



Land of the Fanns

Final Evaluation

August 2022

Resources
FOR CHANGE



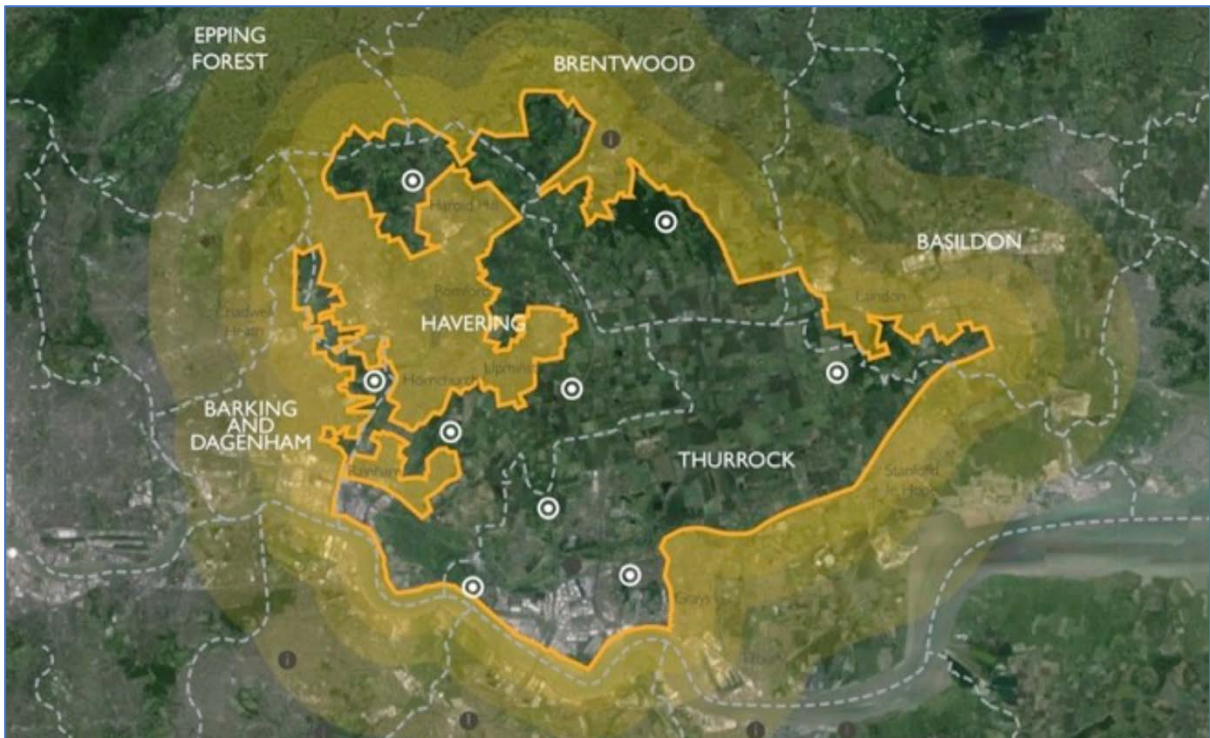
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Cover photo: Craig Cook, 'Towards Upminster Windmill, Feb 2021

Acknowledgements: The evaluation team wish to thank all those who contributed to the evaluation research and particularly to acknowledge the work of the team members who pulled together a very comprehensive (the most comprehensive we have seen) output data set.

1. Introduction



Land of the Fanns (LotF) is a £2.4million Landscape Partnership Scheme being delivered over five years from April 2017 until March 2022. The Scheme is located partly in East London and partly in South Essex, encompassing four local authority areas across 70 square miles.

Landscape scale working in the area has been driven by Thames Chase Community Forest for over 30 years since its inception in 1990 and this continues today. The Thames Chase Trust was set up in 2006 and has taken charge of the Community Forest project since Central Government support for Community Forestry ceased. With the 40 square mile footprint of the Community Forest at its core, Land of the Fanns extends the area of reach to 70 square miles southwards to include the Thames shoreline from Rainham to Grays, eastwards to Langdon Hills Country Park and northwards to Weald Country Park and Bedfords Park.

Originally conceived as an expansion of the Thames Chase Delivery Group comprised of local authorities, the Trust and Forestry England, the Land of the Fanns is led by a partnership comprised of the following:

- Thames Chase Trust (lead)
- London Borough of Havering (accountable body)
- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
- Thurrock Council
- Brentwood Borough Council
- Essex County Council
- Forestry England

- Thames 21
- Thames Estuary Partnership
- Museum of London Archaeology

Informed by the Thames Chase Plan, the vision for the Scheme is to ‘restore and reconnect the natural and historic landscape within the area, whilst building understanding and attachment among local people to enjoy and celebrate its special character’. This vision is supported by six strategic objectives focused on the following:

1. Restoration and Connection
2. Access (physical and intellectual)
3. Information
4. Experience by taking part
5. Enjoyment of the landscape
6. Partnership Working

These objectives underpin four delivery programmes that provide cohesion to the 27 individual projects that make up the Scheme:

1. Restoring and Reconnecting the Land of the Fanns
2. Understanding the Land of the Fanns
3. Attachment to the Land of the Fanns
4. Enjoying the Land of the Fanns

In 2018, LotF appointed Resources for Change (R4C) www.r4c.org.uk to act as the independent evaluators of the Scheme to both meet the requirements of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and to help the partnership reflect upon and learn from delivery activities across the landscape. This review is the final part of this evaluation process, coming at the end of the delivery phase and providing a chance for reflection on achievements, learning and legacy

This evaluation sits alongside a parallel legacy development plan, which documents the process by which the Thames Chase Trust was confirmed as the legacy body and maps out the actions needed to embed the legacy.

1.1. Methodology

The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Land of the Fanns is based on an aggregation of intended outputs and outcomes from each project as outlined in the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) Part 2: Project Plan Manual. This framework is included in Appendix 1.

R4C has used this framework to inform the design of the evaluation and deployed the following methodology in undertaking the evaluation research.

- Review of the scheme’s monitoring data and other relevant information

- Project leads and stakeholder interviews (34)
- An online survey of participants and beneficiaries (68)
- Validation workshop with the Schemes Board

The results of the evaluation research are provided in this report which contains an overview of the scheme's achievements, the factors that have influenced, both positively and negatively those achievements and lessons learnt from running the scheme. It integrates analysis at Scheme and Project level, offering reflections based on the data and stakeholder consultation to inform conclusions and makes recommendations for continuing landscape scale working in the area.

1.2. Note on Covid-19

As everyone knows, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the period since March 2020 has been enormously challenging for everyone. Within the project context, lockdowns and social-distancing restrictions have meant that project activities were impacted for much of the duration of the project until Autumn 2021, with various social distancing restrictions in place until December 2021. It is important to note that this period was characterised by considerable uncertainty – as the pandemic itself, government restrictions and lockdowns, and predictions for its likely course – remained in a state of flux, rendering delivery challenging. This was especially true for activities originally planned to be done in groups and face to face. The 'silver lining' for the project was that the funder extended the delivery period by three months, enabling the continuation of some activities and the accrual of important additional project benefits.

2. Landscape Partnership Scheme Level Evaluation

This section tells the story of the Land of the Fanns scheme as a whole looking at scheme-level outputs and outcomes, considering the lessons learnt about scheme delivery and the scheme's likely legacy. It largely draws on output data and the results of the interviews, the online survey and the validation workshop that provides a stakeholder perspective.

2.1. Scheme Level outputs

Scheme Headlines

Volunteering

- 2,793 volunteer days valued at £323,978, representing 254% of target
- Volunteer time increased between Years 2 and 3. Year 1 was abnormally high due to backdated reporting which skewed the results
- There was a sharp increase from 2021 as lockdown restrictions eased

Participation

- 4,517 participants, with a peak, just before Covid and still recovering until the end of Scheme
- Typically female, older and white (though a small sample size dictates caution)
- 20% from Travelling Archaeological Exhibition

- Almost half over 55
- Local participation, with a majority from Havering

Training

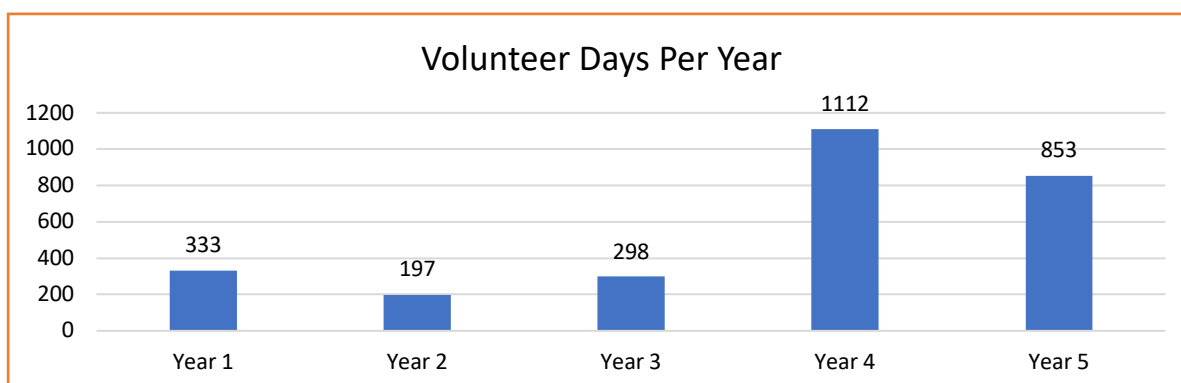
- 686 people have undergone formal training
- 2,468 people have participated in informal training

2.1.1. Volunteers

The scheme has been exceptionally successful in engaging a good number of volunteers who have contributed a significant number of volunteer days and consequent in-kind value to the scheme activities.

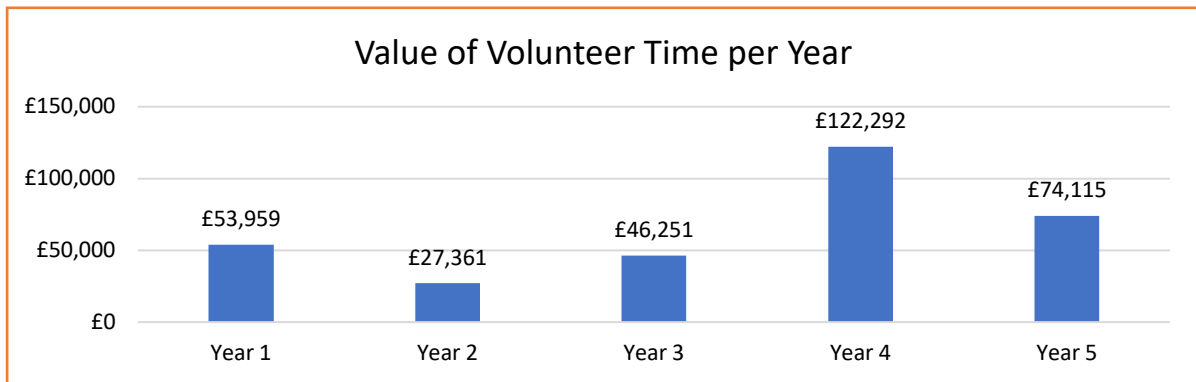
| | No. of volunteers | No. of volunteer days | Total value |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Year 1 | 302 | 333.0 | £53,959.29 |
| Year 2 | 245 | 197.4 | £27,360.71 |
| Year 3 | 282 | 298.1 | £46,251.43 |
| Year 4 | 962 | 1112 | £122,291.70 |
| Year 5¹ | 694 | 853 | £74,115.36 |
| TOTAL | 2,485 | 2,793 | £323,978 |
| | Scheme Target | 1,098 | £ 181,500 |

The project records the professional, skilled and unskilled volunteer time by hours, using the approved Heritage Fund values for each to calculate the overall in-kind contribution to the project². The value of the contribution appeared to decline after year one, however, this was due to an administrative exercise requested by the Heritage Fund to backdate upfront volunteer time and re-evaluate based on correct rates. All volunteer time in the LCAP had been calculated as skilled or professional, however many of the tasks have been deemed unskilled (e.g. habitat management works). As the Scheme activities scaled up once more as the pandemic receded, there was a significant jump in volunteer contributions during Year 4, falling back a little in Year 5 though remaining far higher than the trend during the first half of the Scheme – coinciding with projects with high volunteer requirements.



¹ Year 5 was still concluding whilst this report was compiled, so final results likely to be slightly higher

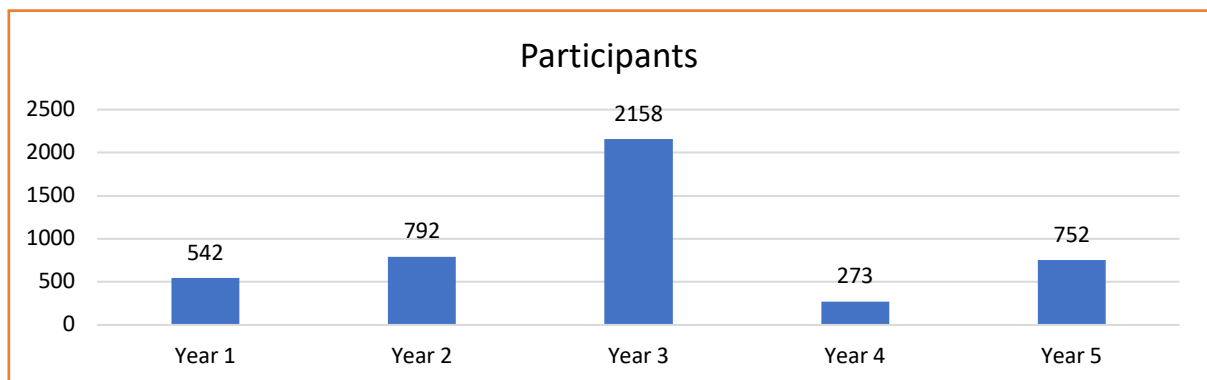
² Heritage Fund volunteer rates. Unskilled: £50, Skilled: £150, Professional: £350



2.1.2. Participants

| Total number of participants over 5 years | Target |
|---|---------|
| 4,517 | Unclear |

Participants are defined as those who are directly engaging in project activities, though not responsible for its delivery. They are the beneficiaries of the scheme. In total, there are records for 4,517 participants across the 5 years of the scheme³.

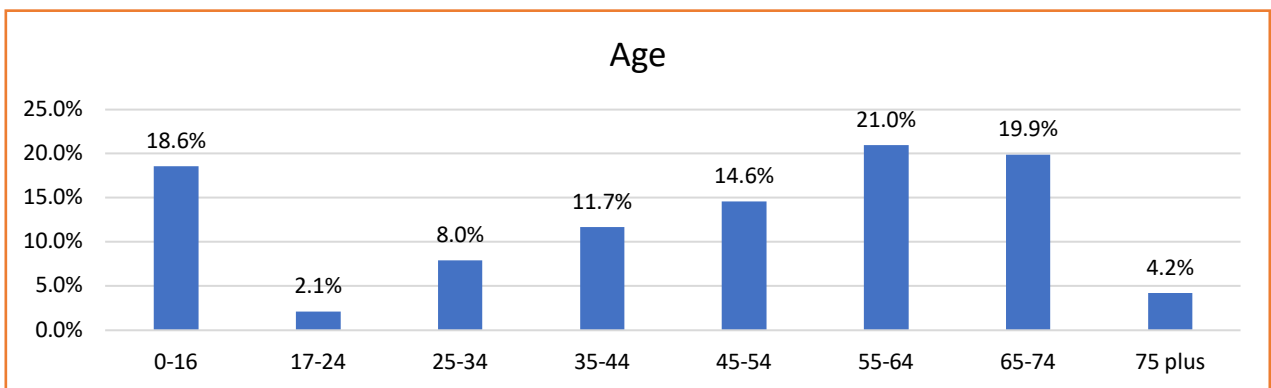
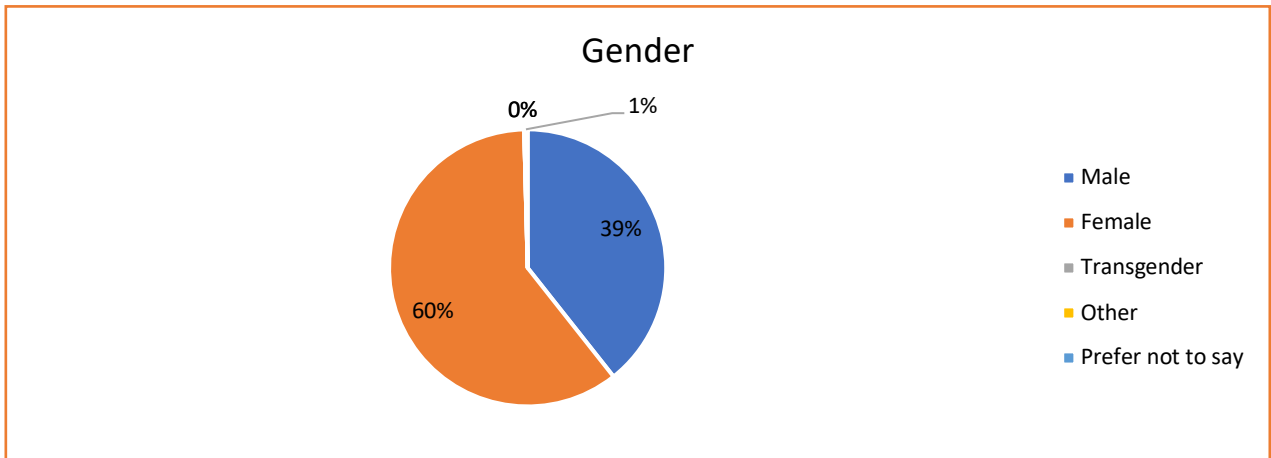


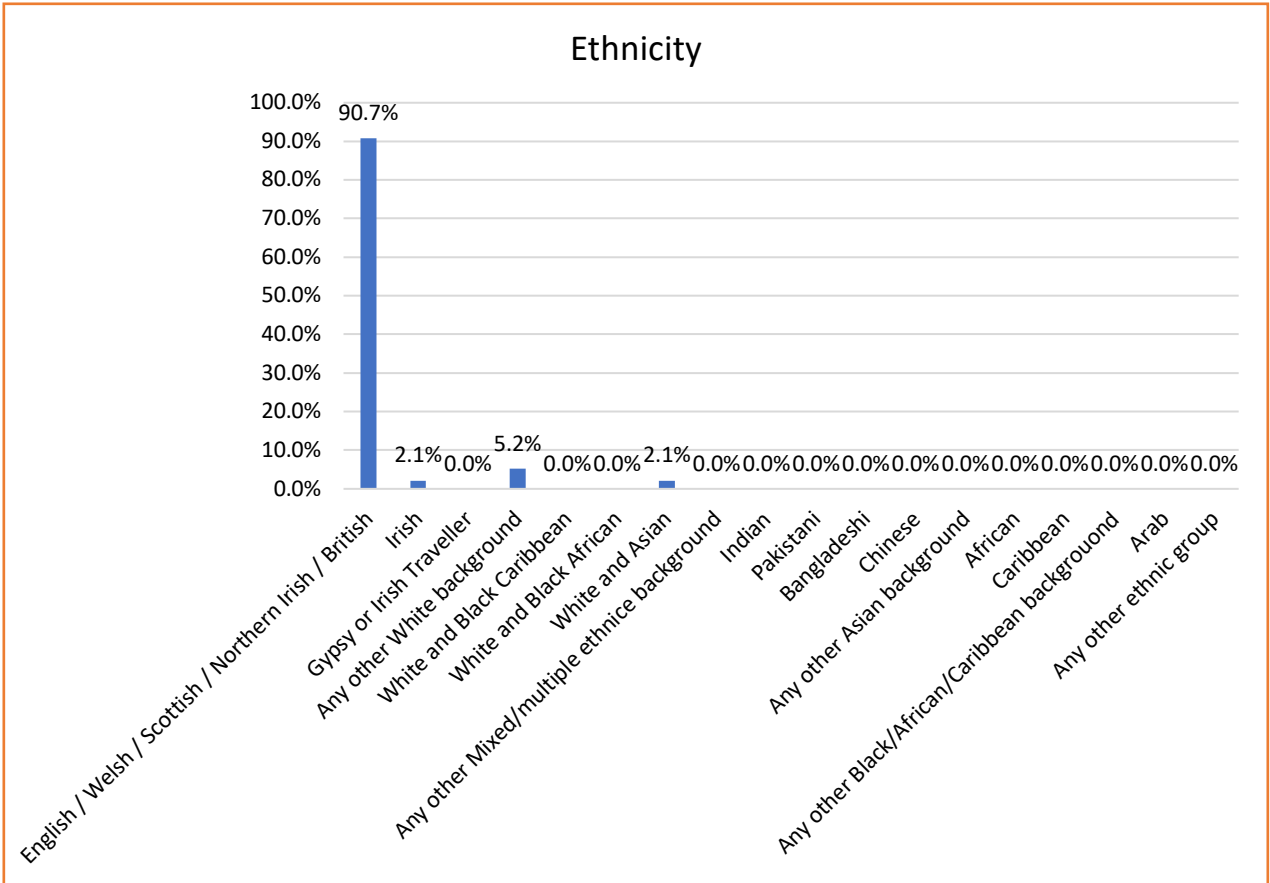
Looking at when these participants were engaged, the trend during the first half of the scheme was an annual increase with a significant jump in Year 3 as most of the project portfolio has started up. However, into Year 4 there was a significant drop which coincides with the pandemic restrictions on public gatherings. Interestingly this drop in participation contrast with a significant jump in volunteering. Part of the reason may be due to many of the project outputs requiring more direct participation that could be construed as volunteering, for example, much of the Community Mapping project flags and stories, landscape feature mapping and the Land of the Fanns book were compiled at this time.

In terms of who took part, the data suggests that there were slightly more females (60%) than males, that they tended to be over 55 (45%) albeit with a strong representation from under 16s

³ Increased to final total of 4,679 (914 in Year 5) following completion of this report.

(19%) and overwhelmingly white (98%). However, we need to be very cautious with this data given the small sample sizes (11% for gender, 8% for age and 2% for ethnicity).

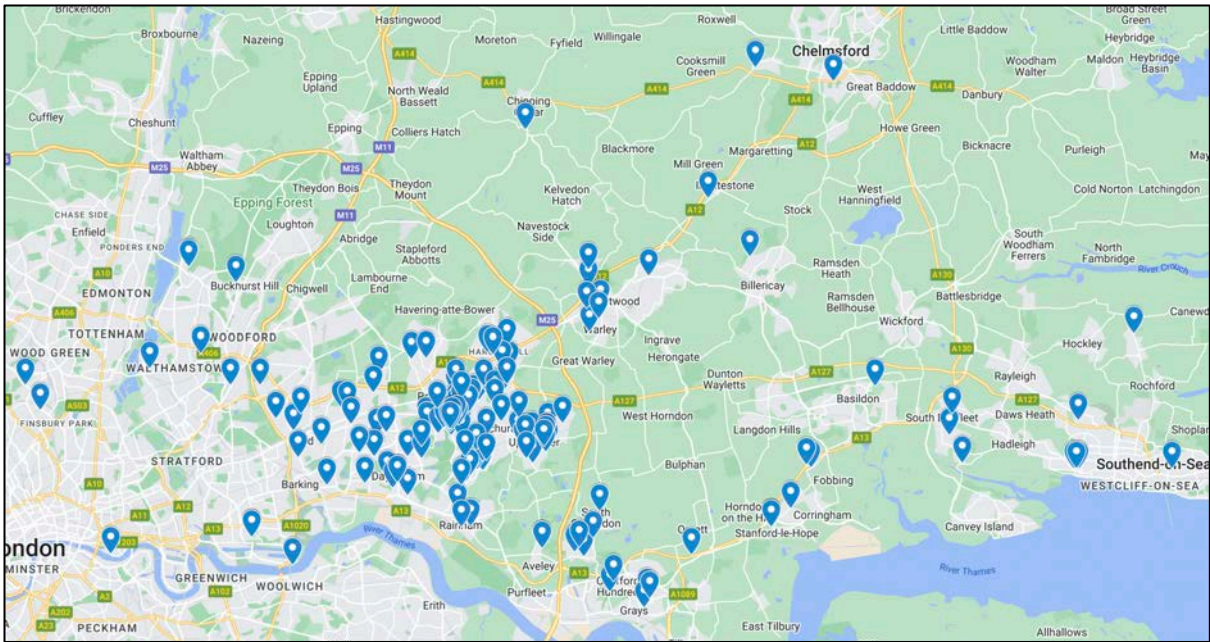




Participant numbers vary widely according to the type of activity or event, as you would expect. 8 events saw over 100 participants and accounted for just over a third (34.2%) of all participant numbers. The Travelling Archaeological Exhibition project alone accounted for 20% of the total number of participants.

| Project | Event | Date | Number of participants |
|--------------|--|---------------|------------------------|
| | Apple weekend | 20/21.10.2018 | 102 |
| B3.2 | Travelling Arch Exhibition - TC Apple Day | 20.10.2019 | 120 |
| B2.2 | Community Mapping Celebration | 30.08.2020 | 127 |
| B3.2 | Travelling Arch Exhibition - Military History Day | 08/09.06.2019 | 156 |
| B3.1 | Valence House Community Archaeology Open Day | 09.04.2022 | 200 |
| A2.4 | BioBlitz at Thames Chase | 21.07.2019 | 255 |
| B3.2 | Travelling Arch Exhibition - Valence pre-history day | 22/23.06.2019 | 288 |
| B3.2 | Travelling Arch Exhibition - Orsett Show | 07.09.2019 | 295 |
| Total | | | 1,543 |

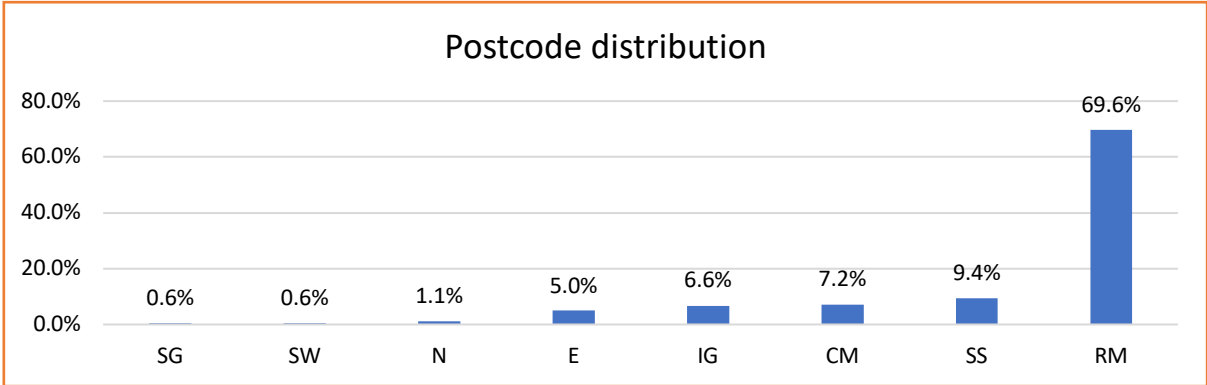
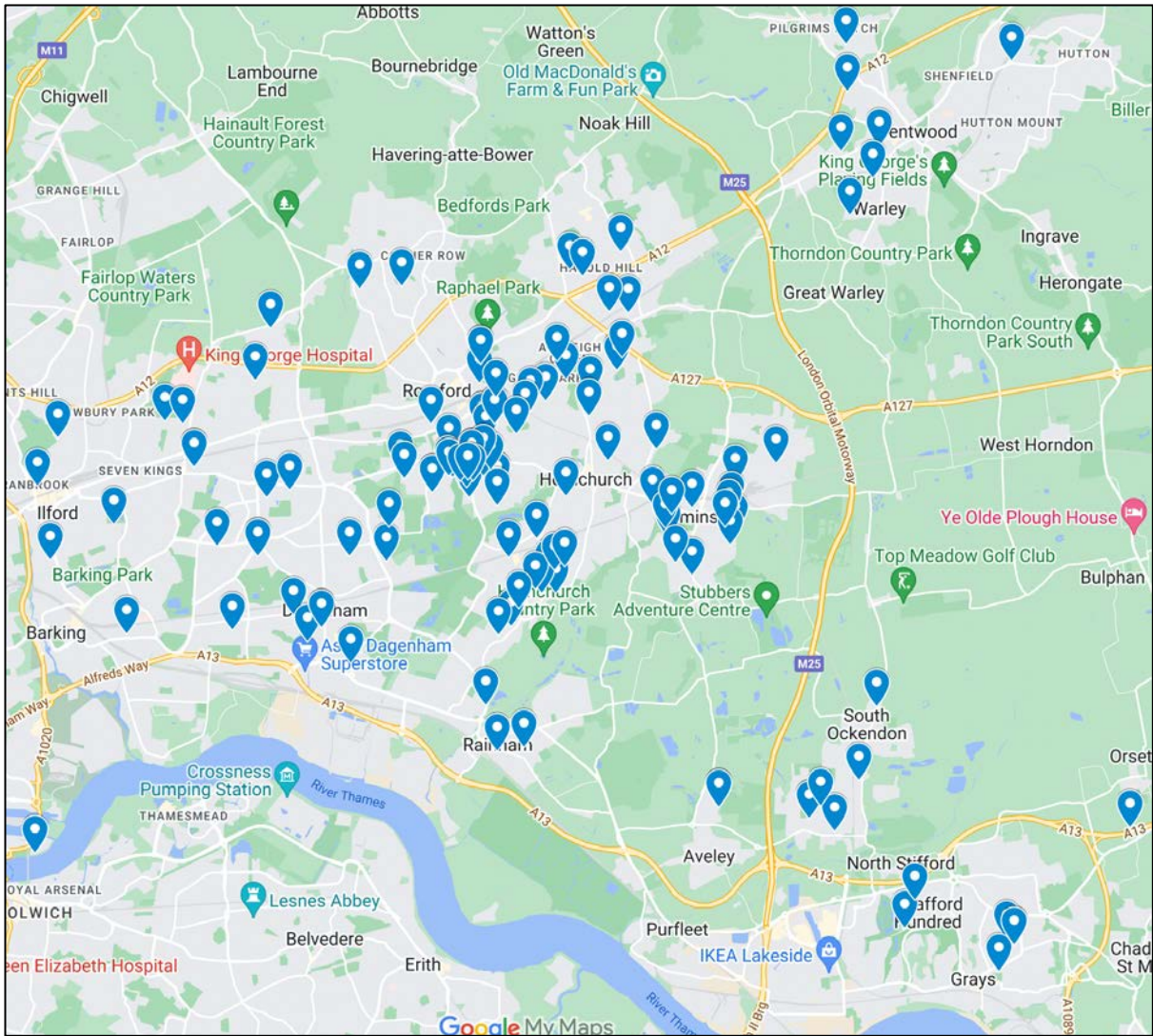
In terms of where participants came from, we have data from 181 participants. This represents just 4% of the total so means we must treat this data cautiously.



