

Green Minds

Mid-Point Progress Report (2019-2021)

Executive Summary

Mid-point progress report (2019-2021)

Green Minds is an ambitious, pioneering, 4 year programme (2019-2023) which aims to test new ways of thinking and acting for nature within the city of Plymouth by focusing on 3 themes – urban rewilding, creating green mindsets and taking a systems wide approach to our land management.



During the first 2 years of the programme (2019-2021), developing **strong relationships** across multiple sectors has enabled Green Minds to deliver tangible improvements for **people and wildlife**. We have taken an action learning approach which has given us the flexibility to adapt to the societal challenges presented to us through the Covid pandemic, and respond to environmental conditions as they change, rapidly feeding back learning to shape the programme in response.

Highlights during this time include initiating new **urban rewilding** initiatives such as the **beaver reintroduction** and **nature recovery corridors**; developing skills and practice for **urban land management** that is nature led; supporting **nature connectedness** across diverse and new audiences (individuals, communities and professionals) through initiatives such as our green social prescribing and **nature based leadership** programmes; empowering more diverse communities and enterprises to **co-design and co-steward** neighbourhood greenspaces; and building the evidence base to support policies and practice that ensure nature is valued for its social and environmental benefits and financed in line with the UK's Environment Act and in preparation for Biodiversity Net Gain.

We have created a strong foundation from which to move forward into the second half of Green Minds. To September 2023, our aim is to develop our **systems approach**, coordinating activities with other citywide nature initiatives such as the National Marine Park and Plymouth and South West Devon Community Forest; to continue to deliver **nature recovery** on the ground; to engage new audiences in nature **connection and stewardship** and to embed **policy and practice change**. We will continue to share news, events and learning through a range of media and also publish a series of insight papers and webinars to share our learning more widely, supporting replication and scaling up.

We have been inspired by the care, action and commitment towards **urban nature recovery** for people and wildlife across Plymouth. Together, we can be a city of urban nature pioneers and provide support, advice and guidance to enable others to join this movement.

Jemma Sharman and Zoe Sydenham
Green Minds Programme Management Team

Green Minds in numbers

2019-2021



25 hectares of native habitat restored and managed through an urban rewilding approach (that's the same size as 35 football pitches!)

419 events supporting nature connection (online and in person)



Development of an interdisciplinary **Nature Based Leadership Programme** for professionals

9 new co-stewardship structures trialled to support nature-based enterprise and community management

A nature focus in **8 new policies and practice** across **4 city organisations** as a direct result of Green Minds advocacy and advice

88% of people participating in Green Minds activities strongly agreed 'It was a **good opportunity to socialise** or spend time with friends or family'

1275m of new accessible paths supporting connection to nature

165 volunteer activities engaging **1555 volunteers** in nature recovery

Planning permission secured for delivery of a **biodiverse, sustainable urban drainage scheme** in 2022/23 in the city's largest park

58% of participants children and young people

89% of people participating in Green Minds activities strongly agreed 'I felt **closer to nature**'

1020 trees planted to support nature recovery networks

40% of participants from more deprived neighbourhoods



1.5 million online views and **94,160 engagements** with #GreenMindsPlymouth



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Green Minds: What it is and why we need it

Green Minds is a 4 year programme (2019-2023) of innovation, funded by the EU's Urban Innovative Actions initiative. It's enabling Plymouth City Council (PCC) along with its local delivery partners to develop and test new ways of thinking about and acting on nature in the city.



Whilst green and blue infrastructure plays a prominent place in Plymouth's sustainable land use policy, the breadth of services it can offer in terms of urban planning and wider policy development are not fulfilling their full potential. The challenges of securing income for natural infrastructure investment and ongoing maintenance are particularly difficult in more deprived areas, where there is less greenspace and limited opportunities for new greenspace. Consequently, potential ecological and social value (contribution to health and wellbeing, to wealth creation, to climate resilience) is lost.

To gain higher priority and fully realise sustainable land use goals, attitudes need to change, alongside the use of innovation in integrating nature into the built environment. Raising the value of green and blue infrastructure in people's minds and providing exemplars of best practice for urban rewilding and financing can contribute to a new system of land management which attracts sustainable investment and increases social value to address ecological and social inequalities.

Plymouth aims to be an urban pioneer in this field, with Green Minds as a catalyst, working in partnership with citywide partners and other land use projects, sharing our learning nationally and internationally.

