

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN (LCAP)

PART 2 – PROJECT SUMMARIES

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WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPE

A1 Landscape Connections



Woodland clearing work to create new woodland edge habitat
John Morris, Chilterns Woodland Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Central Chilterns has some of the most special wildlife habitats in the UK, but increased visitor numbers, modern farming practices, changes in land ownership and unprecedented new development bring a scale of pressure that few other areas face. Grassland, woodland and freshwater habitats are home to specialist and declining species such as grey partridge, corn bunting, Adonis blue butterfly and Chiltern gentian. Where habitats are being protected and managed, species can thrive and grow in number, but many of these sites have become islands in the wider landscape, limiting the possibilities for flora and fauna to increase their range and become familiar features of our landscape once more.

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs' Landscape Connections project is all about building on the well-established and managed sites, and making physical connections (or corridors) between them and between the wildlife that call them home. The project will work with landowners (including farmers, estate owners and conservation organisations) to motivate and support them to manage more of their land for the benefit of wildlife and landscape conservation. This is a huge task, and so the Landscape Connections project contains several smaller projects under three themes:

1. Effective engagement of landowners, promoting collaborative working and learning
2. Creating, restoring and managing habitats through direct capital investment
3. Practical support to landowners for establishing and managing habitats, including volunteer work parties and specialist advice.

This activity will take place in ten areas: eight Biodiversity Opportunity and/or Conservation Target Areas (where there is greatest opportunity for improvement); the 'Vale Buffer Strip' (along river courses beyond the Chilterns AONB into the Vale of Aylesbury); the 'HS2 3km Buffer Zone' (an area at high risk from habitat degradation and disconnection both during the build and afterwards).

DELIVERY

Led and delivered by the CCC Landowner Engagement Officer and Land Management Officer, with Chiltern Rangers delivering the Conservation Volunteering.

AUDIENCE

Existing: farmers, landowners, land managers, conservation organisations, volunteers, special interest groups, early retired people, young people

New: private landowners and farmers, volunteers, special interest groups, early retired people, young people, policy makers

OUTPUTS

1. Landowner engagement
 - At least 4 farmer / landowner clusters
 - At least 30 landowners involved in clusters
 - 25 Local Wildlife Sites and Biological Notification Sites offered direct support from capital projects
2. Habitats (year 1 committed sites)
 - Chiltern Escarpment (Bucks) – scrub, grassland and hedgerow management, and new chalk scrapes at 4 sites
 - Chiltern Escarpment (Oxon) – woodland ride created, new stock pen, scrub management, at 3 sites
 - Gomm Valley – scrub management and new chalk scrape, at 1 site
 - Radnage Valley – grassland and hedgerow management at 1 site
 - Upper Hughendon Valley – hedgerow planted and managed, woodland ride created at 1 site
 - Wendover Woodlands – scrub management, hedgerow planted, woodland rides created, at 4 sites
- Projects for the following habitats will be developed during the delivery phase
 - HS2 3km Buffer Zone
 - Central Chilterns Chalk Rivers
 - Dunsmore Woods
 - Vale Buffer Strip
- 150ha habitat created, restored and managed through capital investment
 - 250ha better-managed grassland;
 - 200ha better-managed woodland;
 - 10km better-managed hedgerows;
 - 5km better-managed riparian habitat
 - 1,000ha habitat improved through better management
3. Landowner support
 - Advise and support development of c.50 habitat management plans
 - 1,120 practical work party days
 - 9 new work party leaders trained
 - 200 new work party volunteers recruited

OUTCOMES

- Significantly increased hectares of habitat in active and positive management.
- More hectares of habitat in favourable condition and better connected.
- Strategic and collaborative network of NGOs and landowners working together to improve habitat and connectivity.
- More landowners and land managers delivering best practice habitat management.
- More volunteers and work party days and greater volunteer capacity to continue in the long-term.
- Reduced adverse impact on habitat and species by horses, deer and glis glis.

LEGACY

- Improved strategic planning through established collaboration, increased learning and clarity about local habitat issues and prioritisation.
- Established relationships and trust between NGOs and landowners, with contributions valued and a clear pathway for conservation and local planning.
- Landowners better trained to manage land for wildlife, with volunteers and support package in place.
- Established landowner/farmer clusters with a central steering group and targeted environmental programmes in place.
- Those who have taken part in Chalk, Cherries and Chairs will be sharing their learning with other groups and helping to shape future landscape and wildlife management.

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get landowner buy-in: thorough initial consultation and engagement with landowners.
- Not securing private landowner commitment: dedicated capacity within staff job descriptions, use of advocates, applying best practice learning.
- Time taken to plan, develop and deliver capital projects: contingency built into each project with possibility to extend delivery into years four and five.
- Project costs significantly higher than budget: increase partnership funding, prioritise projects for use of funds.
- Low take up of support package by landowners: dedicated capacity within staff job descriptions, use of advocates, applying best practice learning.
- Changes in policy and Countryside Stewardship after Brexit: ensure capacity built into projects to enable landowners to interpret and apply any new policy and help them bridge the gap.
- Extreme weather preventing delivery: contingency built into each project with possibility to extend delivery into years four and five.
- Having to rely on permission from third parties (e.g. Forestry Commission Felling Licences): time built into project planning and predicted demand included in negotiation.
- Insufficient volunteers recruited to fulfil habitat management package: contingency built into each project with possibility to extend delivery into years four and five.
- Over-reliance on a small number of skilled consultants: knowledge transfer built into project planning in years one and two.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £496,250

A2 Rough Around the Edges



Volunteer work party in action at Lindengate
Lindengate

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Central Chilterns provides a vital lifeline for wildlife in this increasingly populated corner of England. One of the keys to its survival as a place where wildlife not only survives but thrives, and where people can go to enjoy beautiful scenery, wildlife experiences and quiet space, will be harnessing the interest and energy of those people to protect and enhance what is around them. Many interested community groups already exist, but they often lack the skills and resources to really benefit their environment.

Through Rough Around the Edges we intend to reach small, local, often overlooked sites (such as community green spaces and woodland) which could become rich in biodiversity and, together, will produce a significant increase in wildlife-friendly habitats in the Central Chilterns. The project focuses on delivering the recommendations of Professor Sir John Lawton's report: *Making space for nature: a review of England's Wildlife and Ecological Networks*. We will help local community groups to recruit and train volunteers to create, restore and manage habitats so that they can be maintained to provide biodiverse havens in the long term. Small-scale seed corn funding, professional advice and practical resources will be available, depending on the needs of each group.

DELIVERY

Led by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Rough Around the Edges Project Officer. Supported by: A-Rocha, Bucks Buzzing, Buglife, Bucks Owl and Raptor Group, Caring for God's Acre, Woodland Trust.

