

Biodiversity for All  
Huntingdonshire District  
Council



February 2022

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority awarded Huntingdonshire District Council a three-year £ 1.35 million bid to accelerate the delivery of measurable biodiversity net gain in Huntingdonshire.

HDC Climate Strategy adopted in 2023, including a Priority Action to

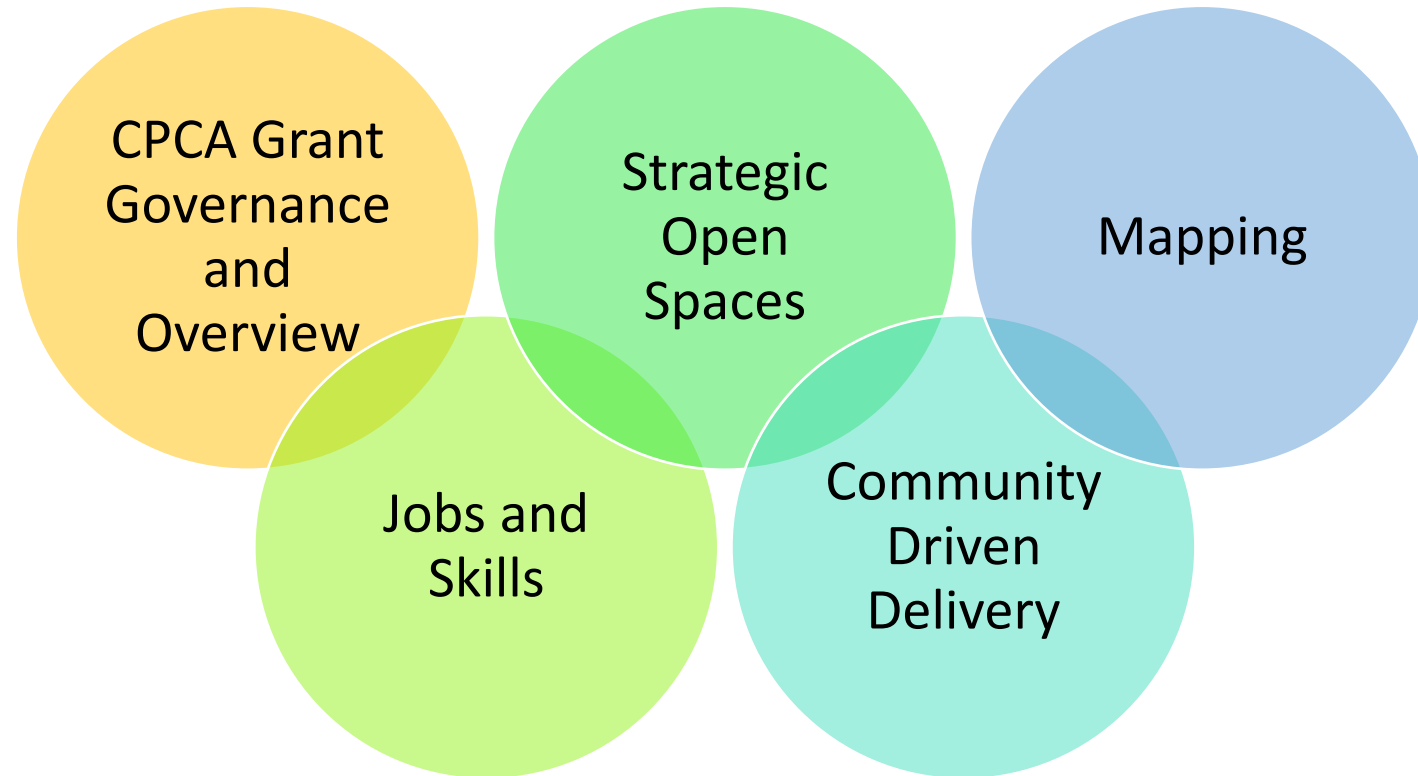
*“Deliver a programme of biodiversity with the CPCA to include Community and Council Open Space”*



# Overview



There are five main elements to the project, and four of these elements have developed into their own work programme.