The first map above shows the distribution of postcodes across the area. This covers about 35 miles from west to east and 15 miles north to south. The vast majority of postcodes are in and around the ‘envelope’ bounded by the A13, the M25, the A406 and the A12. This area is shown on the second map below. There were a couple of outliers in Stevenage and Hemel Hempstead. There were no postcodes from south of the river within this sample.

The second map below shows the concentration of postcodes in and around the ‘envelope’ described above with a particular concentration to the north and east of the Chase Nature Reserve. The graph on the following page shows the percentage of each of the postcodes collected.

Whilst a small sample of the overall number of participants, the data indicates that participation is concentrated within Havering. Engagement from the public in Barking and Dagenham, Thurrock and Brentwood was relatively weak, suggesting that the benefits of the Scheme were unevenly felt.



2.1.3. Training

The Scheme has training targets within projects A4.1: Environmental Training, B5.1: Built and Cultural Heritage Training, C3.1 Landscape Champions of Tomorrow and C3.2 Apprenticeships. Training outputs are also evident in other parts of the project, for example where volunteers learn skills and knowledge to help them record features in Landscape Character Areas, or volunteers and participants learning about the landscape on guided walks.

The tables below summarise the number of people who have undergone formal training (for which there are targets at the project level) as well as those who have developed skills less formally as participants or volunteers (where there are no training targets).

| Project theme – formal training | Target | Number to date |
|---|------------|----------------|
| A 4.1: Environmental Training | 520 | 317 |
| B 5.1: Built and Cultural Heritage Training | 120 | 193 |
| C 3.1 Landscape Champions of Tomorrow | 285 | 174 |
| C 3.2 LotF Apprenticeships | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 927 | 686 |

| Project theme – informal training | Number to date |
|---|----------------|
| A1.1: Landscape Management Plan | 240 |
| A2.4 Micro Landscapes | 92 |
| A3.1 River Catchments | 2 |
| A3.3 Natural Flood Management | 118 |
| B2.1 Designed Landscapes | 18 |
| B2.2: Community Mapping | 1,194 |
| B3.2 Travelling Archaeological Exhibition | 16 |
| D1.1: Guided Walks | 237 |
| Other informal presentation by LotF staff | 546 |
| Totals | 2,463 |

Taken together, the number of participants and volunteers who have formally or informally improved their skills and knowledge is **3,149**. Nearly 78% of these outputs are from informal learning.

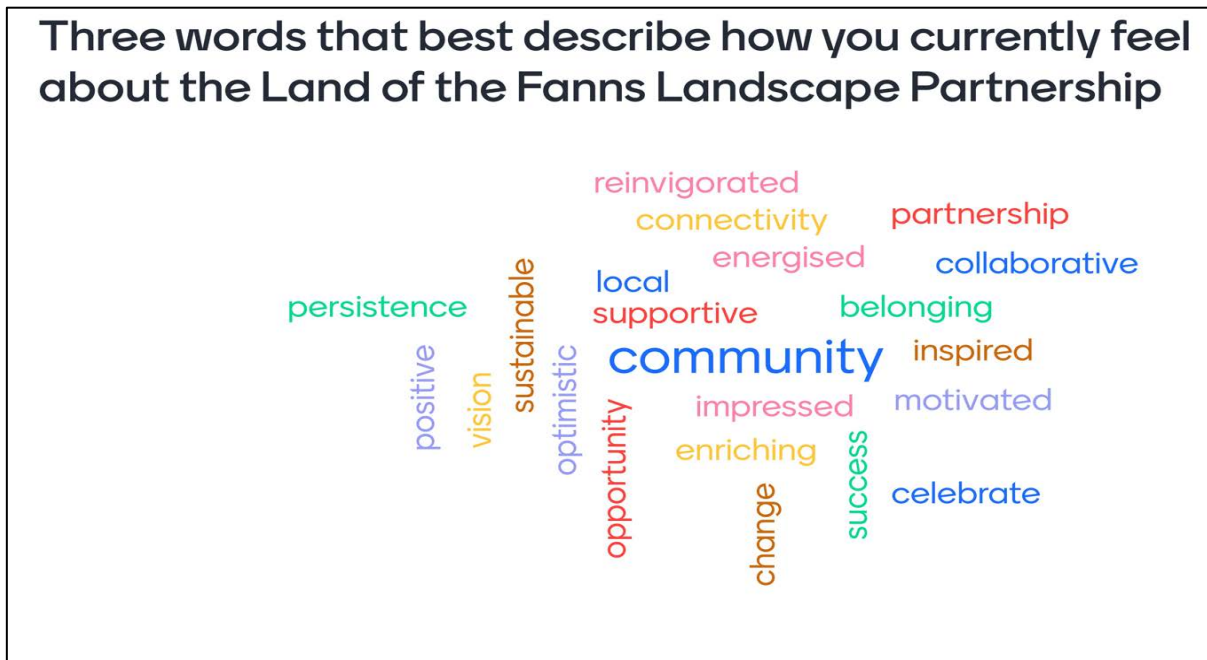
Whilst the Scheme fell short of its formal training targets by around 25%, it must be noted that the Scheme lost around a year due to the pandemic preventing any in-person training. Given that many environmental and built heritage skills are practical, these cannot be delivered virtually which will have affected the numbers. However, once informal training is taken into account, 339% of the training target was met.

2.2. Scheme Outcomes

2.2.1. Overview

At the validation workshop with the Land of the Fanns Board, we asked participants to provide three words that best described how they currently felt about Land of the Fanns, the resulting word cloud is set out below. The word that was most often used was ‘community’ and subsequent discussions showed that this related to two different feelings. Firstly, people felt that the way the community had

been engaged and the results that had been achieved through that engagement was perhaps the scheme's biggest success and secondly the sense of collective endeavour across the partnership creating a strong 'community of interest' for the heritage of the area. Many of the themes identified through this word cloud exercise are developed further in the sections that follow.



2.2.2. Heritage

Three key outcomes emerged from the evaluation researched when we asked people to think about the benefits for heritage the scheme achieved.

Raising the awareness of the area's heritage

This came out most strongly from the participants & beneficiaries who undertook the online survey but was also seen as important among the stakeholders interviewed. It addresses one of the reasons the Landscape Partnership was established in the first place – the area's heritage was little known and unloved by many local residents. People felt that the scheme had gone a long way in addressing this issue at several levels.

- Personal – most people reported learning new things about the heritage of the place where they lived.

“Getting involved with a scheme like this opens your eyes to the landscape and cultural heritage around you”.

- Local people – It was felt there was an increase in awareness and understanding of the importance of heritage among the community

“Made local residents more aware of heritage through Fifty Fabulous Features and other community projects”.

“Making people aware of the heritage within their community and that social history is as important as the history of large, designated landscapes”

- Other Agencies – there was a strong feeling coming through the survey results that the Land of the Fann’s area was now being taken more seriously by outside Agencies and Authorities. This was attributed to the fact that the Scheme had demonstrated the benefits that come from good heritage conservation but also because it had started to give people a voice.

“Made Historic England aware of the need for intervention in historic Belhus Park. Recording oral testimonies for posterity”.

“Opportunity for local people to better understand the implications of new strategic development on this area and to make informed comment on proposals”.

Developing a holistic approach to heritage

There was considerable appreciation from stakeholders that the Land of the Fanns addressed all aspects of heritage from historic buildings to ecosystems. The central core of the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme area is the Thames Chase Community Forest which has a proven track record of promoting and conserving the natural heritage of the area. There was a feeling in some quarters that the scheme helped to readdress the balance and showed the important relationship between the historic and ecological aspects of the landscape.

“Good outcomes for heritage e.g., mapping work at Belhus Park, Warley Place, Valence House – strengthening local identity and pride”

The public had responded well to this broader range of opportunities and stakeholders recognised that this approach attracted new audiences, those who were more interested in the historic and the cultural stories of the area. It also encouraged new forms of engagement. The involvement of the Creative Sector in helping to engage and interpret heritage was particularly welcome in this respect. The hope, articulated by many stakeholders, is that this holistic approach will continue in the area.

Strengthening the heritage sector

The collaborative working engendered by the Land of the Fanns Landscape partnership was universally welcome. It was recognised that although there had been some challenges along the way, a strengthening of partnership working among a broad range of heritage organisations was a key outcome

“Lots of partners who came together with TCT to look with more appreciation at the local landscape, increased pride and appreciation of what it has, its history and heritage.”

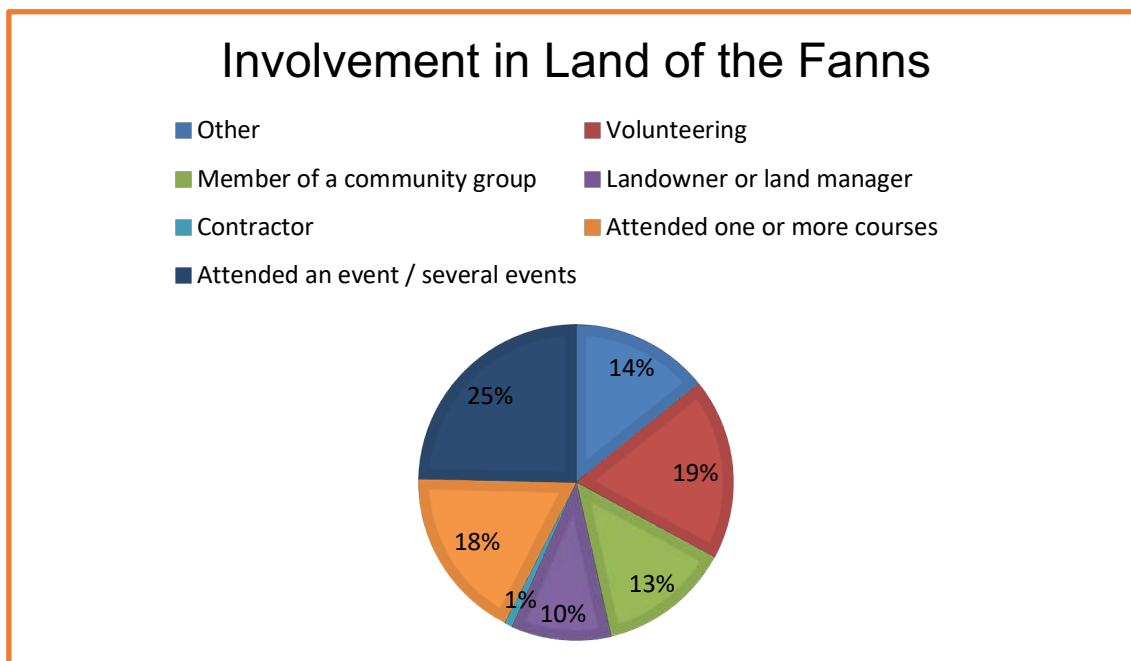
Being involved in the scheme has been beneficial for many of the organisations involved above and beyond the funding they received. It has strengthened and, in some cases, such as the Essex Gardens Trust, revitalised many of the smaller heritage organisations, who now feel that they are part of a bigger process through which they collaborate and seek support.

Perceptions of the Thames Chase Trust, the lead body for the Land of the Fanns, have changed as a result of their involvement, particular concerning the broader approach to heritage described above, and in terms of the confidence, people have in them having led a successful but complex scheme. This is important in terms of the future as the Trust is about to embark on the development of its next 10-year plan, which will help frame the future of heritage conservation in the area post Land of the Fann’s

“LotF has helped to increase awareness of TCT’s wider reach - not just based at the site, but into Barking and Dagenham. It has become a stronger organisation, better integrated as a result of LotF.”

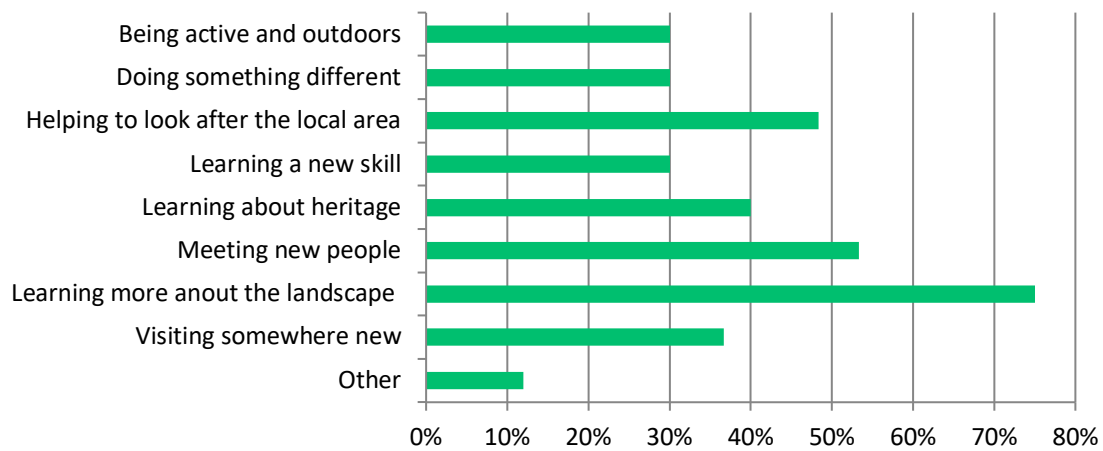
2.2.3. People

In this section, we reflect upon some of the results of the online survey where we asked people about their personal involvement in Land of the Fanns. The response to the online survey that was aimed at people who had participated in Land of the Fanns activities or had benefited in some way from those activities was relatively low (68) but the breadth of response across the range of activities was good as shown in the pie chart below



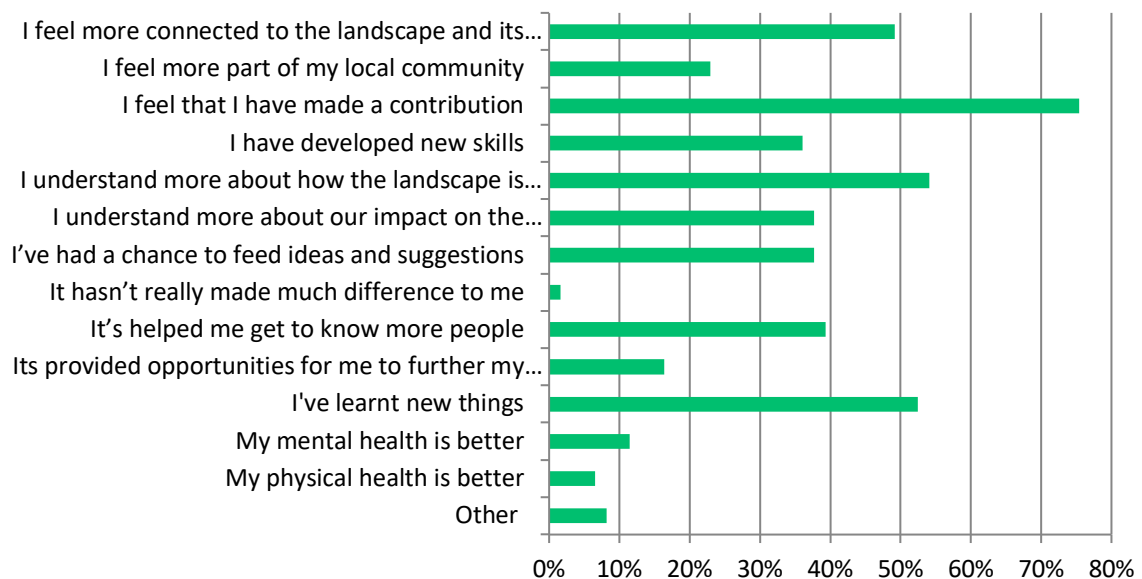
The next graph looks at what people most enjoyed from their involvement. The opportunity to learn, particularly learning about the landscape, came out strongly (75%). People appreciated finding out more about their locality followed by the opportunity to help look after it (48%). The social aspects were also another enjoyable aspect of their involvement with 53% of people saying that they appreciated the opportunity to meet new people.

What aspects of the Scheme have you most enjoyed?



When asked what they got out of their involvement the feeling of making a contribution was important to 75% of respondents. Developing a better understanding of the landscape and how it is managed was a key outcome for over 50% and the fact that they had the opportunity to learn new things was likewise important. Close to 50% of people also felt that through their involvement they felt more connected to the landscape and its heritage.

What did you get out of your involvement?



Opportunity is a key theme that emerges from these results. People appreciated, valued and benefited from the opportunity to be involved in different aspects of heritage. It provided them with an opportunity to learn and make a contribution while participating in group activities, providing social connections at a time, due to Covid when these were at a premium.

“Giving people the opportunity to be involved within their local community either through visiting an event or by volunteering.”

The analysis of feedback shows that volunteering opportunities were valued highly, particularly the range of opportunities on offer and the way volunteers were organised and supported.

“My clients have enjoyed getting involved in volunteering and this has increased their self-esteem and confidence and helped to support their mental wellbeing as my clients are all adults with mental health issues”.

The events programme was identified as an important vehicle for reaching out to a wider audience as events covered a variety of heritage topics, took place in a wide range of locations and as has already been said, used a range of engagement techniques.

“It (LotF) allowed community events to reach a wider and harder to reach audience and bring the community closer through events, history talks, and activities”.

These opportunities, which have been extremely valuable to those involved, also have a wider impact, as one stakeholder notes:

“The increase in ‘outreach’ work, using all media, has helped increase public and political awareness in how the area has developed and where it is going amid the current huge changes in land use, climate, population increase and building/infrastructure.”

The other key theme to emerge out of the consideration of ‘people’ outcomes is **learning**. There are several facets to learning in the context of Land of the Fanns. Firstly there is the personal learning that people gained and as already been said people valued most the opportunity to find out more about their local area, its landscape and heritage.

“Encouraged people from Havering/Barking and Dagenham to explore their parks and learn about the heritage of the sites”.

Secondly Land of the Fanns Learning, a website created with input from several partners (<https://www.landofthefannslearning.org/>) provides access to a wider range of learning opportunities, all with a Land of the Fanns Heritage theme (focussed on learning outside the classroom). The feedback shows that this addressed a gap in the market as schools struggle for ideas and places to take children to learn about heritage. The web resource offers a coherent package, a one-stop-shop approach which is not always apparent in the educational sector. The curriculum advisor for Havering, interviewed for the evaluation, considers that the web resource and the collaborative process that was used to create it could be a model for other projects and educational authorities.

2.2.4. Community

As has already been stated strengthening community, whether it be communities of place or interest was the thing that the partners valued the most. Likewise, community outreach work is seen by stakeholders as one of the key successes of the scheme.

“The smaller projects and groups have really thrived. Small amounts of funding make a big difference”.

‘Connection’ has come out as a key outcome theme in relation to community; an increased connection to place and greater connection between communities. When the people who undertook the online survey were asked what they had got out of their involvement, close to 50% of them said that they felt more connected to the landscape and its heritage and over 50% said that they had a better understanding of how that landscape was managed. 1 in 5 people responding to the survey also said that they felt more connected to their community through their involvement.

Stakeholders, such as the Essex Records Office, felt that through the community-focused work an increased awareness of the Land of the Fanns as a distinct landscape and cultural area was beginning to be evidenced, especially through the activities that were capturing local history, such as the Oral History project. This project also made intergenerational connections that helped older people feel valued and younger people understand the history of their local area.

“Creating a connection between people and the landscape is important in modern times when we easily get distracted by our busy lives. being able to relax and enjoy our surroundings and understand the importance of them in both historic and modern environmental terms.”

The Landscape Partnership has brought together a diverse range of communities to work on a common goal and interests, and the inclusive approach taken was very welcome.

“More inclusivity e.g. I didn't once hear anything about the travellers' camps dotted around the area and yet I feel if we include them in discussions progress could be made in making them feel part of everything.”

There was a strong sense from the people interviewed that in an area suffering under significant economic and social pressure that this was starting to create a new dynamic, equipping people to work together more effectively for the future.

“Opportunity for local people to better understand the implications of new strategic development on this area and to make informed comment on proposals.”

2.3. Delivery

The way the Landscape Partnership scheme was delivered was a key focus of the Interim Evaluation. However, the Final evaluation is a time to reflect upon the delivery and management of the scheme,

particularly in the period since the Interim Evaluation and to capture the lessons learned that might be of value to future schemes and projects.

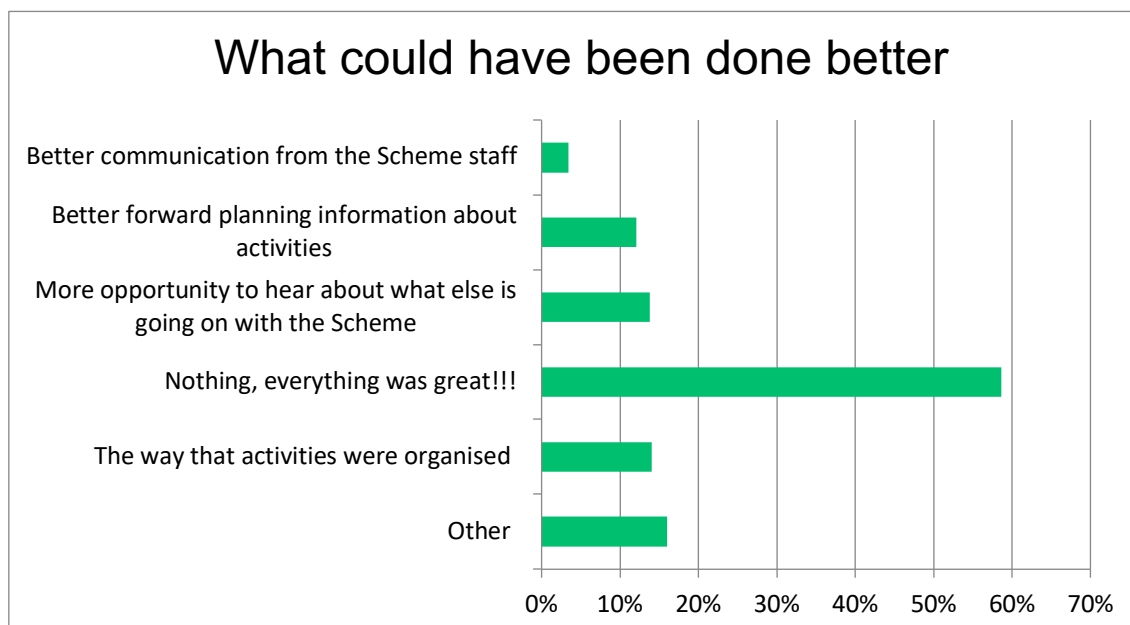
The period since the Interim Evaluation coincided with the Covid pandemic which presented a considerable challenge to the delivery team and the individual projects. There has also been a number of additional hurdles along the way, related to relationships with their accountable body, issues around the availability and use of landfill tax money as match funding and some staff management issues (HR), IT and finance management that have tested the ability of the Thames Chase Trust as a small organisation - all of which have added to the complexity challenge of achieving a successful scheme.

This report is not the place to detail how the team responded but the feedback from stakeholders was very positive and suggest that the flexible and adaptive approach they adopted was a key to achieving successful outcomes in these circumstances.