AUDIENCE

Existing: Farmers, landowners, land managers; volunteers; special interest groups; early retired people with time and enthusiasm; young people wanting to develop skills; parish and town councils

New: Community environment groups and specialist interest groups; parish councillors, clerks, committees, contractors; key local individuals, enthusiasts and influencers; golf club committees, greenkeepers and club members; volunteer recorders and practical skilled conservation volunteers; local residents and associations; church clergy, wardens and parishioners; local grant giving/funding bodies

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 community groups • 65 sites • 5ha managed grassland • 2ha managed woodland • 2km new hedgerow planted • 2km better managed hedgerow • 5 ponds created or better managed • 320 new volunteers • 5,000 volunteer days • 100 newly trained volunteer surveyors • 25 community groups receiving organisational support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community groups with greater energy and capacity to carry out more and improved habitat management • More people better skilled, trained and more confident to actively survey and manage habitat • Parish Neighbourhood Plans better informed to prioritise green space in planning decisions • More landowners better engaged, informed and active • Landowners championing wildlife as an integral part of land management • Continued investment in and management of habitat in the long term • Habitat condition and species trends better surveyed and understood by more people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity, motivation and work of a network of highly skilled, well-run and motivated community environment groups • Greater collaboration and use of shared resources • Improved relationships between landowners, community groups and NGOs • Coordinated local planning • Transferred learning for similar local projects

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Insufficient or oversubscription of community groups: scale up promotional activity and/or cap the number of projects per year.
- Difficulty securing private landowner commitment: dedicated staff capacity, use of advocates, apply best practice.
- Poor governance arrangements and/or capacity of community groups: include in criteria for funding awards, governance support to groups.
- Too much time taken to engage, plan, develop and deliver capital projects: build contingency into each project and extend delivery to years 4/5 if necessary.
- Actual costs significantly higher than estimates: indicative budgets, increased partnership funding, prioritisation of projects/sites.
- Policy and Countryside Stewardship changes after Brexit: build capacity of landowners to interpret and apply new policy, and bridge gap.
- Extreme weather conditions preventing delivery: contingency built into each project and delivery extended into years 4/5 if necessary.
- Difficulty recruiting skilled volunteers or training new ones: Chilterns Champions project focused on volunteer recruitment support.
- Delivery partners do not provide planned support: iterative performance management.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £312,846

A3 Water in a Dry Landscape



Volunteers being trained to carry out a riverfly survey
Allen Beechey

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Although the Central Chilterns area does not appear to have much in the way of watery landscape features at first sight, look a little deeper and you will find many small streams and ponds. These form the headwaters and catchment for the nearby river Thames. But we don't know much about them. How many freshwater habitats are there? What sort? In what condition? And, especially, what biodiversity do they contain or have potential to host?

The Water in a Dry Landscape project is set to find out. It will identify and map the biodiversity of freshwater features along the Chiltern escarpment, improve the better sites, and create more and bigger stretches of connected riverbank (riparian) habitats into the river Thames catchment. The project will work with landowners to protect, improve and connect their waterways, and volunteers will be trained to survey the quality of water and habitats; thought to be the first study of its kind focusing on headwaters on a catchment scale, and therefore providing vital learning to similar catchment areas.

DELIVERY

Phases 1 and 2 (surveying) led and delivered by Chilterns Chalk Stream Project (CCSP). Phase 3 (landowner engagement) led by the CCB Landowner Engagement Officer and Land Management Officer in partnership with CCSP, River Thames Conservation Trust, Environment Agency and Freshwater Habitats Trust.

AUDIENCE

Existing: Farmers, landowners, land managers; volunteers; special interest groups; early retired people with time and enthusiasm; young people wanting to develop skills

New: Environment groups and specialist interest groups; parish councilors, clerks, committees, contractors; local individuals, enthusiasts and influencers; volunteer recorders and work parties

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 headwaters baseline surveyed • 160 phase 1 surveys • 264 volunteer survey days • 10 trained volunteers • 8 headwaters surveyed in detail • 16 detailed professional surveys • 5km better managed riparian habitat • 1 riparian farmer/landowner cluster • 25 landowners engaged • 14 volunteer riverfly surveyors trained • 184 riverfly surveys carried out • 8 new regular riverfly monitoring sites • 8 volunteers trained to carry out MoRPh surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More landowners with understanding of the importance of their land in wider River Thames catchment • More landowners better skilled and resourced to carry out sensitive land management • Greater take up of Countryside Stewardship with specific water/riparian habitat packages • Greater influence on landowners downstream • Landowners championing riparian wildlife as integral to wider land management • Long-term legacy of continued investment in and management of habitat • Habitat condition and species trends better surveyed and understood • Formal designation of headwaters as chalk and/or chalk influenced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of headwaters in catchment planning and management • Understanding of the value of headwaters • Best practice case study for other river trusts • Long-term monitoring of sites

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to secure private landowner commitment: dedicated staff capacity, use of advocates, application of best practice
- Time taken to engage, plan, develop and deliver capital projects longer than expected: build contingency into each project and extend delivery into years 4/5 if needed
- Project costs significantly higher than budget: indicative planning budgets, increased partnership funding, reprioritise projects/sites
- Low take-up by landowners of advisory/support package: dedicated staff capacity, use of advocates, application of best practice
- Changes in policy and Countryside Stewardship post Brexit: build capacity of landowners to interpret and apply new policy and bridge gap
- Extreme weather conditions including continued period of drought: build contingency into each project and extend delivery into years 4/5 if needed
- Dependence on 3rd party permissions (e.g. Environment Agency): build appropriate timelines into project planning, negotiate projected demand in advance
- Not recruiting enough volunteers to fulfil phase 1 survey package: build contingency into each project and extend delivery into years 4/5 if needed
- Over-reliance on a small number of skilled consultants to deliver support package: build knowledge transfer into project planning in years 1 & 2

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £53,414

A4 Chilterns Orchards



Carrying out vital pruning of fruit trees in a traditional orchard
Neil Jackson

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Spotting a lone cherry tree in the middle of a piece of grassland could be the key to discovering a unique feature of the old Chilterns – large, productive orchards with mature trees set among grassland, which provided a tourist attraction when in blossom and fruiting, vital seasonal work for local people, and a supply of fresh fruit and other fruit products for London and nearby towns. But these traditional orchards have all but disappeared, supplanted by modern ways of commercial growing, expansion of farming, and local development; those that remain are largely untended and the once sought-after varieties of fruit they harboured will be lost, along with the rich Chiltern culture that grew up around them.

While it's still not too late, the Chiltern Orchards project will look into the history of the orchards and the fruit varieties which were developed locally – such as the Aylesbury prune and Prestwood Black cherry. It will train communities to restore and manage old orchards and help others to set up their own community orchards, using traditional skills and fruits, and providing significant habitat for some scarce flora and fauna. The focus will be on cherries as the Central Chilterns were renowned for these, with cherry festivals once a highlight of the year, but all locally-used fruit will be essential to the project and rejuvenating orchards. Volunteers will be encouraged to get involved, to learn new skills, to share information and knowledge, and to tell the stories of the cherry orchards.

DELIVERY

Led by CCC Team, with specialist input from Mid-Shires Orchard Group and freelance specialists.

AUDIENCE

New and existing volunteers; special interest groups (Community Orchard Groups, wildlife and environment groups, local history groups); families and local communities, including local groups such as U3A, WI, scouts and guides; parish councils, landowners and land managers

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 sites for planting or restoration, with 10-year management plans • 30 training days for 180 orchard managers and volunteers • 5 orchard groups actively managing their orchards • 5 orchard groups with more actively involved volunteers • 8 Community Orchard Groups (COGs) active and well managed • 15 COGs delivering at least 2 community events per year • 300 people attending COG events • 2 annual networking events for COGs • 15 COGs actively using an online forum to share information, equipment and fruit • Stories of cherry orchards collected and collated • Local events/activities relating to the story of cherries, linked to other LPS projects • 150 attendees of national 1-day conference on community orchards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More orchards in positive management for fruit cultivation and wildlife • Local people understanding and appreciating traditional orchards • More people actively caring for traditional orchards • Greater knowledge of orchard restoration and management, fruit varieties and wildlife value • More people enjoying community orchards • Local people feeling more connected to local heritage • More information readily available to all • Long-term plans for local orchards in place • COGs connected into a wider network of groups and experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater understanding of the wildlife and cultural heritage of Chiltern orchards leading to commitment to maintain them • Communities actively involved in maintaining their orchard heritage • Preservation of fruit varieties • Knowledge, skills, plants shared between COGs

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Not enough sites for new and restored orchards: ensure scheme is well promoted, and good research and community engagement during development.
- Too many sites for restoration and planting: ensure clear and transparent selection. If funds allow, increase target.
- Difficulty securing private landowner commitment: dedicated staff capacity, use of advocates and case studies.
- Poor governance of Orchard Management Groups: selection criteria for selection of sites to include governance.
- Too much time taken to develop Site Specific Plans: contingency built into each plan to allow for delivery in years 4/5.
- Site Specific Plans coming in over budget: indicative budgets to be issued up front, prioritisation of works and/or sites.
- Extreme weather conditions preventing/delaying delivery: contingency built into each plan to allow for delivery in years 4/5.
- Difficulty recruiting skilled volunteers and/or training them to support community groups: Chiltern Champions project will offer support.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £75,694

A5 Rock around the Chilterns



Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway – the Chiltern landscape ‘on the move’
Phil Marsh

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Underlying the special landscape of the Central Chilterns, and the agriculture, industries and rich flora, fauna and culture it gave rise to, is the chalk. It is an internationally rare geology, which has produced particular scenery and habitats such as chalk grassland, chalk streams and ancient woodland, and is the reason that this has been declared an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It's a fragile environment which deserves to be cared for and respected, and that will best be achieved by helping people to understand it.