# Funding

The Grant Funding agreement between HDC/CPCA sets out the flow of funding over the project and is detailed below.

Theme	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Strategic Open Spaces Asset Works	£215,000	£155,000	£155,000	£525,000
IT system for social science IT tools for mapping biodiversity now and projected as a result of asset works (Capital)				
Small Capital Grants	£5,000	£55,000	£60,000	£120,000
Asset works using Green Recovery – Jobs and Inclusivity (Social Value) (Capital)	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000	£180,000
Capital for Land Issues/Landscaping	£120,000	£130,000	£125,000	£375,000
Programme Management (Revenue)	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£450,000</b>	<b>£450,000</b>	<b>£450,000</b>	<b>£1,350,000</b>

# CPCA Grant

## CPCA Grant/Project Management

**Project Status** – GREEN – on-time and within budget

## Overview

The CPCA grant has enabled the Open Spaces team to recruit a Biodiversity for All project team. This Team sits in the Open Spaces services and reports to The Open Spaces and Countryside Operations Manager.

1x Part Time Project Manager (20 hours a week)

1x Part Time Project Support Officer (20 hours a week)

2x Full-time Time Graduate Ecologists

## Achievements

Each position has been filled, and the Team is at full capacity. The Team has developed the project from a concept to a tangible delivery plan. The Team have also formalised the method underpinning the project's evidence-based approach with each site.

## Planned

The Team have set out the delivery schedule for the project, which has developed into a programme of work. The Team will also provide a service to external partners who apply for biodiversity audits through the grant scheme.

## CPCA Grant Governance and Overview



ICARE Awards Nominee for Team  
Collaboration



# Jobs and Skills

## Jobs and Skills – Greenskills

**Project Status – GREEN** – The work schedule was agreed upon with Groundworks East Ltd, and a positive working relationship has been fostered.

### Overview

Working with Groundworks East to deliver training and experience to individuals outside of work education and employment. Helping them achieve a City and Guilds Level 1 qualification in Horticulture whilst delivering evidence-based work on HDC-owned sites.

### Achieved

There have been four successful projects delivered in this programme at the following locations:

1. Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
2. Spring Common A summer placement role and an academic year placement will also be added
3. Regatta Meadow
4. Paxton Pits

A total of 14 individuals have completed the course and achieved the qualification.

### Planned Work

A further 7 projects will be delivered across the district.

There will also be the addition of a summer placement role and an academic year placement in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University.

## Jobs and Skills

"This has been the best time of my life and the best working experience I have ever been part of."

"It's amazing, fun, makes you feel good"



# Strategic Open Spaces

## HDC Strategic Sites Biodiversity Development

**Project Status – GREEN** – The project is running on time and is expected to be completed by March 2025.

### Overview

The HDC strategic Sites aspect of the project accounts for a large portion of the project budget. Our strategic sites are defined as large, publicly accessible open spaces owned or leased by HDC, usually used by the community for events and recreation.