Green Minds is a collaboration between:



The Green Minds approach: Placemaking informed by nature connection

Our vision is to be a city celebrated for working with, caring for, and connecting to nature to support a high quality of life for all.

Green Minds aims to increase current levels of community and enterprise engagement with green and blue infrastructure to the next level, using innovative approaches to transform the city's relationship with its natural capital, enhance the services and benefits that flow from it, making the city more resilient to environmental, social and economic change. It is doing this by:

Delivering Urban Rewilding interventions

Testing approaches to improved biodiversity that adapt to different urban settings, and developing new policy and practice to mainstream into local land management structures and procedures.

Creating Green Mindsets

Developing a values based approach to changing attitudes and behaviours, with nature connection at its heart. Carrying out in-depth research of stakeholder needs using 'appreciative inquiry' and supporting more diverse communities and enterprises to take action.

Embracing complexity and taking a systems wide approach

Creating a collaborative and interdisciplinary network of practitioners and researchers and developing new co-stewardship infrastructures which recognise nature as a stakeholder, creating strong feedback loops between policy and day to day management.

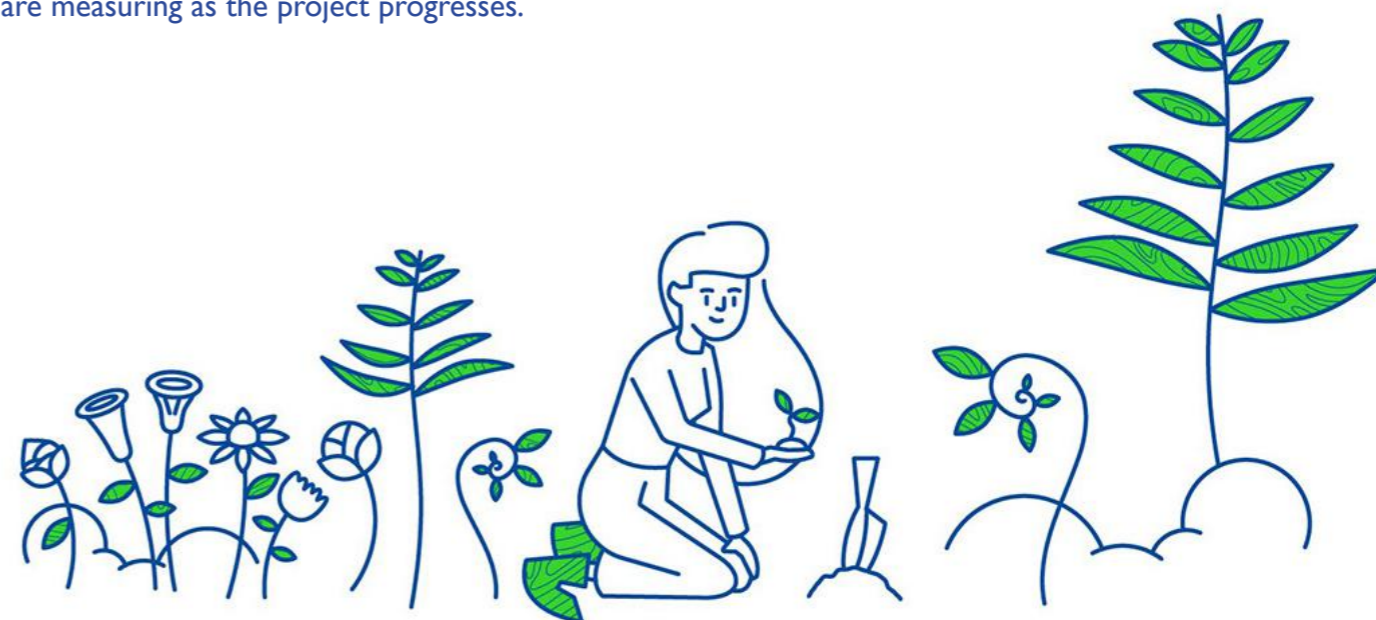
The Approach

Green Minds has developed a theory of change and is taking an action learning approach, co-designing, testing and evaluating outcomes as the project progresses, with an independent evaluator, adapting our theory accordingly.

By the end of the project we will have identified areas of best practice, opportunities for replication and scaling up, creating a kitbag of tools and resources to share our learning more widely.