Through the Rock around the Chilterns project, people will find many ways to explore and engage with their local environment. We will work in partnership with the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway to develop guided ‘On the move’ train journeys which link key features en route; geotrails will enable walkers to learn about the countryside as they enjoy it; new *geocaches* – a popular activity involving seeking out special containers and logging your find – will tempt more people to explore the Central Chilterns. Volunteers will be trained to help interpret the landscape for visitors, and set up and develop these activities.

DELIVERY

Led by CCC team with partners including Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway, Bucks Geology Group, local geocachers

AUDIENCE

New and existing volunteers; special interest groups e.g. geology, conservation, local history, archaeology, geocachers; local groups e.g. U3A, WI, Scouts and guides, walking groups; early retired people; young people; families and communities; students; local business; communities and socially excluded groups within nearby urban areas; parish and town councils; museums and countryside attractions; young families; young people (14-35); outdoor enthusiasts; new residents and those in urban areas beyond the Scheme boundary; walkers on the Ridgeway National Trail

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 people engaged in activities • 50 volunteers • 9 workshop/networking events for staff and volunteers • 2 geotrails • 20 new geocaches in the Chilterns • Each geocache logged by more than 10 people • Geotrail and train journey leaflet • 3 volunteer training days • 60 'On the move' train journeys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have explored, engaged and learned about the story of the chalk and its influences, through geotrails and 'On the move' • Diverse groups which have taken part and learned about the Central Chilterns and heritage • Diverse groups feeling more connected to their local heritage, increasing their 'sense of place' • Shared knowledge and ideas between communities • People with new skills, meeting others, and with a sense of achievement • Skills left within partner groups to continue beyond the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider offer available to audiences travelling on the line and/or visiting Chinnor and Princes Risborough • Training and improved partnerships enabling heritage railway activities to continue after the project ends • Geocaches maintained by local volunteers, with possibility of expansion • Geotrails available to wider audiences • Ongoing activities maintaining sense of connection with the local landscape • More collaborative partnership of local community groups across Chinnor and Princes Risborough

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get community buy-in: thorough initial consultation, early identification of and contact with potential volunteer groups.
- Volunteers leave project or are not engaged: engagement and good training of volunteers in early stages, regular communication and updates.
- Low take-up of events and activities: early promotion of events/activities via a good range of communication methods.
- Core volunteers lost by partner organisations: project content and viability re-evaluated, with resources re-allocated as necessary.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £27,426

A6 Tracking the Impact



Nuthatch – a key Chiltern woodland species
Roy McDonald

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership Scheme is committed to saving and improving the wildlife of the Central Chilterns. And yet, we're not really sure what wildlife the Central Chilterns contains. We know there are unique habitats, and surveys at particular sites have identified some rare species such as Chiltern gentian and Adonis blue butterfly, but what's out there in the wider Chiltern landscape? And how do we find out? We need to know so that appropriate management of habitats can be put in place, and we need to keep monitoring species so that we can celebrate successes and track worrying trends and take appropriate action.

This is a big job – it will take large numbers of committed volunteers to learn how to survey and identify species and then to return to sites regularly to continue monitoring. It is an innovative approach to surveying at the landscape level and an example of Citizen Science in action; small groups surveying their local wildlife and collaborating with other groups to build the bigger picture. We will draw on the skills of experienced recorders to identify birds, butterflies and plants during twice annual surveys (every four months for butterflies), and hope to build a new band of active, knowledgeable volunteers to continue into the future.

DELIVERY

Led and delivered by the CCC Landowner Engagement Officer, with support from British Trust for Ornithology, Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife and the National Plant Monitoring Scheme.

AUDIENCE

Existing: Farmers, land owners, land managers; volunteers; special interest groups; early retired people with time and enthusiasm; young people wanting to develop skills

New: volunteers; national and local conservation organisations; bird, butterfly and plant recording groups; existing volunteer surveyors and recorders; environment groups and related specialist interest groups; keen amateur naturalists; skilled conservation volunteers; local residents and associations

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 x 1km squares surveyed for birds • At least 30 x 1km squares surveyed for butterflies • At least 30 x 1km squares surveyed for plants • 110 new volunteer surveyors • 72 surveyors trained to national methods • 36 new volunteer surveyors mentored • 8 new national Citizen Science schemes supported • 80 new volunteer surveyors recruited for Citizen Science • 50 people submitting ad hoc species records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust landscape-scale survey tracking species trends and reporting on 'State of the landscape' • Greater coverage of NGO national surveys and recording schemes • More local people trained and actively engaged in formal monitoring • More people confident and able to take part in formal monitoring schemes • Greater community engagement in basic species recording • People more engaged with their local wildlife • More people able to identify a range of species • More species records across a wider range of taxa submitted to BMERC and TVERC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New landscape-scale survey continuing after the project end • Recruited volunteers able to manage and administer the survey on a long-term basis • Survey groups continuing to monitor their 1km squares • New, skilled surveyors available to volunteer for other formal surveys • Sharing best practice of landscape-scale surveying with other conservation groups • Citizen Science championing under-recorded species and gaining better understanding of their status • More active interest and understanding of habitat management for wildlife • Natural Environment advisory group established between LPS and project partners to continue activities and learning from the Scheme

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to recruit enough volunteers with skills and experience: prioritise 1km squares and, if necessary, reduce surveys to every other year.
- Unbalanced recruitment of volunteers across the three focus taxa: analyse data as three separate, taxa-based, surveys.
- Over demand for mentoring scheme: increase capacity by reallocating budgets from other training programmes, or support volunteers to manage without mentors.
- Over demand for identification training courses: increase capacity by reallocating budgets from other training programmes, or support volunteers to manage.
- Insufficient management capacity to roll out survey: build in automated systems and seek other volunteer support.
- Insufficient management capacity to deliver Citizen Science projects: close planning during project design, and increased focus on project-based volunteer-led surveys.
- Uncertainty about ongoing performance and costs of online data entry system; extensive trialling of online solutions prior to launch and ongoing performance monitoring

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £106,445

HISTORY AND LANDSCAPE

B1 Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes



Reg Tilbury, chair bodger, with his family and friends, Paslows Hillock, Lacy Green, Bucks, c. 1900
Stuart King

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At the heart of the beautiful Central Chiltern landscape is a fascinating but largely untold story; that of the domestic and social lives of the families who relied on the area's unique resources to make a living, for more than 150 years. The plentiful beech woods and thin wheat straw that grew on the chalk downlands gave rise to cottage industries – chair making and straw plaiting – which brought communities together and provided a tough, but viable living. But what was life like for those communities? The Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes project aims to find out, by focusing on the domestic lives of the woodland wood-turners (known as 'bodgers') and their families.