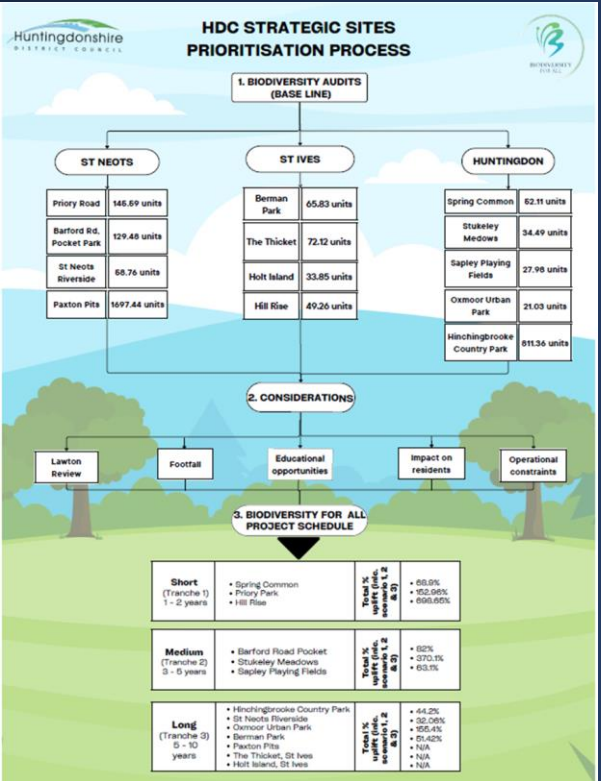
### What Went Well

The audits conducted on each site have been invaluable in the decision-making process and an excellent source of information influencing certain sites' management plans.

### Planned Work

By following the broad timeline, the project will deliver short-term actions for Biodiversity improvements at the agreed Tranche 1 sites by March 2025.

1. Evidence Gathering & Interpretation – Jan 2024
2. Community Engagement & Education – Feb/Mar 2024
3. Co-Design with the community – Apr/May - 2024
4. Delivery & Integration - June to December 2024
5. Review – January to March 2025



# Example of Recommended Actions – Hill Rise

Scenario	Actions	Total % uplift
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve the condition of the woodland from moderate to good.</li><li>• Plant mixed scrubs along the woodland edge.</li><li>• Increase the extent of species-rich neutral grassland to the north of the park.</li><li>• Plant a species-rich native hedgerow to create a double hedgerow feature.</li></ul>	225%
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creation of species-rich grassland around the boundary of the park</li></ul>	460.4%
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creation of Orchard Habitat</li></ul>	698.6%

# Community Driven Delivery

## Community Driven Delivery - Biodiversity Community Grant Scheme

**Project Status – GREEN** – A complex approach that is behind the initial planned schedule but still in budget and projected to be completed by the end of the project.

### Overview

The Biodiversity for All 'Community Biodiversity Grant' is an environmental grant scheme delivered by the Council's Biodiversity for All Team and funded via a grant from the CPCA.

There are **two separate** rounds of the Community Biodiversity Grant; both rounds will follow the same process.

1. The first is a Pilot round, which will take place in 2023/24
2. The full grant round will take place in 2024/25. Both rounds will follow the same process.

Each Grant round will be broken into a **two-stage process**.

1. Expression of Interest for a Biodiversity Audit of an identified site.
2. Application for a grant to deliver evidence-based ecological work.

### Achieved

Two grants were awarded in the pilot round, with another six expected to be awarded next month. Suppose all of the pilot sites accept all of the recommendations in the audits. In that case, there will be a percentage increase of ~4164.28% across all sites.

There have been 35 expressions of interest registered in the full grant round and 10 sites have now been selected.

### Planned work

Funding for the Pilot sites will be completed by April 2024, and the audits will be completed for the successful sites in round two by the summer. The funding round for the second grant round will be completed by the end of the summer and the works completed by March 2025.



# Mapping

## Mapping/Citizen Science

**Project Status – GREEN** – The iNaturalist platform has been selected, and the DPIA has been passed. The app and platform are being tested internally, with a plan to use them on future BioBlitz exercises.

## Overview

iNaturalist is a free, global citizen science platform. The app allows for recording fauna and flora (through photographs and sound bites), using an AI to suggest identifications of the subject in question.

## Achieved

Developed a **citizen science** approach to **enable** the community the chance to engage further with nature and be part of our approach whilst developing their knowledge

**>9,500 observations** in Huntingdonshire

**~1,500 active users** (including a plethora of existing wildlife groups)

This network will help us deliver on the project's aim of supporting nature to flourish.

