

Project Number : I1 Sense of Place



Project Overview: Through supporting community groups to conserve and enhance their local environment, the Sense of Place Project will instil pride and engender community ownership in our Carbon Landscape project area. Through conserving natural and cultural heritage the project will engage local people, groups and beneficiaries to become the Custodians of our Future.

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

Project Location: Various

Project dates: 2017 to 2022

Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
1 expanded and supported network – Sense of Place groups	1	1	
5 projects developed per annum	25	30	
12 new groups supported per annum ~ 60 in total	60	62	
Total people engaged with Sense of Place groups?	??	215	Total = Much more, but not counted as part of Carbon Skills, Carbon Volunteers, Carbon Connections, Wanderland
12 information bulletins per annum ~ 60 in total	60?	49	Agreed to update contacts via Social Media
Circulation of information bulletin ~ reach?	?	1257	Including volunteers
4 networking events per annum ~ 20 in total	20?	9	Networking events didn't go down too well with low participation. Groups are so busy but willing to attend annual volunteer conference etc.
Number of people engaged through networking events?	??	289	Numbers counted in other projects i.e. Volunteers and Connections. These people will have attended multiple times so not a reflection of beneficiary opportunities.

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?

The greatest achievement is the “stepping up” of community groups that have come together to deliver projects for their wetlands and wild spaces, moving out of their comfort zones and taking on more responsibilities. In many ways this is captured in other projects and one of the difficult elements is pulling out what belongs to Sense of Place and what belongs to other projects like Carbon Trail, RoundView, Carbon Connections, Carbon Volunteers, Carbon Skills and Carbon Creative.

What we do know is for Sense of Place this has often involved groups being in it for “the long haul” starting at the wishlist, to planning, fund raising and through project delivery with difficult skills like dealing with subcontractors etc. Sense of Place Jenny Griggs said

“the sheer quantity and quality of projects co-produced with volunteers and staff is astonishing and the lasting impact of the friendships made will benefit the landscape for years to come.”

Each project is unique and hence enhances the “Sense of Place” through instilling community ownership and pride across the Flashes, Mosslands and Mersey Corridor.

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

Very few of the Sense of Place projects involved Restoration works. This is because that had already been envisaged in the wider Carbon Landscape programme and were delivered by the professional organisations. However, lots of them involved schools, events, arts, digital etc and there is a lot of cross over. They are often “part” funded in Sense of Place and that was a reflection of attaining the match funding amounts.

Steve Ormerod Landscape Champion Coordinator - “Sense of Place is all about interpretation of the landscape and engendering feelings of ownership in the community. Otherwise all efforts are pointless. The community are the true legacy of the Carbon Landscape.”

It cannot be underestimated the importance of capturing heritage that could have easily been lost (as a paper copy in someone's house) possibly within the next decade and then digitally bringing it together in the resource section of the Carbon Landscape website. Information comprehensively covers the three character areas: Flashes, Mosslands and Mersey Corridor. We are proud to host the “Short History of Coal Mining in Wigan and Leigh” by Ian Winstanley of Friends of Three Sisters.

<https://www.carbonlandscape.org.uk/resources/heritage/publications>

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CELEBRATING WILLIAM
ROSCOE (1)

HISTORY OF ASTLEY
GREEN COLLIERY (1)

HISTORY OF LOW HALL (1)

HISTORY OF MERSEY AND
IRWELL NAVIGATION (1)

HISTORY OF THREE
SISTER RECREATION
AREA (1)

HISTORY OF WIGAN
FLASHES (1)

JOSEPH EVANS -
VICTORIAN BOTANIST
AROUND BOOTHSTOWN
(1)

What difference has this project made to people?

Many of the groups were well established. However, sometimes there needed to be 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. This was the area where five children had been killed in a deliberate house fire so bringing nature and a "Gruffalo trail" to local families with young children seemed all more poignant to a community in shock.

Here are the projects of Sense of Place and it is not possible to write up each.