Volunteers will help to tell the story of their forebears by researching archives and collecting oral histories to capture memories, documents and photos about homes, social lives, traditions and dialect. Volunteers will then help to interpret all their finds to create a vivid picture of the woodlanders' lives and deep connection with the landscape. This social history and cultural heritage will be made available for others to discover and explore through a community history website and activities such as walking tours and 'bodgers' pub tours'.

DELIVERY

Led by Buckinghamshire New University and carried out by volunteers.

AUDIENCE

Existing: history, furniture history and archaeology groups; regional organisations such as Chilterns Society

New: young people through schools, colleges and youth groups; urban residents whose ancestors lived in Chiltern villages; new residents

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 volunteers • 20 people learn skills in archive/family history research • 20 new oral histories collected, transcribed and publicly available • 10 existing oral histories made publicly available • Woodlanders' stories made publicly available • 10 young people volunteer for social history research • 3 walks per year for 2 years (ave. 10 people per walk) • 1,000 maps on sale across Chilterns • Virtual walking tour available on project website • 2 bodgers' pub tours (50 people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, cultural, industrial and craft heritage of area investigated, captured and shared to engage interest of wide audience • Landscape and land use change recorded and interpreted using a range of techniques and media • People will have benefited from learning skills, meeting new people, developing a sense of achievement • Local people feel more connected to their local heritage and landscape, increasing their 'sense of place' • People will have learnt about heritage through active participation in events, which tell the story of the landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community history website and interactive map as part of scheme • Project walking maps • New heritage trails and walks for download • A <i>Chalk, Cherries and Chairs</i> pictorial map for sale in local museums, libraries and shops • Searchable documents and photographs in High Wycombe Furniture Archive and/or Centre for Bucks Studies (online) • Oral histories publicly accessible • More people connected to sense of place through knowledge and community engagement • Engaged and connected community groups with new skills for researching local history

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get community buy-in: thorough initial consultation with early identification of potential volunteer groups.
- Volunteers leave project and/or are not engaged: good training of volunteers in early stages, regular communication and updates.
- Project leader no longer employed by Bucks New University: revise partnership agreement.
- Loss of research data/archive: data kept on a shared drive, and documents and photos stored at Centre for Bucks Studies or Wycombe Museum.
- Low take-up of walking tours: wide publicity throughout project.
- Low sales of Chalk, Cherries and Chairs map: wide publicity and distribution.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £63,723

B2 Celebrating Crafts and Heritage Skills



Blacksmithing at Chilterns Open Air Museum
 Chris Smith

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A wealth of crafts and countryside skills grew out of the Chiltern's special environment, using its natural resources, and providing employment for thousands of local people in the 19th and 20th centuries. The woods were full of 'bodgers' supplying parts for furniture factories; tiles and bricks were made, and chalk and flint quarried, for local housing; blacksmiths forged farm implements, kept them in good repair, and ensured working horses were well-shod; on the farms, skilled hedge-laying, hand-scything and orchard management were common; women and children made lace and plaited straw for hats and dress trimmings. Few of these crafts can now provide a living in our fast-moving, ready-manufactured and fashion-driven world, but there is much interest in them and people keen to learn new skills and keep them alive.

Through the Celebrating Crafts and Heritage Skills project, people will be able to reconnect with the craft heritage of the area. A programme of events, demonstrations and experiences will offer opportunities to see craft makers at work, to learn about the history of their crafts, and to have a go. People can learn even more and find out about the relevance of crafts today, by joining one of our one-day workshops. And a full programme of financial, promotional and networking support will enable craft makers to share their skills.

DELIVERY

Led by the CCC Community Heritage Officer with support from heritage and rural crafts producers.

AUDIENCE

Local people with little or no awareness of the historic landscape; heritage and rural craftspeople; young people wanting to develop skills; families, communities and GPs wanting to enhance well-being; students; local businesses which benefit from the AONB; museums and countryside attractions

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craft activities at 10 local events/festivals• 12 local craftspeople involved• More than 1,000 people experiencing traditional crafts• 27 x 1-day craft training days for the public• More than 250 people attend at least 1 1-day course• 2 videos of craft makers created and viewed by more than 500 people• 4 networking events for crafts people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More people have learned about the craft heritage of the Central Chilterns• More people feel connected with the Chiltern landscape through its crafts• Enhanced opportunities for craftspeople working in the area• More people have learned a traditional craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More people understand how local crafts were shaped by the Central Chilterns and its landscape• More people feeling a connection with the local landscape through crafts• Some craft courses continuing independently• Increased profile of craftspeople and course providers, helping ongoing viability• Potential increase in availability of Chiltern crafts• Potential new entrants to the craft market• Greater connection between craftspeople and event organisers• Videos on website• Improved networking and knowledge sharing between local craftspeople

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Unable to find local experts for particular crafts: bring craftspeople in from outside the area.
- Crafts people not interested or too busy to deliver course and/or attend events: ensure pay rates are appropriate, bring craftspeople in from outside the area.
- Lack of interest in courses: adjust programme of courses according to those which are most popular, ensure good promotion and review charging policy.
- Low take-up of craft activities by event organisers: wide range of activities to choose from and to suit events.
- Low numbers attending events: review reasons and build into planning for following year.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £38,825

B3 Cherry Talk



Cherries ready for picking and getting the talk going
© John Morris

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ask the old folk around Prestwood, Seer Green, and Holmer Green about Cherry Pie Suppers, and they'll wax lyrical about the best sweet cherries to use, how to twist the pastry to keep the juice in, spitting out the pips, enjoying a string band, and washing it all down with a cuppa. They may go on to talk about the huge orchards around their villages and the gangs of pickers with their extraordinary long ladders, flared at the bottom for stability. This rich oral history with its own local dialect tells us much about the area and its cultural heritage, but very few orchards have survived and we're in danger of losing the knowledge and culture that went with them.

Cherry Talk is a *Chalk, Cherries and Chairs* project which aims to capture the words of those who knew the orchards when they were at their height, and transform those words into stories for modern times. It will link old and young in a fruitful way; young people meeting and recording the experiences of the older generations and then using their creativity to make their own Cherry Talk spoken-word performance art (including poetry, songs, videos), based on what they've learned. There will be opportunities for sharing the Cherry Talk, and cherry-related celebrations at festivals and other community events across the Central Chilterns.

DELIVERY

Led by the CCC Heritage Officer with heritage groups, artists and volunteers

AUDIENCE

Long-standing local residents; youth and young people (14-35); special interest groups (performing arts, writing, heritage, orchard); families and local communities including U3A, WI, scouts and guides; new audiences who do not currently feel a connection with the landscape.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 groups of young people signed up for Cherry Talk (100 young people)• 5 planning sessions with groups• 2 Cherry History events with 10 older volunteers• Old Cherry stories recorded• 10 new performances created by young people• 4 performances held• 6 x 1 talk on history of Chiltern cherry production, delivered to local groups• Programme of cherry-related activities for families at 6 other local events• Cherry-related materials on website, viewed by more than 500 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More people with awareness of the Chiltern cherries• Young people who have discovered the cherry connection• Many people enjoyed cherry-related experiences• Cherry stories preserved and renewed• Young people have learned new skills• More people have a sense of connection with the local landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stories and information about cherry orchards captured and available for everyone on website• More information about local dialect shared• New stories available on the website• Young people carrying their cherry orchard heritage forward and passing it on to others• Opportunities for further research and using captured information

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Lack of take-up by young people: gauge interest during initial contacts with youth groups; tailor project to suit; if necessary, look for other audiences.
- Not enough older people to tell their stories: follow up existing contacts, tailor sessions so they are easiest for older people, arrange transport, comfort etc. accordingly.
- Not enough people with knowledge of local dialect recruited: use contacts already made in development stage.
- Not able to find suitable creative practitioners: broad promotion of opportunity with attractive funding. Good interest already identified.

