events as part of our Bee Roadzz campaign, and in addition carried out coppicing work in one of our tree sparrow villages.

OBJECTIVE 6 – To increase local and national awareness of the work, achievements and impact of the Space for Nature Project

We continue to take every opportunity to promote the project, our work, and the link between food, farming, landscape and wildlife. During the year to 31 March, this included:

- Networking – everyone involved promotes the project in whatever context possible and to a wide audience including politicians, civil servants, local and national NGOs, charities and other organisations, businesses, the media, local special interest groups, etc.
- Partnership working – we continue to work closely with a wide range of stakeholders including Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Trust for Ornithology, Transition Marlborough, Wiltshire Bat Group, Three Trees Farm Shop, Friends of the Railway Path, and various other local community and youth groups. We also established a closer working relationship with the local NFU branch, with the group secretary being invited to join the board.
- Media engagement – we were featured in five radio broadcasts (BBC Radio Wiltshire, BBC Radio Gloucestershire, and BBC Radio 4); and five articles (Marlborough News Online, Swindon Advertiser, Wiltshire Life magazine)
- Events programme – our public events are well attended showing that we are engaging with our target audience.
- Membership – as of 31 March 2019 we had 60 members (farmers and other land managers) representing 31 farms and estates covering just under 10,200 hectares (25,200 acres) of the Marlborough Downs.
- Website updates – www.spacefornature.net
- Social media – our facebook page has over 1500 followers and we started twitter and Instagram accounts this year which are slowly gaining followers.
- Presence at partner events – we attended the following external events:
 - Distributed leaflets on Avebury Day (September)
 - Presented at Natural England / Defra seminar (October)
 - Presented at North Wessex Downs AONB annual forum (October)
 - Presented at GWCT Farmer Cluster Conference (November)
 - Presented at Oxford Real Farming Conference (January)

- Exhibition of wildlife and landscape photographs for Marlborough Photography (February)
- International activities – one of our members gave a talk about the project to a school in Bermuda. We also met with representatives of the Romanian-based Bird Friendly Farming group who are working to establish bird friendly corridors along migration routes across Europe, and who are interested in how we designed and developed our project, and what opportunities there might be for some kind of collaboration.



ANNEX 1: Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund Grant Detail

| | | Expenditure | | | | Total for year | Annual budget | Under/over-spend |
|---|---|-------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| | | AMJ | JAS | OND | JFM | | | |
| Facilitation fees | Project delivery: delivering advice and facilitating action - farm visits; biodiversity tailoring; review and amendments to agreements; facilitation of collaborative effort between neighbours; arranging/leading workshops and best practice activities | 3065.63 | 2939.06 | 2548.13 | 3442.50 | 11995.32 | 17600.00 | -264.48 |
| | Project management and development: Record-keeping; mapping activities; reporting; new members; outreach & promotion; sourcing additional funding for complementary projects; developing stakeholder relationships; supporting partner activity; organising meetings; consultation, liaison, planning, strategic development | 551.25 | 585.00 | 1206.56 | 2117.50 | 4460.31 | | |
| | Admin support: Work required to support group activities (eg developing materials, printing, mailing, attendance sheets, feedback forms, post evaluation reporting, book-keeping, etc.) | 302.57 | 67.50 | 342.19 | 167.63 | 879.89 | | |
| Travel expenses | Expenses: travel and subsistence | 194.85 | 197.55 | 233.42 | 146.25 | 772.07 | 700.00 | 72.07 |
| Meeting expenses | Meetings: Board support; accommodation; other meeting expenses | 4.18 | 203.50 | 140.05 | 45.87 | 393.60 | 1460.00 | -1066.40 |
| Workshop expenses | Training events: fees for training providers; venue costs; materials; expenses | 456.57 | 28.79 | 280.00 | 63.19 | 828.55 | 2100.00 | -1271.45 |
| Educational access (from 10/17) | Schools: Establish links; activities for inset days; farm and classroom events; virtual learning hub; pollinator activity for Open Farm Sunday. <i>NB We are still waiting for NE approval for this amendment to our Facilitation Plan</i> | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Evaluation | Partnership working: evaluation of progress and mechanisms (with CCRI), feedback to improve provision | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1000.00 | -1000.00 |
| Other | Collaboration / engagement / funding | 239.56 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 239.56 | 1140.00 | -900.44 |
| Total Facilitation Fund claim | | 4814.61 | 4021.40 | 4750.35 | 5982.94 | 19569.30 | 24000.00 | -4430.70 |
| Additional in-kind/pro bono contributions | | 760.28 | 947.84 | 667.80 | 716.85 | 3092.77 | | |
| Total | | 5574.89 | 4969.24 | 5418.15 | 6699.79 | 22662.07 | | |

ANNEX 2: Summary Of Achievements Against Countryside Stewardship Scheme Facilitation Plan Targets

Facilitation Plan targets have been consistently achieved or exceeded throughout the year:

| 2018 | Apr - Jun | | Jul - Sep | |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Target | Achieved | Target | Achieved |
| Meetings (Partnership) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Meetings (Delivery Groups) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Best practice activities | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Farms visited | 4 | 9 | 0 | 4 |
| Technical workshops | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Engagement activities | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

| 2018-19 | Oct - Dec | | Jan - Mar | |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Target | Achieved | Target | Achieved |
| Meetings (Partnership) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Meetings (Delivery Groups) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Best practice activities | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Farms visited | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Technical workshops | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Engagement activities | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| Other | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

ANNEX 3: Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership Space for Nature Project 2015-2020

Aim 1: To improve the condition and connectivity of the ecological network of the Marlborough Downs

Objective 1: To deliver evidence-based conservation activities on a landscape scale

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|--|---|--|
| Biodiversity tailoring | The pilot has shown how detailed knowledge of what's happening beyond individual farm boundaries has enabled us to deliver on a landscape scale. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review every agri-environment agreement in the Marlborough Downs to ensure<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Most appropriate habitat management in a landscape context- Optimum combination and location of options that support widespread species• Deliver best possible environmental benefits via Ecological Focus Areas• Dissemination of best practice for farmers, advisers, special interest groups |
| Support for local businesses involved in conservation management | While the project area is too small to support a full scale local grazing scheme we have been involved in brokering grazing agreements between landowners and graziers and will continue to develop this. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web-based service<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matching graziers with grazing land- Machinery ring- Bulk purchasing, egg seed• Supply chain, egg local butchers, markets, pubs, etc. |

Objective 2: To enable appropriate management of semi-natural wildlife habitat

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|--|--|--|
| Better woodland management | The pilot focussed on chalk grassland and while this will continue to be a priority habitat on the Downs going forward, it would be good to bring neglected woodland back into management, and to enhance the wildlife value of woodland planted for shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify markets for e.g. biomass and firewood, and consider collective projects – most farms don't have enough woodland for management to be economically viable, but if we consider the Marlborough Downs woodland resource as a whole it looks more feasible• Social forestry group:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Management by volunteers- Demonstrations/training – coppicing, charcoal, woodcraft, etc.- National Association of AONBs toolkit• Management statement for individual woodlands/whole resource |
| Better pond management | By the end of the pilot we will doubled the number of ponds on the Downs and surveyed the vegetation of most of the more established ones. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best practice guide to cover pond and surrounding area• Recommendations re seed/plants, potential opportunities to purchase at reduced rates |
| Improved connectivity between habitats | We have started to establish wildlife corridors and stepping stones re chalk grassland and tree sparrow habitat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracks and verges<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improved management- Enhance species diversity by introducing seed where appropriate• Grassland/grass margins<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share experience/ experiment to find best management options- Restoration – stepping stones• Corridors – strips |