**159 additional users**

**>1,800 species recorded** in the District.

**~800 non-native/invasive species** recorded in the District.

## What Went Well

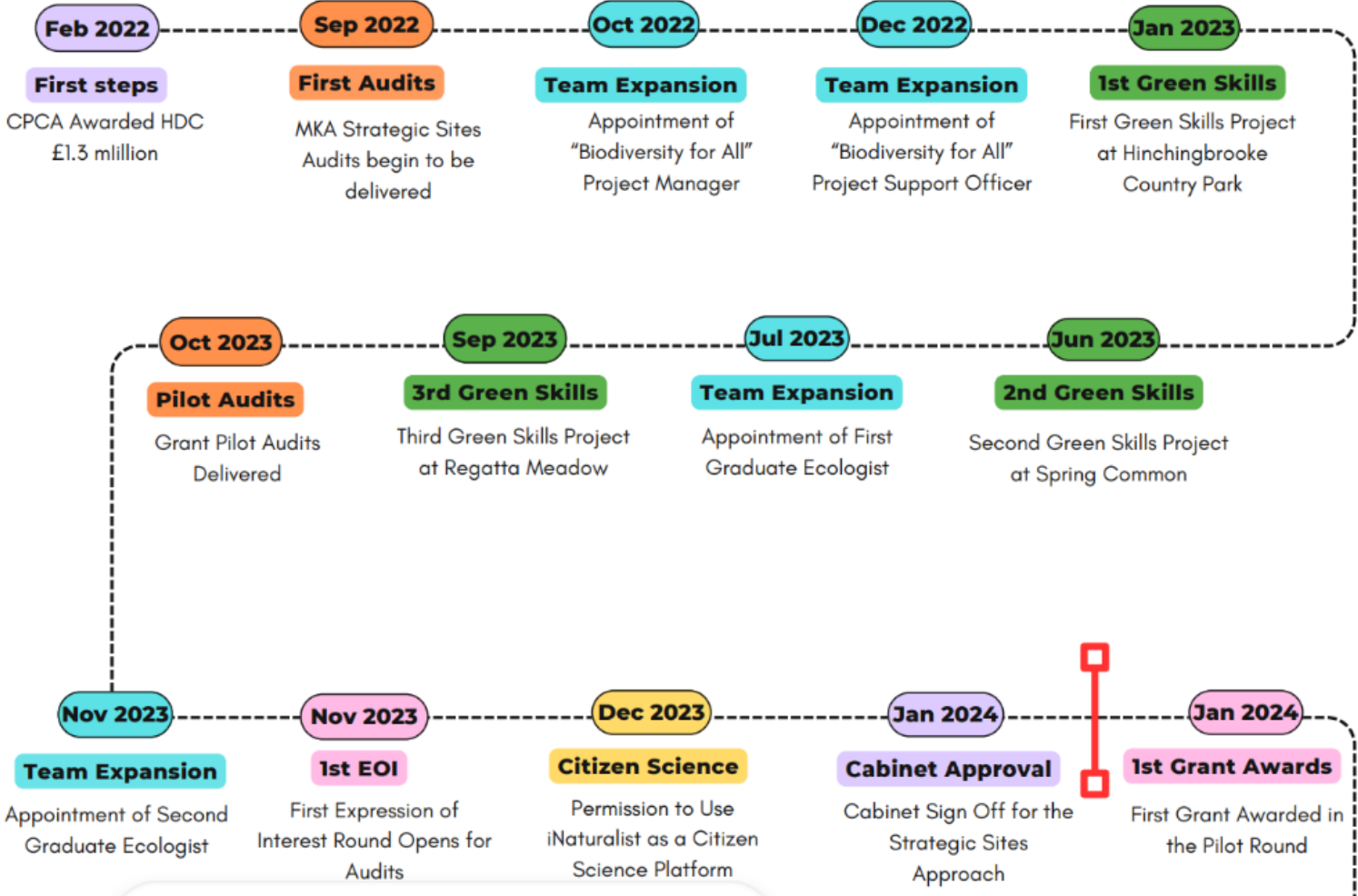
Our pilot event was successful with 'Wild About Huntingdon' on Spring Common; this event tripled the observations on the site (even highlighting a non-native invasive species that we had no record of on the site).