TIMESCALE: over 3 years, starting April 2020

COST: £18,756

B4 Routes to the Past



Sunken lane to Grangelands and Pulpit Hill
Tracey Adams

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Threading throughout the Central Chilterns is a network of ancient routeways – narrow, winding, high-sided lanes hemmed in by hedgerows and trees. Some are now roads, others footpaths and bridleways, and some are already lost or forgotten. They have linked communities with their commons, fields, woods and markets since medieval times and before, and we are lucky that so many remain in the Chilterns. These routeways carry vital links to Chiltern history and culture, and they are waiting to be uncovered.

Discovering that history and saving it for future generations is what the Routes to the Past project will do. Local community groups and individuals will learn the skills they need to research the historic routeways; historic maps and local archives will help identify where the routes are so they can be recorded with their historic and current names and special features; then it will all be loaded onto an online map with stories and photographs to bring the routes to life for the wider public. Finally, Routes to the Past will organise guided walks and events for local people to discover the routes for themselves.

DELIVERY

Led by the CCC Heritage Officer and carried out by local community group volunteers with support from Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Officer.

AUDIENCE

Existing: local history and archaeology groups; regional groups (e.g. Chiltern Society, Chiltern Rangers); national organisations (e.g. National Trust, English Heritage); youth groups.

New: new residents who know little about the area; health groups; less mobile individuals.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 festival events including guided walks, talks, orienteering courses for families, a running race • 120 volunteers and 350 participants in festival events • 30 local community groups conducting local research • 120 volunteers engaged in research • 30 historic routeways identified and recorded • 10 workshop/networking days • 4 new Heritage Trails created with 4 downloadable walks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people with research skills and investigating and recording the historic environment • More people understanding and caring about their historic environment • People with confidence to explore their local area • More people visiting the Central Chilterns • Improved health and fitness among residents and visitors • Historic routeways recorded on the Historic Environment Record • Threats to historic environment identified, reported and reduced • New way-marked Heritage Trails available to download or as apps • More interaction between Chiltern history groups • New community groups engaged with local history research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online interactive map with historic routeways and features in each parish • Updated Historic Environment Record to help understand the wider historic environment and better-inform planning • Better managed and preserved historic routeways • New Heritage Trails and walks available online • Community groups skilled, motivated and connected to continue researching local history • More people feeling a deeper connection with their local landscape

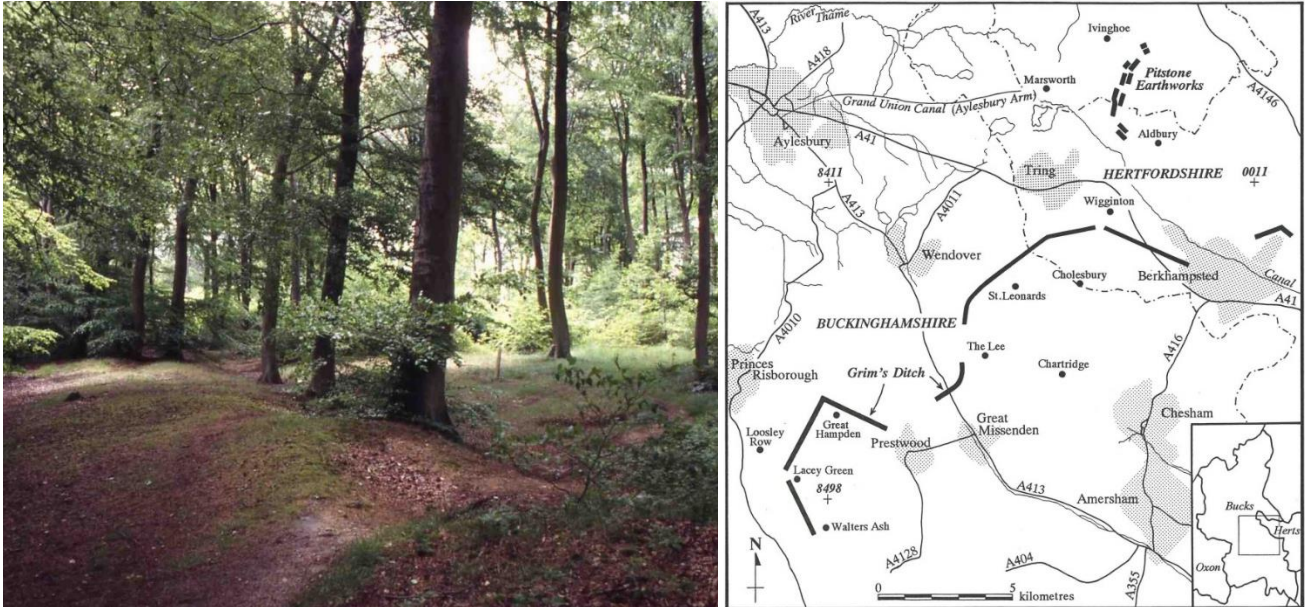
RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get community buy-in: thorough initial consultation with early identification and engagement of potential volunteer groups, simple tool kit for independent use.
- Failure to set up online interactive map: requirements established during development, good contact with suppliers to work together to produce an easy-to-use interface.
- Technology becomes out of date: requirements established during development, work with suppliers to ensure longevity of technology.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £20,789

B5 The Mystery of Grim's Ditch



The bank and ditch of Grim's Ditch at Bradenham, and its route across the Chilterns
BCC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Grim's Ditch, an earthwork which stretches from Walters Ash to Berkhamsted, really is a mystery. When was it built? What was it for? Why are there gaps in it? Pottery finds suggest that it was probably made during the Iron Age (c. 700BC to AD43), but we don't know why – was it just a boundary, or did it have a defensive use? If it's either (or both) of these, was it originally all connected, or are the gaps deliberate? Questions, questions, and only further research will help to answer them and help to uncover the true value of this historic monument before it is swallowed up by further development, erosion, farming and, most significantly, HS2.

Many sections of Grim's Ditch are already designated as a scheduled monument of national importance, and we won't touch those, but The Mystery of Grim's Ditch project has identified other areas for survey and excavation by local volunteers with guidance from experienced and professional archaeologists. It is hoped that LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data from CCB's Beacons of the Past project will also uncover new features of the Ditch and other information to help our understanding. All data gathered will be analysed and interpreted, and local people will have an opportunity to interpret the monument in their own ways such as through poems or drawings. Everything will be available as an online resource and it is intended that findings will help to ensure that the archaeology is properly preserved and managed.

DELIVERY

Led by the CCC Community Heritage Officer, with support from local community groups and Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeology Officers.

AUDIENCE

Existing: those already undertaking fieldwork (e.g. Bucks Archaeological Society); special interest groups such as ecology/nature conservation, U3A; regional and national organisations (e.g. Chiltern Society, Historic England); walking groups; youth groups; volunteers

New: new residents; people from surrounding villages and towns including health groups; early retired people; young people through schools

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 people doing desk-based research• 10 days of surveying• 100 volunteers assisting with surveys• 40 volunteers assisting with excavations• 6 training days (36 people trained)• 3 school visits (90 children engaged with project)• 4 interpretation panels installed• 100 people involved in creating interpretation materials• Interpretation materials on website• 2 walks per year for 3 years (60 people in total attending walks)• 500 people learned about Grim's Ditch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More people participating in investigation and recording of heritage• LiDAR data used to reveal new information helping to solve the mystery of Grim's Ditch• More people with better knowledge of archaeological methods• More people championing and caring for their heritage• Findings publicly available and shared• Characteristic features surveyed and recorded• More people confident to explore the area• Interpretative materials available online• Data added to the Historic Environment Record (HER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grim's Ditch maintained for future generations• HER data used for future management of Grim's Ditch• Information on the ground and online for people to find out about Grim's Ditch• Schools materials available for use• Availability of the interpreted LiDAR maps• More people with increased understanding of the monument

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get community buy-in: thorough initial consultation and engagement with potential volunteer groups, continued promotion of project.
- Unable to gain access agreements for fieldwork: consult landowners at early stage, initial permissions already agreed.
- Unable to access LiDAR data: use alternative forms of survey.
- Unable to recruit professional archaeological contractors to lead surveys: ensure good contact with contractors throughout project.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £34,828

B6 People and Mills of the River Wye



Chiltern Rangers volunteer to clear the River Wye
Chiltern Rangers CIC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For most of its length, the River Wye flows quietly by, largely unnoticed by those who live and work nearby. But the river is probably the reason they're living there at all. Historically, its waters attracted people into the valley, as a source of food, water, transport and, eventually, power. By 1816 there were more than 30 mills along the Wye, grinding corn into flour, 'fulling' (cleaning and thickening) cloth, making paper, and sawing wood from the Chilterns – and directly or indirectly providing employment for thousands of people. The Wye's water has often been polluted by industrialisation and development but, in recognition of its international importance as a chalk stream, much has been done to improve the water quality. Today, it can be a wonderful local amenity, providing an environment to enjoy and learn about the area's people and heritage, as well as a vital habitat for local wildlife.