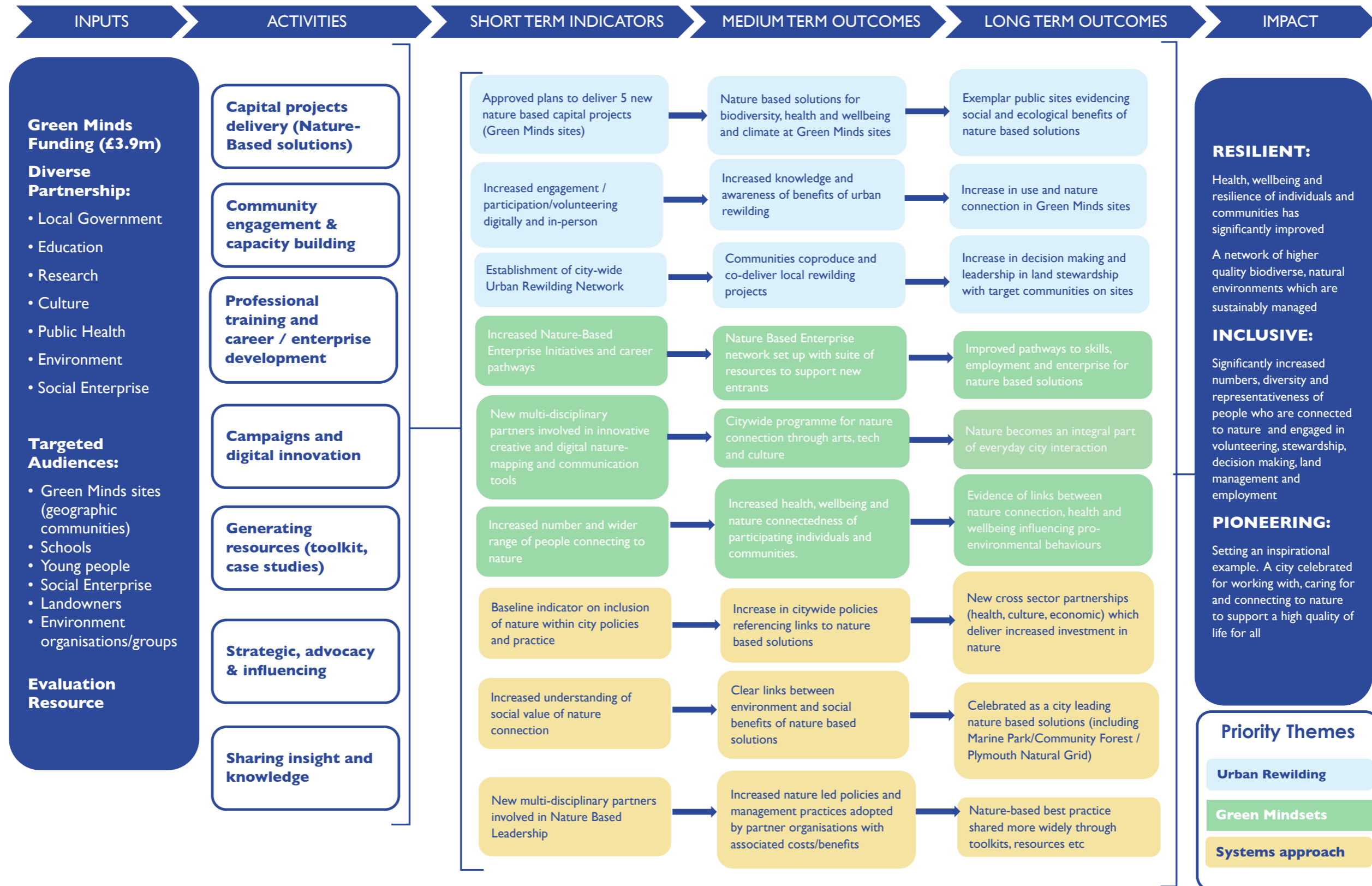
This report features examples of how Green Minds is putting these approaches into practice and the impact they are already having on the city's relationship with nature.

The next page shows the Green Minds Theory of Change for the next 2 years, developed at mid-point review from our learning in the first half of the project. This identifies our short term indicators and longer term outcomes, which we are measuring as the project progresses.



The Green Minds Theory of Change:

Developed at mid-point review



Monitoring and evaluation: Taking an action learning approach

Green Minds is taking an action learning approach to test our theory of change. This is particularly relevant when delivering innovative projects, where no tried and tested method exists.