Objective 3: To consolidate populations of species of national and local importance

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|--|--|--|
| Marlborough Downs farmland bird package | We have had great success with tree sparrows and corn buntings and while we want to continue supporting our original flagship species we'd like to add others to the list. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter feeding – 3 tonnes per year• Monitoring<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PIT tagging- House martin tagging- Ringing demos- Webcam: nest boxes in summer (kestrel, barn owl); feeders in winter• Nest boxes for swifts and little owls• Reed beds along the edge of the project area• Tree sparrows<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rolling programme of new nest boxes (20 per year) to replace old ones• Long term nest sites |
| Systematic approach to predator control | We are aware that ground nesting birds are vulnerable to predators and that to reverse the decline in these species we must make a co-ordinated effort to control these where the law permits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish predator control demonstration pilots• Best practice workshops• One or two 'champions' – farmers/gamekeepers – to give advice to others, visit, etc. |
| Extensive uptake of measures to support widespread species | We have adopted various mechanisms to enable farmers to provide habitat for widespread species such as invertebrates and arable plants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nectar plots and bird mixes via agri-environment schemes, ecological focus areas, CSS• Deadwood habitat, especially as hibernation sites for bees• Hedgehog boxes, bee boxes, bat boxes• Garden ponds |

Aim 2: To connect people to the landscape of the Marlborough Downs

Objective 4: To offer a range of opportunities for people to engage with the landscape of the Marlborough Downs

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|--|--|--|
| Marlborough Downs SfN events programme | We have developed a well-supported programme offering public and best practice events which will be continued and expanded to include farm visits, talks and other activities targeted at specific groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile and promote annual events programme• Use calendar of country sports meetings, rural interest groups (egg beekeepers), Marlborough Summer School, etc. to offer additional talks, walks, practical activities• Continue to develop links with other organisations active within and around the Downs to co-ordinate and collaborate on an integrated events programme<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Broader subject matter- Benefits of resource sharing- Access additional expertise/information• Resource packs/buddy system to encourage more people to lead walks, educational visits, give talks, etc. |
| Share the health and wellbeing benefits of the Marlborough Downs with all sectors of the local community | While the pilot very much focussed on events aimed at the public (particularly families) and best practice workshops we have become very aware of the value of access to green space and outdoor activities for improved health and wellbeing for all. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish links with organisations offering specialist care and support in our local communities• Offer tailored activities for<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adults and young people with physical or mental impairments/learning difficulties- Young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)• Older people<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Talks in residential/care homes/day centres- Minibus tours- Virtual farm visits- Reminiscence therapy |

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|---|---|--|
| Greater understanding of Marlborough Downs landscape, wildlife and land use | We believe that, if we are to protect our wildlife, landscape, rural businesses and communities from changing Government policy we need widespread support from the general population and the best way to achieve this is to raise awareness of the value of our countryside and the ways in which our landscapes are shaped by current and past management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and youth groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom visits to stimulate interest ideally leading to farm visits Downloadable resource packs, linked to curriculum Activities for inset days Programme of events tailored to individual schools/classes that support curriculum delivery Virtual learning resources via website |
| Volunteer group to undertake practical work | Except for the project management team the whole pilot has relied on volunteer and in-kind input. However, we have not been able to capture the full potential of practical conservation volunteers, largely due to the lack of resource to support a co-ordinator, equipment, tools, transport, qualified task leaders, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management team to employ part time volunteer co-ordinator (potential funding through Area Boards) Volunteer tasks to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation management of specific sites Access improvements Surveys of flora and fauna Collaborate with National Trust/Wiltshire Wildlife Trust/Natural England NNR (Fyfield Down) to share resources Link with volunteer agencies (Swindon Volunteer Centre, Volunteer Centre Wiltshire, Community Service Volunteers, BTCV etc.) to identify individual and corporate volunteers |

Objective 5: To provide high quality access for all

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|---|--|---|
| More people out walking, cycling and riding horses on the Downs | During the pilot, we began to identify our favourite walks and rides to improve and promote them to encourage others to explore the downland landscape. We would like to continue this and to look at new ways to convince people of the joys and physical and mental benefits of being up on the Downs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to identify, upgrade and promote favourite walks and rides• Consult local groups to identify favourite routes for cyclists and horse riders and Parish Councils to establish community routes• Compilation of favourite walks, each graded according to ease, accessibility, distance, time• Offer guided walks<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Led by Community Access Forum, Ramblers, volunteers, landowners- Educational – relaxed but informative- Dog walks – opportunity to educate owners about responsibilities• Set up a Marlborough Downs Walking for Health group• Collaborate with local groups, egg U3A Walking Group, Friends of the Railway Path, etc. |
| Better quality access | We are keen to ensure that people have a safe experience on the Downs and that they can get around without difficulty and have begun a programme of improvements which we would like to continue. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain Public Rights of Way and permissive access in good condition<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Problem areas beyond local Authority remit- Work undertaken by volunteer group/students supervised by Rights of Way officer• Upgrade all stiles to kissing gates• Identify parking areas for each favourite route with horsebox space where needed |

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|--|--|---|
| Access for individuals and groups with specific requirements | During the pilot, we have worked with the local carriage driving for the disabled group and would like to share the Downs with others who may experience barriers to access because of physical or mental issues or because they have specific requirements that can only be met by a large-scale approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Kennet Valley Driving Group (disabled carriage drivers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permissive access on wider network of private farm tracks and field margins - Create links between land holdings - Track upgrades where these open up significant routes • Develop better access opportunities for the local Riding for the Disabled Group • Collaborate with local Pets As Therapy group to offer short walks with PAT dogs • Link with other specialist groups, egg geocaching, orienteering, endurance riders, to develop specific access strategies for the Downs |

Objective 6: To increase local and national awareness of the work, achievements and impact of the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Project

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|---|--|---|
| Cemented relationships with key decision makers, business contacts, partners and sponsors | It is important that the Marlborough Downs Project continues to receive and gain new support from local communities, businesses and decision makers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with key decision makers via meetings and invitations to visit the Downs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local MPs, local business networks, nature networks, young farmers Westminster – go and talk to Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs High Profile conservationists and country/wildlife experts Local dignitaries and personalities Develop partnerships and sponsorship opportunities with businesses |
| Better PR and publicity for the project | The results of an annual survey indicate that local people feel they are not sufficiently informed about the Marlborough Downs Partnership or our work. Our objective is therefore to increase awareness and tell the story of the project and its achievements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showcase the work of the project by focusing on specific good news stories and achievements of the group Develop and agree a news story time table of events across the calendar year to dovetail news stories with other calendar events and riding the current news agenda Focus should be targeted not a scatter gun approach to achieve maximum impact Engage with media – local and national, conservation and countryside – about these stories by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press Release Press Event Invitations to Marlborough Downs projects to individual journalists Promotion of events programme Information boards Contractors, farm workers, country sports people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers to get employees involved – put MDSfN leaflet in payslips, display events programme in farm office/workshop, etc. |

| Outputs | Background | Actions |
|--|--|--|
| Hard-working and innovative marketing plan | There appears to be a strong appetite from the public to support conservation and rural and agricultural initiatives and feedback indicates that most would welcome the opportunity to get involved or at least be better educated on the subject. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of mdnep.org.uk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentivise re-visits to website via new engaging content - Additional data capture options (egg regular competitions) - Interacts with social media - Access to fast fact on what the project has achieved (short concise snappy downloads facts) • More regular Marlborough Downs e-newsletter • Social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage sharing of content from followers - Dovetail snappy facts by releasing these on social media - Run social media competition in conjunction with website - Digital video, egg YouTube, encourage people to submit their own videos from the Marlborough Downs • Offline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leafleting –general leaflet and favourite walks and rides – placement in relevant public areas/shops/cafes/B&Bs etc. - Leaflet drop to coincide with events - Posters – in local pubs, cafes, notice boards - Information panels/interpretation boards |