People and Mills of the River Wye is a diverse community engagement project designed to break down barriers and make strong links between people living in urban High Wycombe and their river, so that it is properly understood, championed and maintained. As well as learning about the river's history and the lives of people who lived alongside it, the project will look further afield to uncover shared histories with communities which came originally from Kashmir and Punjab. Volunteers will have opportunities to find out about the river, record oral histories, and create ways to interpret and share its industrial, cultural and natural heritage.

DELIVERY

Led by Chiltern Rangers CIC.

AUDIENCE

Existing and New: young people wanting to develop skills and increase their confidence and employability; families, communities and GPs, to enhance health and well-being; students; communities and socially excluded groups within nearby urban areas with relatively high deprivation.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 local organisations delivering activities with Chiltern Rangers • 10 'Inspire' events with more than 200 attendees • 5 'Engage' events with more than 125 attendees • 8 guided walks with more than 80 walkers • 2 art installations • Riverside Trail created, with leaflet • Music and other performance art at mini festival • Volunteers taught filming skills by media professionals • Film and photography of events online and promoted via social media • 2 radio broadcasts made with Wycombe Sound FM • 10 heritage events delivered by Wycombe Museum with more than 200 attendees • Mini festival with 500 attendees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater connection between urban population and environment • Improved sense of community pride • Wycombe Museum better embedded in the local community • Improved physical health and mental well-being of participants • People with new skills such as practical conservation, filming, photography, art and woodwork • More people with a connection to the River Wye and its heritage, leading to establishment of chalk streams, River Wye, and heritage champions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community more engaged, supportive and understanding of the River Wye and its heritage and so more likely to engage with future river-related projects • Local community better connected, skilled, educated and aware of the river and its heritage • A community able to contribute to the long-term aim of de-culverting the River Wye for the benefit of High Wycombe

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get community buy-in: delivery organisation has well-established relations with local community and will work with several groups to spread risk; interest growing during development.
- Failure to engage with new audiences: delivery organisation with good track record engaging hard-to-reach audiences; new and diverse organisations already expressing interest.
- Effectiveness of project communications/promotion is insufficient: varied communications planned with LPS Officer, time and resources built into project planning, use existing networks, recruit specialist volunteers and use partner organisations.
- Failure to get permission to work on the river: delivery organisation has good relationship with relevant landowners and agencies; two permissions already agreed in principle.
- Changes within lead delivery organisation mean that it cannot take the project forward: ensure robust, achievable plans; review plans with partner; reallocate funds if necessary.

TIMESCALE: over 2 years, starting September 2020

COST: £47,889

PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPE

C1 Planning for the Future



A sensitively designed new development in the Chilterns
Lucy Murrett

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Chilterns is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) offering a tranquil environment to residents and visitors alike, but it is also under intense and growing pressure thanks, in large part, to its proximity to London. It's a highly desirable area for commuters to live in and is correspondingly well-served by roads, electricity pylons and railways (soon to be joined by HS2) criss-crossing its glorious countryside. Its skies are also busy with planes to and from Heathrow and Luton airports. There's only so much a small area such as this can take, but pressure for further development is vast – an 82% increase in approved housing in the last five years. Communities are seeking to protect the peace and their precious environment through Neighbourhood Plans but they often lack the skills to make them effective.

Through the Planning for the Future project, we will help to create those skills. The first step is to produce an easy-to-use online toolkit for developing Neighbourhood Plans that are robust enough to meet the special challenges of the AONB. This will be backed up by training sessions in Central Chiltern parishes so that people can really get to grips with the process. There will be follow-up planning advice visits and digital Landowner Guides. With advice at the right time communities will be able to set policies which conserve and enhance the AONB.

DELIVERY

Led by Chilterns Conservation Board Planning Officer

AUDIENCE

Those preparing neighbourhood plans: Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups, Neighbourhood Plan Working Groups

The **online material** could be useful to others including: Local Planning Authority planning officers and councillors; Neighbourhood Plan Examiners; planning officers in other AONBs nationally; volunteers and voluntary groups; individual residents

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 interactive guide (toolkit) in use by 2020 • 1,200 visits to toolkit webpages by 2024 • 100% of Neighbourhood Plans in Scheme area using toolkit by 2024 • Articles and print media publicising toolkit • Parish and community networks publicising toolkit through social media, e-newsletters • 6 workshops by 2024 • 120 people trained to use the toolkit • 6 advice visits by 2023 • By 2023, 100% Rough Around the Edges project staff trained to advise Neighbourhood Plan groups about natural environment • 14 Landowner Guides updated and digitised by 2023 • 4 Landowner Guides with online video by 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners, parish councils, businesses, Local Authorities and others better understand the benefit and value to the area of the landscape, wildlife and historic environment • Local people feel they can make a difference to the area, with better relationships between stakeholders and general public • Increased understanding and sense of pride in the area with corresponding improved stewardship • More people considering how Neighbourhood Plans can protect and enhance green spaces and biodiversity • Landowners and homeowners better able to look after the landscape and heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Neighbourhood Plan toolkit freely available locally and nationally, long after completion of the Scheme • Sharing and developing good practice with other AONBs • Better Neighbourhood Plans which recognise and protect local distinctiveness, and development planned with minimum harm • Neighbourhood Plans which identify biodiversity assets and opportunities • Community groups, residents and parish councils with skills and knowledge to plan for the benefit of the natural and historic environment • More people feeling a deeper connection with their local landscape

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Legislative change to remove neighbourhood planning: no action as out of project control.
- Reduced number of parishes wishing to progress Neighbourhood Plans: toolkit designed to encourage preparation of Plans and greater engagement by new, younger representatives.
- Lack of staff time to develop web text and other materials: dedicated additional days purchased by project.
- Unable to obtain GIS data licence permissions to provide mapping facility: fall-back plan to provide weblinks and signpost to mapping on other sites.

TIMESCALE: over 4 years, starting October 2019

COST: £8,791

C2 Chilterns Champions



Volunteers get stuck in to clear the river Wye
Chiltern Rangers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs (CCC) has ambitious plans to make a difference in the Central Chilterns: protecting and enhancing landscape, habitats and wildlife; exploring and recording the heritage, landscape, people and past; and reaching out and bringing people together from lots of different backgrounds to carry out tasks, get involved, and build their sense of belonging and ownership of this special environment. All of the projects will depend upon volunteers – people giving up *their* time to care for *their* Chilterns – and for many this will be their first step into active volunteering.

The Chilterns Champions project will provide the skills and expertise for all the other projects to ensure good practice when recruiting and working with volunteers. It will ensure that a broad range of people (such as ethnic minority groups or people living in urban areas) are involved, and that they have the support, recognition and rewards they need to stay keen, motivated and active. Above all, the Scheme provides a wonderful opportunity for people to feel the benefits of volunteering, such as learning new skills, enjoying working with other people in the great outdoors, and gaining better physical fitness and mental well-being. Chilterns Champions will promote these benefits and also monitor and evaluate volunteer contributions as a key part of the whole Scheme's vision.

