

Project Number : C5 Carbon Connections



Project Overview: Provide a comprehensive programme of activities aimed at a range of audiences. The programme will include events to mark the beginning and the end of the project and celebrate the unique heritage and sense of place of the Carbon Landscape. Interpret, disseminate and promote key messages about the Carbon Landscape project through accessible, relevant and enjoyable activities and events.

Project lead organisation and other organisations involved: Carbon Landscape project team

Project Location: Various

Project dates: June 2017 onwards

Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
Programme of events and activities delivered	?	185	
2,500 participants through Discover Carbon Landscape	2,500	7503	
20 local groups engaged in the programme delivery	20	20	
4 local museums and historical institutions involved in delivery	4	4	

Reflecting on the last 5 years, what’s the one thing that you’re most proud of that has come from your project being part of the Carbon Landscape?

It is hard to summarise as the range of events has been so extensive in conjunction with partners, Friends groups and community groups. This has also led to new partners and delivers who also bring something new. We have reached over **11,000** local people and for the majority of those people we provided “first experiences of the landscape” so they will bring their families and peers and by word-of-mouth key messages will embed around celebrating our unique landscape.

What difference has this project made to the cultural and natural heritage of Carbon Landscape?

There have been so many events that it is only possible to capture the standout ones. That said some of the evaluation data to “regular” events is captured in difference made to people. Events delivered in Wanderland are described in their own report.

Launch to influencers Astley Mining Museum September 2017

Within ten weeks of the programme team being employed the team pulled off a fantastic launch at the iconic Lancashire Mining Museum boiler house. There were 60 guests of decision makers and influential people. Guests included Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Salford’s Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development Councillor Derek Antrobus and Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s Director of Environment Mark Atherton and Natural Capital Co-ordinator Krista Patrick. Other organisations represented included the Environment Agency, the Canal and Rivers Trust, Wigan Borough Council, Salford City Council, Warrington Borough Council, Manchester Museum, the University of Manchester, the Hamilton Davies Trust, The RSPB, Salford Community Leisure and other partners and organisations. All the participants were encouraged to sign a pledge on a card cotton grass as to what they will do to support the delivery of the project. The launch event also conducted a “ketso” consultation session to garner insights as to the way forward. The backdrop of the boiler room made this event truly memorable. Chapter One Tearooms provided an afternoon tea and they are a social enterprise in Hindley that supports people with additional needs in employment.



Launch event with everyone holding their cotton grass pledges

Credit Alan Wright, Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Events targeted at Young People with Additional Needs

Showcased at Leigh Sports Village on July 19th 2018 – disability groups worked together to plan and deliver a Get Active Day at Leigh Sports Village. For this the groups designed and made a nature

trail and planned the days events as well as helping on the day. The project was a great success and has resulted in regular walks taking place with young people and staff noting that young people's engagement in classes and activities has greatly improved.



Photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Evaluation from the day said

- 33 said they felt happy about the activities that they did and 3 were unsure.
- 36 said they were happy with the support they had
- 36 said they learned something new
- 36 said they wanted to do more activities with us.

Quotes young people from the activity day "We've worked hard as a team. We did the nature trail we found the letters and did the questions," "I enjoyed doing the trail finding all the different facts and writing down the notes for our project", "Today I learned something new when we went on the nature trail I learnt that hares can run 35 miles an hour", "I enjoyed the virtual reality," "I enjoyed the activities and the interaction with other people." "I liked the fact they included everyone and made it a friendly environment to be part of".

Quotes from the longer project the project made us feel....

"We didn't know Pennington Flash was there," "I didn't know about the other parts of Pennington Flash," "It makes me feel good," ""We've enjoyed walking, taking photos, doing research, bird watching, making a nature trail," ""You need to do lots of preparation," "We learned how to do an access audit", "We learned access could be better." The things that the sessions enable getting

“fresh air,” “more exercise”, “meeting new people”, “socialising”, “making new friends”, “walking”, “taking photos”, “doing research”, “bird watching”, and “making a nature trail.”

On the back of the showcase at Leigh Sports Village the programme team decided to create a similar event for British Science Week and fundraised £1k from Granada Foundation. On 12th March 2019 an “inclusive” event was organised alongside Leonard Cheshire and CRISP. The work was deliberately located in Hindley to support work in 2019 around ramblers routes, family walks and the Bat Guardians project at Amberswood. The day welcomed young people with additional needs from five organisations Expanse, My Life, IDS CIC, SKILS CIC and the Hamlet. The day involved six elements an art display from Expanse and My Life (Through our Eyes project), a photographic display (Hamlet), a theatre Piece "the Story of the Flashes" with the creation of wildlife props for future events (IDS), a Top Trumps game (Hamlet), a moveable nature trail (SkillsCIC) and under the microscope bug hunting experience (Expanse and My Life). A legacy of this project is that the electronic microscope and props can be used for future events. There is the creation of two legacy digital outputs to sit on the "resources for teachers" part of the Carbon Landscape website: 1) Electronic version of the Top Trump Cards 2) The theatre piece presentation which has narration and a soundtrack telling the Story of the Flashes.