1. New paths at Worsley Woods with Worsley Woods Action Group part funded by **Viridor**
2. Risley Moss Action Group Various projects with a highlight being around fundraising after the Tower Hide burnt down and attending lots of events with them
3. Leonard Cheshire various site access audits funded by the **Can Do Project**
4. Leonard Cheshire Can Do Volunteers with Oakwood Academy funded by the **Can Do Project**
5. Leonard Cheshire Can Do Volunteers with Thrive CIC funded by the **Can Do Project**
6. Crossing at Pennington Flash funded by Wigan Council after disability groups met them funded by **Wigan Council**
7. Friends of Chat Moss various especially around community education and bog in a box
8. Creation of a mobile trail for groups by MyLife and Expanse (people with additional needs),
9. Through our Eyes Arts projects by MyLife and Expanse
10. Piloting summer activities for children in Salford with Gaddum charity for a brochure for eco tourism
11. Creation of Carbon Landscape animal lanterns with Independent Disability Services funded by the **Granada Foundation**
12. Creation of Top Trumps with the Hamlet funded by the **Granada Foundation**

13. Creation of a hedgerow at Cardinal Newman School, Creation of a wildflower corridor with the Environment Agency near Westy Point) funded by the **Woodland Trust** Trees for Life
14. Wetland Wellbeing - Westy Older People's Forum funded by **the Community Foundation of Cheshire**
15. Gorse Covert Mounds Interpretation funded by **the Community Forum Warrington Council**
16. Friends of St Mary's Park Walkden – Gruffalo and Park Event alongside Little Hulton and Walkden Neighbourhood Team
17. Little Hulton Project around youth engagement funded by **the Police Commission**
18. Little Hulton Neighbourly around arts and litter champions funded by **Neighbourly**
19. Westy Morris Brook Clear Up funded by **Neighbourly**,
20. Leigh Sports Village Clean up and willow tit project funded by **Neighbourly**,
21. Whitehead Hall Millenium Green (reported under Restoration) funded by **Enovert**
22. Bickershaw Country Park - sculpture trail funded by the community
23. Grow Wild Bog Set – funded by **Botanical Gardens Kew**
24. Roscoe engagement across Chat Moss funded **Leeds University**
25. Mindfulness app funded by **Tesco Bags**,
26. Amberswood wildflower project,
27. Digital games for wildlife recognition funded by **Tesco Bags**
28. Wigan Flashes **Postcode Lottery Project**
29. Wigan Flashes Community and Conservation Group – path improvements to Moss Bridge funded by the **Cooperative Stores**
30. Chat Moss Schools Project. As this during lock down it was to be used online funded by **Salford CVS**
31. Rubbings Trail run by friends of Woolston Park and funded by the Community Foundation for Cheshire **Community Foundation for Cheshire**

Sense of Place embeds the three Carbon Landscape Character areas for local communities:

1..Character area **Flashes** with Leonard Cheshire

Meeting with Sandra Hardingham, Can Do Volunteer Co-ordinator of Leonard Cheshire has expanded the work of the Carbon Landscape so much. It is her role to get vulnerable adults, especially young people, into volunteering. They have supported many aspects of establishing Sense of Place Projects across the Carbon Landscape. In particular, various disability groups have carried out access audits at Wigan Flashes, Pennington Flash and Three Sisters Recreation Area. This work has led to a successful funding application at Three Sisters Recreation Area for £153k for access improvements, sculptures and digital trails funded by the Foundation for Communities (formerly WREN). The local community created a film that illustrates the problems the Carbon Landscape is seeking to address especially in relation to access for everyone: www.crowfunder.co.uk/3sisters

Showcase 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 since doing this activity. This was not happening before the work of the Carbon Landscape partnership and Leonard Cheshire involvement.

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 because I watched 3 different films Blackpool, under the sea and dogs,” “I enjoyed the activities and the interaction with other people. I liked that they did different stations and explained how to play caged cricket,” “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.”

2..Character area **Mosslands** and Salford Generally with Gaddum

Salford Young Carers and Adult Carers through the charity Gaddum had an opportunity to pilot all the activities they could attend in the Summer of 2018. The activities link into a wider programme of creating a tourist brochure to showcase the Carbon Landscape in Salford and Astley. The focus was on developing new skills linked to appreciating the landscape this included: 1) Orienteering on the Bridgewater Canal 2) Forest school skills at New Moss Wood including fire building 3) Break out / spy club on Little Woollen including bog plant propagation 4) Introduction to bow saws and loppers at Worsley Woods 5) Appreciating landscape art with the Umbrella Doodles at Lancashire Mining Museum.