DELIVERY

Led by the CCC Team with the Scheme Partnership Manager having oversight of all volunteering.

AUDIENCE

Existing: Community and residents' groups; general public; special interest groups e.g. heritage, wildlife

New: Youth (14-19); young people (20-35); BAME communities; new residents; families; residents of larger urban areas; children and schools; people with disabilities; students

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC volunteering guidelines • Flyers, social media, webpages about volunteering • Specific recruitment targets in other project plans • 2 recruitment events each year for 4 years • 200 people attending recruitment events • Training places for 100 people • 1 volunteers' forum each year for 5 years • 20 volunteers helping with central or Scheme-wide activities <p>Scheme wide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 different types of volunteering opportunity • 1,400 volunteers • 20% new to CCC and volunteering for heritage • 20% volunteering for more than 1 CCC project • 9,800 volunteer days • 400 attending training days • 20% more attending existing community groups • 10 new community groups • 10% volunteers under 25y • 10% volunteers 35-45y • 5% volunteers of non-white ethnicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More, and a wider range of people from different backgrounds will be volunteering • Benefits to volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased skills; increased knowledge; enjoyment of interaction; improved self-confidence; enhanced physical fitness and mental well-being; sense of achievement by making a worthwhile contribution; a stronger sense of stewardship for their local area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A larger and skilled volunteer workforce • People feeling a connection with their local landscape, heritage and wildlife, with a desire to care for it • Active volunteers from a broader demographic than at present • A network of thriving and self-sufficient community groups continuing to deliver benefits in the area • Better coordinated volunteering for heritage throughout the Central Chilterns, with a stronger partnership between organisations

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Inconsistency in volunteer offer: CCC volunteering matrix will help standardise; Media Officer working with project leads to ensure consistency of message.
- Poor volunteer management: strong experience of volunteer management among partners to be shared and ensure good standards
- Low take up of volunteering opportunities: development phase shows a real appetite for volunteering; review volunteer offer and increase promotion
- Unable to recruit right type of volunteers: widen search to others groups; make volunteering more accessible/attractive; offer more training.
- Too few volunteers from new audiences: ensure reduction of barriers; review promotion; ask target audiences how volunteering can be made more attractive, and respond as necessary.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £24,825

C3 Echoed Locations



On location, recording the sounds of the Chilterns
Charles Pugh

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

It's a noisy world out there – planes overhead, hustle and bustle in the street, birds calling to each other, the hum of the fridge – but how often have you stopped to listen? Every place has its own 'soundscape', and the Central Chilterns, with its wide range of environments from woods and rivers to village halls and playgrounds, is no exception. These sounds can provide a way into discovering the world around you and the past, through people telling their stories, making sound recordings of wildlife or a village street, or investigating sounds we can't usually hear (what does a tree sound like?). By creating a sound picture of the Central Chilterns, almost everyone will have a chance to hear, and feel part of, this unique place.

The Echoed Locations project will engage community groups and individuals in recording the sounds around them – all you need is a mobile phone – and then uploading them to an online 'sonic map' of the Central Chilterns, which will be available to all. Younger people living in the towns around the Scheme area will be invited to take part too. They will be taught recording and sound mixing skills to take out into the countryside they can see but rarely visit, gather what sounds interest them, and then use them alongside recordings from the sonic map to create their own sound performances and installations. Together, we'll build a sound experience which will resonate through all the themes of Chalk, Cherries and Chairs.

DELIVERY

Led by the CCC Team with advice from the Consultancy Manager/Curator at the National Trust, in partnership with academic and creative partners and volunteers.

AUDIENCE

New and existing volunteers; special interest groups; local groups; early retired people; young people wanting to develop skills; families, communities and GPs wanting to enhance health and well-being; students; communities and socially-excluded groups within nearby urban areas

Urban 16-20 year olds for creative part of project.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonic map platform and IT infrastructure on website with guide to recording and uploading audio files • Core team – up to 5 trained volunteers • 30 talks to groups • More than 600 people attended talk and engaged with soundscape • More than 1,000 likes or shares on social media • More than 150 sounds uploaded • More than 1,000 hits to listen to sonic map • More than 15 update talks • Sonic map tour to Chiltern Festivals, engaging more than 1,000 at each • More than 12 youth groups (60 young people) learning new skills • More than 4 creative performances heard by 600 people via sonic map and website • Creative sound installations tour to at least 5 venues • More than 3 other projects using sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people aware of and visiting website • More people listening to Chiltern sounds and curious about the sound environment • More people removing headphones in the countryside • More people engaged with and celebrating sonic environment • More people understand how sound can define and change a place • More people incorporate acoustic impact when addressing planning issues • More people influencing sound generation in their landscape • More people sensing and understanding local environment through sound • Young people engaged with countryside • Chilterns more relevant and special to young people • Young people involving and influencing their friends • A more positive view of young people and their culture • More and different audiences experiencing the Chilterns through sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness of soundscape enabling people to respond to the area in different ways • Sonic map, creative sound works and ‘sound track’ walks available online • Sound resource for future interpretation • Annual sound-based ritual or celebration arts event • Communities responding to aural threats to their environment in planning process • New audiences engaged with Central Chilterns

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to get community buy-in: thorough initial consultation.
- Technological issues: feasibility study at design stage with clear brief and risk assessment.
- Copyright and legal issues: feasibility study, seek advice from professionals.
- Low take up by volunteers: resources for volunteer recruitment, management and training; best practice from other organisations.
- Low availability of specialist skills and partners (academic or creative): include in feasibility study.
- Insufficient funding: robust budget based on feasibility study and design stage, with 10% variance.
- Staff changes or other organisational change leading to loss of project lead: delivery agreement; share knowledge of project with others within lead organisation.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £54,552

C4 Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Festival



'Sounds like Summer' festival at Aston Rowant
 Paul Keene, Avico Ltd

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There's so much to celebrate about the Central Chilterns – its long history, beautiful chalk-based landscape, precious wildlife, rural and industrial culture, and its people – and what better way to celebrate this heritage than through an annual festival? Chalk, Cherries and Chairs will bring together all the elements of the Scheme in a ten-day festival involving as many volunteers as possible, and reaching out to people in nearby towns who haven't yet enjoyed the wonderful resource on their doorstep.

The Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Festival will take place each September from 2019 to 2024, to coincide with national Heritage Open Days. There will be makers' days for people to learn traditional skills, kite-flying picnics in the countryside for urban communities, storytelling events, bodgers' tours round local pubs, guided nature and history walks, and much, much more. At the weekends, the Festival will move into the towns – Aylesbury, Amersham, High Wycombe, and Princes Risborough – taking the best of Chiltern crafts, oral history, interactive technology and demonstrations to a wider audience, with the hope of encouraging them into the countryside to enjoy more.

DELIVERY

Led by LPS Delivery team, with many project partners.