ANNEX 4:

Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Year 3 Review

Review of partnership working and project activities

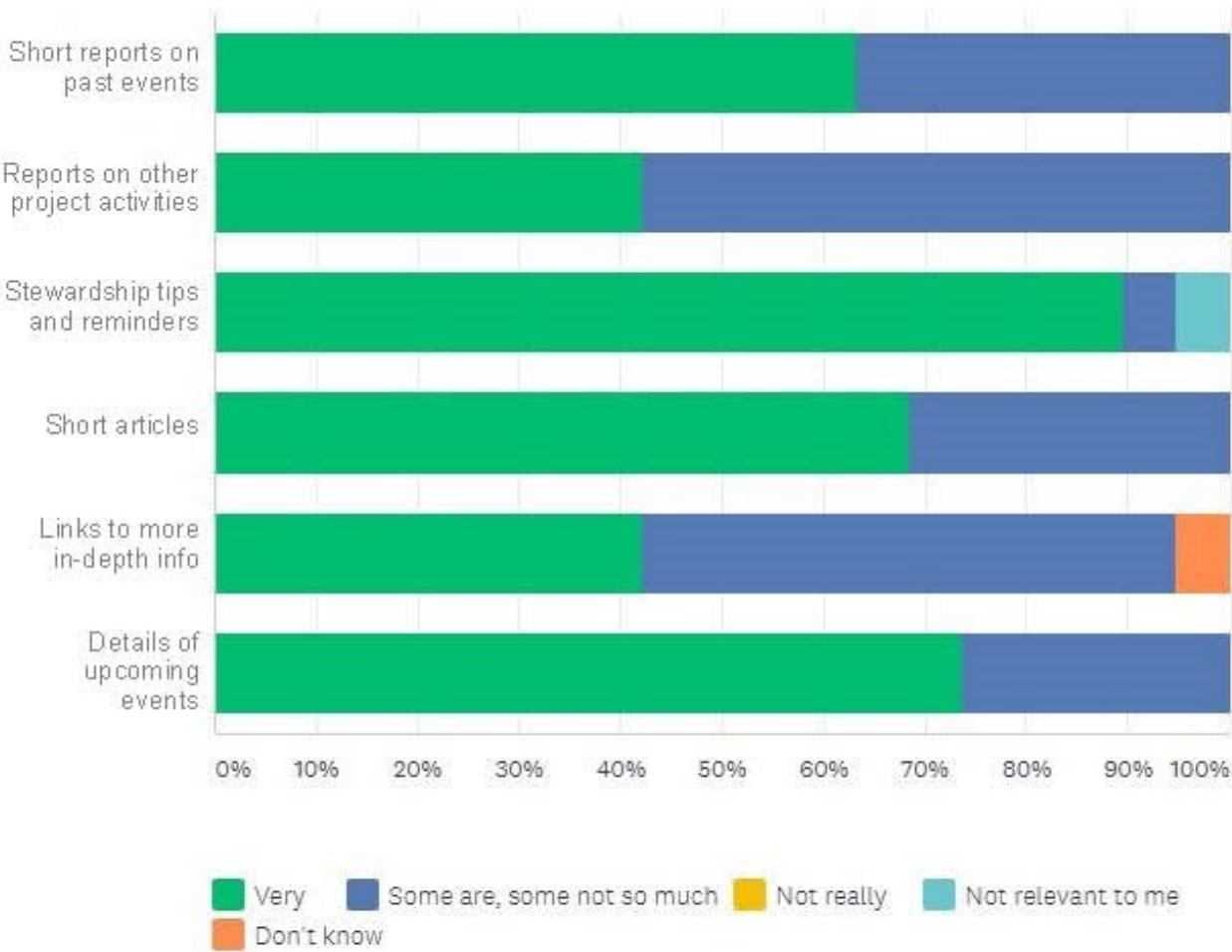
This online survey was designed using Survey Monkey and responses collected by sending an email to all members and associate (non-farmer) members (n=51). A reminder was sent out by email to all non-respondents two weeks later and a second reminder six weeks after the first email.

In total,20 responses were received though one respondent somehow managed to skip answering all the questions so we have 19 full responses.

Q1

How useful / interesting are the various items included in the monthly newsletters (updates)?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

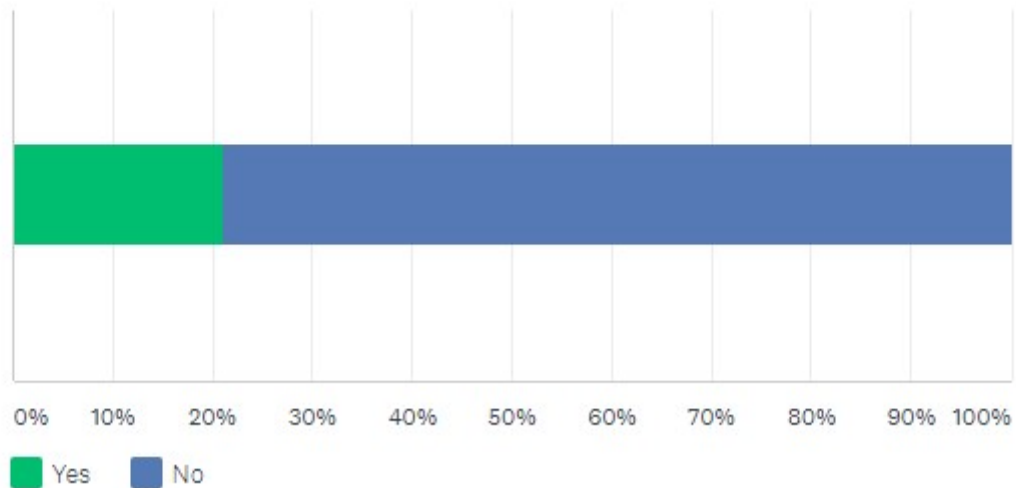


Q2



Is there anything else you think should be covered in the updates, either as a one-off item or a regular feature?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