Boggarty Boggart Day: Warrington

The programme team sold 482 free tickets through Eventbrite but estimate that twice this amount of people attended. It was a great success at getting the message out about the importance of the mosslands; a narrative that all artists weaved into their work on the day. The story was based around the myth of Boggarts, a mythical Bog creature, and the fact that they are at risk as are the flora and fauna because the mosslands are disappearing. The Boggarts came to Risley Moss to meet up as it has a huge restored Mossland. The Carbon Landscape message was hidden within every activity to further elaborate on this in an engaging and exciting way. The day was kicked off to an exciting start with Professor Jigget from Yan Tan Tethera and the ‘Boggart’ puppets opening the event and the trail. The trail was a mile long walk with Boggart sculptures dotted along. At least 12 sculptures and boggart masks marked the trail made by local schools and an artist in the weeks running up to the event. ‘Live boggarts’ from the theatre company Frolicked pulled the whole narrative together helping get our message out. Boggart trail leaflets were given out at the start of the trail. These included a puzzle that could only be solved by walking the trail and finding all the Boggarts. Completing this puzzle automatically entered the attendees into a prize draw. The puzzle revealed the magic word for the wands to restore the mosslands, leading to the next activity, the wand making workshop. Alongside that, Professor Jigget ran a spell making workshop and storytelling. Other activities included Willow weaving, making cotton grass boggart food for an arts installation and clay craft with boggart baby making. Lots of local people attended, including many who had no idea that this great site was on their doorstep. A great day was had by all.



Warrington Rangers with the Boggarts: Photo credit Joe Roper

Dragonfly Festival: Salford

The Dragonfly Festival was held on the 13th July 2019 to kick start the beginning of National Dragonfly Week, celebrating the idea of saving the mosslands. There was also a magical element of weaving in the RoundView themes of formation, exploitation and restoration. At the time of formation of the peat bogs just after the ice age dragons roamed the earth. However, during times of exploitation and peat extraction, the dragons had to become tiny and when the sites have been restored they have returned as dragonflies. It was a fantastic way to engage with the local community groups in the Salford area and bring the community together. In the run up to the festival workshops involved decorating nine dragonfly willow lanterns with 1st Cadishead Scouts, Lady James' Hall Art Group, Lady James' Hall Gardening Club and Prince's Park Garden Centre. These lanterns were paraded on the day of the festival and the groups that designed them get to keep them. The wood work group at the garden centre made a sign post and four chalkboard signs that were used for the festival and will be used at future Carbon Landscape events.

The location for the festival was Princes Park in Irlam, due to its proximity to Cadishead and Little Woollen Moss. The social enterprise garden centre is heavily involved in plant raising thousands of mossland plants for green the nature reserve such as cotton grass and crossed leaved heath. The festival also gave the chance to promote the newly opened onsite cafe. The festival boasted fifteen stalls representing conservation organisations and community groups. They were asked to theme their stalls towards dragonflies.

The festival was family focused with over 200 in attendance. The lantern parade involved Toby the Dragon, professional storyteller Professor Jiggett and the nine dragonfly lanterns which were paraded by those who had decorated them with a few members of the public taking part as well. Feedback from stallholders and families attending was that the event was well executed, organised and that there were a good range of stalls for people to browse for items and engage with. The run up and the festival was led by trainee Hanifah Master. Her sister and mum also helped as volunteers. She had never done anything similar before and embraced everything and the officer staff were really impressed by her energy levels and excellent attention to detail.

As Arts and Culture Co-ordinator Bernie Dalrymple said of Boggarty Boggart and the Dragonfly Event

“The story of the decline of the dragonflies or the Boggarts reappearing are in effect fables. Stories with a moral undertone about protecting nature. It helps embed the importance of these landscapes in the hearts and minds of potentially millions of people living on the doorstep.”



Photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Six Lowland Peatbogs in a Day aimed at Key Stakeholders

The motivation for the Carbon Landscape is the Lawton Report 2010 and how we make our wetlands work with each other and join nature reserves to wildlife corridors and stepping stone sites. It is known that the Carbon Landscape work around lowland wetlands is absolutely unique and inspiring to other landscape scale projects. There are six mosslands at varying stages of restoration – Risley Moss, Pestfurlong Moss, Holcroft Moss, Little Woolden Moss, Cadishead Moss and Astley Moss. The purpose of the event was to capture that on film and bring key stakeholders

together for conversations (Great Manchester wetlands partnership, programme team, conservationist, naturalists, higher level management, bog enthusiasts, representatives from Friends groups) to have a team bonding day. Originally the plan was the walk the whole of the 12-mile route. However, after a reccie the risk assessment for walking across the motorway junction and on Holcroft lane was deemed too difficult. Also one of the public rights of way is blocked. Instead, the decision was taken to have a shuttling minibus between some sites which enabled the group of 30 to spend more time on sites. Feedback from the day included:

- “Thank you, to you and the team for organising a brilliant day today. I wish I could have been there at the start but I really enjoyed the rest of the day, seeing the sites and meeting lots of enthusiastic people.” (Mick Weston Director of Lancashire Wildlife Trust)
- “Just wanted to say well done on your organisation of today's bog day! It was a really enjoyable and informative day, great chance to hear about what different organisations are doing towards common goals across the landscape” (Living Landscapes Development Manager).

As part of the day we have developed a souvenir brochure to appear as a digital output and legacy.

Six Peat Bogs in a Day

RESOURCE TYPE:

Video

VIDEO:



Youth Summit

When we think of climate change, usually our thoughts go straight to the Amazon Rainforest or the melting ice caps of the Arctic. The challenge we face can often feel overwhelmingly large or too far away to have a real impact on, but climate change and the ecological crises are right here on our doorstep and the good news is, the solutions are right here too.

The Carbon Landscape is in a unique position to offer a valuable insight into tackling climate change head on. We have restored over 335 hectares (a hectare is the size of a football field) of important habitat including our rare peatland habitat across Greater Manchester which each year help to soak up more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Peatlands only cover 3% of the world's surface but they store twice as much carbon as all of the forests in the world.

Our Youth Summits attracted over 50 participants and the events were an overwhelming success. We have gone on to run more events like this to get young people interested and making a difference to the nature on their doorstep.

The pledges



Image Credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Life and Times of Chat Moss

Understanding our heritage and how our landscape has changed over thousands of years is important if we are to make real changes to our future. This is why the Carbon Landscape Partnership, along with the Lancashire Mining Museum, a local play writer Julie Mckiernan and the Healthy Hearts developed a promenade play called 'The Life and Times of Chat Moss'.

Using the outstanding back drop of the Lancashire Mining Museum, the audience was taken on three different journeys. Their first stop was all about Chat Moss. How did this remarkable landscape develop and why it is so important that we protect it? There was even talks about how this could be made into a Broadway show, 'Bogs, the Musical', has a great ring to it we think! They

then moved on to learn about the industrial revolution. Firstly, by characters who portrayed people with wealth like the Duke of Bridgewater, showcasing how they benefited from all these changes and then by the people who actually worked the mines. Their true stories taken from historical archives or diaries, their stories brought to life what it was really like for them and their families during these times. Finally, we looked at how the world is today. How the landscape has changed and what impact this is having on our planet. How we need to come together and take those small steps to make big changes.

“It is wonderful that all these different organisations are coming together. It must be one of the hardest things in the world to educate people in such an entertaining way. It was absolutely wonderful.” Cllr Steve Dawber Mayor of Wigan

“I was wondering how do you make a bog sound interesting. The team from Healthy arts have done that pretty well.” Chris Davies President of Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

“I really enjoyed it, well organised which I am sure was a nightmare. A really unique event. Loved how so many organisations came together – each giving their own expertise.” Cllr Paula Wakefield Astley and Mossley Common Ward