AUDIENCE

Youth (14-19); young people (20-35); BAME communities; new residents; families; people living in urban areas within 5km of Central Chilterns; children and schools; people who are less affluent or deprived; people with disabilities; students; general public within 10m of Central Chilterns; people who are new to heritage projects; diverse family groups, adults and young people from urban areas; existing volunteers; cultural and arts audiences; special interest groups; local community groups; rural crafts people; early retired people.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 events during first 2 weeks of September 2019 • 8 partner organisations and 4 town centre organisations engaged • From 2020, varied programme of activities each year, reflecting CCC and target audiences • 6 community groups or local heritage centres providing content • 2 new professional commissions per year for 4 years • 40 volunteers over 4 years planning and delivering festival activities • 8 crafts people or designers delivering activities at 4 festivals • 100 participants in community engagement activities each year – 400 in total • 8,000 people taking part in festival activities over 5 years – more than 20% new to heritage; 10% involved in other CCC activities • Partner groups collaborating to continue festival after 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New audiences introduced to the Chiltern landscape and heritage • Young people taking part in festival activities and learning about their connection with the Chilterns • Diverse groups of all ages taking part in festival activities and understanding potential of the Chilterns • Chiltern-related heritage activities presented to a wide audience from many different backgrounds • More people with a sense of connection with the local landscape • Partner groups with skills to continue this type of activity after project end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broader range of people engaged with local heritage • Festival continuing and championing local heritage through partner organisations, beyond the life of the Scheme

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Failure to find partner groups: consultation with partner groups already completed; joint planning.
- Failure to find professional collaborators: already involved in discussions.
- Failure to put together interesting programme of events with partner groups: discussions underway; substantial activity will be available from the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs projects.
- Low take-up by community participants: in-depth audience research used to tailor outreach offer; follow best practice as advised by professional advisor at early stage.
- Low audience numbers: strong partnerships already in place and participation built into project; taking free festival activities to key audiences in 4 towns.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £55,695

C5 Coming Alive



An example LiDAR image of Boddington Hillfort, taken by the Environment Agency. Sunken lanes are clearly visible to the North

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As *Chalk, Cherries and Chairs* delves into all the different aspects of the Central Chilterns and its heritage, it will be crucial to provide a structure and digital technologies to underpin, record and promote all the research, resources, and creativity that come from it. The Scheme isn't just about what we do in the next five years, it's about leaving a legacy too. With that in mind, Coming Alive is a project which will deliver all the digital resources for the other projects, and provide a platform on which resources generated by them can be made available for Chiltern inhabitants and others in the future.

Coming Alive will develop, set up and maintain all the technology for the Scheme, including digital mapping so that volunteers can add their data to online maps, use LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) maps for uncovering hidden features in the landscape, and creative technology for video and audio recording and mixing. The project will provide training to staff and volunteers, and social media will be used to engage the public and volunteers and to keep communication live and engaging. It will enable data to be managed in compliance with legislation and contribute to the evaluation of projects.

DELIVERY

Led by CCC Community & Media Officer, with specialist providers commissioned as needed.

AUDIENCE

All groups covered by *Chalk, Cherries and Chairs* projects, including: children and schools; communities impacted by HS2; community groups of all types; ethnically diverse communities in urban areas; families; new residents; parish and town councils; people living in and visiting the Central Chilterns; special interest groups; volunteers; young people (14-35); those living in larger towns neighbouring the area; people with disabilities. Particular relevance for: specialist groups and academics (LiDAR); website and social media audiences; social and online media groups of partners.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chalk, Cherries and Chairs</i> webpages on CCB website • Established social media channels • 30 volunteers contributing to digital content • 4 training days in general skills for digital and social media – 24 volunteers • 10 students develop a digital 3D and/or flythrough representation of the Central Chilterns in partnership with local academic institutions • Mapping systems established to meet specific project needs • Digital needs of each project provided and being used • Ticketing system for events and festival in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and existing audiences introduced to the Chiltern landscape and heritage through digital communications and mapping technologies • The Scheme's landscape and heritage opportunities publicised to young people and diverse groups in particular • People with new specialist and more general digital skills • Young people with new digital skills • More people with a sense of connection with the local landscape through social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and management of digital resources for at least five years after Scheme end • Public engagement with digital resources continuing for at least 10 years after Scheme end • Digital resource reviewed five and ten years after Scheme end • Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in partnership with CCB to develop legacy of project, ensuring resources updated, accessible and managed • LiDAR data interpretations, interactive mapping, website, and oral histories available and maintained • Partner groups and individuals skilled to continue digital activities

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Website not offering clear project information and links: plan either to design a new project site or additional webpages on existing site.
- Social media not well used: plan to promote social media awareness at beginning of project delivery phase and offer training to volunteers.
- LiDAR surveys not effective: good communication before survey, training to specialist volunteers.
- Poor quality video and stills: supplement with professional footage, training for volunteers.
- Poor quality audio and oral histories: specialist training by professionals for all volunteers involved in these projects.
- Cost of specialist technologies: priority given to mapping and LiDAR; others to be in partnership with academic institutions.
- Not able to continue presenting all digital assets for 10 years: CCB responsible for maintenance; work with local and regional archives to store digital materials of special long-term interest.

TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019

COST: £47,277

C6 Understanding the Central Chilterns: human activity in time and place



'Penn' tiles held by Amersham Museum
Amersham Museum



Harvest scene at Whiteleaf, c. 1915. Photograph from High Wycombe Library
Photograph, H.W Taunt, copyright managed by High Wycombe Library, image courtesy
<http://swop.org.uk>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The people living in the Chilterns since Neolithic times, their farming practices, the changing landscape, industries which evolved, and the culture and heritage which grew up around them have rich stories to be told. Amersham and High Wycombe Museums are full of fascinating artefacts which can bring these stories alive, and schools in the area are crying out for resources to use with their pupils to teach them about their local history and help them understand how they fit into their special landscape.

Understanding the Central Chilterns project will deliver an education programme for local children. They will learn how the Chiltern's natural resources have supported local industry and communities and impacted on the location, type and development of settlements. Many teachers are new to the area, so need help to know what opportunities their local environment offers. The project will go out to schools and encourage visits to the museums and other sites in the Chilterns, often with the intention of bringing together rural and urban schools to share learning. Key to the project's success will be the development of educational resources (including artefact boxes on loan) and activities, many of which will be available online.

DELIVERY

Led by Amersham Museum in partnership with Wycombe Museum.

AUDIENCE

New: KS1 and lower KS2 children in rural schools in the area and urban schools adjacent to the Central Chilterns; schools not currently accessing museum outreach/education services; schools with high level

of low-income families; trainee teachers; local families; local museums.

OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	LEGACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend staff meetings at 10 schools • Develop and deliver a session in schools 16 times per year for 4 years – c. 300 children per year, 1,200 children in total • 2 artefact loan boxes • Teaching resources to support boxes • Activities associated with museum/site visits delivered by teacher and/or educator • Pre- and post-visit learning activities available online • 16 new schools visit the museums in each of years 4 and 5 of the project – 400 children per year • 30 children participate in end of project event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More teachers feel inspired to choose the Chilterns and local studies as a class topic • Pupils motivated to explore their local area with their class or family • Children and families motivated to take part in local events and/or visit local museums • Local people feel more connected with their local heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have learned skills and about their local heritage and met other children from different backgrounds • Children introducing their families to the heritage of their local landscape • Raised profile of the Central Chilterns as a cross-curricular opportunity in local schools • Training and resources enabling topic to continue in schools • Loan boxes and activities and online resources available after end of project • Digital exhibition of children's work available in museums encouraging visits and greater awareness • Partnerships continuing after the end of the project
RISKS AND MITIGATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to get teachers' buy-in and commitment to topic: allow good time to contact and select schools; more schools approached than expected to take part; widen geographical area if necessary; return to schools not initially involved. • Teachers leaving project schools: sessions adaptable to different age groups; ensure buy-in from schools' senior leadership teams, not just individual teachers. • Unable to attract target schools: wide, adaptable choice of ways of engagement; widen offer to schools already using museum services. • Reliance on a freelance educator for delivery: good documentation of discussions with teachers and session and resource planning to facilitate hand-over if necessary. • Project timescales do not fit with school calendar: ensure enough time allocated to contacting schools and making bookings; keep in touch via email and phone. • Changes to school curriculum: ensure broad scope of project and consult with teachers. • Unable to organise school meetings through School Linking Network: end of project celebration and an outcome that all schools can share. 		
TIMESCALE: over 5 years, starting April 2019		COST: £36,377