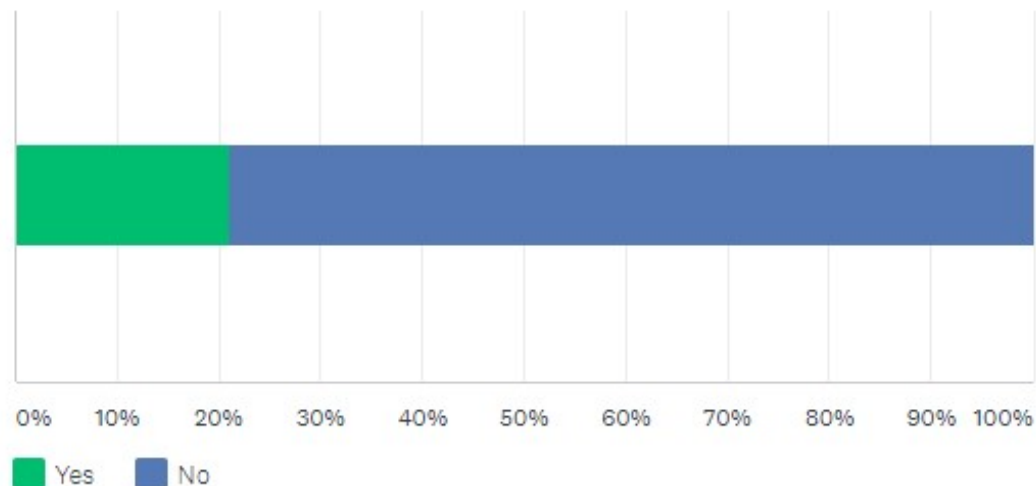


Q3



Would you be interested writing something for the newsletter, either as a one-off item or regular feature?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

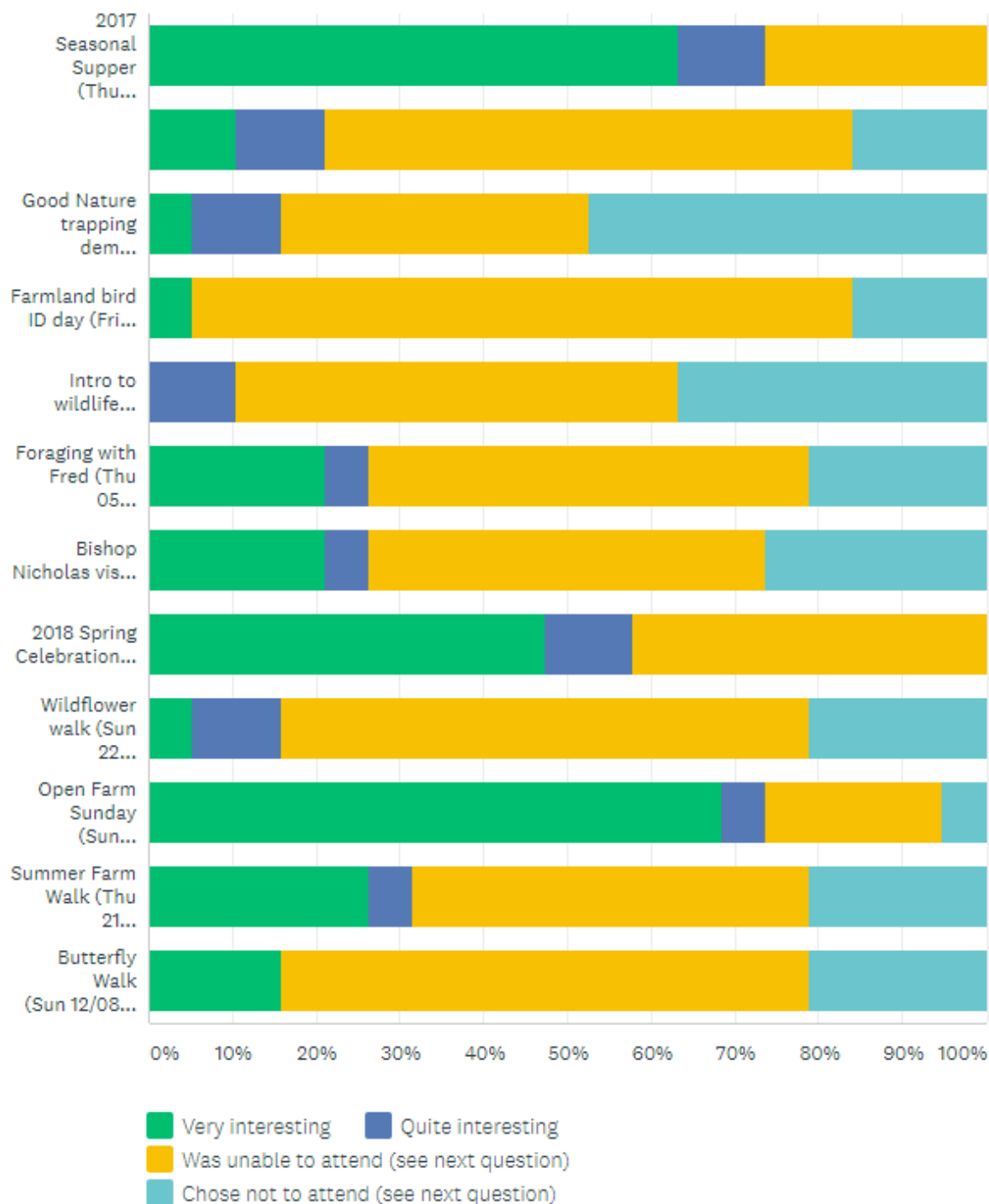


- One-off item on what we are doing on our farm as part of MDSfN
- I would write a few short pieces on historic environment matters, both current issues and previous farming practices, maybe four a year
- The future of farming and the environment post Brexit - once the deal is done!
- Once or twice



Please rate the following events

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

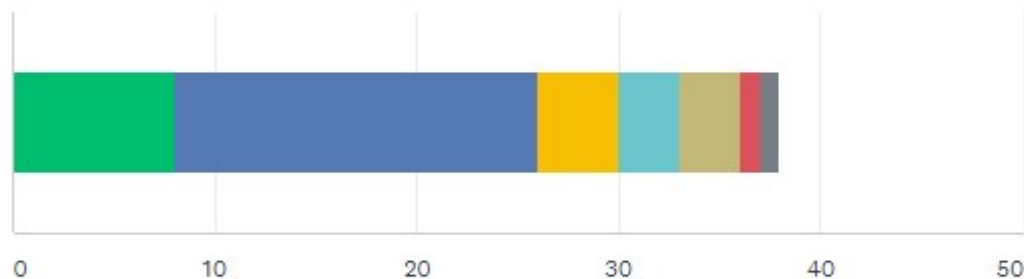


Q5



If you were unable to attend an event or chose not to, please say why (tick all that apply)

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

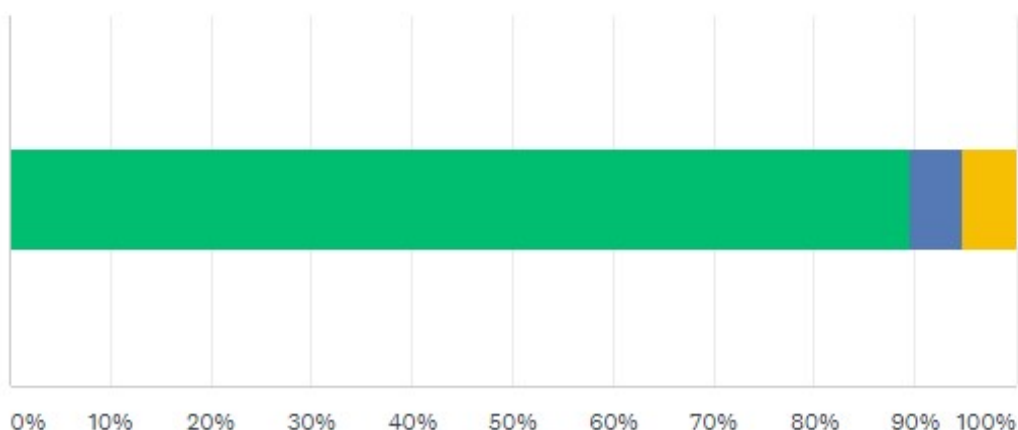


Q6



There are three groups involved in project development and planning as follows: Board - strategic overview Habitats and heritage - grassland, woodland, ponds, etc; historic and landscape features; community engagement Downland species - birds, pollinators, etc. Do you think this is a good way to make sure we have a varied schedule of activities that will appeal to a range of members?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



Q7



Do you have any suggestions for ways that members who aren't part of one of these groups might contribute ideas for events, newsletters, information sharing, etc?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 14

No sorry

11/14/2018 8:24 PM

Would it be possible to have a comments page on the web where people could post their questions/ideas/thoughts?