The action learning model (see adjacent diagram) enables planning, taking action and then reflecting on the results and what we have learned before deciding what to do next. This approach has allowed Green Minds to adapt as the programme has evolved.

The three key areas we are monitoring against are:

- **Urban rewilding:** improved biodiversity at Green Minds sites
- **Creating green mindsets:** increase nature connectedness of participants
- **Systems change:** evidence of nature based solutions at a citywide level

We have employed an independent evaluator to work alongside us as we develop this approach to identify where the programme can have the maximum impact locally as well as opportunities for replicating and scaling up.

During 2022/23 we will be producing a series of resources, case studies and insight papers to support knowledge sharing and innovative actions for nature in other urban areas (see page 63 in this report for more information).



The action learning model.

Our progress:

Green Minds progress within our three priority themes

Urban rewilding

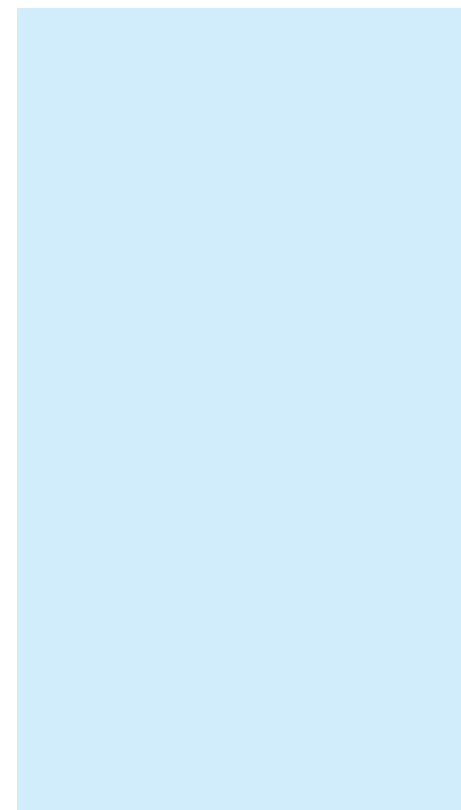
- Habitat restoration on a city farm
- Engaging communities within a traditional urban park
- Greening grey corridors
- Adapting to heritage settings
- Operationalising rewilding principles

Creating green mindsets

- Pathways to nature connectedness
- Evidencing social value
- Communications that inspire action

Systems change

- Green minds systems inquiry
- Co-stewardship models with communities and enterprise
- Developing nature based social enterprise
- Nature based leadership
- Policy and practice to level systems change



Plymouth Urban Rewilding Trials



Habitat restoration on a city farm
Derriford Community Park (page 22)

Greening grey corridors
Neighbourhoods in the west of Plymouth (page 26)

Engaging communities within a traditional urban park
Central Park (page 24)

Developing nature based social enterprise
Devonport and Stonehouse (page 56)

Adapting to heritage settings
Saltram Estate (page 28)

Adapting to heritage settings
Devil's Point (page 29)

Urban rewilding trials

Testing approaches that demonstrate and enhance the adaptive capacity of biodiversity to deliver social and environmental benefits in different urban settings.

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Whilst rewilding has grown in use and popularity over the last few years, with a growing research body assessing its impact, urban rewilding is still a new concept.

We define urban rewilding as

‘any initiative, both human-aided and natural colonisation, that aims to encourage biodiversity, ecosystem function and native species in urban settings’ (1)

We know that spaces that are more biodiverse can deliver multiple health and wellbeing benefits as well as other nature based solutions such as improvements in water drainage, increased carbon sequestration, removal of air pollutants and increased pollination for food security. (2)

Green Minds is testing a series of urban rewilding approaches in different settings, co-designing and delivering with communities across the city to assess the social value produced, and developing new policy and practice which can be mainstreamed into local land management structures and procedures.

We have gathered an ecological baseline for each of our sites in line with biodiversity net gain principles and are gathering usage data through visitor counters and on-site user surveys.

The full range of activities can be found on our Green Minds website and here we highlight some of our updates, challenges and learning to date.

1. Maller, Mumaw & Cooke, 2019

2. Dasgupta, 2021; Maller, 2018

Habitat restoration on a city farm

Urban Beaver Reintroduction

Plymouth was the first UK city to reintroduce the beaver in 2020, re-homing a pair from Scotland (previously earmarked for culling). A charismatic species, there was unprecedented media attention - locally and nationally, with city-wide social media demonstrating plenty of beaver fever - 276,011 unique views!