“Cannot question the team's commitment but Covid has been challenging, the Veolia response has been sucking up resource from the team.”

“A really good team, tenacious, imaginative, hard-working, creative, determined, adaptable.”

The online survey participants largely reflect the view that the delivery team have done very well in the circumstances. When asked ‘what could have been done better’ close to 60% answered ‘Nothing, everything was great!’. There was some concern (16%) as to the way activities were planned communicated and organised. This probably reflects the uncertainty around Covid rules and regulations and is the downside of needing to operate in a very flexible way.



The other area for improvement was in providing those involved with more information about what else was going on with the scheme. This is always a challenge for Landscape Partnerships, with a large

and diverse portfolio of projects and it illustrates the importance of being able to communicate that the 'whole is bigger than the sum of its parts'. Feedback from Stakeholders also suggests that more emphasis should have been put on communications identifying the need for consistent communication and messaging both in terms of what is said and frequency

"Comms should be a higher priority from the start and more support is needed from the partners."

2.3.1. Lessons learnt from delivering the scheme

Lessons learnt have been largely drawn from the interviews with Stakeholders and the validation workshop with the partnership.

Heritage

A key challenge has been that heritage 'means different things to different people'. Therefore, the demands placed on a scheme of this type which purports to take a broad view of heritage are considerable in terms of resource allocation, capacity and skills and local relationships. A further challenge has been about getting the right balance between the 'big picture' heritage priorities and what local people think is important. The learning is really about setting the right expectations at the start and being clear about what heritage issues can be addressed and what can't.

Heritage practitioners have also learnt a lot about how heritage is perceived in the area. For example, the 50 Features project contained a 'surprising' number of 20th Century features, showing local attachment to more recent features. Those features that had amenity value were also seen as more important than features that just had a heritage significance. Understanding more about these perceptions will be important in any future planning around heritage.

Audiences

The South Essex community is very diverse and with limited resources, there is a strong feeling that the scheme could only 'scratch the surface' in terms of reaching out to audiences that don't usefully engage in heritage. Anecdotal evidence, from those involved in engagement activities that there is a lot of apathy reflected in a sense of 'its (heritage/ landscape) not for us. Providing a broad range of heritage and engagement opportunities has gone some way to address this but there is now a need to better understand how to make heritage relevant to people's everyday lives. The learning is that there is a need for a depth of engagement (working intensely with specific groups) alongside the broad approach offered by Land of the Fanns.

Volunteering

Long-term engagement of volunteers has largely come about when they have bought into the ideas and vision of the scheme or a particular project. This seems to work best when the volunteering is local also enabling volunteers to feel that they are committing to their locality. The learning here is about the need to provide local volunteering and to ensure that it is done in such a way that people feel an ownership of what they are doing.

One thing that has changed considerably in the area of volunteering since the scheme started is the understanding of the well-being benefits of engagement in both natural and cultural heritage. Offering volunteering opportunities as a way of improving health and wellbeing seems to resonate with people and should be a key component of any future volunteering programme.

Partnership

As has already been stated, collaborative working through the Land of the Fann's partnership is highly valued by those involved. However, they also recognise such a way of working has its challenges, a view that is echoed by all the Landscape Partnerships that R4C has evaluated. This partnership had some key issues in its relationship with its Accountable body (local authority and a small non VAT registered charity), which took a lot of time and effort in the early stage so the delivery phase to sort out.

The key learning that comes out of the evaluation research is the need to plan out the process of partnership working, particularly setting out how the engagement process is going to work and the systems and procedures that the partnership needs to deploy to operate effectively. It was felt that if this was done at the outset then some of the difficulties could have been avoided.

Scheme design

There was a feeling expressed by those closest to the scheme that perhaps it had been too ambitious, setting out to deliver more than was realistic with the resources available which caused, at times significant levels of stress for those involved. It is understood that the funder was looking for 'ambition' but a question as to whether the balance was right. This experience needs to be taken into the design of future heritage projects.

"Four strands probably too much, so maybe do less and do it better. Stretched too far for a small team?"

2.4. Legacy

There are two components to legacy; what is being left behind once the scheme has finished and what is going to happen next. The Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership has undertaken an extensive legacy planning process which has largely addressed the second component, identifying the Thames Chase Trust as the legacy vehicle entrusted to build upon what Land of the Fanns has achieved. In this section, we therefore largely focus on the first component.

2.4.1. The most significant difference

Stakeholders interviewed and people participating in the online survey were asked to share what they felt was the most significant difference the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership had made. The selection set out below reflects the key themes that emerged.

Awareness & appreciation of heritage

"Demonstrating that this area has much to offer and should be proud of its heritage"

“Increase people's awareness of the area and what it has, of the (community) forest and the LotF area. Enormous amount of history to engage with.”

Engagement

“Individuals have had a chance to get involved and be part of the programme.”

“Opening up the past and drawing in the community”

“The project has provided a platform for improving knowledge of the local environment and increasing the protection of vital green spaces.”

Collaboration

“Bringing lots of partners together to achieve shared goals.”

“A feeling of success breeding success e.g., increased volunteer capacity and confidence, pulling in other organisations e.g., Historic England, Co-op”

“Legacy of closer connections between quite separate organisations busy doing their own thing. Easy for such projects to be one-offs with no legacy and no continuation.”

“Potential to embrace a more holistic approach which might bring more funding. This is how people think!”

2.4.2. What will Land of the Fanns be remembered for?

To provide a longer-term perspective on the legacy the partners who attended the Validation Workshop were asked to think 10 years ahead and identify what they thought the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership scheme will be remembered for. Again, the responses are summarised under key themes.

Confidence

“It was a stimulus for much more work in and around the area, part of a continuum.”

Strategy

“It helped increase Community Forest footprint – influence and linking with South Essex Estuary Park, ASELA to connect landscapes across the area, Green Arc, Woodland Creation, Lower Thames Crossing.”

Partnership

“It helped create more partnerships (e.g. Gardens Trust) – how will those partners continue to be engaged and fundraise to continue being involved.”

“It provided a focal point to mobilise the enthusiasm (e.g. leadership, a vision, a project) – retention of Land of the Fanns staff ensured continuity via a programmes team.”

Community Groups

“Created strong networks – Heritage and Environment Working Groups – that were sustained by legacy staff.”

“Started the process of networking of grassroots groups are a source of key local knowledge and action.”

2.4.3. The legacy challenge

As has already been said there is a clear legacy plan in place and what happens next will be articulated in the forthcoming Thames Chase Plan, due to be published in 2025.

People that were spoken to during the evaluation research were very clear about the sort of things that they would like to see incorporated into that plan. The following six points reflect the key themes that emerged.

1. Provide heritage leadership across all aspects of natural, built and cultural heritage.
2. Achievements and outcomes to be continually promoted to ensure that the work of the scheme is not forgotten.
3. That projects are carried on and inspire others to set up similar things in the future.
4. More open discussion and involvement of local people in management and use of land.
5. Continue with events and maintain the links between local groups and communities.
6. Identify and work with a wider range of partners. Council priorities have changed – need different partners to take it forward.

3. Project Level Evaluation

The tables below summarise the targets and delivered outputs with a narrative explaining project delivery across all 27 projects within the Scheme. These are based on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which summarises the content of the LCAP Part 2 and is structured according to the four delivery programmes and sub-themes. The content has been sourced from records provided by the Land of the Fanns team, interviews with project leads where applicable and the survey.

Where targets were met, this is highlighted in **GREEN**. Where this is not the case, this is in **RED**. Where we are unsure whether a target has been met due to lack of data or targets, this is **YELLOW**.

3.1. Delivery Programme A: Restoring and Reconnecting

A1.1 Landscape Management Plan: 'From Local to Landscape'

| A1 Landscape Management | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|--|
| A1.1 Landscape Management Plan: 'From Local to Landscape' | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| 10 landowners participating in management | 10 | 4 | Following 2 unsuccessful facilitation fund applications, the focus has been on building a cluster group of farmers to improve coordination of future agri-environment schemes. 4 farmers engaged |

| | | | |
|---|------|--|--|
| Countryside Stewardship agreements | 5 | 3 | 3 new agreements through links with other projects including Weald, Thorndon and Warley |
| Landscape Management Plan | 1 | 1 | Strategic review of all landscape scale delivery in the area completed |
| 2 x training sessions on Social Enterprise. 10 days follow-up 1-to-1 business support | 20 | 1 | Commissioned support from Social Enterprise East of England leading to 1 workshop on exploring trading opportunities |
| 5 Training and Knowledge sharing events | 5 | 3 | Farmer event held November 2021 (1 attended but useful). 2 guided walks delivered May 2022 along Ingrebourne |
| 3 potential social enterprises offered help and support | 3 | 0 | Support offered but not taken up. |
| Volunteer days | 22.5 | 0 | None recorded |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| Landscape management efforts are co-ordinated and strategic, enabling economies of scale and wider benefits for the environment and economy | | Difficulty engaging private landowners, though some progress made regarding coordination with public landowners through new stewardship schemes. | |

Summary

- Project rescope several times in response to unsuccessful funding applications and to try and address limited farmer engagement, though relationships with four key landowners were strengthened
- Underperformance due to a challenging environment for private landowner engagement. Factors include national changes to rural payment schemes post-Brexit and local uncertainty regarding the Lower Thames Crossing
- Limited private landowner engagement hindered the ability to fulfil other targets around training, knowledge sharing and volunteering
- Relative success with public sector landowners led to three Countryside Stewardship agreements
- A strategic landscape management plan is a useful legacy of the project that could inform future work in this area

What happened?

The Land of the Fanns Scheme includes a series of targeted habitat improvement projects aimed at restoring some of the unique elements of the Landscape. This project sought to complement this focussed work through working with farmers and land managers to build their capacity to improve the conservation value of their land, in line with priorities for habitats and species within the Land of the Fanns and support a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of agri-environment schemes.



Early on, the Land of the Fanns team commissioned FWAG East to establish links with local farmers and landowners to establish a farm cluster group. This helped inform two applications to the Government Rural Payments Agency Countryside Facilitation Fund to increase resources for this work, however, these were unfortunately rejected.

Consequently, the team commissioned support from RSPB to help support project delivery through offering farm visits and wildlife surveys as part of the following rescoped package of work:

- A programme of facilitated workshops and events for the benefit of landowners and land managers, to share knowledge on environmental/heritage best practice
- Provide advice and support to help get between 5 and 10 farms ready for entry into agri-environment schemes
- Intervention fund to support farmers and land managers to deliver low-cost habitat improvement works, such as seed mixes, wild bird cover, pond creation, etc and/or contribute to the production of Countryside Stewardship applications
- Develop a team of 5 – 10 volunteers to undertake surveys on the farms for both habitat conditions and taxa.

As a result of these activities, four key local farmers were engaged including George Young (Home Farm), Steve White (Fair Play Farm), Jeremy Finnis (Coles) and Harry Fisher (Berwick Ponds Farm). Jeremy Finnis & Steve White both received grants to put up nest boxes. Social Enterprise East of England delivered 1 workshop on exploring trading opportunities including 1 to 1 support and two guided walks delivered in May 2022 were delivered, though take-up was limited in both cases.

An additional farmer event was held in November 2021, though only 1 farmer attended. This was Jeremy Finnis who is heavily involved in the farming industry at board level - NFU, GCC and others – so an important local stakeholder.

With limited engagement with farmers and limited access to public rights of way, the ability to undertake full surveys and utilise and take on volunteers was restricted.

Finally, a strategic review of all landscape scale delivery in the area was completed by Plumb Associates. Informed by this, Essex County Council were supported with 3 new stewardship agreements through other projects including Weald, Thorndon & Warley, though this was more the result of the historic landscape plans (A3.2) which were a prerequisite of entry to the scheme.

Reflections

The Land of the Fanns team reported to us significant difficulties engaging with the farming community.

Various possible reasons were cited including the unknown impacts of the Lower Thames Crossing, changes to agri-environment scheme funding post-Brexit, a reluctance to get involved in anything that could jeopardise access to new funding regimes, and misinformation about what the Land of the Fanns scheme was trying to achieve (e.g. the focus on creating a new area of fenland, farmers in the area are involved in many different business activities where farming is not their main interest.). It was also challenging to do much beyond the limited access enabled by Public Rights of Way.

Whilst some progress was made to make landscape management efforts more strategic and coordinated with public sector partners, this was more limited with private sector farmers. It has been an uncertain time for farming post-Brexit, complicated by local factors including Lower Thames Crossing proposals. This project arguably came at the wrong time, hindered by external circumstances beyond the team’s control.

The availability of a strategic landscape management plan is an important legacy of the project, which could help inform and steer future engagement work with the private landowning community in future.

A1.2 Community Tree Nursery

| A1 Landscape Management | | | |
|--|---------------|---|--|
| A1.2 Community Tree Nursery | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Business Plan | 1 | 1 | Funding from GLA secured. Viability options indicate the expansion of the existing Thames Chase nursery is viable. |
| Tree nursery established | 1 | 1 | Tree nursery officer Alex Hewitt recruited |
| Tree nursery maintained | 1 | 1 | Tree nursery role to be maintained as Tree Nursery Development Officer |
| Tree nursery supporting legacy | 1 | 1 | Business Plan in place with work to continue after Land of the Fanns |
| Volunteer days | 286 | 329 | Volunteer days exceeded target by March 2022 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| Local provenance is used for local woodland planting and hedge laying, with volunteering and education at the core | | Nursery established and operated as intended, with volunteering and education | |

Summary

- A significant highlight for Land of the Fanns and the Thames Chase Trust in particular, with all targets, met and the nursery delivering volunteering and educational objectives whilst supporting the wider landscape with c.2,000 trees per year with 20-30 hours of voluntary effort per week
- The Tree Nursery officer Alex Hewitt is now a permanent member of staff – a job that would not have been possible without Lottery investment

- Tree nursery breaks even in terms of materials and has enhanced the Trust's reputation as a contributor to local Forestry outcomes

What happened?

The first phase was the confirmation of a tree nursery location, Thames Chase Forest Centre. A business planning process developed this further by establishing market and supply conditions, services to be offered and scoped out likely start-up costs and income to develop financial forecasts. This sought to revive a previous tree nursery that had originally been created in the 1990s but suffered from decline for the reasons explained in the introduction. This work was supported by a grant from the GLA and financial contributions from the Thames Chase Trust.

The second phase saw the business established and the necessary equipment, materials and other capital items secured for the start-up. This included a paid role to start up and maintain the business – Alex Hewitt – who is now in place permanently to maintain the investment as a core member of the Thames Chase Trust team. The operation also offers opportunities for people to volunteer.

After early issues with the nursery location, including issues with a septic tank causing subsidence and the loss of half the nursery space preventing voluntary activity, the recruitment of Alex revitalised the project. The importance of project funding to lay the foundations - soil levelling, raised beds, repairing the path and tools - was crucial and also enabled the nursery to be promoted as a business.

From the production of about 400 trees a year, the nursery is now producing around 2,000 a year, against a target of 1,000 to 1,200 a year. Trees are being sold to partner organisations including RSPB, local authorities, Belhus Country Park (150 trees) and local schools, fulfilling a niche not covered by commercial tree nurseries. This includes a focus on black poplars as they are an endangered species.

To maintain this activity, a new volunteer group was established in May 2021, meeting every week with 4/5 regulars and 10 others involved with a weekend group of 3/4 on Sundays. In addition to core maintenance, educational activities are a key focus: staff, volunteers and the public are learning about the process of growing trees, collecting seeds, potting them up, tree lifecycles, and composting. Those who have benefited include LB of Havering, youth and school groups (e.g., cub scouts).

Reflections

This project has been a highlight for Land of the Fanns with a clear, tangible legacy in place. Positive outcomes for people and communities have been realised through a space which people feel they can use, look around, engage with and access learning whilst native trees are produced to support the wider landscape.

While Covid hindered public engagement, the sessions that did run were well attended and well received, enabling the volunteer group to establish itself and provide an additional 20 or 30 hours

work a week on top of Alex’s core time. Half of the business contacts have come from the scheme networking opportunities leading to sales.

There is a strong legacy in place with Alex organising the nursery on a permanent basis (3 days a week, complemented by other projects 2 days a week) with a complementary voluntary resource. The nursery breaks even on materials/tools (though not the officer time) and this is really helpful. The wider legacy benefits include the enhancement of the reputation of the Thames Chase Trust. Youth groups bring in additional income whilst building awareness and involvement, leading to other spend at the Forest Centre (such as the café).

A2.1 Woodland, Grassland and Hedgerows

| A2 | | Habitats and Species | |
|---|--------|---|---|
| A2.1 | | Woodland, Grassland and Hedgerows | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Woodland restored/managed (ha) | 20 | 435ha | Tree planting at Davy Down using £10k EA funding is complete with 800 trees planted in April 2018 (only 100 survived the summer) and 400 in November 2019: Woodland thinning project with FE at Pages Wood completed. Woodland work at Codham, Boyles and Belhus for 18/19 is complete. |
| Grassland restored/managed (ha) | 40 | 96.1+ha | Solar pumps at RSPB Wennington Marsh benefit 47ha of wet grassland and 4.1ha at FE Cely Woods. Also EWT Langdon Ridge SSSI and ECC (45ha) |
| Hedgerow restored/managed (km) | 10 | 0.25 | 250m at Havering Country Park. |
| Volunteer days | 115 | 285 | Via Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers by March 2022 |
| Countryside Stewardship agreements | 3 | 3 | For Warley, Thorndon and Weald |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| Landscape distinctiveness has been enhanced and supported by ongoing management | | Improved and ongoing management delivered by four separate organisations across the landscape with strong volunteer input and examples of innovation. | |

Summary

- Four distinctive woodland and grassland enhancement interventions across three local authority areas
- Illustrative of the success that Land of the Fanns had in bringing a range of different landowners and managers to deliver landscape scale improvement works
- Considerable voluntary effort was expended through the Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers at a range of other sites across the landscape

- The project has the greatest impact on woodland and grassland with over 500ha improved, with more localised and limited hedgerow delivery
- Two examples of nationally significant innovation in habitat management through solar pumps and virtual fencing

What happened?

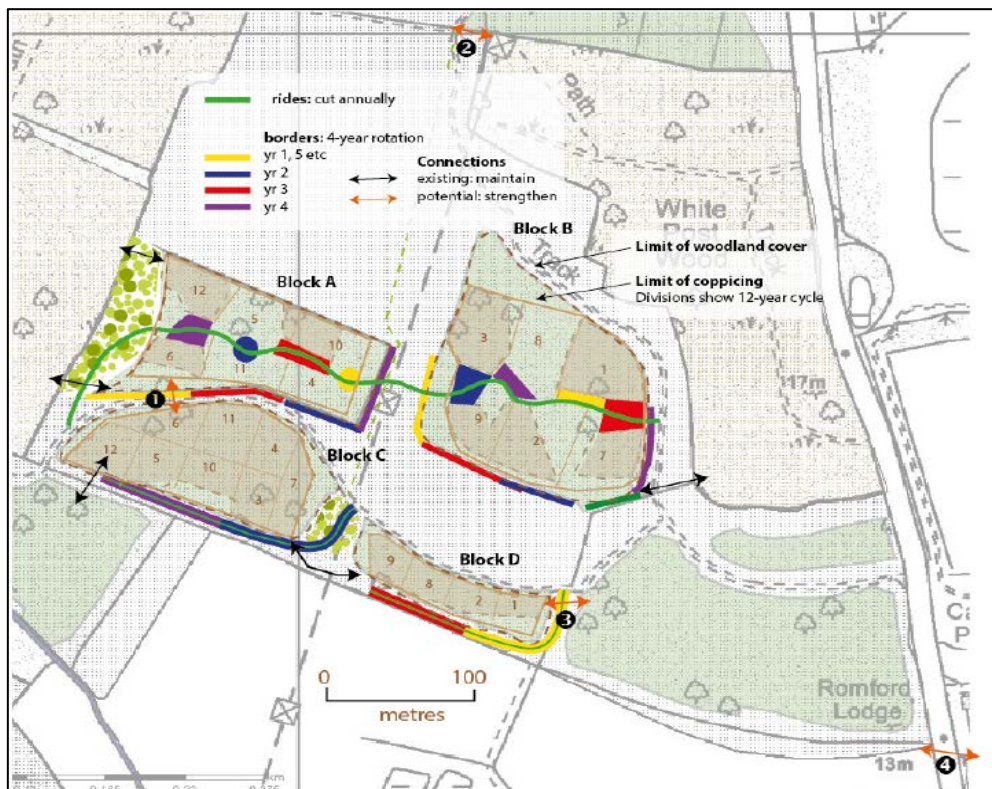
The project enabled some woodland planting at Davy Down (800 trees), Codham, Boyles and Belhus and hedgerow enhancement work at Havering Country Park. This was the result of a considerable voluntary effort coordinated by the Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers.

This sat alongside four distinct landscape interventions with different organisations leading for each. Whilst it remains unclear whether the woodland target was met, and limited hedgerow works were completed, the grassland restoration and volunteer targets were significantly exceeded. Voluntary input was a particularly significant area of success. The narrative below summarises what happened at each of the sites.

Forestry England Cely Woods

With Forestry England, the Land of the Fanns helped bring a 4.1ha area of hazel woodland at Cely Woods into a rotational coppice cycle.

This included the creation of around 750m of woodland ride, cutting around 0.5ha of open space as glades and scallops, and implementation of a coppicing cycle as summarised in the map below.



RSPB Rainham Marshes - 47Ha



Three fish-friendly water pumps, each powered by three solar panels (nine panels in total) were installed on Wennington Marsh (part of RSPB Rainham Marshes nature reserve in Essex). These installations, together with associated ground works, happened during the winter of 2017 as an early success for Land of the Fanns. The pumps have since worked very effectively and helped the breeding productivity of key waders on the site, by maintaining invertebrate-rich wet areas, particularly

the muddy fringe places, where flightless lapwing and redshank chicks find food. In 2018 Wennington Marsh supported 53 pairs of breeding waders (lapwing and redshank) compared to 35 in 2017 – so an increase of 18 pairs (94%). This is thought to be the first time that solar technology has been used to pump water on a nature reserve in the UK.

The system was developed in the Netherlands and is unique in the way it avoids damaging the important fish populations in the reserve's ditches.

EWT Langdon Ridge SSSI

Langdon Ridge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is notified, amongst other things, for the important invertebrate assemblages that it supports. These are mainly associated with open short swards, but there is a specialised assemblage at Willow Park, which is associated with damper scrubby mosaic areas. Much of the area where this specialised assemblage is found has over the past couple of decades become more covered in trees and mature scrub and this needed to be reduced and more open areas created to benefit the rare invertebrates.

The area was entered into a Countryside Stewardship agreement in January 2021, which enabled fencing and grazing of the area and managing it as a successional habitat, with areas of grass and scrub to provide optimum conditions for the invertebrate interest. Land of the Fanns contributed top-up funding to enable Essex Wildlife Trust to undertake the necessary capital works to install 600m of perimeter fencing to enable grazing. This was completed in 2021.

ECC Woodlands & Grasslands

Place Services (Essex County Council) delivered a package of conservation works in support of this project, focussing on three clusters of woodland in the project area and grasslands at Thorndon Country Park.

Land of the Fanns funding was used together with Countryside Stewardship grant support to restore traditional management to 3 woodland estates within the Land of the Fanns project area, many of which had received very little management over the previous two decades. The work as part of Land

of the Fanns focussed on Belhus Country Park woodlands, Boyles Court and Codham Hall. The latter two estates are remote from the rest of the Council's country parks and unstaffed. Therefore the funding helped make a significant contribution to re-establishing conservation management for people and wildlife. The work was undertaken by a mix of contractors and ranger staff - supported by volunteers where appropriate.

In 2018 commercial grazing was ended at Thorndon and native breed goats and cattle were introduced as part of a 'Legacy Grazing' project to provide conservation grazing to nature reserves and protected sites. Legacy Grazing works with the park ranger service to manage the livestock to restore around 45 hectares of lowland meadow and parkland priority habitat.

Land of the Fanns funding was used to trial new GPS collars on the goats to help increase botanical diversity and reduce scrub cover on areas designated as Local Wildlife Sites for their notable grassland biodiversity. The 'No-fence' technology allows 'virtual' fences to be drawn and sent to the collars meaning livestock can be excluded from specific areas to enable target plant species to flower and set seed thereby encouraging their expansion from existing species-rich patches into low-value areas targeted for restoration. It also allows grazing pressure to be focussed on areas of scrub to help reverse colonisation by woody shade-bearing species.

The technology has currently only been used in Norway and its use at Thorndon as part of the Land of the Fanns was the first within the United Kingdom (<https://nofence.no/en/>).

Funding was also used to purchase custom-made 'hurdles' to help corral and manage the flock of feral goats to improve welfare and conservation management across the site.

Finally, a new Countryside Stewardship application was developed with Natural England to start in January 2023. The application covers all of Thorndon Country Park, Warley and Weald and will not only sustain the conservation grazing into the long-term but also help deliver the wider landscape and heritage objectives of the Land of the Fanns programmes.

Reflections

The range of partners involved – RSPB, Forestry England, Essex County Council and Essex Wildlife Trust across sites in Havering, Thurrock and Brentwood is a successful reflection of how Land of the Fanns has facilitated broad partnership working at a landscape scale. The scheme has galvanised a range of public sector and voluntary sector organised in support of the landscape, bringing a range of neglected areas into regular management.

There have been examples of significant local innovation which has prompted local interest that will continue beyond the scheme. The solar pumps at Rainham Marshes were an early example of the establishment of 'virtual fences' at Thorndon coming towards the end of the scheme. Both examples were the first examples of their kind in the UK.

A2.2 Low Nutrient Habitats

| A2 Habitats and Species | | | |
|---|--------|--|--|
| A2.2 Low Nutrient Habitats | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Low nutrient habitat restored/managed (ha) | 10 | 29 | LEHART commissioned to survey and develop a plan at Tyler's Common covering 29ha which has been delivered. |
| Volunteer days | 25 | 36 | Until March 2022 |
| Management plan for Tylers Common | 1 | 1 | Management Plan produced |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| An example of a largely lost historic landscape has been restored and supported by ongoing management | | Tylers Common can be hailed as an example with additional benefits for reptiles and amphibians delivered as well | |

Summary

- A low nutrient site was identified in Tylers Common with a management plan developed and implemented at a scale exceeding the expectations when the project was conceived
- London, Essex and Hertfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust (LEHART) complementing local expertise within the Havering Wildlife Project representing a distinct example of landscape scale partnership working, with expertise shared with other sites across the landscape
- Voluntary contribution exceeded expectations

What happened?

Tylers Common in Havering was proposed as a low nutrient site that the Land of the Fanns could develop into an exemplar intervention.