10/31/2018 4:30 PM

No, the reason why they are not part of a group is mainly because they don't really want to contribute.

10/31/2018 7:23 AM

Involve those who are not necessarily farming, but have a specific interest in the countryside

10/30/2018 6:43 PM

Q8



And while we have your attention, are there any subjects you'd like included in the programme for next year?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 11

Training events (eg id workshops, walks, talks, etc.):

- Keep going as above please
- More on bird identification
- Brexit help
- Small mammals
- Pond life - what is living in our ponds. What invertebrates are living in our downland soils

Continued over ...

Visits:

- Farms on chalk downland that are not in MDSfN
- Other people who are exhibiting 'best practice' in a particular field
- Knepp rewilding
- An 'away' visit

Fact sheets / printed information:

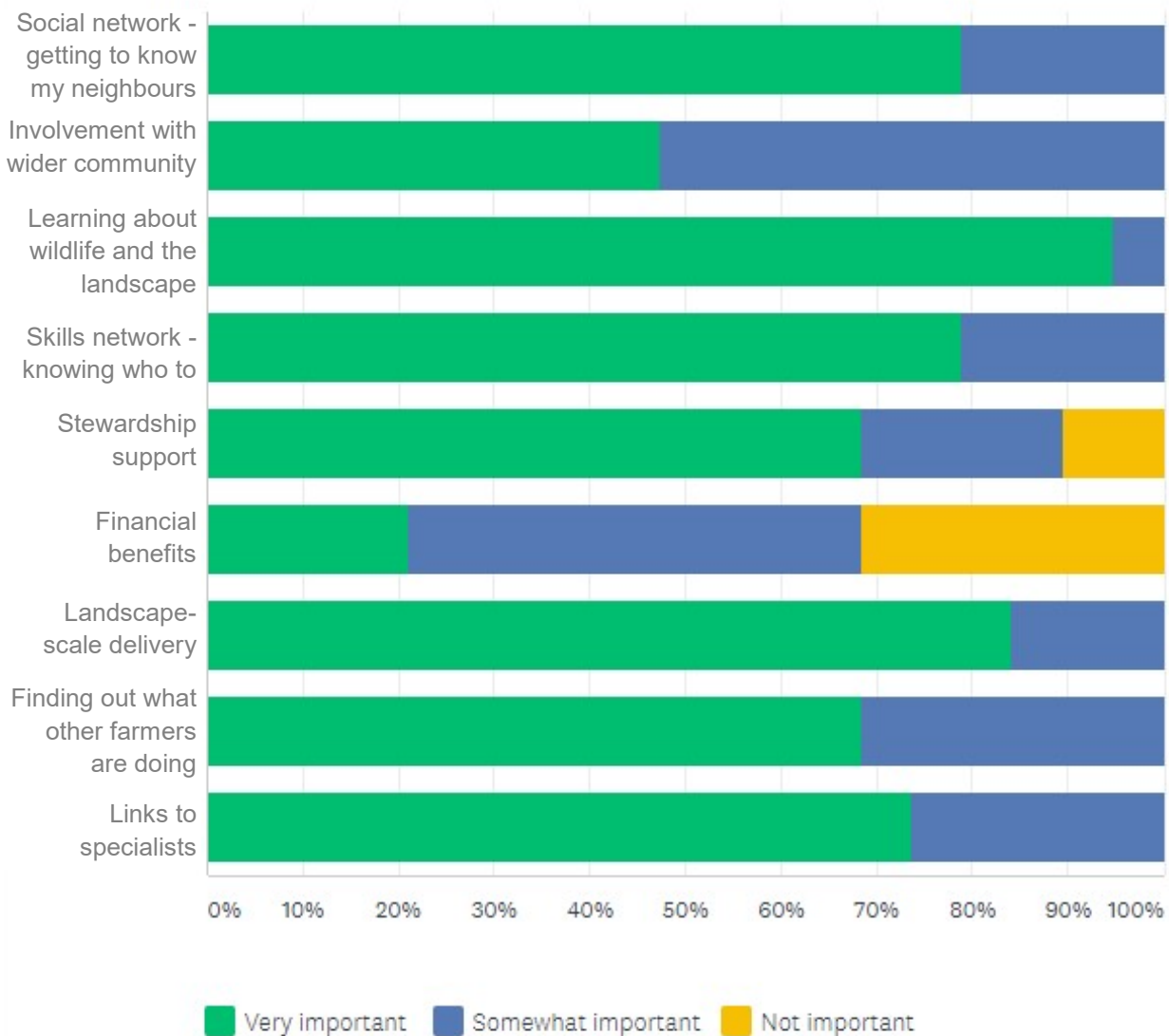
- Downland grass and wildflower species

Q9



And finally, for you, what are the best parts of being involved with the MDNEP?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



Other comments:

- I love it
- Engaging with the wider public - difficult we know, but Open Farm Sunday shows the way

ANNEX 5: Bee Roadzz Campaign Final Report



The Marlborough Downs Bee Roadzz campaign has now come to an end and there follows a summary of activities, achievements and expenditure.

The Bee Roadzz campaign was delivered in partnership with Transition Marlborough, and partly funded by a Science Museum Group Wroughton Solar Park grant awarded via Wiltshire Community Foundation.