Beavers are aquatic engineers and evidence shows that their canals and dams have the potential to increase water storage capacity, reducing flooding downstream and releasing more water during droughts. Their activities also improve water quality by removing pollutants from the water as they settle in their ponds. Our beaver reintroduction is one of several urban rewilding approaches we're trialling at Derriford Community Park, allowing natural ecosystems to recover and biodiversity to thrive.

Other approaches include allowing natural woodland/scrub regeneration as well as more traditional tree planting; and we anticipate the introduction of a mobile grazing herd of traditional cattle later in 2022 to restore soil quality and improve grass diversity.

A new beaver viewing hide, which doubles up as an outdoor classroom has been constructed on site using natural materials and high quality walking and cycle routes, interpretation and access points installed to enable improved local access. We have used this nature based solution to develop knowledge, skills and experience within our land management workforce and engaged new communities, students and volunteers to participate in education, research and citizen science activities to monitor the ecological and hydrological impact of the beavers.

Learning and next steps

Following a flash flooding event that damaged the enclosure fence, one of the beavers escaped and we have since re-homed the remaining beaver. Although very challenging and sad for all those involved, we have used the learning to improve the design and management within the enclosure area. We have reinforced the fencing and culvert to cope with ever increasing extreme weather and introduced more natural flood management throughout the water catchment including upstream leaky dams (made from woody material). We have also reduced deer access to the enclosure to reduce grazing competition.

A second beaver reintroduction is planned for Summer 2022.

Image by Chris Parkes

“Seeing the beavers was one of the best moments of my life”

- PCC Street Services staff involved in building the beaver enclosure and supporting the reintroduction release



Engaging communities within a traditional urban park

At 94 hectares, Central Park is the largest of Plymouth's formal parks with hundreds of daily visitors. We have been working to develop its potential as an exemplar public city space to demonstrate Green Minds in action, where people can discover, connect and participate in caring for nature as part of creating a healthy, sustainable city.

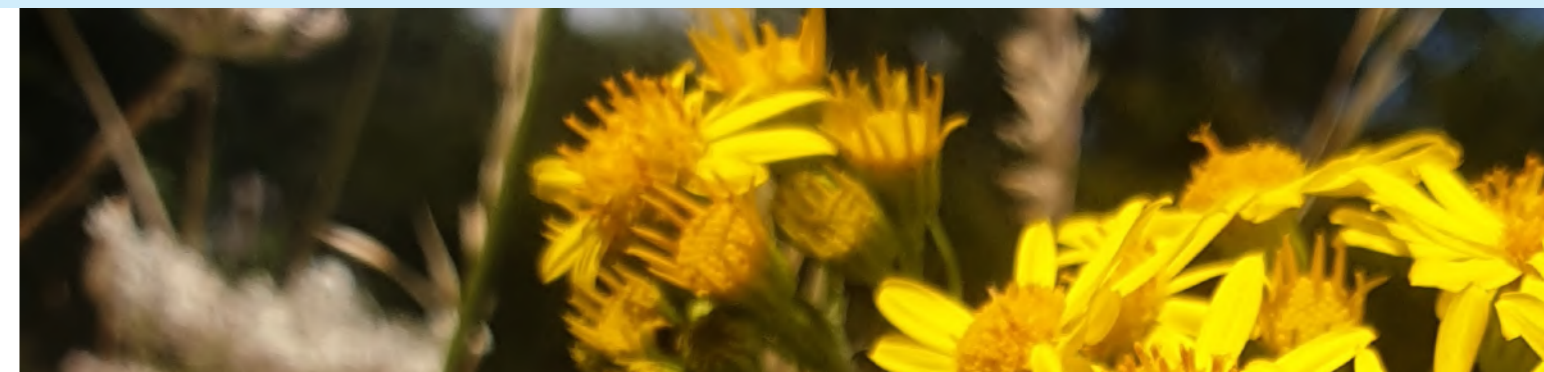
Following the construction of a grass roof cafe to support wildlife and drainage, we have:

- supported the design of nature based sustainable drainage solutions that enhance biodiversity and improve access and amenity value
- developed a plan to support an approach to site based tree planting and management that responds to a changing climate and engages local people in stewardship
- delivered a pilot green social prescribing programme with a focus on nature connectedness, in partnership with the health, sports and cultural sectors to demonstrate the health benefits of Green Minds

Treescapes for the future

Central Park is home to a diverse mix of thousands of trees, including an arboretum, fruiting and veteran trees. Like many urban parks, Central Park is facing challenges to its trees through climate change impacts such as flood, drought and increasing tree diseases. In response to this, Treescapes for the Future has been co-designed with our Landscape Technician Apprentices and local community members, and informed by permaculture design principles.