The Land of the Fanns commissioned the London, Essex and Hertfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust (LEHART) to undertake work with the following objectives:



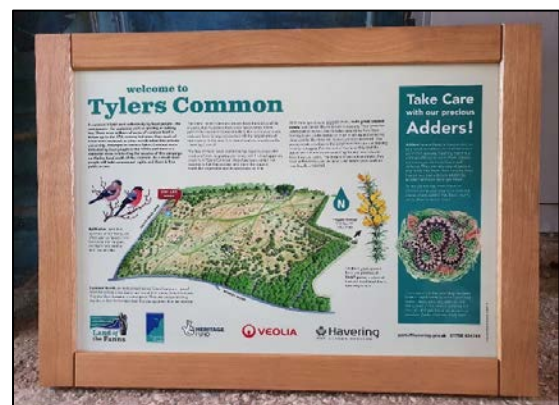
- Outline ecological assessment of Tylers Common (29.31Ha) with recommendations for work starting autumn 2018
- Detailed ecological surveys of Tylers Common including for Reptiles and Amphibians, Vegetation – including notable plants such as dwarf gorse, heather and other heathland plant communities
- Detailed management plan for the long-term management and maintenance of Tylers Common – including collaboration with Havering Council, Havering Wildlife Project and other land owners

- Reptile and Amphibian Surveys of 5 other sites within the Land of the Fanns with future management options. Potential sites include Durrants Land in Ingrebourne Valley & Little Warley Common in Brentwood

Until the project, interventions were largely composed of acid grassland with smaller areas of scrub and woodland, especially to the southern edge of the site. A lack of grazing or other management over the last few decades has led to a rapid scrubbing over of the site and the development of dense stands of blackthorn and woodland consisting of species such as oak, hawthorn and willow. The main reptile populations are to be found away from these areas, especially in the central and northern parts of the Common.

The aim of the terrestrial management was to open up the more recently scrubbed areas, commencing with those parts that are most recently scrubbed, working southwards and eastwards from a central point to just south of the long pond. This avoided the most sensitive key areas for reptiles whilst allowing rapid re-colonisation from these key areas as soon as the scrub and trees were cleared. Clearance will be continued as far south and east as time and resources permit. The significance of the habitat has been communicated through signage.

Havering Council commissioned contractors to undertake initial scrub clearance and pond management at Tylers Common, which has since been taken forward through voluntary effort. Looking ahead, a potential grazing project is being explored to ensure long-term sustainable management.



Reflections

The project has successfully realised the desired outcome by identifying, developing and implementing a new management regime for a low nutrient habitat, with considerable benefits for amphibians and reptiles, including Adders as an additional beneficial outcome. The scale of the endeavour exceeded expectations (29ha compared to 10ha target).

The involvement of LEHART brought in a unique, specialist partner contribution, complementing local expertise held by the Havering Wildlife Project to ensure a well-considered management plan. This expertise has proven beneficial for other sites across the Land of the Fanns, helping to build awareness of this expertise.

A2.3 Rediscovering the Lost Fens

| A2 Habitats and Species | | | |
|---|--------|------------------------------|---|
| A2.3 Rediscovering the Lost Fens | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Connections between hubs and Fanns identified and made accessible | 1 | 1 | Mardyke Way interpretation board with Community Action Fund project installed Sept 2019. Also planning with Ingrebourne |
| Fen feature restored | 1 | 2 | Ingrebourne and Rainham Marshes |
| Volunteer days | 20 | 0 | No data |
| Countryside Stewardship agreement | 1 | 0 | LBH is pursuing renewal of the Stewardship agreement, but this will be beyond the completion of the Land of the Fanns |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| An example of a largely lost historic landscape has been restored and supported by ongoing management | | Two examples were delivered. | |

Summary

- Two fen features were delivered, though not in the location originally expected
- Whilst no recorded voluntary activity, the community came forward with proposals to interpret the historic fens around Bulphan which were funded separately.

What happened?

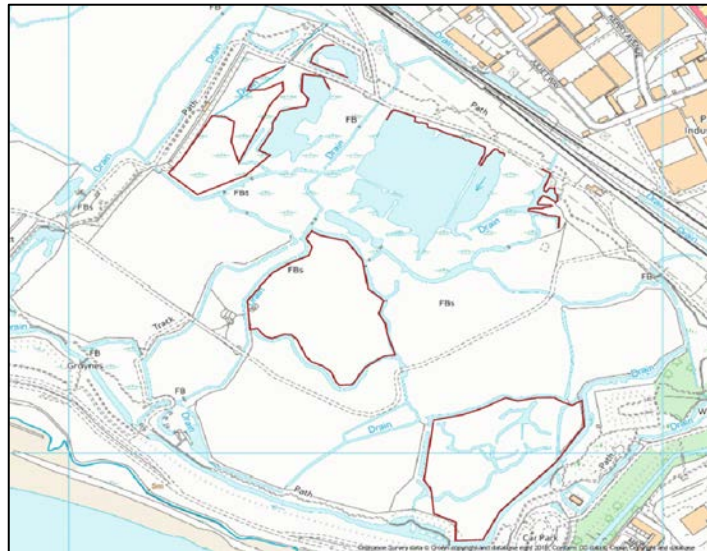
When the project was conceived, it was hoped to deliver a fen restoration scheme in the heart of the historic fens along the Mardyke River. The challenges of farmer engagement (A1.1) prevented any opportunity to realise the project in that location, however, interpretation was installed with the Bulphan community as part of the Community Action Fund (C2.3) project.



The delivery of fen restoration was subsequently picked up in two locations – Rainham Marshes by the RSPB and Ingrebourne Marshes by LB of Havering. Whilst different to initial expectations, the result was two examples of a lost historic landscape being restored and maintained with an unprompted example of a community application to tell the story of the fens around Bulphan complementing the work and wider interpretation activities (B4.1). The nature of these works did not easily lend themselves to voluntary activities – no data relating to this was provided.

RSPB Rainham Marshes

Each year RSPB undertake a rotational programme of scrape and ditch de-silting on Aveley Marsh. This vital work helps keep wet features on the marsh open and free of silt and vegetation. This helps ensure grassland and fen habitats on the SSSI are kept in favourable condition, to benefit breeding and wintering birds, and scarce flora and invertebrates. Contractors familiar with this work are employed, and approximately 10 days of excavator work is undertaken, desilting and reprofiling these features, and managing areas of flowering rush, helping to prevent this particular species from becoming too dominant.



In 2019 RSPB achieved a full programme of annual scrape and ditch de-silting and re-profiling undertaken on Aveley Marsh, including the Purfleet scrape, Ken Barrett scrape and Butts Hide scrape. Additionally, areas in AG4 and pipe valves for water management were cleaned. This was supported by funding from Land of the Fanns and enabled funds from RSPB to be re-allocated to wetland habitat creation work on Rainham West. This 31ha area of marsh has since benefitted from the creation of new scrapes and ditches.

The map highlights areas where work was undertaken in 2019. Areas that were included in the maintenance were: Purfleet scrape – 0.6ha de-silted. AG4 – 0.38ha desilted. Aveley Flash (AF5) 0.2ha de-silted. Ken Barrett scrape – 0.12ha de-silted. Aveley Flash – 360m edge re-profiled. Butts scrape – 725m edge re-profiled.

London Borough of Havering Ingrebourne Marshes

In 2021 work was commissioned by the London Borough of Havering supported by Thames21 to undertake reed cutting on an area of Ingrebourne Marshes SSSI. The project was supported by other key stakeholders including Natural England and the Environment Agency. The work aimed to reduce the amount of thatch building up over the marshes from dead reeds. Although the marshes were too wet during 2021, the aim was to allow cattle to continue grazing at the site between June and October to reduce the need for mechanical cutting.



Works at Ingrebourne Marshes involved the cutting and removal of reeds within marsh 3, measuring approximately 2.85 hectares, using a truxor, see map above. Permission was granted from Natural England to leave the cut reeds on the SSSI site.

Reflections

With the original expectations of working with private landowners around Bulphan not possible during the project, two key partners were able to realise other examples of fen restoration instead.

The interest in the fens and the rationale for the project was vindicated with an interpretation project proposed by the Bulphan Community Forum which complemented this project.

A2.4 Micro Landscapes

| A2 | | Habitats and Species | | |
|--|--------|---|---|--|
| A2.4 | | Micro Landscapes | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary | |
| Brownfield sites restored/managed (ha) | 5 | 40 | Buglife, Land Trust and EWT at Oliver Road Lagoons with a new management regime in place | |
| Volunteer days | 12.5 | 132 | Bioblitz at Thames Chase 2018, 2019 and 2021, plus Oliver road work party (103 days) | |
| Participants | 100 | 566 | Bioblitz activities at Thames Chase Forest Centre 2018, 2019, 2019 and 2021, 2022 (Oliver Road) | |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | | |
| An example of invertebrate-rich brownfield habitat is understood and appreciated by local people | | A nationally significant example was opened to the public via interpretation, walks and volunteering. | | |

Summary

- The scale of delivery is far greater than anticipated with 40ha at Oliver Road Lagoons SSSI under a new management regime for the next 10 years
- Strong volunteer and public participation elements beyond expectations, bringing the varied expertise and involvement of Essex Wildlife Trust, Buglife and the Land Trust to wider attention
- Interpretation, volunteering opportunities and guided walks are available as part of the ongoing management of the site

What happened?

The 'Micro landscapes' project sought to raise the profile of an often misunderstood and underappreciated habitat by bringing a brownfield site into management and using this site as a focal point for interpretation and community activity around invertebrates.

The project saw a combination of Bioblitz activities at Broadfields Farm (involving the public in finding and identifying as many invertebrate species in a given area over a specific period of time) and a focus on developing management regimes at Oliver Road Lagoons, adjacent to the nationally significant West Thurrock Lagoon and Marshes SSSI, encompassing 40ha with interpretation, volunteer opportunities and guided walks with a Bioblitz in 2022.

Oliver Road Lagoons, formerly home to West Thurrock Power Station, contains Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA) which provides a unique habitat which is extremely beneficial for wildlife. The site contains a mosaic of wildflower-rich habitats, providing a vital refuge for 1,300 species of invertebrates, birds and reptiles, of which around 50 are classified as endangered. To enable the project, in October 2018 the Land Trust signed a management agreement between Essex Wildlife Trust and Buglife to manage the site for its key habitats, invertebrates and wading birds. This agreement is for 10 years.

Through this project (Phase 1: Assessment of Site Suitability and Phase 2: Habitat Creation) the Land Trust created an up-to-date profile of species found on site, through surveying and monitoring. They worked with a local ecologist, Peter Harvey, to complete a full site survey and analysis of all invertebrate species. These surveys then guided the prioritisation of habitat creation, restoration, and maintenance plans.

The previous expired management plan drawn up (2012) had focused on the establishment works for the newly levelled and 'landscaped' PFA fields. A new management plan was written to focus on the management of these sensitive habitats to support the range of species on site. This in turn guided the 'Habitat Creation', 'Interpretation' and 'Activities' elements of the wider project. The new Management Plan will guide the work on site for the next 10 years.

In terms of community engagement, the Land Trust, Essex Wildlife Trust and Buglife discussed the best ways to provide access to the site while still protecting and limiting disturbance to, the habitats and wildlife, including the SSSI. The river Thames runs to the south of the site, along with the well-used Thames Estuary Path. Installing specific interpretation along the sea wall has helped highlight the site and its importance to passers-by and includes details to contact Essex Wildlife Trust and Buglife to access volunteer opportunities and guided walks on site throughout the year. Essex Wildlife Trust hosted the equivalent of 103 volunteer days on site in support of the management plan.

Reflections

The project sought to do three things – bring a brownfield site into management for the benefit of invertebrates, involve volunteers and engage the public. On all three counts, the project was a success with perhaps the best-known brownfield SSSI site in the UK seeing further enhancement as a result of Land of the Fanns and a new plan to steer management for the next decade. This work brought together three distinct partners – the Land Trust, Buglife and Essex Wildlife Trust – offering another unique combination made possible by Land of the Fanns.

The level of voluntary participation and community engagement vastly exceeded the targets set, with these aspirational targets being met at Oliver Road and additional engagement beyond this taking place at Thames Chase Forest Centre and Pages Wood.

A3.1 River Catchments

| A3 Connections and Links | | | |
|--|--------|--|---|
| A3.1 River Catchments | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Strategic interventions per river | 3 | 3 | River Rom (2019-2021) River Ingrebourne (2019-20) River Mardyke (2020-2021) |
| River restoration work delivered (km) | 6 | ? | 1.5km known at River Rom |
| Volunteer days | 30 | 135 | By March 2022 |
| Future management secured through an agreement | 3 | 3 | All 3 river projects have a management and maintenance plan which covers actions and responsibilities over the next 10 years. |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| The riparian environment has been enhanced and supported by ongoing management | | Future management will remain the responsibility of the landowners (Rom - London Borough of Havering; Ingrebourne - Forestry England; Mardyke - Thurrock Council/Land Trust) supported through informal partnerships with T21, EA, Havering Wildlife Project and through the RBI and SE catchment partnership. | |

Summary

- Major river restoration initiatives were delivered on all three rivers within the Land of the Fanns
- A broad range of partners, stakeholders and funders involved in support of this work, brought together through existing Catchment Partnerships
- Significant fundraising success with match funding target exceeded by £214,232, enabling Rom/Beam project of greater scale than originally envisaged
- Rom/Beam project in particular highly complex, requiring multiple consents involving two local authorities as well as Environment Agency that were delayed due to pandemic impact
- Volunteer days far in excess of expectations

What happened?

Three flagship river restoration projects were delivered between 2017 and 2021 along the Rivers Rom/Beam, Ingrebourne & Mardyke. Building on the work of the RBI and South Essex Catchment Partnerships, these projects facilitated river restoration and catchment improvement work with community engagement and involvement in areas where these rivers have suffered due to pollution, urban expansion, neglect and inappropriate river management (dredging and straightening). The Rom/Beam project in particular saw considerable additional match funding from major contributor funders including Veolia Maintenance Trust and Thames Water of over £400,000 to achieve far more than expected with the Heritage Lottery funding allocated.

These projects aimed to tackle these issues and achieve more naturally functioning rivers and floodplains that would help achieve good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive,

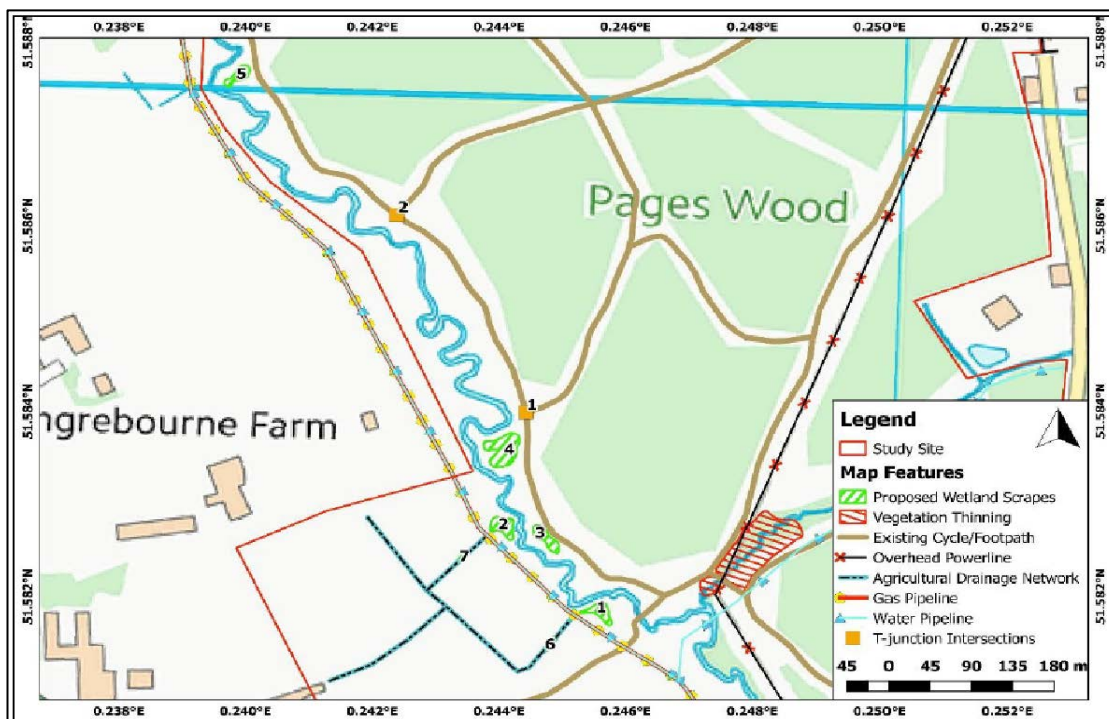
linked to the community volunteering, training, education and marketing opportunities offered by the wider Land of the Fanns scheme.

The experience for the three river projects is summarised below.

Ingrebourne

The focus of the restoration project at Pages Wood involved incorporating more ecologically enhancing features within the floodplain and surface water management of the cycle/footpath network in close proximity to the floodplain, public amenity and selective vegetation clearance in the tributary feeding into the River Ingrebourne. Stakeholders included Forestry England, Thames21 and the Environment Agency.

Pages Wood was old farmland that was planted by Forestry England in 2002 to create a mosaic of grassland and woodland habitats with a mixture of broadleaf and conifer forests. The river Ingrebourne runs through the west side of the site as well as a small tributary running through the middle of the site. The project sought to enhance the river running through the site to improve wetland habitat and alleviate flooding. This involved creating five wetland scrapes excavated into the floodplain and two into the hillside to the west of the floodplain. Wetland Scrapes 1 and 2 are located directly below the discharge points of two surface drains. Wetland scrape 4 predominantly receives surface inputs from T-junction 1. An approximately 2m wide channel was excavated from the culvert outlets to divert flows to the Scrape 4. Wetland Scrapes 3 and 5 are ephemeral ponds that are only inundated when the river overtops its banks. When the Ingrebourne River does overtop its banks these flows will inundate Wetland scrapes 1 to 5. The work was completed in March 2020.



In terms of future maintenance, there will be ongoing opportunities for volunteers to be involved in stream clearance and planting out pond plants when this is done to help improve wetland habitats. Ponds and scrapes will require future maintenance and the mown pathways will require regular reinstatement.

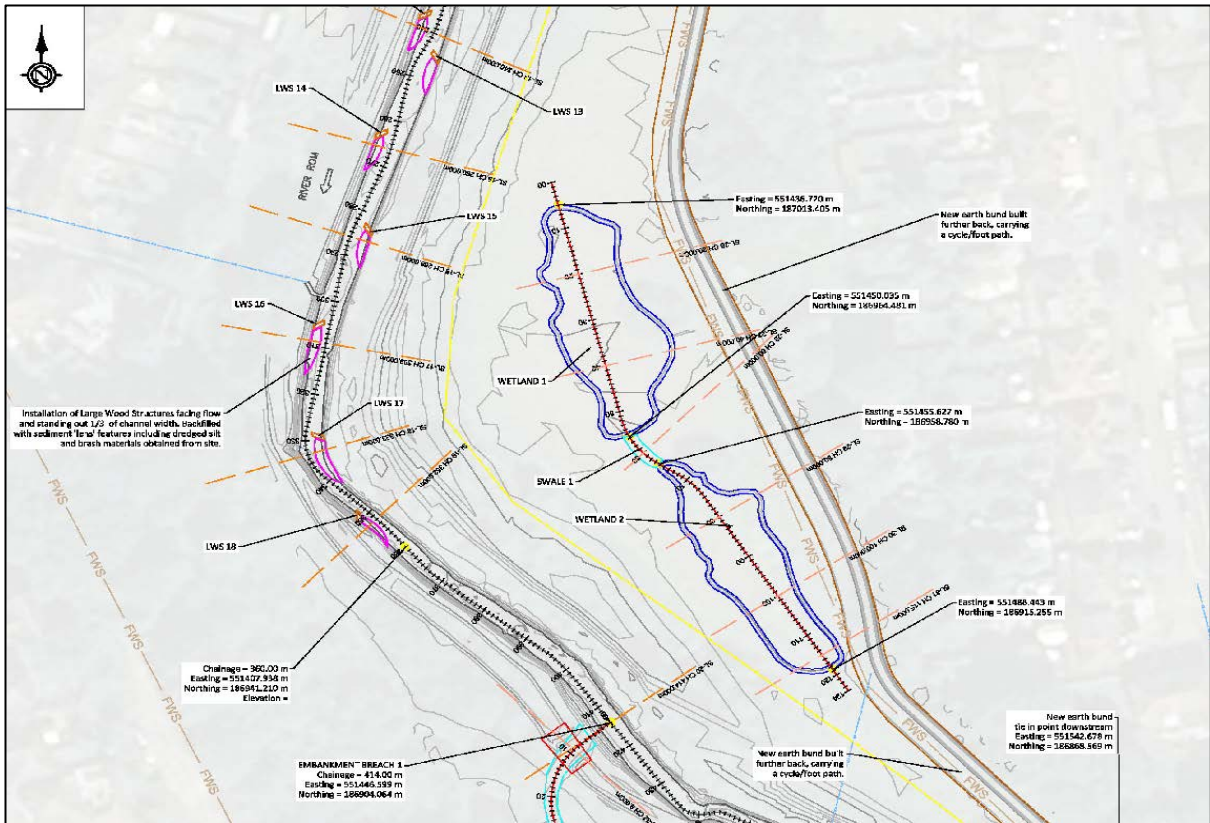
Rom/Beam

The project area, known as Reach 1, covers an area of approximately 6.3ha in Grenfell Park, South of Roneo Corner in Romford. The river channel has been deepened, widened, straightened and re-routed leading to its inability to overtop the channel banks.

The project – the largest supported by Land of the Fanns - involved the creation of wetland scrapes within the floodplain on the left bank and the installation of flow deflectors in the channel to help create a more meandering water course. The project was led by Thames21 with other stakeholders including Havering Council, Barking & Dagenham Council, Environment Agency and Havering Wildlife Project. Much of the works were completed in 2021 after extensive delays caused by the need for contaminated land surveys, pipe investigations, design changes and Covid-related delays in securing planning permission. Its location on the border between LB of Havering and LB of Barking and Dagenham added further delay regarding the appropriate consenting authority.

As a result of delays the project was split into 2 phases. Phase 1 on the east side in Havering has been completed. Phase 2 will see the flood bund breached on the west side to allow river water to be managed across the floodplain and creation of new wetland habitats. This will now be completed by T21/LBBD using additional funds from the London Mayors Rewild London Fund.

Dense stands of Japanese knotweed were also successfully treated using a combination of stem injection and foliar spray. This has been predominantly at a location along the right bank TQ 515 868. This element of the project involved commissioning contractors to do this and also training local volunteers and site-based staff to apply herbicides and purchase equipment which is kept at Eastbrookend Country Park. Work has also been undertaken over several years to hand pull Himalayan Balsam.



Mardyke

The River Mardyke is a tributary of the River Thames and runs for 18km from its source near Great Warley, Essex to meet the Thames at Purfleet. In its lower course, the river flows through the project site which partly encompasses Davy Down, a 6Ha riverside park which is owned by Thurrock Council and Essex and Suffolk Water and managed by the Land Trust.

Thames21 led a project to create a complex of wetland habitats to benefit freshwater and other wildlife in the area and contribute to ecosystem services e.g. flood prevention and nutrient cycling and ecosystem resilience. The project involved the creation of a series of ponds and scrapes on both sides of the river around the grid reference TQ 5924 8035. The work was completed in Spring 2021. Other stakeholders involved in the project included Essex & Suffolk Water, Thurrock Council, Environment Agency and the Land Trust.

Mardyke Pond, located near Ship Lane, Aveley, has been known to have Floating Pennywort growing in it since at least 2013. After a survey commissioned by Essex Wildlife Trust in 2016, it became clear that the Pennywort had spread to the river. As part of this project, the Floating Pennywort in the pond and nearby river channel downstream of the pond has been successfully managed through a combination of mechanical removal and treatment with herbicide. Treatment of the pennywort continues using funding from a grant from Anglian Water Flourishing Environment Fund which will run out in 2022.



Reflections

The intended outputs and outcomes were delivered with higher-than-expected voluntary participation levels across the projects. The scale of delivery far exceeded that originally envisaged when compared to other projects in the portfolio. From an original project value of £279,285, the final value came to £493,490 – exceeding match funding expectations by £214,232.

The range of partners involved across all three was considerable, drawing on the momentum and connections afforded by the South Essex and RBI Catchment Partnerships. The work of these networks is continuing beyond the Land of the Fanns, which will see future riparian projects developed.

A3.2 Connecting Historic Landscapes

| A3 Connections and Links | | | |
|--|--------|--|---|
| A3.2 Connecting Historic Landscapes | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Historic Landscape plans | 2 | 3 | Essex Wildlife Trust at Warley and Essex County Council (Explore Essex) at Thorndon & Weald |
| New/upgraded trails and access (km) | 3 | 3 | 3km of new pathways surfaced at Weald |
| Volunteer days | 70 | 411 | Until March 2022 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| The landscape is better recorded and understood by our audiences | | Three heritage landscapes were recorded with access and interpretation improvements supporting understanding with extensive volunteer involvement. | |

Summary

- Parkland management plans developed for three historic parks and gardens – Weald, Thorndon and Warley
- Interpretation, leaflets and notice boards with targeted path and bridge improvement work
- Part funding from Natural England led to two successful applications for Countryside Stewardship
- Volunteer involvement across a range of small-scale nature conservation projects
- Two follow on Community Action Fund projects led by the Friends to restore Childerditch pond at Thorndon and improved management of the lake edges at Weald

What happened?

The project originally was conceived for Belhus Park and Thorndon Park, though Belhus Park was changed to Warley Country Park (another Grade II Registered Park and Garden in the landscape), bringing in the Essex Wildlife Trust and Essex County Council (Explore Essex) as partners with Friends of Thorndon Park.

This project did stimulate considerable interest in the site at Belhus, (taken forward with B2.1 Designed Landscapes). Through the initial and subsequent meetings it successfully brought partners including the golf course owners, Historic England, local residents, Woodland Trust, Rural Arisings, ECC, Thurrock Council round the table to discuss opportunities together. As a result of this Historic England have worked with Thurrock Council to secure funds from National Highways to support the development of a conservation management plan for the site and surrounding area.

The following summarises the project experience.

Warley Place – Essex Wildlife Trust

Through the support of Land of the Fanns, Essex Wildlife Trust commissioned work to develop a landscape management plan for Warley Place grade II registered Park and Garden. This focussed on assessing current knowledge and understanding the condition of historic features on the site, as well as identifying and prioritising works to protect and enhance these features. From this plan, further work was commissioned to write up specifications for the restoration of several historic features identified in the plan. The plan, which was also supported by funding from Natural England, was an essential requirement for a further successful application for Countryside Stewardship. Since the plan has been completed Warley Place has been placed on the Heritage at Risk register by Historic England.