Bee Roadzz on the Marlborough Downs

| | Description | Quarter | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | JFM | AMJ | JAS | OND |
| Community events on the Bee Roadzz | Minimum 8 talks, walks, workshops, etc. (Achieved: 8 + 2 cancelled) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bee Roads planning meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Talk at Marlborough Town Hall (Chris)Fun on the Farm (Laura)Plants and Pollinators Day (Lorretta)Wildflower Walk (David)Evening with the Avebury Society (Jemma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Avebury Day - fliers distributedButterfly Walk (cancelled due to bad weather)Sunday Seed Stroll at Three Trees (cancelled due to storm warning) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Seed bombing Railway Path (Dick Millard) |
| Events for specific groups | Minimum 4 for schools, young carers, disabled, elderly, etc. (Achieved: 10) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">School visit to East Farm (Laura)Talk to Avebury Community Orchard Group (Milly)St Mary's School visit (Milly) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">NFU Farm walk (Jemma)Farm walk for permaculture course (Jemma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Preshute School visit x 3 classes (Jilly)Ogbourne School visit x 1 class (Jilly)Carers day (Jemma) |
| Flagship events | Minimum 3 big public events to learn, reflect, celebrate (Achieved: 4) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spring Celebration (Jemma)Open Farm Sunday<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bee Roads badge making (NT)Bee Roadshow (Jemma and Milly)Bee pendants, key rings, etc. (Breathe Nature)Face painting (Dawn)Bee Hunt (Jemma)Seeds for sale (Jemma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Summer Farm Walk<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bumblebee Conservation Trust to lead (Jemma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bulb planting weekend (Jemma) |
| Volunteer programme | Minimum 8 practical activities to create/manage pollinator habitat (Achieved: 8) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pre-school seed planting (Vicki)Guerrilla gardening Beckhampton roundabout (Laura)Chiseldon cubs seed bomb the Railway Path (Mark Spreckley) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A4 nectar plot (Suzie) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bulb planting – Forest School, Kennet, Ogbourne St George, Chiseldon beavers, MDNEP members and friendsTrees for Bees – Old Eagle Triangle & Maisey FarmBuild a bug hotel (NT) |
| Publicity and outreach to a wider audience | Maintaining website and social media; newsletters; media contact; promotion to wider audience | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bee Roadzz webpages (Jemma) and facebook page (Milly)Banners, leaflets, other publicity material (Jemma)Activity booklets for kids (Jemma)Press release (Harriet) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Info pack for adults (Milly)Updating webpage and facebook pageMarlborough News Online articlesSwindon 105.5 Radio interview (Milly) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Activity booklets and pencils to pubs and restaurants (Catherine/Harriet)Mapping activities online (Jemma)Radio Wiltshire with Sue Kinnear (Jemma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Talk to school in Bermuda (Jilly)BBC Wild About Wiltshire (Jemma)Marlborough News Online articleNorth Wilts Sustainability Day (Milly)Talk in Winterbourne Monkton (Milly)Talk at National Honey Show (Milly) |
| Monitoring and evaluation | Co-ordinating FIT-Counts; annual survey; collaborating with research partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Contact with UWE and RAU (Jemma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">FIT-Count training (Jemma)Monthly FIT counts (NT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monthly FIT counts (NT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monthly FIT counts (NT) |

Bee Roadzz 2018

Headlines

Organised, participated in and/or contributed to 41 events and activities

Involved over 37 community and special-interest groups including

6 pre- and primary schools, 1 cub pack, and 1 forest school

Planted 11000 bulbs

Dispersed 200 seed bombs

Planted 200 trees and shrubs

Distributed over 1500 activity booklets for kids

Planted 1 acre nectar plot

Featured in 5 news articles

Interviewed on 6 radio shows

Events

Target Achieved

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Community - open to everyone | 8 | 8 (+2 cancelled) |
| Special interest group | 4 | 10 |
| Flagship | 3 | 4 |
| Volunteer | 8 | 8 |

Outreach:

Logo

Banners

Webpage

www.spacefornature.net/Bee-Roadzz

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/thebeeroad

Leaflets

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/0d71a1_cb4887150711482a9600d20123c2ba4c.pdf

Activity booklet for kids

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/0d71a1_26c9f45dcde8479e83229a5e5b30be04.pdf

Garden planner

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/0d71a1_981b60075fbd49a2b52770471b3cf3b4.pdf

Articles

https://www.gazetteandherald.co.uk/news/towns/marlboroughheadlines/16146813.Bee_Roadzz___create_a_buzz_in_Marlborough/

<https://www.marlbroughnewsonline.co.uk/news/7578-bee-roadzz-of-marlbrough-downs-all-a-buzz-next-week>

<https://www.marlbroughnewsonline.co.uk/news/7596-bees-are-in-trouble-but-they-re-getting-good-support-from-bee-roadzz-week>

<https://www.gazetteandherald.co.uk/news/16185964.town-buzzing-for-bee-road-project/>

<http://www.marlbroughnewsonline.co.uk/news/8071-bee-roadzz-planting-of-6-000-bulbs-to-produce-bee-friendly-flowers>

Bee Roadzz 2018

| Date | Lead | Type | Event | Attended |
|------------|----------|------|---|------------------------------|
| 03/02/2018 | MC | 5 | Sustainable Devizes seed swap | Lots |
| 21/02/2018 | MC | 2 | Avebury Community Orchard talk | 7 |
| 26/02/2018 | MC | 2 | St Mary's School Assembly talk | 100 |
| 26/02/2018 | JB | 1 | Bee Roads planning meeting | 18 |
| 06/04/2018 | HR | 5 | Gazette and Herald article | |
| 10/04/2018 | HR | 5 | Marlborough News article | |
| 12/04/2018 | JB | 3 | MDNEP Spring Celebration (talks) | 38 |
| 15/04/2018 | JB | 5 | Featured on BBC Radio Wild About Wiltshire | |
| 17/04/2018 | CM | 1 | Pollinator talks and project launch | 54 |
| 18/04/2018 | LW | 1 | National Trust Pollinators and Plants Day (stand) | Lots |
| 18/04/2018 | JB | 5 | Marlborough News article | |
| 19/04/2018 | VL | 4 | Seed planting with Little Angels pre-school | 16 |
| 19/04/2018 | LC | 1 | Family Fun on the Farm (walk and activities) | 30 |
| 20/04/2018 | LC | 4 | Guerilla gardening Beckhampton roundabout | 1 |
| 22/04/2018 | MC | 5 | Swindon Eco-Fest (stand) | Lots |
| 22/04/2018 | DW | 1 | Berwick Bassett wildflower walk | 20 |
| 24/04/2018 | MC | 5 | Bishops Cannings Parish Council talk | 20 |
| 26/04/2018 | HR | 5 | Gazette and Herald article | |
| 02/05/2018 | MS | 4 | Seed bombing with Chiseldon Cubs | 20 |
| 10/06/2018 | JB/MC | 3 | Open Farm Sunday (stand) | 2300 |
| 12/06/2018 | JB | 1 | Avebury Society talk | 14 |
| 21/06/2018 | JB | 3 | Summer farm walk & barbecue | 58 |
| 22/06/2018 | LC | 2 | Ogbourne School visit to East Farm | 35 |
| 11/06/2018 | MC | 5 | Featured on Swindon Community Radio | |
| 24/06/2018 | MC | 5 | Sustainable Devizes permaculture course | 9 |
| 04/07/2018 | JB | 2 | NFU farm walk | 16 |
| 07/07/2018 | MC/JB | 2 | Transition Marlborough permaculture course farm walk | 12 |
| 09/07/2018 | MC | 5 | Featured on Swindon Community Radio | |
| 22/07/2018 | JB | 5 | Featured on BBC Radio Wild About Wiltshire | |
| 06/08/2018 | MC | 5 | Featured on Swindon Community Radio | |
| 12/08/2018 | JB | 1 | Barbury Castle butterfly walk | Cancelled due to bad weather |
| 04/09/2018 | MC | 5 | Marlborough Area Board update | 24 |
| 09/09/2018 | JB | 1 | Avebury Day (fliers) | Lots |
| 23/09/2018 | JB/MC/VL | 1 | Sunday Seed Stroll (seed bombs) | Cancelled due to bad weather |
| 15/10/2018 | JC | 2 | Preshute School (talk and activities) | 3 classes |
| 20/10/2018 | MC | 5 | North Wiltshire Sustainability Day (stand) | Lots |
| 20/10/2018 | JB | 3 | Bulb planting weekend | 13 groups |
| 24/10/2018 | SS | 4 | 1 acre nectar plot alongside A4 | 1 |
| 26/10/2018 | MC | 5 | National Honey Show talk | 50+ |
| 30/10/2018 | JB | 5 | Marlborough News article | |
| 03/11/2018 | JB | 2 | Carer Support open farm morning (walk and activities) | 22 |
| 09/11/2018 | JC | 2 | Ogbourne St George School (talk and activities) | 1 class |
| 20/11/2018 | MC | 5 | Winterbourne Monkton Village Hall talk | 12 |
| 21/11/2018 | JB | 5 | Featured on BBC Radio Wild About Wiltshire | |
| 24/11/2018 | JC | 5 | Bermuda primary school talk | 1 class |
| 26/11/2018 | JB | 4 | Trees for Bees (and bulbs) | 6 |
| 30/11/2018 | JB | 4 | Breathe Nature bulb planting | 14 |
| 01/12/2018 | JC | 4 | Ogbourne St George School bulb planting | 25 |
| 01/12/2018 | JB | 4 | Kennet School bulb planting | 25 |
| 01/12/2018 | JB | 4 | Seasonal Supper farmers and guests bulb planting | 56 |
| 06/12/2018 | JB/LW | 4 | Build a Bug Hotel | 4 |
| 26/12/2018 | JB | 1 | Railway Path walk (seed bombs) | 25 |