So far we have planted 56 trees including a new orchard with a range of specimen trees and created a virtual tree trail with the local schools. We have also discovered that some of the park's elm trees support the rare white letter hairstreak butterfly. We are working closely with volunteers to survey the butterfly population, communicate their importance to park users and identify areas to plant more elms to enhance their habitat.



Park ponds project

Transforming rainwater into resource

We have used Green Minds thinking to transform a flooding problem in the park into a resource for wildlife and the community, with additional funding from PCC. The design uses a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) approach to channel rainwater through a series of swales and french drains downstream into large wildlife ponds which can accommodate a 1 in 100 year flooding event. Sensitive to the heritage of the site, the investment will improve access and create an attractive, inclusive and useable space, enhancing biodiversity and providing a place to learn about water and nature. Construction will commence in Autumn 2022.

Learning and next steps

The approach is already being replicated in another two parks in Plymouth through our Interreg funded Building Resilience in Flood Disadvantaged Communities (BRIC) project. Capturing the impact and learning from these sites will enable us to identify more community-led nature based opportunities within our parks to support the city's strategies for flood mitigation and resilience.

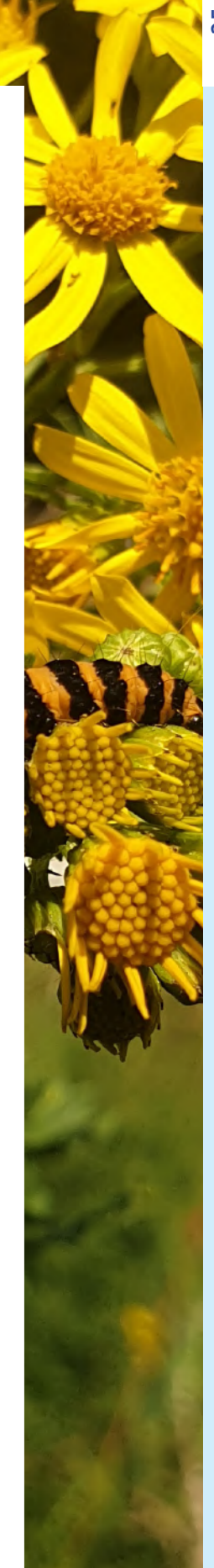
Green social prescribing pilot

A multi-disciplinary Green Minds approach to improving mental and physical health, which has brought together sports, arts, wildlife and health partners to offer a varied programme of activities for health and wellbeing, using the park's new Community Hub as a base.

Despite Covid restrictions we have engaged 502 participants over the past year in nature connection activities, health walks, sports and theatre in the park. Groups that have benefited include older people who have been recently bereaved; veterans; children from low income families and disabled adults/young people.

Learning and next steps

Building on the benefits that this pilot has highlighted from taking a multi-sectoral partnership approach, we aim to develop the Community Hub as a space for health and wellbeing activities with nature and sustainability at its heart, making full use of the park in which it is set and linked to the citywide network of health and wellbeing hubs.



Greening grey corridors

In areas of the city with less access to nature, we are greening grey corridors and improving spaces with trees, wildflowers and living buildings to increase wildlife connectivity, biodiversity and climate resilience.

Keyham Greenspace Masterplan

One example of a neighbourhood-level approach to a nature recovery network is the co-design of the Keyham greenspace masterplan using urban rewilding approaches. Green spaces emerged as a high priority for this neighbourhood following extensive community engagement in partnership with the Keyham Recovery Team/One Plymouth forum (established following the tragic shooting incident in summer, 2021). The community gathered in a local park to hold their vigil; and improvements to greenspaces (including accessibility, connectivity and landscaping) were identified as important factors in feeling safer, and in taking positive community action to reinforce a sense of place and pride in their neighbourhood. The Green Minds team is facilitating the co-design with local people and delivery starts on the ground in Spring 2022.