Many of the young carers are from Little Hulton, one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the Carbon Landscape. The children reported that they enjoyed the activities and the adventure days were blessed with warm weather. As one support worker put it “You cannot underestimate the importance of getting these kids outside. If they have a disruptive home life it may not be safe for them to go to the park and so just be outside and somewhere safe is life changing.” Another said “if we did not do this these things, these children may have no positive early life memories.” An adult carer said “Brilliant day! It did me good to work off some of my frustration and get stuck in. Looking forward to my next visit.” Gaddum project Manager Jenny Pilkington said

“The activities with Carbon Landscape Partnership have been so important. They have provided young carers with a break and also introduced them to green spaces in their city that they haven’t experienced before. The young people who have been involved in activities provided by the wildlife trust over the summer have grown in confidence and have learnt loads about nature and about themselves. It has improved their well-being and given them the opportunity to see that getting outside can be a brilliant coping strategy when dealing with difficult emotions. I have also witnessed a level of imaginative play and exploration of nature in some of our youngest young carers that I haven’t seen before in a few of our young carers, in particular during the fairy forest school event. Young carers are often mature beyond their years and find it difficult sometimes to ‘let go’ and be children and these kind of activities are so important and so valuable.”

3..Character Area **Mersey Corridor** with groups New Cut

It is no understatement to say that it is an absolute joy to work alongside the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Group who look after the old canal site (now wet woodland) and Paddington Meadows. They were already an extremely capable group of newly retired people many of whom met through dog walking on the meadows. From this they have formed a group and play to their three strengths which is heritage (especially

Mike Kenwright), ecology (especially Terry Eagan with his bird watching and organising bioblitz) and social organising (which is many of them but in particular Kevin Price, Lynda Eagan and Trish Leah). They meet monthly and one month have a committee meeting which is well attended and the subsequent month have an inspirational talk. In many ways they embody Aim 1, Aim 2 and Aim 3 of the Carbon Landscape wanted to achieve outputs for every project within these aims.

Landscape Champion Terry Eagan said

"The Carbon Landscape have been instrumental in enabling The New Cut Trail Heritage and Ecology Group in undertaking wildlife surveys in our patch. They've done this by arranging for training to members of the Group in a variety of subjects including Water Vole Surveys; Dragonfly Surveys; Winter Farmland Bird Surveys; Breeding Farmland Bird Surveys; Willow Tit Surveys; Wild Flower Survey; the use and Maintenance of Brush-cutters; Hedge-laying and Willow Weaving. They have provided invaluable contacts, assistance and support in us undertaking two Bioblitzes and our annual celebration of Magnificent Meadows on Paddington Meadows. These events have led to many additional members of the public becoming acquainted with the area and joining the group. Going forward, it is our hope to provide a gated entrance and educational way-finding trail around the Meadows and along the New Cut Trail and to that end we were introduced by the Carbon Landscape to the variety of inspirational works of art, along the Irwell Valley Sculpture Trail. I can honestly say that without the input of the Carbon Landscape that the activities of the Group would be much less diverse and certainly less proficient."

Lynda Eagan added:

"the Carbon Landscape has been instrumental in bringing us many new members who are particularly interested in ecology and outdoor pursuits. It great to see some new blood join what is a fairly mature group of original members. The people who came along to the willow weaving and hedge laying workshops for instance. Carbon Landscape has helped to link us to the other groups and volunteer run locations who share the same interests as us."

Useful Links

Podcast with many Sense of Place groups www.carbonlandscape.org.uk/why-we-love-carbon-landscape-0

Gallery photos www.carbonlandscape.org.uk/resources/partnership/gallery

Future Plans and Legacy

www.carbonlandscape.org.uk/guide-voluntary-groups Guide for Voluntary Groups (formerly Sense of Place Toolkit) – even though the Heritage Fund element of the project has completed the pdf toolkit captures all the skills needed to run a successful project into the future.

www.carbonlandscape.org.uk/habitat-guide-community-groups Habitat Management Toolkit for groups on the Mersey Corridor – created by Trainee Stuart Manning.

Both of these are going to be updated for the 2 x ongoing National Nature Reserves and Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing pilot and so the core work of the Carbon Landscape can influence wider.

Lessons learned?

This project would have worked so much better if there had been a decent amount of seedcorn funding to run entire projects for confidence building. It was necessary for groups to take a leap of faith and be in it for the long haul with some projects getting knocked back 4 times for funding and taking nearly four years to fund. This is a quote from Elizabeth Taylor from Latchford Arts and Music Association / Friends of Westy Park.

“Thanks for everything you’ve done to help us on our endless quest.”

This also took a huge amount of staff resource and caused a lot of upset for volunteers. Digital and non-permanent interpretation projects are hard to fund because community funders do not understand their groundbreaking nature but that was often what the group wanted.

Photographic Evidence



Lantern making parade

Photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust



Litter picking with Friends of Westy Park

Photo credit Elizabeth Taylor



Towards Restoring a Carbon Landscape Volunteer and Community Group Conference

Photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust



Expanse and Can Do at Pennington Flash Accessibility Audit

Photo credit Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Funding Partners