1 Community

2 Special interest group

3 Flagship

4 Volunteers

5 Outreach (beyond MD Bee Roadzz)

**Wiltshire
Community
Foundation**

Science Museum Group Wroughton Solar Park Fund Monitoring Form

Final Report

Introduction

Now you have reached the end of your Wiltshire Community Foundation grant, please could you give us some feedback on what you have achieved with the grant. The form asks you what you did and what the impact of the work has been.

Knowledge gained from monitoring and evaluation is vital to support Wiltshire Community Foundation's learning. We will use the information you provide to highlight achievements and to effectively shape our future work. We appreciate your time in completing the form.

Organisation and contact details

Organisation

Name

Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership

Contact

Name

Ms Jemma Batten

Email address

jemma.bat@btinternet.com

Role at Organisation

Project Manager

Person completing this form

Above is the name of the main contact associated with the grant application - if this person has changed please enter the name of the new contact completing the form below

Provide Alternate Contact Details?

No

First Name

Last Name

Role at Organisation

Phone

Email

Grant Details

Grant Local Application Number

A463208

Monitoring Due Date

30/1/2019

Amount Awarded

£9,765

Programme Name

Science Museum Group Wroughton Fund

Project Description

Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership is a partnership of a farmer-run conservation charity, Wiltshire Council and other conservation bodies working to conserve, and promote understanding of, the landscape of the Marlborough Downs. This grant would fund work to involve the wider community in promoting a bee-friendly environment in the Downs area.

How the grant was spent

Breakdown of the agreed project/activity budget

Project Budget

| Staff Costs | |
|---|----------|
| Requested: | £1300.00 |
| Breakdown: Admin support, reporting & bookkeeping Professional support, accountancy, year end report | |
| Volunteer Costs | |
| Requested: | £800.00 |
| Breakdown: Minimum of 8 practical activities to create/manage pollinator habitat | |
| Operational Costs | |
| Requested: | £3900.00 |
| Breakdown: Flagship Events to celebrate achievements, learn and look forward. Open Farm Sunday (June), Seasonal Supper (October), Spring Celebration (March) Staff: £1080 Sundries £620 Events for specific groups. Minimum 4 to include schools, young carers, disabled, elderly etc Staff: £1080 Sundries: £120 Community events 8 to include talks, walks, workshops Staff: £1440 Sundries: £160 | |
| Office Costs | |
| Requested: | £865.00 |
| Breakdown: Printing, postage, office supplies, web hosting £615 Insurance public liability, employers liability £500 | |
| Publicity Costs | |
| Requested: | £1500.00 |
| Breakdown: Maintain website and social media, newsletters, media contract, promotion to wider audience | |
| Other Costs | |
| Requested: | £1400.00 |
| Breakdown: Monitoring and evaluation Co-ordinating FIT-Counts, annual survey, collaborating with research partners | |
| Totals | |
| Requested: | £9765.00 |

| Item Category | Item Description | Budgeted Amount | Actual Amount |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Staff | As above | 1300 | 922.22 |
| Volunteer | As above | 800 | 578.51 |
| Operational/Activity | As above | 3900 | 5444.74 |
| Office/Overhead/Premises | As above | 865 | 248.27 |
| Publicity | As above | 1500 | 2098.76 |
| Other | As above | 1400 | 472.50 |
| | | 9765.00 | 9765.00 |

Has the grant been fully spent?

Yes

Please explain why this is the case and when you expect it to be fully spent

What activities did you carry out with our funding?

9 public events (2 cancelled due to weather) - open project planning meeting; launch event; Family Fun on the Farm; Plants and Pollinators; Wildflower Walk; talk in Avebury; Avebury Day; Butterfly Walk; Sunday Seed Stroll

7 events for specific groups) - School visit to farm; talk to orchard group; NFU farm walk; farm walk with permaculture group; 2 school visits (4 classes); farm event for carers

4 flagship events - Open Farm Sunday; Summer Farm Walk; 2 x bulb planting weekends (13 community groups, 6000 bulbs)

8 volunteer events - guerrilla gardening; seed planting with pre-school kids; seed bombing with cubs; nectar plot; more bulb planting (5000 bulbs); build a bug hotel; seed bombing with Ramblers; planting trees for bees

Publicity and outreach - press release for launch week; webpage; facebook page; banners x 8; activity booklet for kids (1500 copies distributed); leaflets; info sheets on plants and trees for bees; radio interviews; newspaper and magazine articles; talks to groups outside of project area

Monitoring - tried and failed to get an MSc student project started; FIT count training; monthly FIT counts (done by volunteer)

Although the budget didn't quite pan out as expected, where we made savings on overheads because these costs were covered from other funding sources or provided by volunteers, we were able to offer more by way activities for beneficiaries.

Did the grant pay for salary costs? If yes, please tell us how many people the grant helped to employ
3

How many volunteers involved?
180

How many people benefited from the work funded?
4000

Gender

Gender

Both

Percentage Male

25

Percentage Female

75

Ethnicity

Primary ethnic group - select a single option to represent the primary ethnic group for this grant

All ethnicities

Please list any other ethnic groups who will benefit from your grant:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian and Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian and White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Black African and White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean and White | <input type="checkbox"/> Black and Black British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese or other group | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Mixed Ethnicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other White | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> White British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White East European | <input type="checkbox"/> White Gypsies and Travellers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish | |

Beneficiaries

Primary beneficiary

Families/Parents/Lone parents

Please list any other beneficiary groups who will benefit from your grant

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Asian and minority ethnic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children and young people | <input type="checkbox"/> Ex-offenders/offenders/At risk of offending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless people | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered groups |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local residents | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term unemployed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Not in education, employment and training (NEET 16) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Older people | <input type="checkbox"/> People in care or suffering serious illness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People living in poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> People with alcohol/drug addictions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People with learning difficulties | <input type="checkbox"/> People with low skill levels |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People with mental health issues | <input type="checkbox"/> People with multiple disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People with physical difficulties | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/asylum seekers /immigrants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victims of crime/violence/abuse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women |

Age Groups

Primary age group

All ages

Please list any other applicable age groups for your grant.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early years (0-4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Children (5-12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people (13-18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Young adults (19-25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults (26-65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors (65+) |

Issues

Primary issue

Environment and improving surroundings

Please list any other issues that will be addressed by this grant

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-social behaviour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts, culture and heritage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building skills and improving access to employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring responsibilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Counselling/Advice/Mentoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime and safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability and access issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, learning and training | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency/Rescue services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and labour | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial exclusion and financial illiteracy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gangs | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmful practice |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health, wellbeing and serious illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> IT / Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Language, culture and racial integration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offending/At risk of offending | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty and disadvantage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing isolation | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/Asylum/Immigration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energies and recycling |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and fairness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sport and recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stigma/Discrimination | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stronger communities/Community support and devel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse and addiction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting family life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violence and Exploitation | |

Other Issues detail

IMPACT and Outcomes

When you applied for the grant, you selected a number of outcomes you expected to achieve. This section asks you to tell us what you actually achieved.