Learning and next steps

Working at a neighbourhood level with multiple services has enabled us to be part of a holistic approach to placemaking in this area of the city and ensure that high quality, accessible and biodiverse public spaces are at the heart of improvements. As a result we are now working closely with Public Health's Community Empowerment Programme to train up a new team of locally based Community Builders in nature based approaches. We are already applying our Green Minds approach to develop the next phase of co-designed greenspaces, expanding our green corridors to include St Levan, Stoke and Weston Mill neighbourhoods.



“I’m so happy that this has been highlighted in Keyham. This will bring some pride back into our green spaces here in Keyham and encourage the residents who live here and love this area. Thank you.”

- Keyham resident feedback as part of the Keyham Greenspace Masterplan Designs

Adapting to heritage settings

Working in areas of significant natural and cultural heritage adds another layer of complexity to green space management.

Together with the National Trust, we are restoring nature and enhancing biodiversity and public access within two such settings. This involves ensuring changes respond to historical and ecological sensitivities and comply with Historic England's protective measures. Engaging communities to raise awareness and understanding and provide opportunities to create a sense of place through connection to nature and cultural heritage is also a key part of our approach.

Saltram Estate Habitat Corridors

Action to date includes reinstating a nature-rich habitat corridor along an old a-road that runs through the property; working in partnership with the Woodland Trust to improve connectivity and access to woodlands across a busy highway; and increasing threatened orchard habitat through co-design with local community groups.

As a strategic greenspace for Plymouth, Saltram is starting to engage new audiences by creating better access links and opportunities to connect with nature. This includes two current projects with Plymouth College of Art (PCA). The first is working with textiles students who are using inspiration from Saltram's gardens and linking that to our 'hidden' nature within the interior of the house itself; seen in carpets and ceiling decorations for example. The finished artwork will be included in Saltram's Festival of Flowers event being held at the beginning of May.

The second PCA group are interpreting a rewilding area and using artwork to tell the story and the link between nature and heritage. By Summer 2022 we will have interpretation boards in place along this area alongside our web-based digital engagement.

“Management of registered parklands often centres around what the park looked like in historical times, and so in this context the rewilding work on the Green Minds project strip has been a departure from the very conservative approach to historic parkland management.”

- Steven Payne, Nature Conservation Advisor at the National Trust

“Saltram is a Grade 2 listed 18th Century designed landscape designated as a Registered Park and Garden, and as such we must be very mindful where and how we implement gains for nature. Working closely with our curatorial team we sought to find a balance between conservation of the designed landscape, environmental conservation and public access and through careful consideration and research we found it was possible to satisfy all aspects. The location was informed by a number of ecological surveys of the estate which highlighted a gap in connectivity for nature between two halves of the estate. By removing grazing from this small area of grassland we will allow it to regenerate, eventually, into woodland. Woodland which bats, insects, birds and small mammals will use to traverse the estate.”

- Doug Munford, Countryside Manager at Saltram House

Native Blossoming Species at Devil's Point Coastal Site

Green Minds have teamed up with the national Blossom Together initiative, transforming a neglected and inaccessible part of this site of scientific special interest, on the South West Coast Path, to create a community gathering space with seating, new native planting and wildflower meadow. This has involved dealing with multiple landowners in partnership with PCC's Historical Environment Officer.

Working with the Ocean Conservation Trust, we will use the project to raise awareness of the seagrass meadows that lie beneath the water which the site overlooks. We have engaged a local artist to create a centrepiece etched with a seagrass seed.

Due to complete in Spring 2022, our team have a programme of schools and community activation planned to develop historical and ecological interpretation and animate the space to encourage new audiences to enjoy the site, understand and care for its heritage.



Operationalising rewilding principles

Adapting public green space management approaches to support wildlife.

Working with the Council's green estate operations, housing associations and other land managers we are supporting the development of nature based land management practices. Changes include cutting grass less often, an increase in wildflower areas, trialling reduced pesticide use in our streetscapes, and the development of a seed collection mechanism for a city-wide seed hub.

“When we changed our approach to grass cutting, not everything went smoothly, but what did work was how it changed our thinking about the work. We aren't just cutting grass, managing habitat. Now all of our grass cutting staff understand why we've changed the cutting, why it's important to have more wildflowers... they feel more involved and have a sense of purpose about it. That they are doing their bit for wildlife.”