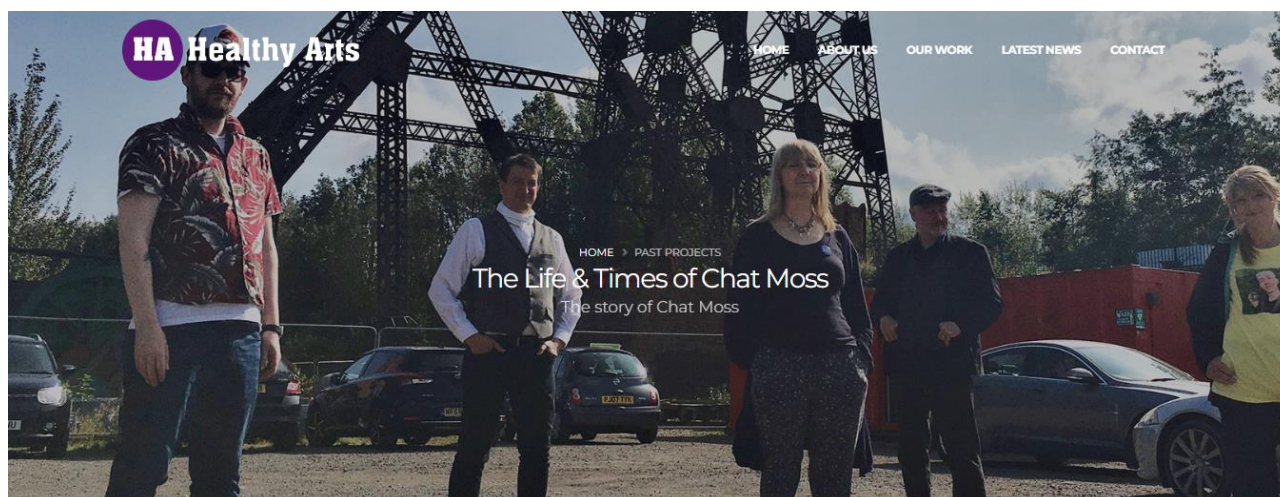


Photo credit Healthy Arts

Heritage Fund Celebration

The Old Courts hosted a fantastic event to look back of the five years of the Heritage Funded period. It began with a welcome from Manager Daveen Wallis. Chair Amanda Wright from Natural England set the tone of the “vision” and the origins of the Carbon Landscape. Then Project Coordinators Tony Da Silva, Bernie Dalrymple and Steve Ormerod invited key guests onto stage to capture the Three Aims: 1. Restoration, 2. Access/New Audiences and 3. Building Capacity. Finally, Co-ordinator of Great Manchester Wetlands Jo Kennedy discussed legacy and next steps for Carbon Landscape. We were pleased to be joined by many organisations and volunteers who have been on this journey with us. The afternoon saw a Canal Barge Trip along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal with fantastic singing from Corrie Shelley and poetry from Clare Shaw. It was a fitting finale as the Carbon Landscape enters its next phase.



On the barge photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust

What difference has this project made to people?

It is not possible to capture all the events however, a snapshot are the twenty five family-friendly events over the Summer of 2018 which included umbrella doodles, teddy bears picnics, nature trails, forest schools.

On a scale of one to ten parents:

- 64% rated the events perfect
- 28% scored 9
- 6% scored 8
- 1 person scored 5 because there was dog poo

Quotes for family-orientated events included:

- “We looked at a local nature reserve in more detail and we liked all the different environments,”
- “I felt like an artist. It has been really chilled out,”
- “So simple but really fun,”
- “This was a gently paced event, suitable for all ages and abilities. We saw lots of wonderful things with having the time to stop and observe,”
- “Amazing variety of plants and fungi seen,”

- “Learned so many new facts on foraging and wild food. Very enjoyable and funny at the same time”, “Fantastic the walk was lovely and the staff were brilliant,”
- “The children were looking at the environment in a different way,”
- “It invited the children to ask about nature and history of the canals,”
- “I loved the diversity of the surroundings and teaching children about nature,”
- “Very artistic session allowing our children to explore the outdoors safely,”
- “The children have to be more creative than normal. They take something away at the end of it and interact with other children. Really good afternoon.”



Photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Useful Links

www.carbonlandscape.org.uk/resources/arts-events-culture/events

Future Plans and Legacy

Grow Wild, Bog Set

In March 2019, an application to the Key Gardens Grow Wild grant programme was successful. The programme seeks to promote UK flora and the CLP received the highest level of funding to create an Immersive Bog Experience. It's like a 'Honey I shrunk the Kids' moment but for unique species you can find on a bog e.g. Sundews and Sphagnum moss and how they support the local wildlife. The set is a real show stopper and people love to enter the "selfie station" which is helping build a social media presence. Along with the set, a Bog Bush Cricket puppet was commissioned, which is used for performances to bring the bog to life and tell magical kids stories. The set has appeared at numerous events so far, entertaining hundreds of people and the feedback has been amazing. The kids love jumping on the 'peat' stepping stones and the parents are enjoying learning about the different plants and the proposed reintroduction of the Manchester Argus butterfly.



Sue Whittle from the Programme Team with the Manchester Argus Butterfly

Lessons learned?

The programme team is skilled at working to the required level with groups. Sometimes this is complete handholding through the whole process as with the newly formed Friends of St Mary's Park, Walkden where, at the request of Little Hulton and Walkden Neighbourhood's officer, a temporary Trail and wildcraft activities was developed alongside RHS Bridgewater. However, the

usual level of support is providing a heritage-related or child friendly wildcraft activity to appear at Open Days.

With this aim in mind the programme team has worked with twenty one groups and therefore has reached this output target. One example of the difference the Programme team has made is between 2018 and 2019 of people attending the Magnificent Meadows Open Day at Paddington Meadows. The public footfall had doubled. In many ways the use of Eventbrite and publicity via Facebook groups has transformed ways of working. Most of the events are oversubscribed and the use of Eventbrite has enabled the programme team to reach a wider audience than ever before. However, for targeted events (for example the week of events in Abram Ward) the programme team used old-fashioned flyers through schools with a booking system that allowed preference to local residents and then only put them on Eventbrite to boost numbers.

Funding Partners