For each outcome, please give us the Actual Value for no more than 2 suggested indicators. Use the Comments/Evidence field to tell us a bit more about these, including how you have collected the information (e.g. surveys, logs, discussion with users).

IMPACT Category

Transform access to, and engagement with, the environment and public spaces

The primary outcome selected for your project/activity

Increase biodiversity

The second outcome selected for your project/activity

Improve health (physical / mental / emotional)

The third outcome selected for your project/activity

Increase participation in lifelong learning

The fourth outcome selected for your project/activity

What impact has the funding had on the organisation? Did the grant help you to improve the way your organisation is run? Please tell us what the grant helped you to do.

The Bee Roadzz campaign further strengthened the group's connection with the biodiversity and landscape of the Marlborough Downs and with local communities. It also gave us a new focus and impetus to continue working together.

Did the grant help you to raise funds from other sources? If yes, please tell us how much

Would you have been able to deliver your project or services without this grant?

No

Will the work continue beyond the life of this grant?

Yes;Yes

If so, please indicate in what way and detail what funding you have secured or need to secure to deliver it?

We will continue to promote support of pollinators on a voluntary basis and as part of our core business.

We also intend to work with Carer Support Wiltshire throughout the coming year to offer farm-based activities and events for their members.

Please enter the amount of funding already secured to continue the service.

Please enter the amount of additional funding that you need to secure.

Were there any unintended or unexpected changes (positive or negative) as a result of the funding? Were there any challenges and how did you resolve them?

Unfortunately, in the middle of the best summer we've had for years, two of our events had to be cancelled because of bad weather, which was very disappointing but couldn't be resolved.

What difference has this grant made to the lives of beneficiaries and the wider community?

We hope it has given them an insight into how getting involved in community projects, helping wildlife, and spending time in the great outdoors can be enjoyable and lead to an enhanced environment and improved health and wellbeing.

Please provide one short personal 'story of change' to demonstrate how you have made a significant difference to the life of an individual

We joined forces with Carer Support Wiltshire and held a farm day for carers and their families. On offer included various pollinator-themed activities such as painting rocks, pressing apples to make juice, making apple jacks, seed bombs, and clay bees, and going for a farm walk, as well as petting goats, meeting cows and enjoying a barbecue. Most of all though, the children enjoyed letting off steam - charging around at top speed, jumping on hay bales, and generally being kids. One lady told me that she and her son, who clearly had a lot of energy, lived in a small flat with no garden and she was so grateful that her son was given access to this huge space to just run. When I asked if he'd enjoyed himself, the young man told me in no uncertain terms that he'd definitely be coming back!

Feedback

Comments

We welcome any comments (positive or negative) you want to make on any aspect of your involvement with us. Your comments will in no way affect your eligibility for future grants.

It has been a pleasure to do business with you (again!). Your staff are really helpful and it was very useful for me to be given the extra time to complete the final report.

Supporting Documentation

Supporting Documentation

Use the [Attachments](#) button at the bottom of the form to attach recent accounts or management accounts, copies of receipts to support grant expenditure and any additional information such as project feedback, case studies, photographs etc.

Please clearly label each document with a name and a short description of what it is.

If you experience problems uploading your documents please send via email to **(insert address here)**, or post them to **(insert address here)** - no more than two weeks after submitting this form - thank you.

Confirmation

Declaration

Please tick to confirm you have read and understood the information contained in the end of grant report.

☒ Yes

Please tick this box to give permission for this supporting evidence to be used by our Community Foundation for marketing purposes (if appropriate).

☒ Yes

Marlborough Downs Bee Roadzz budget

| Activity | Description | Cost code | Quarter | | | | Annual budget | Science Museum | Spent |
|--|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| | | | JFM | AMJ | JAS | OND | | | |
| Community events | Minimum 8 to include talks, walks, workshops, etc. | Staff | £ 360.00 | £ 360.00 | £ 360.00 | £ 360.00 | £ 1,440.00 | £ 1,440.00 | £ 5,444.74 |
| | | Sundries | £ 40.00 | £ 40.00 | £ 40.00 | £ 40.00 | £ 160.00 | £ 160.00 | |
| Events for specific groups | Minimum 4 to include schools, young carers, disabled, elderly, etc. | Staff | £ 270.00 | £ 270.00 | £ 270.00 | £ 270.00 | £ 1,080.00 | £ 1,080.00 | |
| | | Sundries | £ 30.00 | £ 30.00 | £ 30.00 | £ 30.00 | £ 120.00 | £ 120.00 | |
| Flagship events to celebrate achievements, learn, and look forward | Spring Celebration (March); Open Farm Sunday (June), Bulb planting weekend (Oct) | Staff | £ 540.00 | | | £ 540.00 | £ 1,080.00 | £ 540.00 | |
| | | Sundries | £ 60.00 | £ 500.00 | | £ 60.00 | £ 620.00 | £ 560.00 | |
| Volunteer programme | Minimum 8 practical activities to create/manage pollinator habitat | Volunteers | £ 400.00 | £ 400.00 | £ 400.00 | £ 400.00 | £ 1,600.00 | £ 800.00 | £ 578.51 |
| Outreach and publicity | Maintaining website and social media; newsletters; media contact; promotion to wider audience | Publicity | £ 500.00 | £ 500.00 | £ 500.00 | £ 500.00 | £ 2,000.00 | £ 1,500.00 | £ 2,098.76 |
| Monitoring and evaluation | Co-ordinating FIT-Counts; annual survey; collaborating with research partners | Other | £ 400.00 | £ 400.00 | £ 300.00 | £ 300.00 | £ 1,400.00 | £ 1,400.00 | £ 472.50 |
| Expenses | Travel, printing, postage, office supplies, web hosting, etc. | Operational | £ 150.00 | £ 165.00 | £ 150.00 | £ 150.00 | £ 615.00 | £ 615.00 | £ 248.27 |
| Insurance (50%) | Public liability, employer's liability (for volunteers) | Operational | | £ 500.00 | | | £ 500.00 | £ 250.00 | £ - |
| Admin support | Admin; reporting; bookkeeping | Staff | £ 200.00 | £ 200.00 | £ 200.00 | £ 200.00 | £ 800.00 | £ 800.00 | £ 922.22 |
| Professional support | Accountancy; year end report | Operational | | £ 500.00 | | | £ 500.00 | £ 500.00 | |
| | | | £ 2,950.00 | £ 3,865.00 | £ 2,250.00 | £ 2,850.00 | £ 11,915.00 | £ 9,765.00 | £ 9,765.00 |