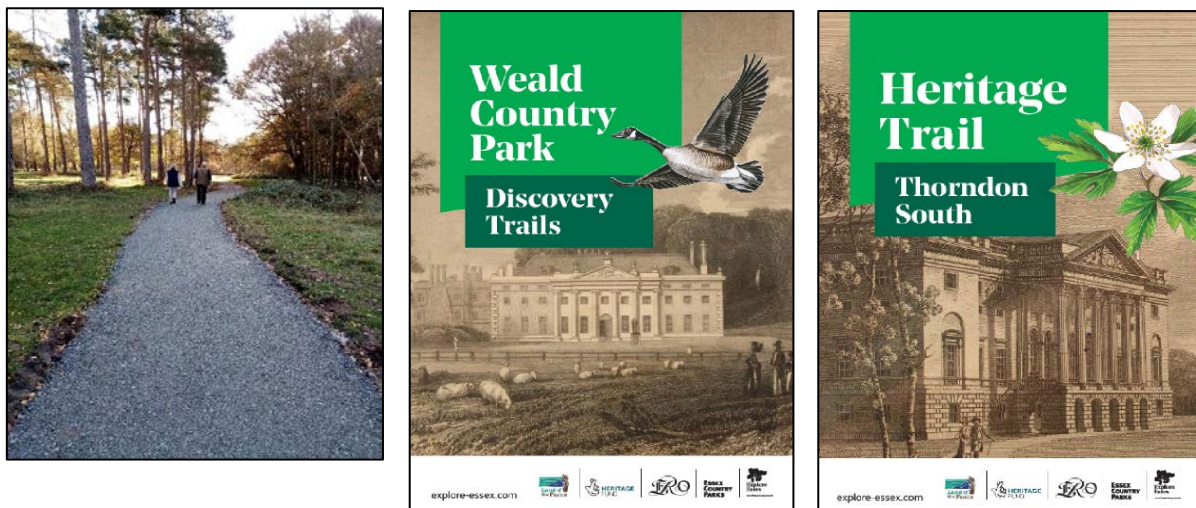
In addition to the planning work, Land of the Fanns also supported a replacement access bridge over the Alpine gorge and the purchase of a hut for the volunteers to use to store equipment and take shelter in. This work was completed in 2021.

Weald & Thorndon – Essex County Council

The Land of the Fanns enabled funding for Essex County Council (Explore Essex) to deliver a project aimed at improving access and understanding at two historic landscapes at Weald Country Park (Grade

II Registered Park & Garden) and Thorndon Park (Grade II* Registered Park & Garden), both in Brentwood.

Parkland Management Plans were commissioned for each of these historic landscapes. The plans were partly funded by Natural England as a necessary prerequisite for making an application for Countryside Stewardship. Countryside Stewardship Higher-Tier application was completed in 2022, with the new 5-year agreement now expected to go live from January 2023.



In parallel to the development of the Parkland Management Plans, the project also focussed on the delivery of 2km of new and upgraded paths and other infrastructure including a historic bridge at Weald, signage, six interpretation boards, six notice boards and leaflets promoting the historic and ecological interest of both sites. Volunteers were also involved throughout in the delivery of small-scale practical nature conservation projects such as gapping up old hedgerows along historic routes at Weald and planting a variety of native trees across the landscape, removal of Rhododendron from Chestnut walk, pathway clearance to Belvedere mound and maintenance of the 18th Century haha. At Thorndon, volunteers were involved in clearing vegetation from historic features including the Octagon and the site of St Nicolas' Church and the removal of invasive laurel and clearance of vegetation from bridleways on site.



The friends of groups at both sites also received funding to deliver two of their own projects through the Land of the Fanns Community Action Fund. These were the restoration of the Childerditch pond at Thorndon and management of the lake edges at Weald to improve habitats for wildlife and improve views across the landscape.

The project began in 2020 and was completed by 2022.

Reflections

The development of the two landscape management plans was instrumental in ensuring access to longer-term Countryside Stewardship funding with Natural England support. Warley Place was placed on the Historic England Heritage at Risk register as a result of this work, opening the way for future interventions at the site. The two landscapes have been better recorded and understood by key stakeholders.

There was also considerable evidence of volunteer involvement and advocacy reflected in the volunteering target being vastly exceeded. This translated into two applications to the Community Action Fund in Years 4 and 5, indicating that there was genuine community interest in the project. Feedback from Essex County Council indicates that the access improvement works have been well received by the public.

There was also considerable other nature conservation work, bridge improvements as well as interpretation developed in response to an identified need.

A3.3 Natural Flood Management

| A3 Connections and Links | | | |
|--|---------------|---|--|
| A3.3 (ADDITIONAL PROJECT) Natural Flood Management | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Installation of 10 leaky dams | 10 | 15 | Additional EA-funded project with Thames21 at Rise Park Stream to create leaky dams to hold water within Rise Park and Bedfords Park to improve ecological value whilst reducing the risk of flooding to nearby properties |
| Training volunteers in principles of Natural Flood Management and to monitor the performance of structures | N/A | N/A | Friends of Rise Park and Friends of Bedford Park engaged and supporting a citizen science approach |
| 20 days volunteer time | 20 | 37 | Until March 2022 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| None provided | | Additional project not included in the original suite of projects | |

Summary

- An additional project developed in response to need and demand, illustrating pragmatism inherent in the scheme
- 32 properties at reduced risk of flooding as a result of the works
- Whilst PhD student were not recruited as hoped, there was considerable Citizen Science input from local volunteers, creating future advocates for Natural Flood Management
- A new urban example of leaky dams as a Natural Flood Management solution

What happened?

This project was an additional one that emerged as a spin-off from the river catchments project (A3.1), involving Thames21 as a key partner.

A range of properties along the Rise Park Stream were identified as at risk of flooding in a range of possible flood events. In total, 32 properties were identified at risk of flooding at the southern end of Rise Park at a 1 in 30 surface water flood risk. To alleviate this risk, Natural Flood Management Measures were proposed to hold water within Rise Park itself and Bedfords Park.

Rise Park Stream corridor and Bedfords Park are designated wildlife sites and as such, any works needed to be carefully monitored and understood. However, there were opportunities through the installation of several natural flood management features including woody debris habitats to improve the ecological value of the area. These and other wetland features have the potential to slow the flow by taking flood waters out of the ditch and then storing this water within the woodland. This would restore/create enhanced wetland features and improve the ecological value of the woodlands.

The original aim of the project was also to contribute to the national debate on flood risk by part funding a PhD (Along with the Salmons Brook Natural Flood Management (NFM), River Pinn Park Wood and Woodland and River Management in two headwater streams also awarded funding). This PhD was to model and monitor the NFM projects to guide and assess the interventions. This was to be hosted by Brunel University, with HR Wallingford also providing supervision and guidance. This aspect of the project was unsuccessful due to problems recruiting a suitable PhD candidate. The project was re-scoped to include more leaky dams and the modelling work was commissioned to external consultants.

Awareness of flooding within this area was relatively limited, however, there were several people and groups in the area that are extremely passionate about the ecological and amenity value of these sites that advocated for the project, including Friends of Rise Park and Friends of Bedford Park.

Their detailed local knowledge of the area has helped to guide the works to enable it to achieve the maximum results, as well as helping to monitor the works helping to gain data from a citizen science approach

The result was 15 leaky dams installed - 4 large dams, using traditional methods using horses and 11 smaller leaky dams.

Reflections

As an additional project not outlined in the LCAP with associated targets and desired outcomes, it evidences the pragmatism evident within the scheme as a whole and its responsiveness to need and opportunity.

The project emerged from the close working relationship with Thames21, which has been a significant development for the riparian partners working in the area. It has also been prompted by the action

of two Friends of groups as well, demonstrating local desire to explore natural solutions to urban problems. Whilst it was not possible to secure a PhD candidate to guide the final Natural Flood Management solution to deliver additional educational outcomes, the work was commissioned to deliver the desired result helping to protect 32 homes.

The delivery of leaky dams offers an intriguing example for other urban rivers in the area to explore and implement, with local people actively involved through Citizen Science becoming advocates.

A4.1 Environment Skills and Training

| A4 | | Environment Training | | |
|--|--------|--|---|--|
| A4.1 | | Environment Skills and Training | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary | |
| Introduction to landscape courses | 20 | 624/450 trainees 50/70 courses | 352 participants in activities explicitly or implicitly including training. | |
| Introduction to landscape trainees | 200 | | | |
| Understanding/recording Natural Heritage courses | 20 | | | |
| Understanding/recording Natural Heritage trainees | 100 | | | |
| Management of Natural Heritage courses | 10 | | | |
| Management of Natural Heritage trainees | 50 | | | |
| Natural Heritage Skills courses | 10 | | | |
| Natural Heritage Skills trainees | 50 | | | |
| Creative skills courses | 10 | | | |
| Creative skills trainees | 50 | | | |
| Volunteer days | 7 | 0 | | |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | | |
| Local capacity to manage and appreciate the natural elements of the landscape has been increased | | Indications that the training has contributed towards improving local capacity – see Outcomes section. | | |

Summary

- Over a year was lost due to the impact of the pandemic which hindered the ability to deliver practical skills-based training virtually
- Viewed holistically alongside other training projects and initiatives, training exceeded scheme level targets considerably.

What happened?

As outlined in the scheme level training section of the report, this project formed one part of a range of training projects. It must be noted that the project was affected by the pandemic preventing any in-person training for around a year, yet virtual delivery still enabled the targets to be exceeded. Whilst virtual delivery was possible in some cases, many of the environmental skills within this project were practical and not deliverable virtually which will likely have affected the nature of the delivery.



Reflections

Significant time for environment training delivery was lost as a result of the pandemic during 2020 and 2021 with virtual delivery not possible in all cases. When looking at the full picture of training – factoring in all formal training projects and informal training delivered through other projects, the numbers involved exceeded total targets by over a factor of three. In terms of the application of learned skills, voluntary input into most projects vastly exceeded expectations suggesting effective pathways from training to application within the Land of the Fanns.



3.2. Delivery Programme B: Understanding

B1.1 Land of the Fanns book

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| B1 | Land of the Fanns Narrative |
| B1.1 | Land of the Fanns book |

| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
|---|--------|---|-----------------------|
| Synopsis document in year 1 | 1 | 1 | Complete |
| Land of the Fanns book | 1 | 1 | Complete |
| Volunteer days (heritage advisor) | 100 | 402 | Sue Smith and support |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| An authoritative narrative on the Land of the Fanns is available to inform and guide peers and other projects | | An authoritative account was delivered to a professional standard and offers a springboard for future work. | |

Summary

- The book represents the considerable achievement of Sue Smith, providing an authoritative narrative that would have been impossible to achieve with the inadequate resources and without Sue's commitment
- The project exposed the tension between voluntary goodwill and funding mechanisms around ownership, which were only resolved after considerable time and effort was expended
- The book represents a considerable legacy for the Land of the Fanns, which will help students navigate the landscape's heritage whilst also providing a starting point for a wide range of future heritage projects

What happened?

The book was published by local historian Sue Smith in March 2022, without whom the project would not have been possible. The need for the project was prompted by her frustrations that the landscape had been split into two by administrative boundaries, making it hard to access local history records coherently. Sue has brought the information together so that schools and communities can access it.

However, the project experienced difficulties around ownership rights and the requirement of LB of Havering as the accountable body to hold the funding and income from sales. An arrangement was ultimately found whereby the Thames Chase Trust provided copies of the book for free and online versions on the website with any surplus from donations (via Just Giving) held by them as the legacy body, with Sue Smith holding the copyright. Navigating intellectual property rights within lottery funded book projects is not an easy process

The costs also came out higher than envisaged, requiring extra voluntary time from Sue. Other issues included printing costs doubling because paper cost increased which wiped out the design budget, again requiring more voluntary time in lieu.

However, Sue's passion for the project was unrivalled and her commitment despite all the issues was commendable. She explained that she was thrilled to have written the book and that Land of the Fanns gave her the opportunity to write the book, which was a good thing. Sue noted the invaluable contribution of the Heritage Working Group volunteers – the book could not be done without them. Some local authority people were also marvellous (e.g., Lisa Rigg).

Now that the book has been published, it needs to be introduced properly to schools and the community so that it lands well, and people appreciate it. It includes a range of projects for further

investigation. Further versions of the book could be done e.g., a coffee table book, a children's book etc. The current landscape vision does not take built heritage into account at all, so the Thames Chase Trust needs to take this forward or no one else will. Someone needs to speak up for built heritage as Councils cannot do this anymore, as well as natural heritage as a legacy item. Sue feels that someone needs to bring the same care to the built heritage as is being shown for the natural heritage as all these things are part of the identity of the Land of the Fanns area.

Reflections

This project exemplifies the considerable passion held for the landscape by committed volunteers. Quite frankly this project simply would not have been possible without Sue Smith – her tenacity and commitment, combined with unrivalled professional expertise in built heritage in this area has ensured an exceptionally rich account of this history of the landscape that did not exist before.

The book provides a thoughtful entry point to so many aspects of the landscape, from prehistory to today that students can access as a stopping point for further enquiry, complementing the educational resources (C2.1). It also represents a manifesto for built heritage in the landscape, complementing authoritative equivalents for natural heritage such as the Thames Chase Plan. Within it is the evidence and starting point for many future heritage projects within the landscape.

B2.1 Designed Landscapes

| B2 Recording Landscapes | | | |
|--|---------------|--|--|
| B2.1 Designed Landscapes | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Recorded features per LCA | 5 | 50 | 50 fabulous features report completed and available online as a resource with an interactive map |
| Surveyed feature improved | 1 | 3 | Bedfords Park, Dagnam Park and Belhus Jacobean Gardens Project |
| Volunteer days | 25 | 84 | Until March 2022 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| The landscape is better recorded and understood by our audiences | | The scale of involvement and involvement of Garden Trust ensured a scale of outcome delivery broader than intended including new partnerships. | |

Summary

- Development of a high-quality record of 50 fabulous features, containing statements of significance that help articulate heritage value in planning terms
- The research and writing process was strengthened by the pandemic lockdowns
- New partnership with the Gardens Trust, leading to a follow on legacy projects in Thurrock
- Reenergised the Gardens Trust volunteer network in the area
- Volunteer discovery of a Jacobean Garden at Belhus pre-dating the designed landscape, which brought national press coverage

What happened?

The project saw the Gardens Trust join the Land of the Fanns scheme as a partner, working with local volunteers and a professional consultant Twigs Way to identify and record 50 features to standards required within the planning system. A range of surveyed features was also improved in Bedfords Park, Dagnam Park and Belhus.

50 fabulous features book

The 50 fabulous features report is available to download from the Land of the Fanns website at:

<https://www.landofthefanns.org/our-partnership/partner-resources/>

An interactive map which shows all the recorded features is also available via the Land of the Fanns website at: <https://www.landofthefanns.org/fifty-fabulous-features/>

The Gardens Trust facilitated 6 training sessions at Stubbers Adventure Centre, Essex Record Office, Dagnam Park and Thorndon CP to read and record landscapes with 22 people attending.

Twigs Way was commissioned to provide 20 days of support to volunteers who were on the designed landscapes course. This led to volunteers surveying 50 features across the 11 Land of the Fanns landscape character areas over 1 year to maintain group interest. Either alone, in pairs or in groups, they choose a particular item to survey, in a site chosen by them and undertook the survey to include historic value, photographs, significance and value to the community. The results were then collated into the 50 fabulous features report/publication.

In terms of improved features, work took place at Bedfords Park, Dagnam Park and Belhus.

Bedfords Park

The Bedfords Park project focussed on the interpretation and development of the walled kitchen garden, which has become established as a successful community garden led by the Friends of Bedfords Park. Two characters were developed to help articulate the stories of people and wildlife at Bedfords Park. These were Charles Ellis Heaton, Grandson of John Heaton, a past owner of the Mansion and the wife of the Head Gardener and part-time cook, called in to help on special dinners and events in the Mansion. This connected the work to the interpretation project (B4.1).

Key outputs from the project, which was completed in 2021 included 2 x A-frame chalk boards, 3 x gazebos, 6 x metal interpretation panels, raised beds, Ali-tags and an interpretation booklet. New loose surface pathways were also established within the garden and a new set of main gates. Two costumes were created that were used for two events during the project at the character performances in August 2021 as part of the Community Mapping finale event (B2.2). These costumes will be kept for use by the Friends group.

Dagnam Park

The friends of Dagnam Park worked in partnership with the London Borough of Havering Council. They developed and delivered a vitreous enamel information board which detailed the history of the site and was installed at the site of the old manor house. The group also relocated and secured the two house pillar bases to their original site. The work was completed in 2020.



Belhus Jacobean Gardens Project

Prompted by the discovery by Phil Loble, a volunteer who took part in the 50 fabulous features research of a Jacobean Garden that pre-dated the designed landscape at Belhus. This garnered national press attention: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-57808629>

The project started at the end of 2020 with initial research and a meeting between Historic England, local councils, Gardens Trust and Belhus Golf Course Managers to discuss further research by using drones and geophysics on the golf course. Detailed research was undertaken and a report was produced as a result outlining the finds: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/30-2021>

Further research using archive aerial photography also revealed the previous land uses at the site including as a military training camp: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/19-2022>

As a legacy Historic England will continue to develop a Historic Management Plan in collaboration with stakeholders.

Reflections

The quality of the 50 fabulous features report is high. The document brings together a significant breadth and depth of knowledge which includes archaeology, supported by researched text, photos and maps.

Feedback regarding Twigs Way was highly positive amongst participants, with her being described as professional, inspiring and a good teacher. This charismatic, well-informed leadership was instrumental in helping catalyse the project. Unexpectedly, the 2020 lockdowns combined with virtual meetings enabled more people to become involved - 20 with 6 people heavily involved in what was a time-intensive effort.

The experience has re-energised Essex Gardens Trust, which continued to work on an inventory for Thurrock using £1,000 secured from the Co op under the title 'Lost Gardens of Thurrock' with plans to potentially connect to Suffolk for a large training project. bringing the local community together. Linden Groves from the Gardens Trust told us how the project experience has built up the confidence for people to continue working on recording features without freelance support. It is now amongst the strongest groups in the Garden Trust network.

B2.2 Community Mapping and D2.2 Arts Festival

| B2 Recording Landscapes | | | |
|---|---------------|--|---|
| B2.2 Community Mapping | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Places/stories of local value recorded | 100 | 100 | 100 places recorded and shared via 100 flags and a book |
| Places/stories accessible online | 100 | 100 | Artistic resources available online |
| Produce a toolkit to help the community to get sites listed as Assets of Community Value. | 1 | 1 | Toolkit available online |
| Volunteer days | 25 | 106 | Until March 2022 |
| D2.2 Arts Festival | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Arts organisation secured as partner | 1 | 1 | Kinetika secured as a partner. |
| Arts trail/festival | 1 | 1 | Delivered May/June 2021 |
| Volunteer days | 20 | 8 | 8 recorded, though combined with project B2.2 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| The landscape is better recorded and understood by our place-makers | | The landscape is better recorded and the tools to inform place-makers are now available, though no discernible change in local policies during the life of the project | |
| People explore the cultural heritage of the landscape through the arts | | Cultural heritage explored through the co-production of 100 artistic designs, flags, walks and a book | |

Summary

- Respected arts organisation Kinetika appointed to deliver community mapping and arts festival activities, leading to 100 stories, 100 flags, 1 outdoor festival and 11 guided walks and events across the landscape
- The artistic design process transferred to virtual at-home delivery successfully during the pandemic, helping increase the participation of volunteers to over four times original expectations
- 100 stories with images and films available as part of an interactive online story map
- £15,000 additional funding was secured from Arts Council England to expand the arts festival to include outdoor theatre with character performances from theatre company Coco Loco
- Fens, Forests and Fields book containing the flag artworks and images prepared with renowned writer and social historian Ken Worpole, launched as part of the Essex Book Festival

- A locally relevant toolkit 'Guidance for Communities on How to Protect Green Space and Heritage Sites' prepared by Locality with local planners and community as a key legacy of the project

What happened?

The community mapping project and Arts Festival project were combined to create 'Tales of the Fanns' so that the heritage assets of community value could form the artistic focus for the Festival. This core work was complemented by engagement led by Locality to help link the community assets to local planning policies. All targets were met with volunteer participation more than four times the expectations

Tales of the Fanns

Land of the Fanns worked with Kinetika through a commissioned piece of work starting in 2018 covering elements of B2.2, B4.1 & B5.1. This focussed on working with local communities across the Land of the Fanns to understand places, events, memories and artefacts of local and personal significance in the landscape.

Kinetika delivered a programme of workshops with groups of participants in storytelling, diary writing and leading guided walks, supported by media company Rosa Productions. This culminated in the design of batik silk flags depicting the stories of people's attachment to the landscape. This work was undertaken throughout lockdown and then celebrated at the art and walking festival in summer 2021. The flags were also displayed at Broadfields Farm in August 2020 when lockdown restrictions meant it was not possible to hold a bigger event.

An Arts and walking festival took place for a week in May/June 2021. Numbers were limited due to remaining covid restrictions. The week involved a series of 11 guided walks and events across the LotF area celebrating the stories and flags. Activities included making a wish for the future, drawing, painting, and nature walks. Performances from actors from the artistic company Coco Loco took place at 3 of the sites, Pages Woods, Bedfords Park and Eastbrookend Country Park with characters such as a kingfisher and gravel digger (144 people attended the walks). This was made possible by a £15,000 grant from Arts Council England, which Kinetika secured as part of its overall artistic direction.

The walks culminated in a final celebration event at Langdon Hills at the end of the week. Here all the characters that were part of the development and interpretation of particular sites across the LotF came together for a final performance where all 100 flags that had been designed during the project went on display, attended by 40 people.

A book 'Fens, Forests and Fields' containing the artistic images and texts was written with an introduction by renowned writer and social historian Ken Worpole. An in-person book launch event was held at Kinetika Studios in Purfleet with a book reading, Q&A and viewing of the films with an online launch as part of the Essex Book Festival. The book Fens, Forests and Fields is available for

purchase, with a £10 donation going towards the Land of the Fanns legacy, via the Thames Chase Forest centre and online via the Thames Chase Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/land-of-the-fanns>

100 stories, including maps and images of the flags, are available via the Land of the Fanns website at:

<https://www.landofthefanns.org/100-stories/>

A selection of 10 stories linked to the community mapping project are also available as short films via the Land of the Fanns youtube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL63yNGrPpqkZGV9Aj6MHM8w-F7CW0ibV>

100 stories are also accessible in the book Fens, Forests and Fields:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/FensForestsandFields>

Filming from the event can be seen on the LotF Youtube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B35arkDXyVM>

Community Assets - Locality

To expand the reach of the project into the planning sphere, the Land of the Fanns team secured a Co-op Space to Connect Grant for £7,700 to work with Locality to support community asset workshops with the local community and local authorities. These had to be delivered online after initially being cancelled due to the onset of the pandemic.

The focus was to understand existing frameworks for assets of community value and how evidence gathered from community mapping processes could be used to support getting new sites listed or otherwise protected within planning policy. The engagement included both Council Planning Officers and residents.

Whilst awareness and understanding of the process were increased, at the time of writing, no assets had been formally recognised. However, Locality has produced a helpful toolkit 'Guidance for Communities on How to Protect Green Space and Heritage Sites' to help the local community navigate how to get new community assets listed. This is available online:

<https://www.landofthefanns.org/our-partnership/partner-resources/>

A follow on Co-op space to expand grant fund (£10,000) enabled an extension of working with Locality to explore Neighbourhood Planning opportunities. This involved meeting with local representatives from Rainham to establish the potential for joint working there with support of the Essex Gardens Trust (B2.1).

Reflections

Speaking with Ali Pretty about the project, it became clear that the pandemic has ironically helped the project because it slowed everything down, enabled more time, gave people something to do and facilitated spending more time in nature. People were more engaged than they might otherwise have

been, got more connected. Whilst this helped the development of the stories, flags and book, the pandemic hindered the public activities and performances where audience sizes were limited.

For Kinetika, the project helped them become more widely networked across the landscape, growing awareness of their walk, talk, and make project model outside Thurrock (where they deliver T100). The book, flags, characters and films represent significant highly visual legacy assets that can be used for years to come. More needs to be made of these, including the involvement of Ken Worpole. The 100 stories represent a cultural complement to the Fifty Fabulous Features (B2.1) and the Land of the Fanns and its history (B1.1). In combination, these have helped communities better record and understand the landscape.

Through Locality, the information needed to advocate for a heritage or greenspace asset alongside clear explanations of legal powers is now available online as a legacy. This has had input from local place-makers and is a useful asset for the future.

B3.1 Community Archaeology and B3.2 Travelling Archaeological Exhibition

| B3 Archaeology | | | |
|--|---------------|---|--|
| B3.1 Community Archaeology | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| 3 locations were identified for community archaeology | 3 | 3 | Weald Country Park, Dagnam Park and Valence House |
| 3 training activities | 3 | 3 | Valence House Youth Community Dig, All Saints Horndon on the Hill built heritage training, Archaeological field walking |
| Participants | 25 | 34 | See above events |
| Volunteer days | 25 | 0 | None recorded |
| B3.2 Travelling Archaeological Exhibition | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Artefacts identified per LCA | 11 | N/A | MOLA used its handling collection of similar examples for the TAE. |
| Exhibitions in all four LA areas | 4 | 4 | Delivered online due to Covid restrictions |
| Audiences for the exhibitions | 5,000 | 1059+ | Hornchurch Military Day, Valence House Pre History Festival, Orsett Show, Thames Chase Apple Day and Community Dig Open Day at Valence House |
| Volunteer days | 25 | 20 | 5 days each from 4 volunteers |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| Landscape archaeology is better recorded and understood by audiences | | Creation of self-led learning resources with a Key Stage 2 focus. | |

Summary

- The close involvement of MOLA as both a strategic partner and delivery lead has been a coup for Land of the Fanns and its legacy, laying the foundations for future projects in the archaeological space
- Community Archaeological Dig linked to the delivery of local youth engagement outcomes, adding further value
- Travelling Archaeological Exhibition impacted by pandemic social gathering restrictions leading to a revised educational content strengthening the educational resources (C2.1) as a key legacy

What happened?

The Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) were the delivery partner for both the Community Archaeology (B3.1) and the Travelling Archaeological Exhibition (B3.2). The experience for both projects is explained in this one section given the close ties between the two.

Community Archaeology

The three sites that were identified as suitable for community archaeology were Weald Country Park, Dagnam Park and Valence House. Ultimately, Valence House became the focus of activity for the remainder of the project, complemented by built heritage training in Horndon-on-the-Hill and field walking.

A community archaeological dig took place 6th – 8th April 2022. 18 participants from the Young Careers took part over the 3 days of the dig with 16 young people aged 9-14 and 1 young vulnerable adult (aged under 25) from Barking and Dagenham Young Carers attending. Approximately, 1/5 of the attendees had identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This was to help Valence House build links with the Future Youth Zone in Barking and Dagenham. More than 200+ people attended the community open day. A social media post by MOLA promoting the results of the youth community dig and open day also received 58 likes and 22 shares on Facebook (as of 13/04/22).

A MOLA Built Heritage course was delivered in July 2019 at All Saints in Horndon on the Hill with 8 people being trained from the Princes Trust Thurrock Group. Archaeological field walking took place in September 2019. 34 participants took part in all the community archaeological activities, exceeding the target, though there was no recorded volunteer involvement.