## Mapping

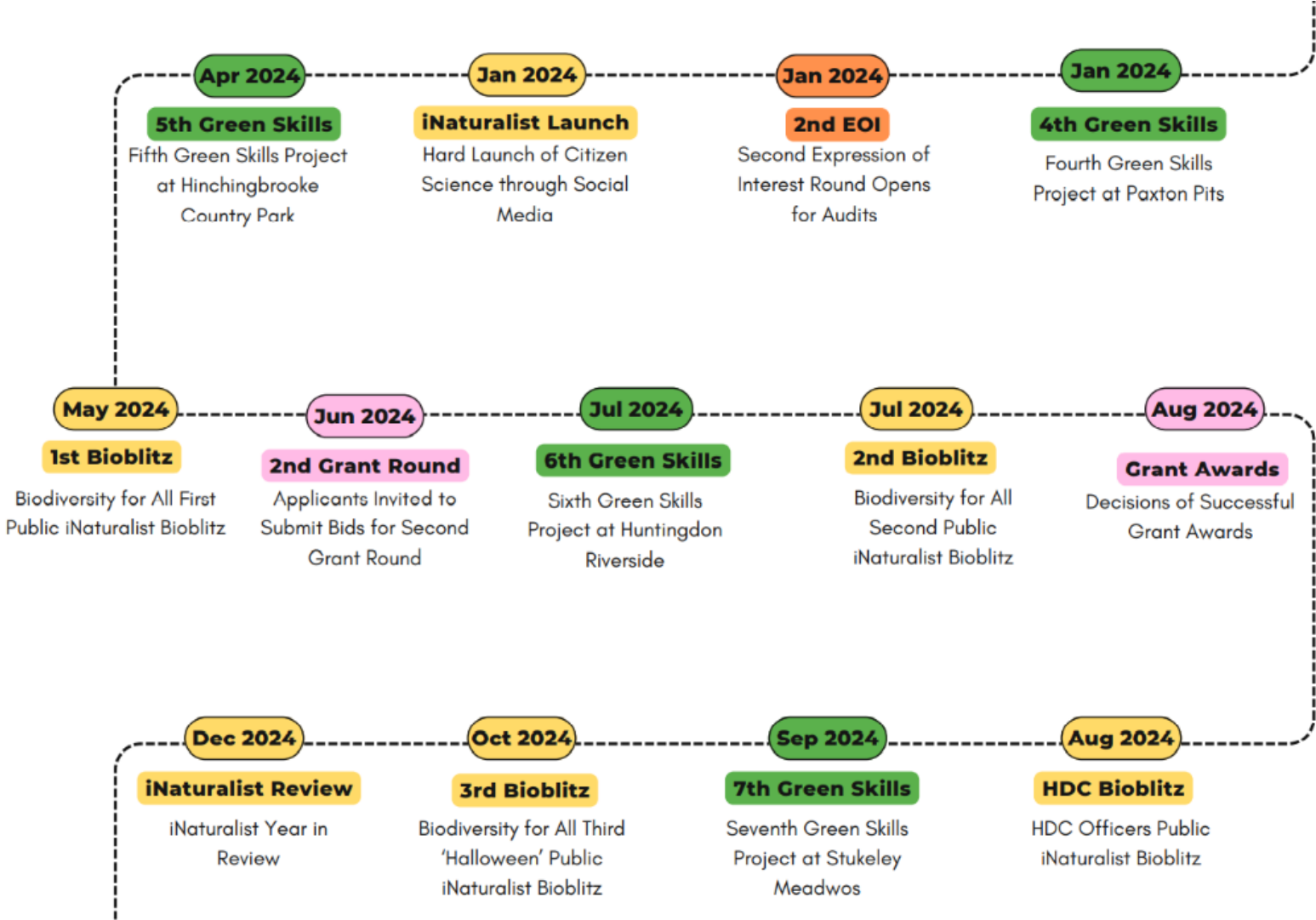


# Timeframes and Planned Work

- Funding & Others
- Audits
- Team
- Green Skills
- Citizen Science
- Grants
- Today's marker



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