Travelling Archaeological Exhibition

The plans for the archaeological exhibition were severely impacted by the pandemic. Despite pre-pandemic successful events including Hornchurch Military Day, Valence House Pre History Festival, Orsett Show, Thames Chase Apple Day which collectively saw over 1,000 participants, the project had to be re-scoped.

The revised project focused on developing a series of archaeological content that could be presented as part of the Land of the Fanns online educational resource, which was completed in January 2022 following stakeholder engagement by MOLA. There were also a range of live online sessions. This

digital alternative is intended to act as a legacy asset for the project, enabling the aims and outcomes of a Travelling Archaeological Exhibition in-person activity including object-led approaches to learning in an accessible and layered way.

The resource focuses on several archaeological finds/features found within the LotF area and showcases these objects and uses key themes, stories, and existing audio-visual content to bring them to life in accessible and interactive ways. The resource was designed as a self-led learning resource for use by Key Stage 2 primary school teachers in, or close to, the Land of the Fanns region.

MOLA supplied the content to LotF in the form of interpretation copy about 3 – 4 key finds/features and 3 key themes. The content is hosted by LotF on the LotF learning website. Where possible the resources point to places that can be visited in real life:

Fantastic Finds x 3

- Dagenham Idol
- Havering Hoard
- Saxon Horns

Historic Buildings x 3

- Upminster Windmill
- Upminster tithe barn
- Horndon on the Hill church

Clues in the Landscape x 3

- Secret landscapes- Belhus & Dagnam
- Military Landscapes- Hornchurch
- Industrial/mining landscapes- Chafford 100+ Denehole

MOLA supplied other material where relevant and available (e.g. contemporary or historic maps or videos). The Images will also need to be readily available and licensable without charge for educational use.

Reflections

Whilst the tactile experience envisaged was hindered during 2020-2021 by the pandemic, the rescope project broadly met the outputs and outcomes envisaged. Those areas that fell short were to be expected – participant and volunteer numbers. Where this was possible, the public response was strong and the new audiences involved at Valance House through the Youth Community dig helped support broader youth engagement outcomes. It may as a legacy have helped foster a level of interest in archaeology locally amongst young people.

What the project has enabled is a more coherent narrative on archaeology that was not available before following clear feedback from local stakeholders. There is an extensive resource available to inform and enable legacy projects.

More strategically, the development of the relationship with MOLA has been a major development which is poised to shape and inform the legacy of Land of the Fanns. The broadening out of landscape scale working from the environment (which has been a relative strength) to include built and archaeological heritage (a need expressed by Sue Smith B1.1) now benefits from expertise and gravitas afforded by MOLA. These strategic links now need to be connected to smaller, community-led organisations to ensure a feedback loop that helps shape future projects like this. The resources and partners to enable this is now in place as a result of Land of the Fanns.

B4.1 Interpreting the Fanns

| B4 | | Interpretation | |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------|--|
| B4.1 | | Interpreting the Fanns | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Exhibition at Eastbury Manor | 1 | 1 | 4 costumes made and exhibited linked to the history of Eastbury. |
| Exhibition at Davy Down | 1 | 1 | Depicting the history of Davy Down based around three characters: Deer, Pilgrim & Heron linking in with the Land of the Fanns interpretative themes. |
| Exhibition at Thames Chase Forest Centre | 1 | 1 | About the heritage farm buildings and farming techniques at Broadfields Farm. |
| Interpretation trail at Pages Wood | 1 | 1 | Costumed character performance at Pages Wood, signage and sculptures |
| Interpretation trail at Bedford's Park | 1 | 1 | Walled Garden interpretation and character performance |
| Interpretation trail at Langdon Hills | 1 | 1 | Restoration of William Langdon's wooden sculpture. |
| Interpretation trail at High House, Purfleet | 1 | 1 | Boards and production of 7 costumes with SE college for use by volunteers of High house community group to use in a period-themed play. |
| Signage at Eastbrookend Country Park/Dagenham Corridor | 1 | 1 | Signage and trails and indoor mural linked to gravel extraction history |
| Exhibition at Valence House | 1 | 1 | Based around the history of market gardening at Valence House |
| Exhibition at Chafford | 1 | 1 | Trails and character of the geological and industrial heritage of the area |
| Volunteer days | 80 | 441 | By March 2022 |
| B4.1 | | ADDITIONAL OUTPUTS | |
| Interactive interpretation in the wooded area of Langton Gardens | N/A | 1 | interpretative interactive works about woodland craft across the woodland site in Langtons Gardens. |

| Desired Outcome | Actual Outcome |
|---|--|
| Strategic locations within the landscapes are more accessible and understood by our audiences | A mixture of traditional and creative, live interpretation delivered in all areas in a bespoke way |

Summary

- A cast of characters and themes created early on with TellTale
- Locally distinctive interpretation responses to the themes and characters have yielded a fascinating range of experiences ranging from costumes, gardens, signage, digital, mural, performances and tactile activities
- Voluntary participation vastly exceeded initial expectations by more than five times demonstrating passion to articulate local stories to wider audiences
- Project experience is a microcosm of the wider scheme, bringing together a diverse range of public, private and voluntary organisations and volunteers

What happened?

A range of interpretation outputs was delivered at all sites intended in a site-specific, bespoke way informed by landscape scale interpretation themes developed with TellTale. A narrative account of each site follows below.

Eastbury Manor

At Eastbury work was undertaken with funding from LB of Barking and Dagenham to better understand the role the house played in the lives of local people. Knowledge of the use of the house and occupants in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was patchy and not well documented. Recent research uncovered much more information, particularly about the battle to save Eastbury from demolition in the years before the First World War. This research work has highlighted the extraordinary changes that local people were living through at this time as Barking left behind its rural and farming past.

The characters developed included William Weir, John McGregor, Eleanor Whitbread and Bill Smith, an agricultural labourer.

To make the costumes, students from the BA (Hons) Costume Construction course at the University Centre South Essex worked alongside professional Michelle Ruth Jury over several weeks to make the following items:

- two lined jackets, a print for the lining, a shirt, leather braces, breeches, a leather architects' tube bag for drawings, and a flat cap for William Weir;
- two bow ties, a tweed jacket, cord trousers, a Bengal stripe shirt, and a handkerchief for John McGregor;
- a toile for the 1870s Bustle Dress for Eleanor Whitbread;

- a silk Bustle Dress (comprising of bustle pad, underskirt, Crinolette or overskirt, bodice, and bows, frills and trims) for Eleanor Whitbread;
- corset, chemise and bloomer undergarments for Eleanor Whitbread;
- an embroidered smock, straw hat, leather gaiters, flannel trousers, waistcoat, a lace handkerchief, shirt and cravat for Bill Smith; and
- objects sourced for props to embellish the characters' costumes.

Exhibition banners were also produced with a mirror installed in the exhibition area and the room dressed for reopening. A soft launch took place on 15 July 2021 at Eastbury Manor House which was attended by Matthew Slocombe from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), students who made the costumes, and their friends and family, and tutors on the course. The Deputy Leader, Cllr Saima Ashraf (LBBD) also attended in the afternoon. Eastbury Manor reopened in Spring 2022 with the launch of the exhibition.

Valence House

Characters

Valence House characters Mr Thomas May and his dog Spider and Mrs May were created to help tell the people and wildlife stories of Valence House to new audiences in a range of situations, including at events and in a variety of virtual and printed media. There is already a painted image of Mr May and Spider on the wall at the bottom of the main staircase within the historic house.

Valence House character: Mr Thomas May – the tomato man of Valence House

Mr May is a great character who clearly illustrates several of the key Land of the Fanns themes at Valence House. Thomas May, his family and their activities at Valence House, especially the development of the market garden are well documented (including a collection of photographs).

Valence House character: Mrs May

Mrs May appeared at the Tales of the Fanns festival (D2.2) bringing all of the interpretation characters together from across all the sites in one performance.

Restoration of the herb garden and Dig for Victory Plot

The central area of the formal garden beside the museum was developed as a herb garden in the 1990s upon the site of the Victorian kitchen garden. The original design used both decorative silver-leafed plants and herbs suitable for a number of habitats. Over the years some of the plants have proved invasive or unsuitable in position, and others have reached the end of their natural lives.

A plan was drawn up to create a new, themed herb garden in four beds that surround the Gazebo. The herbs are organised based on their historical uses – medicinal, culinary, household-dyeing and household-perfume. Plant labels have been designed based on characters from the house's past, depending on the period to which the use of the herb relates. For example, Agnes de Valence for the mediaeval period, Susanna Fanshawe for the Tudor period, and Mr May for the Victorian period. The

multi-period aspect of this interpretation illustrates how Valence House has been occupied and the landscape around it used for over 800 years.

In conjunction with this, the Dig for Victory vegetable plot has been revitalised with new planting and beds. This section of the Valence Gardens was installed in 2010 to support the teaching of WWII history to visiting schools and to illustrate how many of the gardens on the Becontree Estate were turned over to this use during the war. The garden also includes a sunken Anderson shelter.

Mr May and Parkhouse mural

In 2016 Valence House worked in partnership with the Barbican to commission an artist to create a mural on an external wall on the east end of the Visitor Centre at Valence House. Consulting with residents, artist Chad McCall created a timeline mural called 'This used to be fields' detailing the history of the Becontree Estate from 1921 to the modern day. This mural has proven to be hugely popular amongst visitors, to build on this and continue this form of interpretation it was decided to create a mural on one of the walls in the Dig for Victory garden.

The mural depicts Mr May overseeing the work of his head gardener Parkhouse in the market garden at Valence House. An artist was commissioned to lead consultation activities with the public to create the design of the mural, which the artist and students from Robert Clack School painted.

Mr May's Green Day and the Great Tomato Festival

In August 2020 it was planned for Valence House to host Mr May's Green Day, a festival to celebrate the environment and bring residents closer to nature. Unfortunately due to the covid-19 pandemic, this event was not possible.

In May 2020 #SeedsofHope project was launched as part of Mr May's Big Green Day: Summer 2020 in your garden event. Marketed across all social media platforms, members of the public could request a seed packet to begin growing their vegetables at home. Vegetables and flower seeds were given away to anyone who wished to take part in this. The public grew the plants and were encouraged to report how they were growing. Staff from Valence provided expert guidance and in the summer participants were invited to take part in a competition to show us how they grew the biggest, tallest, greenest, fattest, juiciest, most attractive flower or vegetable. An online resource was created for people to make their own 'Cressida Fanshawe' – a decorated character in which to grow their cress.

After the easing of lockdown in 2020 demand for the #seedsofhope hampers dropped, and new seeds for winter planting were purchased. The winter hampers were marketed to increase demand for these hampers, particularly as lockdown restrictions began to be tightened again in September 2020. In May 2021 the Valence House events team decided that they should progress this event as an in-person event. This decision was made in response to the online fatigue being experienced by the public following the amount of online content produced during lockdown. It was felt that the public would appreciate the opportunity to get out in the fresh air and enjoy a real event.

The Becontree@war event took place on Saturday 4 September 2021. It is estimated that c.600 people attended throughout the day's event. The event was designed to illustrate the local area's involvement in home-front activities during WWII and the impact that war had on the local area and its population. The intention was to keep as close to the original Mr May's Green Day event themes of environment, grow your own, Dig for Victory and make do and mend. Visitors saw demonstrations and exhibitions in the Dig for Victory garden illustrating the importance of self-sufficiency and how public spaces, such as Valence Park, were given over to vegetable production.

Davy Down

At Davy Down, a visitor centre mural, interpretive community engagement events, brass rubbing trail and interpretation boards were developed

The mural in the visitor centre education room depicts the pilgrim's journey through the site. It highlights the complication of the fluctuating nature of water bodies (including flooding), the variety of wildlife seen on site, the practical nature and uses of the varied habitats found there and the link with the wider Land of the Fanns area across which the pilgrim's journey will take them. Engaging and informing visitors to Davy Down about the history and various elements that make the site so important, now and in the past.

A community event was held to coincide with Heritage Open Days in September of each year. This included storytelling, acting, displays, actors depicting pilgrims' use of the site, temporary exhibitions in the Pump House and guided walks. This helped welcome over 500 people to the site to engage with interpretation, increase visitor numbers and access to information about the site.

A guided trail based on 10 oak brass topped rubbing posts featuring designs that represent Davy Down and the Land of the Fanns interpretative themes was installed. Posts have silhouette designs, including Davy Deer, the Pilgrim and heron. A booklet guide is alongside the trail (hard copy and downloadable versions) with information about each theme or species and why it is key to the area. This is intended to engage visitors, in particular children, with the various themes, habitats, species and historic elements of the site.

A series of six interpretation panels with information focuses on interpretative themes, identified by TellTale and Essex and Suffolk Water. These inform and engage visitors about the importance of water to both the Davy Down site and the wider Land of the Fanns area and how it shaped the industrial heritage of the area.

Thames Chase Forest Centre

The interpretation project at Thames Chase focussed on the heritage farm buildings and farming techniques at Broadfields Farm. It ties together the interpretive themes of the Land of the Fanns including crossroads landscape, relationship to land and water and trade and commerce. The project is based on two 18th-century farming characters. Using these characters will help bring alive some of the stories of the buildings and enable discussion about the farming year and ways the barn has been used in the past.

The heritage farm buildings have been used to interpret Broadfields Farm and farmyard and the people who lived and worked here in the 17th & 18th centuries. This thread runs through and ties together all the above themes and is usable as part of a landscape-wide initiative to tell the story of the Land of the Fanns at events and through printed media.

Other key outputs from the project at Thames Chase Forest Centre include:

- Installation of new Picket fence
- Laying of 46m hedge in front of 17th Century Barn
- Production of farm character
- Production of the mural for Paul Frost Barn
- Screen in the quiet room
- Design and produce a horse head
- Entrance to heritage buildings:
 - Series of changeable, farm seasonal display boards
 - Impression of 17th/18th-century farm yard on display board
 - Impression of 17th/18th farm land view
- Visitor centre entrance:
 - Noticeboard
 - Completed internal donation box changed to Trust Tree. An external box will be animals routed onto the box.
 - Internal lectern with site plan of buildings
 - Leaflet explaining the geology and land use. Focus on local brick making, including a walking route to Brickfields.

Pages Wood

Pages Wood used to be old farmland that was planted by Forestry England in 2002 to create a mosaic of grassland and woodland habitats with a mixture of broadleaf and conifer forests. The interpretation project involved installing information boards along some of the trails. The aim of the interpretation boards and signs was to engage the public and explain the features and wildlife found on the site, complemented by online leaflets and guided walks (D1.1). It was also intended to draw attention to the fact that the River Ingrebourne runs through the site. There is an interpretation trail that runs close to the river and the two pedestrian bridges over the river onsite were given names through a competition with the local school. I think these are Badger and Fox bridge.

Bedfords Park

The Bedfords Park project focussed on the interpretation and development of the walled kitchen garden, which has become established as a successful community garden led by the Friends of Bedfords Park.

Two characters were developed to help articulate the stories of people and wildlife at Bedfords Park. These were Charles Ellis Heaton, Grandson of John Heaton, a past owner of the Mansion and the wife

of the Head Gardener and part-time cook, called in to help on special dinners and events in the Mansion.

Key outputs from the project, which was completed in 2021 included 2 x A-frame chalk boards, 3 x gazebos, 6 x metal interpretation panels, raised beds, Ali-tags and an interpretation booklet. New loose surface pathways were also established within the garden and a new set of main gates. Two costumes were created that were used for two events during the project at the character performances in August 2021 as part of the Tales of the Fanns finale event (D2.2). These costumes have been kept for use by the Friends group.

Langdon Hills

The centrepiece has been the restoration and installation of the William Langdon Woodward Statue (which used to be within Basildon Town Centre) within the park at Westley Heights, which now welcomes visitors and is used as the branded image for interpretation in the park.

The launch of the Statue took place on World Ranger Day. There was a celebration event of all things 'wood'. The celebration event consisted of woodcraft demonstrations from the olden day to the modern day; a tree identification walk; tree crafts for children. There was also Santa in the Woods event using the above to improve visitors' understanding of the site.

Consultation activities informed the new maps (5000 A3 folded leaflets) and interpretation plans. Looking ahead, the Friends of group will be engaging with other local user groups; to find out why they don't use the park currently in the surrounding area.

High House Production Park, Purfleet

The project delivered the following at High House Production Park:

- Period-themed games: Interpretation of periods and eras of High House through old-fashioned games
- Craft activities: resources purchased but unable to run due to covid: Draw your own house, Draw your dovecote, Design your own coat of arms, Boat art Challenge
- Knot tying: Rope, 2 backing boards and examples of how to tie the knots
- 'Grow your own' pots: Pots, compost and seeds to interpret the link with agricultural and the farmer's markets that High House produced vegetables for
- Printing of current High House leaflet and the History of High House booklets
- Design, production & installation of 4 x Heritage style notice boards
- Design and production of interpretation material for notice boards including historical characters for use on signage

Eastbrookend Country Park

The Eastbrookend interpretation project had a focus on the site's history of gravel extraction during the 20th Century and the development of the site since that time as a site of importance for nature

conservation. The characters selected were a 20th-century gravel digger and wetland characters that are relevant to the site's unique biodiversity.

Key outputs from the project were the development and installation of a nature trail. This included a leaflet with a map, noticeboards on site and marker posts/rubbing trail activity depicting the wildlife of the site. 2 panels were created in the centre and also out in the park with leaflet dispensers. The leaflets and trail have been well used, with the banner on the front of the centre being used for the re-branding of the visitor centre. The project was completed in 2019.

Langtons House

Land of the Fanns supported Havering Council to deliver an interpretation project at Langtons House and Garden. The project delivered several interactive works across the woodland site at Langtons Garden including:

- installing woven willow structures and walls
- provision of stumps to sit on and benches for educational purposes and for the public
- trail following paths in the woodland, including wooden outdoor leaflet holders and woodland signage in two places
- The creation of other interpretative and interactive structures included a totem pole, treasure trail and bug hotel
- removable fire pit
- raised beds
- a wildlife pond
- Serpentine boardwalk

The work was completed in 2019 and has since been managed by LBH and supported by volunteers.

Chafford Hundred

4 trails were developed that can be picked up from any point via a QR code. This links to the website on phone to provide more interaction about where you are and the natural and industrial history of the area. Trail posts colour coded and marked with Chafford Gorges character silhouettes. The website is regularly updated so that repeat visitors get different information at different times of the year as well as ongoing management of the site and the upcoming events/volunteering/LotF events.

In terms of interpretation, there is a presence at Wouldham Cliffs, Lion Pit SSSI, The Pump Meadows, and The Leased Land, which previously lacked any signs that they belonged to Essex Wildlife Trust. 15 entrances were invisible as trust land (save the newly installed trail posts) and they were missing out on the education and interaction.

The interpretation plan around the site was as follows:

Large interpretation boards housed in metal x 4:

1. Wouldham cliffs Merlin Close entrance
2. Lion Pit SSSI main entrance – Northern entrance

3. Grays Gorge End meadow on the right at the top of the steps
4. Pump meadows South West side of pump station along Devonshire road

Smaller boards:

- Lion Pit SSSI steps entrance- southern entrance, off of London road
- Lion Pit SSSI Palmerston Gardens rank grassland area
- Lion Pit SSSI Palmerston road entrance
- Lion Gorge Southern entrance
- Mill wood Elm gate area
- Mill wood bottom of rope rail or top of rope rail explaining the view
- Mill wood cycle path entrance to the meadow extension
- Mill wood cycle path corner entrance to the meadow with the steps directly behind
- Pump meadows by Layby or at BT station end
- Wouldham Cliffs bottom of steps entrance
- Wouldham Cliffs Warren Lane kissing gate entrance
- Wouldham cliffs Cryoturbation site
- Sandmartin meadow so it can be viewed by the public picnic benches out of the reserve
- Leased Land steps entrance
- Leased Land kissing gate entrance
- Grays Gorge opposite Sandmartin stepped entrance
- Grays Gorge top meadow entrance
- Grays Gorge End meadow to replace the older sign

Each of the main boards shows people the routes available and the links to other parts of the Chafford site. The 18 other boards interpret the site people find themselves in, and links with a previous section to show how parts of the site are linked (for example the lime kiln and the tram tracks as well as the tunnels and how this all linked to the transportation of products).

Reflections

What is striking about the project is the diversity of approaches taken across all the sites involved yet linked by common themes established early on. The range of partners involved, and the distinctiveness of the work delivered at each location exemplifies what Land of the Fanns as a landscape partnership is all about – local connection as part of a wider whole. This project is a microcosm of the wider scheme.

The level of voluntary input has also been significant, exceeding expectations by over five times. People care about the stories to be told across the landscape and were keen to be part of the process, supporting the wider objectives for attachment to the Scheme.

B5.1 Heritage Skills and Training

| | |
|-------------|---|
| B5 | Built/Cultural Heritage Training |
| B5.1 | Heritage Skills and Training |

| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|--|
| 3 x 2-day archaeological heritage courses | 3 | 3 | Aerial photography training (Historic England) – 25 participants, 3-day youth archaeological dig (Valence House) - 17 participants, 5-day traditional woodland skills training - 10 participants |
| Archaeological heritage trainees | 20 | 52 | See above |
| 6 x History/built heritage courses | 6 | 6 | Built Heritage course All Saints Church Horndon July 2019 Princes Trust group 1 x 8 day - 8 people trained 2 x day Archaeological Field walking Sept 2019 - 10 people trained Designed Landscape Course Sept - Nov 2019 - 22 people trained 1 x 5-day digital mapping course 10 Feb 2020- 9 participants Historic Brick work repointing -Warley Place x 2 days Oct 14 /15 2019 9 people trained (EWT Vols and 3 Upminster Windmill vols) |
| History/built heritage trainees | 50 | 68 | See above |
| Creative skills courses | 6 | 7 | Photography training Havering Country Park 18/08/2018. 10 people trained Thorndon Country Park 04/08/2018. 4 people trained Hornchurch Country Park 08/09/2018 8 participants Weald Country Park 09/02/2019 11 participants Thames Chase 16/06/2018 7 participants Courses led to some of those being trained to enter the LotF photo competition Poetry workshop in Barking & Dagenham 11 people attended Interpretive writing workshop 14 Nov 2018 22 participants |
| Creative skills trainees | 50 | 73 | 80 in the photographic course; 6 in creative writing |
| 5% of courses delivered by volunteers (1 course) | 1 | ? | Unknown though likely to have been delivered |
| Desired Outcome | Actual Outcome | | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Local capacity to manage and appreciate the built, archaeological and cultural elements of the landscape has been increased | Indications that the training has contributed towards improving local capacity – see Outcomes section. |
|---|--|

Summary

- Viewed in isolation, the project met all participation targets despite over a year being lost due to the pandemic
- Viewed holistically alongside other training projects and initiatives, training exceeded scheme level targets considerably.

What happened?

As outlined in the scheme level training section of the report, this project formed one part of a range of training projects across the scheme. The built heritage training projects were able to meet their targets despite pandemic restrictions, which was not the case for the environment training projects (A4.1).

Reflections

All targets were hit and there is evidence that the training was applied through volunteering on a range of projects including Designed Landscapes (B2.1), Community Mapping (B2.2) and the Arts Festival (D2.2). When looking at the full picture of training – factoring in all formal training projects and informal training delivered through other projects, the numbers involved exceeded total targets by over a factor of three.

3.3. Delivery Programme C: Attachment

C1.1 Digital Heritage and C1.2 Promoting the Land of the Fanns

| C1 | Raising Awareness | | |
|---|--|---------------|---|
| C1.1 | Digital Heritage | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Community mapped films and stories available online | 1 | 3 | Community mapped films, stories and legacy films available online |
| Volunteer days | 35 | 14 | Now linked with B2.2 |
| C1.2 | Promoting the Land of the Fanns | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| LotF website and social media live | 1 | 1 | www.landofthefanns.org FB: Land of the Fanns Twitter: @LandOfTheFanns Instagram: @landofthefanns |
| Website CMS available | 1 | 1 | In place. |
| Website hits | 10,000 | 75,833 | Over 5 years |
| LotF screens at hubs across the landscape | 5 | 5 | 3 new screens at Thorndon, Bedfords and Langdon, 2 existing screen access |

| | | | |
|--|----|--|---|
| | | | at Ingrebourne and Thurrock Thameside Nature Park |
| Heritage bus tours | 3 | 3 | August 2019: 56 people booked via Discover ME. A horse and carriage trip in 2018 involved 12 people. Final heritage bus tour 9 th July |
| Content competition six monthly | 10 | 9 | Competitions spanning photos, drawing, film, models and poetry |
| Volunteer days | 35 | 4 | Until March 2022 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| Awareness of the Land of the Fanns grows year on year | | The levels of awareness does seem to have increased year on year | |
| The cultural richness of the Land of the Fanns can be accessed via mobile in an engaging, accessible way | | There is a range of online content to engage with | |

Summary

- A diverse and imaginary range of quality content generated through projects, the public and the team has helped online hits exceed expectations
- Whilst voluntary input appears low when viewed in isolation, much of the content was generated through parallel projects where voluntary input has been highly significant.

What happened?

The community-mapped films were developed and are available via the Land of the Fanns Youtube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL63yNGrPpqkjZGV9Aj6MHM8w-F7CW0ibV>

The community-mapped stories are available to view online at: <https://www.landofthefanns.org/100-stories/>

Land of the Fanns legacy films are available via Youtube at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL63yNGrPpqki-Orr_4hq2EKhjQw4hcesM

The online learning resource is available at: www.landofthefannslearning.org

The website has been live and actively promoting Land of the Fanns on social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram throughout with regularly posting on social media and on the website to maintain interest. This has led to 75,833 web hits over the 5 years, increasing year on year – considerably more than the 10,000 envisaged.

New internet-enabled screens were installed at Essex Wildlife Trust visitor centres at Thorndon, Bedfords & Langdon with access to 2 existing screens at Ingrebourne & Thurrock Thameside Nature Park enabled. New content was offered quarterly during 2019 - 2022 to promote the Land of the Fanns activity.

The first Heritage Omnibus horse and carriage ride took place in July 2018 with 16 people on the carriage and large footfall from crowds viewing the route around Romford town centre. There were stops at Havering Museum, the Old Chapel, Upminster Windmill, Tithe barn and Thames Chase Forest Centre. A further heritage open top Bus Tour took place for Ilford, Barking and Dagenham promoting DiscoverME sites in August 2019 with 56 people booked on and attending. A final heritage bus tour (Historic Havering) took place on Saturday 9th July.

A series of public content competitions also took place:

- Photography competition
 - 2018 September. Landscape, buildings/heritage, community, places special. 20 people entered up to 3 photos each. The top three were voted on by stakeholders at Conference in October. The top three are displayed in Thames Chase Visitor Centre and on LotF Website. <http://www.landofthefanns.org/photographic-competition-2018/>
 - Jan - Feb 2019. 14 entries
 - July - August 2019. Rivers, lakes, marshes, water. 15 entries
 - March - May 2020. Spring. 14 entries
 - May - June 2021. Wish for the future. 7 entries
- Drawing competition
 - Oct - November 2019. Landscape and/or heritage. 5 entries
- Film competition
 - Sept - Oct 2020. 8 entries
- Model competition
 - Feb - March 2021. 3 entries
- Poetry competition
 - April - May 2019. 12 entries

Reflections

All elements of the project were delivered as intended, with the online aspects performing more effectively than envisaged with rich video content from a range of projects coupled with content sourced via competitions and regular updating by the team ensuring high levels of hits.

Whilst volunteer numbers fell below expectations, considerable public time was invested in preparing content via the competitions. Furthermore, much of the online content was developed via parallel projects where voluntary input was highly significant (e.g. Tales of the Fanns, D2.2)

C2.1 School Programme

| C2 | | Involving People | | |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------|------------|--|
| C2.1 | | School Programme | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary | |
| Online education resource | 1 | 1 | In place | |

| | | | |
|---|-------|--|------------------------------------|
| School trips to LotF sites | 10 | 20 | Advertised Jan 2020. |
| Education resource downloads | 2,500 | ? | Unknown |
| Forest School location identified | 1 | 1 | Delivered via Essex Wildlife Trust |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| The natural and cultural heritage of the Land of the Fanns is used as a teaching resource | | The education resource has been well received with demand beyond original expectations | |

Summary

- Rich and varied educational resources now available to schools as a rich legacy until 2024
- The bursary scheme was popular and effective, enabling school visits to heritage sites benefitting 1,538 pupils for £9,389 – about £6.10 a head.
- Forest schools element rescoped due to Covid, reinforcing the educational resource.

What happened?

The School programme focussed on establishing an online learning resource bringing together materials for all Land of the Fanns heritage sites into 1 place, school visits aided with a bursary and a Forest School focussed school activities.

Educational resources

The Land of the Fanns team established and worked with a Land of the Fanns School Steering Group to develop an online educational resource to encourage learning about landscape heritage outside the classroom through raising awareness of existing opportunities. The site was developed through a commissioned piece of work with Paul Tranter of Citrus Frog and Linden Groves which went live in April 2021.

The online resource raises awareness of the wealth of heritage to be found in the Land of the Fanns scheme area and how it can be used to support and enhance formal education. This is across the themes of the natural environment, built, archaeological and geological heritage.

The collation of existing materials and promotion was a key element of the project. The resource connects schools to sites and existing resources avoiding the need for a plethora of hard copy materials. The resource also provides a range of Land of the Fanns specific activities requiring a few or simple resources that schools are likely to already possess. This enables teachers to go to the website and be able to download curriculum-linked lesson plans for their pupils at any of the Land of the Fanns heritage sites.

The site has links to content from third-party organisations and they can update their content. Specific resources have been developed for the site by both Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The EWT content is a suite of INSET resources aimed at helping teachers do more outside the classroom. The MOLA content highlights some sites across the Land of the Fanns with their archaeological significance and is designed to showcase sites and features that teachers and school children can easily go and visit.

The site is currently hosted on the Citrus Frog server with fees for maintaining and hosting paid up to April 2024 and the site's URL to April 2026. The web address is www.landofthefannslearning.org. Staff and volunteers would require experience in using WordPress or training to enable them to update the site content.

School trips

17 school trips to the Land of the Fanns heritage site have taken place with 1,538 pupils benefitting from travel bursaries worth £9,389.

Forest Schools

EWT was commissioned to undertake this piece of work which was split into 3 phases. EWT looked at evidence of need and then provided formal training to deliver Forest Schools in areas that were unserved.

Phase 1 comprised the identification of schools, capacity and resources available within the Land of the Fanns for the delivery of outdoor learning and forest schools. The outcome was a list of schools in the area that would benefit from phase 2.

Phase 2 was to provide a list of current providers who could support the delivery of outdoor learning and Forest schools and benefit from training in these areas.

Phase 3 used Trust knowledge and communication with schools and providers above to create a delivery plan which covered the following key areas:

- Training for teachers and partners - Forest School or Outdoor Learning
- INSET was set in the Land of the Fanns area to support teachers to deliver learning outdoors
- Delivery of 'taster' sessions on site at participating schools to support training

5 participants took part in the Level 3 Forest School training beginning Jan 19th 2021. This included online training with up to 10 face-to-face sessions held at Langdon Nature Discovery Centre in Spring 2021. EWT allocated places on a first come first served basis and these were largely from the Thurrock areas: 2 from South Ockendon schools, 2 from Grays and Stanford le Hope schools, and 1 participant was a Ranger from Langdon Hills. Costs were partly funded by participants - £220 from participants and £680 from the Heritage Fund.

Schools that requested school visits were primarily from the Romford, Upminster, and Brentwood areas. 10 x school visits were limited to Spring and Summer 2021 or when it was safe to do so for schools.

The initial plan for 4 x INSET days in 2021 had to be re-scoped due to Covid. Instead, EWT developed a series of web pages with themes of Bats, Rocks & Soils, Meanders, Birds, Ponds and Plants. This complements archaeological content developed by MOLA along with themes of Fantastic Finds, Historic Buildings and Clues in the Landscape (See B3.1 & B3.2). This content was developed for the Land of the Fanns Online Learning Resource.

Reflections

Whilst it is currently unknown how extensively the Land of the Fanns educational resources have been used (this will become clear in coming months and years), it represents a rich and easy-to-navigate collection of resources as a key legacy.

The activities that were undertaken with schools including with a bursary were popular suggesting demand for what Land of the Fanns can offer, with 1,538 pupils benefitting from the bursary alone.

The Forest School training had to be rescoped due to the effects of the pandemic, helping to reinforce the educational resource as a legacy. However, by looking at evidence of need and providing formal training to deliver Forest Schools in areas that were unserved this arguably leaves a stronger legacy than a viability study of a location to deliver Forest Schools in.

C2.2 Volunteer Coordination

| C2 Involving People | | | |
|--|---------------|---|--|
| C2.2 Volunteer Coordination | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Volunteer role descriptions | 1 | 1 | Completed and online |
| 1-to-1 support for groups aligned with training offers from C3.1 | 1 | 4 | Training in response to demand, e.g. business planning, marketing and governance |
| Volunteer days | 5 | 0 | None logged |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| It is easy for people to become involved in Land of the Fanns | | The information needed for someone to become involved is now available. | |

Summary

- A diverse range of volunteer roles across the landscape collated and maintained at Thames Chase Forest Centre and online
- 4 voluntary groups benefitted from 1-to-1 support around business planning, marketing and developing a board of trustees
- Extensive involvement from volunteers across the project portfolio equated to 2,793 volunteer days valued at £323,978, representing 254% of the target – an outstanding achievement

What happened?

Across the project portfolio, the Land of the Fanns benefits from a wide range of heritage and environmental organisations that enable volunteering opportunities. These were collated into a resource which is available to pick up in the Thames Chase Forest Centre or downloadable from the Land of the Fanns website. This has enabled opportunities from both larger partner organisations such as MOLA and RSPB to be offered alongside volunteering roles with local Friends of groups or

historical societies, to show there is a relevant opportunity out there for everyone. This resource is updated biannually to ensure the information is current and new opportunities can be added.

This has been supported by a number of templates published to help with the startup or development of existing volunteer groups including various policies, expenses sheets and role description templates. These are freely available on the Land of the Fanns website.

As a follow-on from the Landscape Champions (C3.1) training offer, follow-up support was also offered to several volunteer groups and small charities to further develop their group in an area of their choice. Either as an individual or a group, they worked with Kay Kelleher on areas such as business planning, marketing and developing a board of trustees to further enhance their group's public offer. This was supported by a small marketing grant of up to £200 to produce material to promote their group and opportunities. 4 groups took up this offer.

Reflections

Throughout the Scheme, volunteers have been able to support a tangible change to the landscape as championed by the objectives to 'restore and connect' and deliver 'access'. There have been many opportunities for hands-on volunteering, whether that be conservation work or heritage crafts. There was also a need for volunteers to support intangible change - winning people's hearts and minds over to the Land of the Fanns in line with the objective of focussing on 'information'. This provided many chances for participants to shape interpretation, give talks, write content and otherwise disseminate the message of our special landscape.

Volunteers offered their time directly to the Land of the Fanns team (through Thames Chase Trust), or via a diverse range of partner organisations including local authorities, friends of groups and local museums as outlined in the respective project write-ups. This effort has been used to support the wider aims of the Scheme with over 2,485 volunteers being involved and 2,793 days being committed. The value of this was £323,978, representing 254% of the volunteer involvement target.

C2.3 Community Action Fund

| C2 Involving People | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|--|
| C2.3 Community Action Fund | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| £15,000 of community projects per year | £75,000 | £75,000 | Five rounds completed. Round 1: 4/7 applicants successful (£15,000) Round 2: 5/8 applicants successful (£15,001) Round 3: 2/3 applicants successful (£9,200) Round 4: 4/11 applicants successful (£15,414) |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | | <p>Round 5: 6/12 applicants successful (£26,100)</p> <p>Quote from Draper’s Maylands Headteacher: “We cannot wait to use our new area and, as we march on into Spring, we hope to attract the minibeasts and other wildlife into our little haven. Thank you Land of the Fanns and Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers. You have left a legacy for many happy children!”</p> |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome |
| Attachment to the Land of the Fanns will be strengthened through community-led projects | | Attachment is demonstrated through an oversubscribed fund, high-quality proposals and conference presentations by a diverse range of landscape advocates |

Summary

- Community Action Fund yielded a diverse range of 21 projects responding to need and opportunity across the landscape spanning natural heritage, built heritage, archaeology, the arts and community heritage and engagement.
- Very popular local funding scheme attracting 41 applications across 5 rounds
- Demonstrated how a third-party grant scheme could work locally, with lessons being applied to other Heritage Fund projects locally including by Tilbury on the Thames Trust in Tilbury.

What happened?

A Community Action Fund was launched in 2018, initially offering £15,000 per funding round towards grassroots projects. The projects were reviewed by a panel comprised of Land of the Fanns partners and community representatives who after a scoring process offered recommendations to the board regarding which projects should receive funding. The Fund was popular and enabled a diverse range of small projects, some standalone and others adding further value to existing projects and sites.

2018 Round 1 - 4 out of 7 applicants successful:

- Drapers Maylands Primary School for school orchard and wildlife pond. £4,500
- Stronger Together Thurrock - a market garden project using and training community groups and selling on produce. £5,000 - the project didn't go ahead in the end and money was refunded
- Havering Bat Group - Bat detectors and training. £2,059
- Bulphan Community Group – for large heritage information/ interpretation sign to raise awareness of the landscape. £3,441 plus extra HLF project funding of £1,559 (A2.3)

2019 Round 2 - 5 out of 8 applicants successful:

- Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust - The refurbishment and change of use of Suttons House from an NHS Support Centre into a dedicated Heritage Centre. Adding security bars. £5,000
- Grays Convent School, Paths to the Past - A walk and a booklet around Grays for Primary School children, to show them some of the most historical parts of Grays. £2,465
- Riverside Community - Oral history recording. To train two residents to be able to capture 20 Oral History recordings of the area and make this available to residents and organisations. £2,154
- Friends of Dagnam Park - Woodland management to open up areas allowing in more light and to make it a more public access through-way £3,260
- Thurrock Local History Society, oral history project - exploring the impact of the cement industry on people and the landscape £2,122

2019 Round 3 - 2 out of 3 applicants successful:

- DiscoverME, promotional material, website upkeep - To strengthen and build upon DiscoverME's success as a heritage hub for local communities £5,000
- Havering Volunteer Centre, history of volunteering project - Providing a series of interactive events, workshops, and exhibitions with voluntary sector partners across Havering. £4,200

2020 Round 4 - 4 out of 11 successful applicants:

- Retina Retina, Thurrock - 'A Salvaged Thurrock' reintroduced residents to the beautiful and vibrant spaces on their doorstep and celebrated the rich, forgotten history of the area. It brought together young people aged 14-19 to work with local, professional artists. Together they visited green spaces in Thurrock to aid clean-up efforts by collecting litter, materials and disused appliances found. These collected materials were up-cycled into set, props and art installations for a free-to-attend, site-specific performance, devised by the participants, inspired by hearing and collecting local people's stories, that took place in one of the visited spaces in the summer. £5,000
- Thorndon Friends Group - To carry out restoration works to the medieval Childerditch Pond, a large body of water created by Cistercian monks in the thirteenth century. £3,615
- Eastbury Manor Rangers (LBBD) - Eastbury Manor is an important historical testimony to the surviving London Fanns and Marshes in South-West Essex. The project is to re-plant a Tudor-style herb garden to provide a better understanding of the Tudor Manor House that once dominated the marshes. £1,804
- Essex Libraries - To conserve Humphry Repton's Stubbers Red Book (1796) so that it will become an educational source that can be widely viewed and shared, enabling residents of The Land of the Fanns to better understand and love their heritage. £4,995

2020 Round 5 - 6 out of 12 successful applicants:

- Shenfield Common - Open up the woodland area creating a safer and more accessible environment. £5,000
- Essex Rock and Mineral Society - Restoration of the geological section and associated geological items at Thorndon Country Park. Provision of information boards and enhanced signage to engage public interest in the geology revealed. Revision and reprinting of information trail guide for the geology of Thorndon Country Park and its migration to digital media. £4,000
- Friends of Bedfords Park - Garden Wildlife Wonders - a wildlife pond in the walled kitchen garden. £5,000
- Essex Gardens Trust - Community-based project drawing on historic archive material, oral recollections and evidence within the sites to understand, record and preserve the wide range of Thurrock's historic designed parks and gardens. Utilising and enhancing skill sets acquired in the successful Land of the Fanns Designed Landscapes 'Know It Love It' Project, our established volunteer group (supported by a professional researcher), will work together with recruits to build a written Inventory of sites which will have a long-term legacy impact by engendering understanding and appreciation of local landscapes at a community level as well as individual enhancement of skills for future community projects. £5,000
- Thurrock Museum - Restore and conserve our archaeology collections. Employ a skilled freelance conservator, made unemployed by Coronavirus and not entitled to government assistance (due to going freelance in 2019) Welcome people back to the Museum with a renewed commitment to conserving our archaeology. £4,500
- Weald Country Park - The project will involve restoring the main lake and maintaining it in keeping with the spirit of the original historic plan. This will involve opening up areas of the lake to increase the vista from viewpoints in the park, specifically through tree and scrub management, desilting and clearing debris along the edge of the lake. In order to do this tools and safety equipment will be required. The project will support the Land of The Fanns project partnership with Essex County Council. This entails the restoration of the historic bridge, improved access around the lake and interpretation boards at viewpoints. £2,600

Reflections

The Community Action Fund yielded a diverse range of 21 responses to need and opportunity across the landscape spanning natural heritage, built heritage, archaeology, the arts and community heritage and engagement.

The quality of many of the projects was high with passionate presentations offered by many at the various conferences (D2.1), highlighting the attachment to the landscape felt by many community groups and local organisations. The experience demonstrated how a landscape scale third-party grants scheme could work with the processes established and transferable to other heritage projects in future. For example, an equivalent £100,000 third-party grants scheme is being developed by Tilbury on the Thames Trust as part of a major Heritage Fund scheme 'Back on Track' in Tilbury (currently in the development phase).

C3.1 Landscape Champions of Tomorrow

| C3 Training the Champions of Tomorrow | | | |
|--|---------------|--|---|
| C3.1 Landscape Champions of Tomorrow | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Habitat community eng. courses | 10 | 174 out of 285 28 courses out of 52 | 174 participants in activities explicitly or implicitly including training. |
| Habitat community eng. trainees | 50 | | |
| Interpretation courses | 10 | | |
| Interpretation trainees | 50 | | |
| Digital heritage courses | 2 | | |
| Digital heritage trainees | 10 | | |
| Leadership courses | 10 | | |
| Leadership trainees | 50 | | |
| Governance courses | 10 | | |
| Governance trainees | 50 | | |
| Fundraising courses | 5 | | |
| Fundraising trainees | 25 | | |
| Marketing courses | 5 | | |
| Marketing trainees | 50 | | |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| Local capacity to deliver the scheme and maintain the legacy of the landscape has been increased | | Indications that the training has contributed towards improving local capacity – see Outcomes section. | |

Summary

- Viewed in isolation, the project did not meet participation targets however the period of peak delivery for this project, unfortunately, coincided with the pandemic which required a virtual approach in most cases
- Viewed holistically alongside other training projects and initiatives, training exceeded scheme level targets considerably.

What happened?

As outlined in the scheme level training section of the report, this project formed one part of a range of training projects with the following being delivered:

Community Engagement courses provided

- 13 March 2019 - Emergency First Aid - 9 trained
- 5 February 2020 - Volunteering policies and procedures - LBH - 3 trained
- 11/13 August 2020 - Volunteering recruitment, management and retention - Virtual - 10 trained
- 13/15 October 2020 - Engaging the Community - Virtual - 9 people
- 17/19 March 2021 - Good practice in volunteering – Virtual- 5 people
- 13 March 2019 - First Aid – Virtual- 9 people
- 5 February 2020 - Volunteering policies – Virtual- 3 people
- 11/13 August 2020 - Volunteering recruitment – Virtual- 10 people

- 13/15 October 2020 - Engaging the Community – Virtual- 9 people
- 17/19 March 2021 - Good practice in volunteering – Virtual- 5 people
- 21/23 April 2021 - Volunteering recruitment – Virtual- 4 people
- 29 April 2021 - Engaging young people in their local greenspace – Virtual- 7 people

Interpretation courses provided

- Oral history training - 2 sessions - 12th Nov and 2nd Dec 2019 - 6 people trained
- Oral history training - Jan 2022 - 4 people trained
- Interpretative writing - TellTale - 22 trained

Digital heritage courses provided

- 18 August 2020 - Strategies for success - Virtual - 5 people
- 25 August 2020 - Bringing it to life – Virtual- 4 people
- 6 October 2020 – Introduction to social media – Virtual – 2 people

Governance courses provided

- 3/5 November 2020 - Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees - Virtual - 7 people
- 8/11 June 2021 - Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees - 2 people

Fundraising courses provided

- 9 January 2020 - LBH - 7 people
- 28/30 July 2020 - Virtual - 6 people
- 30 October 2020 - Demonstrating project impact to funders – Virtual- 9 people
- 9/11 March 2021 - Virtual - 3 people
- 27 May 2021 - Measuring Impact, the stats – Virtual- 4 people
- 10 June 2021 - Measuring Impact, the stories – Virtual- 3 people

Marketing Courses provided

- 22 September 2020 - Press and Public Relations - Virtual - 3 people
- 28 April 2021 - The Marketing Mix – Virtual- 4 people
- 1 November 2021 - New times, new audiences, new thinking - 2 people

Whilst looking at the project in isolation suggests underperformance in terms of numbers trained, it must be noted that this project was delivered mostly during times of social restriction with virtual delivery. This was not anticipated when the project was conceived and will likely have affected the numbers.

Reflections

It was a tremendous achievement to deliver such a varied programme in such uncertain circumstances. When looking at the full picture of training – factoring in all formal training projects and informal training delivered through other projects, the numbers involved exceeded total targets by over a factor of three. In terms of the application of learned skills, voluntary input into most

projects vastly exceeded expectations suggesting effective pathways from training to application within the Land of the Fanns.

C3.2 Land of the Fanns Apprentices

| C3 Training the Champions of Tomorrow | | | |
|--|---------------|---|--|
| C3.2 Land of the Fanns Apprentices | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| 2 apprentices recruited during the life of the Scheme | 2 | 2 | 2 recruited, one has left and been replaced with a semi-skilled person |
| 1 complete, 1 forest craftsman employed | 2 | 1 | 1 still employed until Nov 2020, then made permanent. Another Forest Craftsman employed, who subsequently secured a permanent role in Forestry England |
| 1 apprentice & 1 forest craftsman successfully secure employment/self-employment | 2 | 2 | Two young people secured permanent roles in Forestry with Forestry England. |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| 2 young people have started environment or heritage-based careers as a direct result of the LotF LPS | | This was successfully achieved. | |
| Showcase the use and benefits of using apprentices in Community Woodland activities. | | Mitchell and Ben are excellent case studies within Forestry England and beyond. | |

Summary

- High quality, nationally recognised experience provided by Forestry England that despite mid-project rescoping led to two young people ultimately securing permanent roles within the organisation

What happened?

2 local apprentices were appointed in November 2018 for two years by Forestry England. Their work was documented through regular blogs on the Land of the Fanns website with connections to a range of projects helping with the practical aspects. The blogs can be viewed via:

<https://www.landofthefanns.org/forest-craftsperson-apprentice-update/>

Unfortunately, 1 of the 2 apprentices left by June 2019 for reasons not being disclosed to the Land of the Fanns team. However, rescoping the project did allow the recruitment of a Forest Craftsman rather than another apprentice, which was approved by the Land of the Fanns board and Heritage Fund. Another apprentice position was not an option because all apprentices as part of Forestry England's national apprenticeship scheme needed to have started in November 2018.

The Forest Craftsperson was in place by September 2019 with both positions receiving training through FE including chainsaw certification, brush cutting, ATV, pesticides, timber supply chain, Tarrifing (working out timber volume to be produced by felling) and practical skills such as fencing.

Forestry England successfully made a business case to make the Forest Craftsperson role permanent in 2020.

Whilst Mitchell left the apprentice position in September 2020, this was because he accepted another permanent position with Forestry England with a focus on research. A second Forest Craftsperson was appointed for the remainder of the project with an agreement to continue funding the apprentice position in April 2021. In June 2021, Ben was successful in a job application to Forest Research within Forestry England in a permanent role.

Reflections

Whilst the project saw several changes throughout, the core purpose was to offer a quality opportunity to two young people to start careers working with natural heritage. A high-quality nationally recognised experience was offered through Forestry England which eventually led to two young people – Mitchell and Ben – securing permanent roles within the organisation.

3.4. Delivery Programme D: Enjoying

D1.1 Walking the Fanns

| D1 | | Walking the Fanns | | |
|---|--------|---|---|--|
| D1.1 | | Walking the Fanns | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary | |
| Walks mapped | 10 | 21 | 11 circular walks, 2 destination walks and 8 Thames Chase Forest Circle walks | |
| Walking routes accessible | 10 | 21 | Thames Chase Conservation Volunteer tasks linked to above | |
| Guided walks per year | 10 | 12 | Guided walks on the last day each month. 10 additional ones in 2019 | |
| Volunteer days | 80 | 215 | Until March 2022 | |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | | |
| It is easier to experience landscape heritage on foot | | Opportunities to explore the landscape on foot enhanced beyond original targets | | |

Summary

- 11 circular walks, 2 destination walks, and 8 Forest Circle walks mapped and made accessible predominantly through volunteer effort above original expectations
- Additional walks in 2019 delivered by Kinetika linked to the Community Mapping (B2.2) and Tales of the Fanns Art Festival (D2.1)

What happened?

The project vastly exceeded its original targets in terms of walks mapped (21 against a planned 10), walks accessible (21 against a planned 10) and at least 12 guided walks per year. The Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers were instrumental in completing this work, delivering almost 3 times more volunteer days than initially envisaged.

The 21 walks are mapped as the following leaflets available online and in print at Thames Chase Forest Centre:

11 circular walks:

Thames Chase Walk No 4 Thorndon Park and East Horndon Church

Thames Chase Walk No 6a Upminster Windmill - Southern Loop

Thames Chase Walk No 7 Pages Wood, Great Warley & Harold Court Woods

Thames Chase Walk No 8 Dagenham Village

Thames Chase Walk No 9 Harold Court Woods & Pages Wood

Thames Chase Walk No 10 Davy Down, Fields of Peace and Mardyke Woods

Thames Chase Walk No 11 Dagnam Park and Central Park

Thames Chase Walk No 12 Oak & Ash Plantation, Belhus Park & Belhus Chase

Thames Chase Walk No 13 Hacton Parkway, Berwick Glades, Berwick Woods, Bonnetts Wood & Parklands

Thames Chase Walk No 14 Tylers Wood, Great Warley and Warley Gap

Thames Chase Walk No 15 Dagnam Park, Duck Wood, Fir Wood & the Osiers

2 destination walks:

Thames Chase Walk No D4 Rainham Station to Purfleet Station

Thames Chase Walk No D5 Noak Hill to Upminster Station via Dagnam Park, Harold Court & Pages Wood

8 Thames Chase Forest Circle Maps:

Section One - Weald Country Park to Thorndon Country Park

Section Two - Thorndon Country Park to West Horndon Station

Section Three - West Horndon Station to North Stifford Bridge

Section Four - Stifford Bridge to Purfleet Station

Section Five - Purfleet Station to Rainham Station

Section Six - Rainham Station to Eastbrookend

Section Seven - Eastbrookend to Bedfords Park

Section Eight - Bedfords Park to Weald Country Park

A monthly guided walk on the last Friday of every month has been offered consistently throughout the scheme (with the exception of lockdown restrictions).

Throughout April - June 2019, Kinetika also met with various partners and volunteers to plan scoping walks for the Tales of the Fanns project (B2.2) leading to 10 scoping walks in May 2019 for members

of the project to explore the Land of the Fanns area and draw out stories from the local community during 28th May- 4th June:

- Wooded Hills to Ingrebourne Valley - 6
- Langdon Hills - 9
- Bulphan and the Fens - 10
- Thorndon Country Park - 7
- Davy Down to RSPB Rainham Marshes - 1
- Hornchurch Industry and Leisure Heritage Walk - 9
- Ingrebourne Valley and Rainham Hall - 6
- South Ockendon and Belhus - 8
- Thames Chase and Stubbers - 5
- Eastbrookend and Beam Valley – 9

The Thames Chase Conservation Volunteers delivered 98 days of work improving access to walking routes, 90 days finding and mapping new walk routes and 27 days leading guided walks.

Reflections

The project has very much been owned and managed and volunteer effort coordinated by the Thames Chase Trust through the Land of the Fanns team. There are plenty of walk resources available for those wishing to explore the Land of the Fanns on foot with ongoing monthly opportunities to join experienced walk leaders. As a result, the level of output was far greater than envisaged representing a true grassroots legacy for the scheme.

D2.1 Land of the Fanns Conferences

| D2 Celebrating the Fanns | | | |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| D2.1 Land of the Fanns Conferences | | | |
| Output | Target | Actual | Commentary |
| Annual conference | 5 | 6 | 242 attendees across 6 conferences (2017-2021) |
| Finale event | 1 | 1 | 60+ attendees |
| Volunteer days | 10 | 1.7 | Until April 2022 |
| Desired Outcome | | Actual Outcome | |
| People are united by a shared interest in the landscape | | Consistent attendance and support throughout the varied conference programme | |

Summary

- 242 attendees across 6 in-person conference events with an almost 2-year hiatus due to Covid that had no discernible impact on the project as a whole
- Finale event was a significant success with highest number of attendees

What happened?

The Land of the Fanns conferences ensured regular annual moments for partners and key stakeholders to come together, share learning, network and celebrate successes. Despite an almost 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the project was successfully delivered in support of the wider scheme and saw strong attendance throughout. Whilst the volunteer time recorded appears low, this is likely to be under-recorded given the extensive use of Thames Chase Forest Centre as a venue where voluntary effort is consistently applied.

- 15 November 2017 - 39 attendees - Thames Chase Forest Centre.
 - Delays in setting up project meant that a conference in November would be too soon. Instead, a stakeholder lunchtime networking event was held to bring people up to date on progress. The event was a success with over 39 stakeholders in attendance.

- 7 February 2018 - 32 attendees - Thames Chase Forest Centre.
 - Land of the Fanns and Tell Tale (Interpretation consultants), hosted a successful interpretation workshop day in February 2018. Site managers, Friends Groups and volunteers attended – 30 from the nine key sites within the LotF project area attended.
 - 4 managers and site operatives attended from non-targeted sites. Feedback was that the day was extremely helpful in the site operatives further detailing their interpretative plans.

- 3 October 2018 - 43 attendees - Thames Chase Forest Centre.
 - Speakers: Andrew Gouldstone, RSPB – Wennington Marsh solar pumps and breeding waders, Lois Amos, Friends of Bedfords Park – Walled gardens & Bedfords Park Sally James, National Trust – Discover Metropolitan Essex
 - Scott Haworth, Thames21 – Rivers of the Fanns, Mary Wright – Thames Chase Interpretation, Paul Sainsbury – Upminster Windmill, Workshop: MOLA

- 19 February 2019 - 46 attendees - Eastbrookend, LBBD.
 - Speakers were: Will Atkins, LEHART, Lisa Campbell-Bannerman on Langtons House and Gardens, Sue Smith on the Land of the Fanns book, and Trudy Spillane of Drapers Maylands School regarding the Community Action Fund. Speakers were followed by two short walking tours of the park and Kinetika did a Batik workshop in the afternoon.

- 9 October 2019 - 42 attendees - High House Production Park, Thurrock.
 - Speakers from Forestry England (Pages Wood, Apprentices, Cely Wood), Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust (Community Action Fund), MOLA (Travelling Archaeology Exhibition), ZSL (Outfall Safari), Resources for Change (Monitoring & Evaluation) and Land of the Fanns project officers. Afternoon workshop from The Gardens Trust based around the conservation and historic parks and gardens.

- 24 November 2021 - 40 attendees - Thames Chase Forest Centre.

- Presentations included Thames21, ECC, EWT, FE, local volunteers Phil Lobley - Belhus & designed landscapes, Bob Rigden - Langdon Hills, Essex Rock & Mineral Society. Good event, lots of good feedback
- 27 April 2022 - 60+ Attendees - Langtons House & Garden, Hornchurch.
 - Presentations included LotF, Thames21, Historic England and TCT. This was followed by a panel discussion facilitated by Resources for Change. The panel were represented by Twigs Way – independent heritage consultant, MOLA, FE and TCT. Afternoon involved site visits to look at work completed at Weald (ECC), Eastbury manor (LBBD), Pages Wood (FE) and Chafford Gorges Nature Park (EWT). Site visits were led by delivery partners. Good event, with lots of good feedback from over 60 attendees comprising NLHF, delivery partners and stakeholders.

Reflections

Ensuring regular moments to pause and reflect on particular topics or projects regularly is crucial for fostering partnership development and developing the ‘glue’ that holds such a diverse range of stakeholders together.

Whilst there were no virtual conferences held during the pandemic, it very much seemed that the success experienced early on continued unabated once restrictions had eased.

4. Conclusions & recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

- a. **The scheme achieved a wide range of benefits for the broad range of heritage in the Land of the Fanns area.** The scheme has supported a wide range of cultural, historical and built-heritage outcomes, working with a range of small to medium size partners, and leveraging significant volunteer input (the work with MOLA exceeded the target five-fold). Topics included local history and archaeology, as well as creative activities, and involvement from local historical assets such as Belhus Park, Warley Place and Valence House, strengthening local identity and pride. All were successful in helping local communities to reflect upon the Land of the Fanns local identity, perhaps exceeding expectations in this regard given the number of administrative boundaries over which the scheme operated.
- b. **The success of these activities illustrates the value of taking a holistic approach to engaging people with their local environment** – a holistic approach reflects how most people perceive the places where they live, work and play. Helping people to make a connection to where they live through one theme can lead to an appreciation of other themes in a scheme. This can support a greater appetite for further involvement in future projects. Community and cultural identity were enhanced, for example through the oral history activities which captured valuable local history, in the process of which older people experienced validation and recognition.

- c. **The volunteering elements of the scheme over-performed significantly, demonstrating the strength of the scheme team and partners in securing and maintaining volunteer interest.** As shown by the analysis of the scheme level outputs, the value of volunteering far exceeded the scheme target of 1,098 volunteer days with 2,793 delivered for a notional value of £324,000, or an additional 13.5% of the scheme's total budget of £2.4m. Important contributors in this regard included the Thame Chase Trust Volunteers.
- d. **Participation in the scheme's activities saw significant numbers of people, but this was perhaps limited to a narrow demographic group.** More than 4,500 people participated in the scheme's activities, with 20% (900 people) of these through the Travelling Archaeology Exhibition. The indications from a limited sample size were that the participants were typically white females over the age of 55. Most participants were local with most of these from LB Havering. This conclusion echoes the challenge which many schemes and partnerships have in reaching wider audiences. The main issue was the time to attend events and activities which may be in the usual working day, hence the dominance of people aged over 55 who may be retired or now part-time. The fact that most of the participants were white was in line with the ethnicity profile for the Borough which is 15% less ethnically diverse than the rest of London, but 5% more diverse than the UK.
- e. **The scheme achieved a significant number of formal and informal training outputs.** In all, more than 3,100 people underwent training of some sort, with nearly 80% of the training being of an informal nature. However, the target for 927 formal training interventions was not met, with 686 such sessions having been delivered at the time of writing this report. The value of this training, other than the cost of delivering it, has not been calculated but it will be considerable for both the trainees and the groups and organisations they work with in the coming years.
- f. **Delivery of the landscape management targets was difficult because it proved hard to engage with landowners and farmers, demonstrating the wider challenges of engaging with these audiences.** Of the seven outputs relating to landscape management, only one met the target. Perhaps the most significant aim was to secure 10 landowners participating in management, with four achieved. The focus of this activity shifted to building a cluster group of farmers to improve coordination of future agri-environment schemes, following two unsuccessful facilitation fund applications. It proved difficult to engage landowners for a range of reasons, including significant changes to the way farmers are funded and other macro-level changes such as Brexit. These and other factors made it hard to secure the involvement of the target audience, but they remain a vital part of delivering landscape-scale change in the area.
- g. **The scheme achieved a wide range of benefits for habitats in the Land of the Fanns area.** These included improvements for woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and watercourses. Examples include better management of scrub on Langdon Ridge SSSI, but a target for hedgerow restoration at Havering Country Park was not met. However, work concerning low nutrient habitats, micro-landscapes and river catchments was more successful with most targets met or exceeded. Good partnership working has been important to achieving improvements at the landscape scale, bringing together the RSPB, Essex County Council and Essex Wildlife Trust across sites in Havering, Thurrock and Brentwood. Also important was the high level of volunteer effort, noted in general

above, which made a significant difference to outcomes e.g., in removing floating pennywort in Mardyke Pond and the River Mardyke.

- h. Also of note are two examples of nationally significant innovation in habitat management through solar-powered water pumps to help manage water levels on Wennington Marsh without harming fish, and virtual fencing projects for conservation grazing. Perhaps of equal note was the creation of 15 leaky dams to help reduce the risk of 32 properties experiencing flooding, which also deliver benefits for wildlife. The potential cost-benefit of this could be considerable.
- i. **The scheme has developed strong collaborative relationships.** This has been an integral part of the scheme's success without which many of the valuable outputs and outcomes would not have been achieved. The wider benefit for the communities and all aspects of local heritage are considerable; to not invest further in developing and maintaining these relationships would miss an important opportunity to 'do more and better' in the Land of the Fanns. These relationships have enhanced perceptions of Thames Chase Trust as an important and trusted organisation in the area.
- j. **The scheme owes much of its successful delivery to the tenacity, creativity and determination of the team.** There were considerable delivery challenges for the team, not least the impacts of Covid-19, but the team stuck to the vision, adapting as best they could and making the most of the relationships the scheme was founded on and further developed. Arguably, the scheme was too ambitious, with some feeling it should have done less and done better, but much of the scheme was delivered successfully or very successfully. The ambition stretched the team and the partners, but for the most part, this enabled rather than hindered good quality delivery.

4.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered as ways of maintaining the strengths of the scheme, building on them for broader and stronger future delivery in and around the Land of the Fanns area.

- a. **Team.** The scheme's team is disbanding, but there are many lessons to learn from how they persevered in delivering the plan. Building and supporting good teams for future projects and schemes are vital to the successful delivery of outputs and outcomes, and eventually to longer-term, landscape-scale impacts. The aim should be for teams to be consistently good, rather than occasionally excellent.
- b. **Volunteers.** The scale of volunteer involvement in the scheme illustrates the latent potential of local people with the time and energy to give something to their local area. Coordinating ambitious and rewarding volunteer experiences should be an integral part of legacy planning.
- c. **Breadth leads to depth.** Engagement with the breadth of heritage is the best way to unlock deeper engagement with specific strands of heritage – natural, cultural, historical, built etc. Working with partners to develop a holistic range of volunteer opportunities, however, these

might be described, will be the best way of attracting and retaining a good number of committed and energetic volunteers.

- d. **Small is beautiful**, so the saying goes, and in this scheme groups and organisations of all types and sizes have made an important contribution to the scheme's overall success. For many such groups, receiving financial and organisational support of the type provided by this scheme has been transformational, but the momentum needs to be maintained. Efforts should be made to work with partners to support the whole community and voluntary sector 'eco-system' within the limits of capacity and resourcing. It would be sensible to attract and share resources amongst a range of groups to achieve stronger local heritage outcomes, of all types.
- e. **Farmers and Landowners.** These audiences remain vital to achieving landscape-scale improvements for both nature and people. Ways should be found to engage with them, build relationships and support them to consider ways of farming which are better for the ecology of the Land of the Fanns area.
- f. **The next chapter?** The achievements outlined in this report, coupled with the increased confidence and appetite of partners, represent a solid basis from which to plan and develop a future landscape scale scheme. Feedback from the Heritage Fund indicates a willingness to explore future phases of work, particularly where a landscape scale project has a particular focus on engaging new audiences (responding to conclusion d) or where the success around built and archaeology heritage engagement can be deepened further (complementing Community Forest work around Forestry and Access). The momentum generated by Land of the Fanns should not be wasted, but instead used to energise partners and audiences for future developments. This could be coupled with the planned refresh of the Thames Chase Plan as the place-based strategy within which to develop a people-focussed initiative.

Appendix 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



Monitoring & Evaluation Framework – August 2016

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| PROGRAMME A | RESTORING & RECONNECTING THE LAND OF THE FANNS |
| PROGRAMME B | UNDERSTANDING THE LAND OF THE FANNS |
| PROGRAMME C | ATTACHMENT TO THE LAND OF THE FANNS |
| PROGRAMME D | ENJOYING THE LAND OF THE FANNS |

| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| PROGRAMME A: RESTORING & RECONNECTING THE LAND OF THE FANNS | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | Landscape Management | | | | | | | |
| A1.1 | 'From Local to Landscape' | To co-ordinate landscape management efforts across the Land of the Fanns through better partnership working between public and private landowners, uplifting farmland through Countryside Stewardship and supporting landscape-focussed social enterprise | LOTF team | 10 landowners participating in management 5 Countryside Stewardship agreements Landscape Management Plan 20 days of business support 5 Training and Knowledge sharing events 3 social enterprises | Names and activity notes Map, photo Document Names and activity record Names and activity record Incorporation record | Landscape management efforts are co-ordinated and strategic, enabling economies of scale and wider benefits for environment and economy | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current landscape management arrangements |
| A1.2 | Community Tree Nursery | To develop a community tree nursery on a not-for-profit commercial basis providing genetically diverse stock for local sale | Thames Chase Trust | Business plan Tree nursery established Tree nursery maintained | Business Plan Financial forecasts Map, photo Tree numbers Names and activity record | Local provenance is used for local woodland planting and hedge laying, with volunteering and education at the core | Photos before and after; legacy planning | Photos before and after; legacy planning |

| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | Tree nursery supporting legacy | Financial forecasts year 5+; 10 year management and maintenance plan | | | |
| A2 | Habitats & Species | | | | | | | |
| A2.1 | Woodland, Grassland & Hedgerows | To restore 60 hectares of woodland, grassland and hedgerows, linking these to Countryside Stewardship schemes | LOTF Engagement Officer - Environment | 20 ha of woodland restored/ managed | Map, photo | Landscape distinctiveness has been enhanced and supported by ongoing management | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current habitat management arrangements |
| | | | | 40 ha of grassland restored/ managed | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 10km hedgerow restored/ managed | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 115 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 3 Countryside Stewardship agreements | Agreements | | | |
| A2.2 | Low Nutrient Habitats | To restore remnants of low nutrient habitats, which have almost vanished from the landscape. | LOTF Engagement Officer - Environment | 10 ha of low nutrient habitat restored/ managed | Map, photo | An example of largely lost historic landscape has been restored and supported by ongoing management | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current habitat management arrangements |
| | | | | 25 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 1 Countryside Stewardship agreement | Agreements | | | |
| A2.3 | Rediscovering the Lost Fens | To highlight and interpret the lost 'Fann' landscape through access and restoration work | LOTF Engagement Officer - Environment | Connections between hubs and Fanns identified and made accessible | Map, photo | An example of largely lost historic landscape has been restored and supported by ongoing management | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current habitat management arrangements |
| | | | | 1 fen feature restored | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 20 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 1 Countryside Stewardship agreement | Agreements | | | |
| A2.4 | Micro Landscapes | To highlight and interpret bio diverse brownfield habitat, through management and engagement work | The Land Trust | 5 ha of brownfield sites restored/ managed for invertebrates | Map, photo | An example of invertebrate rich brownfield habitat is understood and appreciated by local people | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Photos before and after |
| | | | | 25 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 100 participants in engagement activities | Names and activity record | | | |
| A3 | Connections & Links | | | | | | | |
| A3.1 | River Catchments | To improve the riparian environments of the Land of the Fanns through Catchment Partnership working | South Essex & RBI Catchment Partnerships | 1 strategic intervention per River | Map, photo | The riparian environment has been enhanced and supported by ongoing management | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current habitat management arrangements |
| | | | | 6km of river restoration work delivered | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 115 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 3 Countryside Stewardship agreements | Agreements | | | |
| A3.2 | Connecting Historic Landscapes | To improve access and understanding at two strategic historic landscapes within the Land of the Fanns | Thurrock Council and Brentwood Council | 2 Historic Landscape plans | Map, photo | Strategic historic landscapes are more accessible and understood by our audiences | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Photos before and after |
| | | | | 3 km of new and upgraded trails and access points | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 70 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| A4 | Environment Training | | | | | | | |

| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| A4.1 | Environment Skills & Training | To provide people with the skills needed to restore, understand and promote natural heritage within the landscape | LOTF Engagement Officer - Environment | 20 courses providing an introduction to the landscape | Names and activity record | Local capacity to manage and appreciate the natural elements of the landscape has been increased | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current landscape relevant skills and training opportunities |
| | | | | 200 people trained | | | | |
| | | | | 20 courses based on understanding and recording Natural Heritage provided | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 100 people trained | | | | |
| | | | | 10 course based on the management of Natural Heritage Assets provided | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 50 people trained | | | | |
| 10 course based on Natural Heritage Skills provided | Names and activity record | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 50 people trained | | | | |
| | | | | 10 courses based on creative skills provided | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 50 people trained | | | | |
| PROGRAMME B: UNDERSTANDING THE LAND OF THE FANNS | | | | | | | | |
| B1 | LOTF Narrative | | | | | | | |
| B1.1 | Land of the Fanns book | To produce a publication that brings together the history and stories of the Land of the Fanns area | Scappler & Gowan | Synopsis document in year 1 | Documentation available | An authoritative narrative on the Land of the Fanns is available to inform and guide peers and other projects | Builds on current LCAP framework, forming authoritative guidance for associated projects | Landscape Conservation Action Plan |
| | | | | Land of the Fanns book | Publication available | | | |
| B2 | Recording Landscapes | | | | | | | |
| B2.1 | Designed Landscapes | To identify and record the changes in the Land of the Fanns landscape over time to build understanding and appreciation of its significance | LOTF Engagement Officer - Heritage | 5 recorded features per Landscape Character Area | Map, photo | The landscape is better recorded and understood by our audiences | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Landscape Conservation Action Plan |
| | | | | 1 surveyed feature has been improved | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 25 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| B2.4 | Community Mapping | To record heritage places and stories valued by communities to strengthen cultural identity and place-making in the Land of the Fanns. | LOTF Engagement Officer - Heritage | 100 places and stories of local value recorded | Map, photo | The landscape is better recorded and understood by our place-makers | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Landscape Conservation Action Plan |
| | | | | 100 places and stories accessible online | Website link | | | |
| | | | | 100 places and stories reflected in local place-making policies | Inclusion in local strategies/policies | | | |
| | | | | 25 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| B3 | Archaeology | | | | | | | |

| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|-----------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| B3.1 | Community Archaeology | To engage people through archaeological activities relating to the landscapes and rivers of the Land of the Fanns. | LOTF Engagement Officer - Heritage | 5 sites identified for community archaeology | Map, photo | Landscape archaeology is better recorded and understood by audiences | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Landscape Conservation Action Plan |
| | | | | 5 community digs | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 25 participants | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 25 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| B3.2 | Travelling Archaeological Exhibition | To raise awareness and understanding of the archaeology across the Land of the Fanns | LOTF Engagement Officer - Heritage | 1 artefact for each Landscape Character Area identified | Map, photo | Landscape archaeology is better recorded and interpreted for audiences | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Landscape Conservation Action Plan |
| | | | | Exhibited in all 4 local authority areas | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 5000 people view the exhibitions | Visitor counts | | | |
| | | | | 25 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| B4 | Interpretation | | | | | | | |
| B4.1 | Interpreting the Fanns | To raise awareness and understanding of the landscape through interpretation at strategic locations across the Land of the Fanns | LOTF Scheme Manager | Exhibition at Eastbury Manor/ Valence House | Map, photo | Strategic locations within the landscapes are more accessible and understood by our audiences | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Interpretation Strategy and Landscape Character Assessment |
| | | | | Exhibition at Davy Down | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | Exhibition at Thames Chase Forest Centre | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | Interpretation trail at Pages Wood | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | Interpretation trail at Bedford's Park | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | Interpretation trail at Langdon Hills | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | Interpretation trail at High House, Purfleet | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | Signage at Eastbrookend Country Park/Dagenham Corridor | Map, photo | | | |
| | | | | 70 days of volunteer time | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | Exhibition at Eastbury Manor/ Valence House | Map, photo | | | |
| B5 | Built/cultural Heritage Training | | | | | | | |
| B5.1 | Heritage Training & Skills | To provide people with the skills needed to restore, understand and promote built, archaeological and cultural heritage within the landscape | LOTF Engagement Officer - Heritage | 10 2-day archaeological heritage courses provided | Names and activity record | Local capacity to manage and appreciate the built, archaeological and cultural elements of the landscape have been increased | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current landscape related skills and training opportunities |
| | | | | 50 people trained | Names and activity record | | | |
| | | | | 20 courses based on history and built heritage provided | | | | |
| | | | | 100 people trained | | | | |

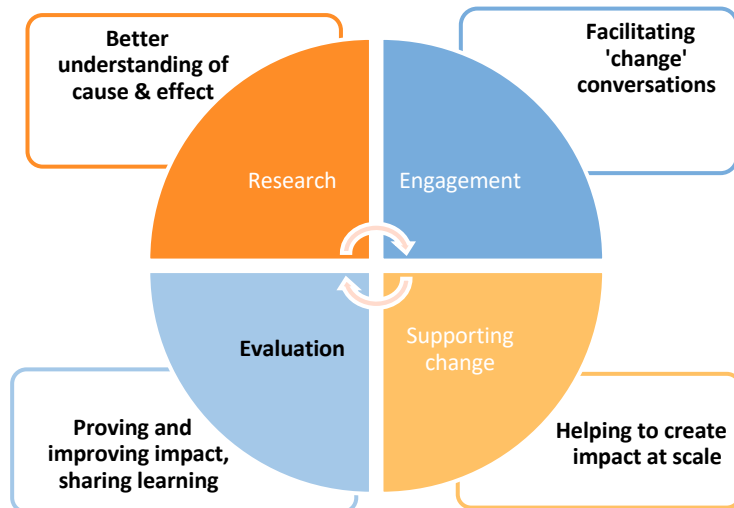
| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | 10 courses based on creative skills provided 50 people trained | Names and activity record | | | |
| PROGRAMME C: ATTACHMENT TO THE LAND OF THE FANNS | | | | | | | | |
| C1 | Raising Awareness | | | | | | | |
| C1.1 | Digital Heritage | Development of an app or equivalent that brings together Land of the Fanns information and is accessible in the outdoors | LOTF Scheme Manager | Online Content Management System (CMS) available App available for download 2,500 downloads during life of scheme 35 days of volunteer time | Web link Web link Analytics Names and activity record | The cultural richness of the Land of the Fanns can be accessed via mobile in an engaging, accessible way | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current digital interpretation opportunities within the Land of the Fanns |
| C1.2 | Promoting the Land of the Fanns | To promote and celebrate the Land of the Fanns via digital channels, co-ordinated marketing and audience-generated content. | LOTF Admin and Finance Officer | LOTF Website and social media channels live Website Content Management System (CMS) available 10,000 website hits during life of scheme 5 LOTF screens at hubs across the landscape 5 heritage bus tours during life of scheme Content (photo, text, video etc) competition every 6 months 35 days of volunteer time | Web link Web link Analytics Map, photo Names and activity record Names and activity record | Awareness of the Land of the Fanns grows year on year | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation | Current marketing arrangements within the Land of the Fanns |
| C2 | Involving People | | | | | | | |
| C2.1 | School Programme | To support teachers and young people to use the landscape in education through a Land of the Fanns education resource and a potential Forest School as legacy | LOTF Scheme Manager | Online education resource 10 school trips to Land of the Fanns sites 2,500 downloads during life of scheme Viable Forest School location identified | Web link Names and activity record Analytics Viability/need study | The natural and cultural heritage of the Land of the Fanns is used as a teaching resource | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current landscape provision within education, and Skills and Training Audit |
| C2.2 | Volunteer Co-ordination | To co-ordinate existing heritage and environment volunteering opportunities across the landscape in support of the Scheme aims | LOTF Admin and Finance Officer | Volunteer role descriptions Sharing of volunteer opportunities | Weblink E-Newsletter | It is easy for people to become involved in Land of the Fanns | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current volunteering opportunities |

| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|--|---|--|---------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| C2.3 | Community Action Fund | To fund a suite of local community projects that complement the delivery of the Landscape Partnership Scheme | LOTF Scheme Manager | £15,000 of community-led projects per year | Map and photo | Attachment to the Land of the Fanns with be strengthened through community-led projects | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | N/A |
| C3 | Training the Champions of Tomorrow | | | | | | | |
| C3.1 | Landscape Champions of Tomorrow | To develop the landscape champions of the future by training volunteers and partners to support project delivery and secure the programme legacy | LOTF Scheme Manager | 10 habitat Community Engagement courses provided 50 people trained 10 Interpretation courses provided 50 people trained 2 Digital heritage courses provided 10 people trained 10 Leadership course provided 50 people trained 10 Governance courses provided 50 people trained 5 Fundraising course provided 25 people trained 5 Marketing Course provided 50 people trained | Names and activity record Names and activity record Names and activity record Names and activity record Names and activity record Names and activity record Names and activity record Names and activity record | Local capacity to deliver the scheme and maintain the legacy of the landscape has been increased | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Current landscape related skills and training opportunities |
| C3.2 | Land of the Fanns Apprentices | To develop the skills and experience of 2 local people through formal apprenticeships during the life of the Landscape Partnership Scheme | Forestry Commission | 2 apprentices recruited during life of Scheme 2 apprenticeships successfully completed 2 apprentices successfully secure employment/self employment | Names Activity record Jobs relating to landscape | 2 young people have started environment or heritage based careers as a direct result of the LOTF LPS Showcase for the use and benefits of using apprentices in Community Woodland activities. | Evidence from 2 apprentices as part of Scheme evaluation | Current landscape related apprenticeship opportunities |
| PROGRAMME D: ENJOYING THE LAND OF THE FANNS | | | | | | | | |

| Ref | Project Name | Aim | Monitoring Lead | Output/Target | Evidence/Indicator | Outcome | Evidence/Indicator | Information need at scheme outset |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| D1 | Walking the Fanns | | | | | | | |
| | Walking the Fanns | To enable access to the Land of the Fanns through targeted path improvements and a walking programme. | Thames Chase Trust | 10 walks mapped 10 walking routes accessible 10 guided walks per year | Web link Map and photos Names and activity record | It is easier to experience landscape heritage on foot | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | PROW and path condition and availability of information |
| D2 | Celebrating the Fanns | | | | | | | |
| D2.1 | Land of the Fanns Conferences | To bring together partners, groups and individuals from across the landscape area for an annual celebration of the Land of the Fanns | LOTF Engagement Officers | Annual conference Finale event | Photos Photos | People are united by a shared interest in the landscape | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | N/A |
| D2.2 | Arts Festival | To develop an art trail/festival that celebrates the Land of the Fanns | TBD | Arts based organisation become a partner Arts trail/festival | Names and activity record Map and photos | People explore the cultural heritage of the landscape through the arts | Evidence from key participants as part of Scheme evaluation; Legacy planning | Landscape scale arts and culture opportunities |

Appendix 2: Resources for Change (www.r4c.org.uk)

R4C is a socially responsible, employee-owned consultancy with an excellent reputation for innovatively creating constructive interactions between people and places. To achieve this, we focus our work in 4 areas:



We have developed a reputation for 'bridging the gap' between sectors and creating real, and long-lasting, results. In short, this means we:

- Act at Grassroots level – with our significant hands-on experience in engaging communities and civil society
- Support the Managers – bringing the practical experience of projects, partnerships and improving delivery
- Work with the Strategists – by advising, evaluating, and supporting policy and strategic programme delivery.

We work extensively to support organisations in receipt of NLHF, GRCF and other funding, to deliver heritage and environmental projects, including a considerable body of work relating to monitoring and evaluation. This includes preparation of monitoring and evaluation strategies, working as 'lifetime evaluators', evaluation mentoring support, carrying out interim and final evaluations, and supporting legacy planning.

Resources for Change is Phase 2 Certified for the Seren Environmental Management Scheme: BS8555, (<http://www.serenscheme.com/>), a tool to help organisations improve their environmental performance.