- Operations Manager, Street Scene and Waste

“Devon Wildlife Trust is delighted to be supporting Plymouth's communities, as well as the Green Minds Apprentices and the Project partners, with this exciting programme of training and events. As well as sharing knowledge, we hope it will encourage everyone to take action for wildlife and make a difference to their local environment.”

- Harry Barton, Chief Executive Devon Wildlife Trust

“Since becoming involved in Green Minds activities in my course I've become more aware of the places in my area that help our environment and why.”

- PCA student (environmental studies module)



Preparing the next generation of habitat managers

With our partners at Devon Wildlife Trust, we are also providing our 7 Horticulture, Arboriculture and the UK's first cohort of Landscape Technician apprentices with a programme of practical on-the-job training that includes nature based approaches and aim to embed this as a common approach to all our future apprenticeships. From spring 2022 we are widening our nature based land management training to other parks staff, trainees, key volunteers and community groups.

The University of Plymouth have developed a mixed method longitudinal research study to assess the impact of the Green Minds apprenticeship programme on the cohort, focused on their changed attitudes to nature in both green and blue urban spaces.

Creating green mindsets

Developing a values based approach to attitude and behaviour change, with nature connection at its heart and creating a framework to communicate and evidence social value.

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What is a Green Mind? Well, we think it's really about hearts and bodies as well as minds! It's about the relationship between people and nature - both valuing nature; putting those values into action with pro-environmental behaviours and creating social value as a result.

Values are strong leverage points within a system. Natural infrastructure is one of the few resources that has increased its societal value during the Covid pandemic, due to its function in providing locations for physical and social interaction. (1) Our aim is to support pro-environmental values, attitudes and behaviours.

We are testing research-led tools to create a systematic approach to creating Green Mindsets.

Target audiences:

- Communities adjacent to Green Minds investment sites in more deprived neighbourhoods
- Children and young people
- People with long term health issues
- Multi-disciplinary professionals involved in delivery of services and city planning

1. Mell and Whitten, 2021

Pathways to nature connectedness:

An engagement framework that focuses on ways to build nature connection which develops attitudes and behaviours that support the environment *(working with the University of Derby)*.

Evidencing social value:

Defining the social value of nature connection at a societal level, helping to inform placemaking *(working with the University of Plymouth)*.

Communications that inspire action:

Using the pathways to nature connectedness and the social value indicators to frame our communications and using the 'See, Think, Care, Do' framework to inspire action.

Pathways to nature connectedness

There's a theory that humans are geared to need a connection with nature – so called 'biophilia' – and evidencing is increasing to show that spending time in natural surroundings has a positive benefit on our health and wellbeing. Studies have also shown that nature connectedness is a good determinant of attitudes and behaviours that support the environment and encourage positive action for wildlife.

However, not everyone has had the opportunity to connect with nature. The Green Minds approach is to reach out to new communities and empower them to engage with the natural world in ways that are meaningful to them. This includes co-design and delivery of new and more biodiverse natural spaces alongside inclusive engagement and stewardship activities.

After some research, Green Minds adopted the use of the Nature Connectedness Pathways (developed by the University of Derby and implemented nationally by our partners National Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust) as a practical framework for our engagement activities.

The table on page 36 gives some examples of how Green Minds is implementing the 5 pathways through the interventions that we are delivering. We will evaluate how effective these activities are for supporting nature connectedness and adding social value in line with our emerging indicators.



Image by Chris Parkes

Adapting to covid

Whilst we had to limit our initial aspirations and adapt our activities hugely due to Covid restrictions, as a result we developed our online engagement, reaching out to new audiences through webinars, social media and use of digital tools that make nature more visible and encourage exploration.

We have created self-guided family activities to support independence and focused our campaigns and communications on the use of natural public spaces for mental and social wellbeing during the pandemic, working with local health organisations and social prescribers.

“We are thrilled to see the innovative application of the pathways to nature connection in Plymouth City Council’s Green Minds partnership project. It is really exciting to see the scope and scale of the applications across community engagement, infrastructure design, land management, art and culture, social prescribing and more. Green Minds offers a shining example of what local governments can achieve and should aspire to, to help unite the wellbeing of people and nature.”

- Professor Miles Richardson, Founder and Lead of the Nature Connectedness Research Group at University of Derby



Adopting the pathways to nature connectedness as the Green Mindsets activity framework:

Examples of Green Minds interventions under each pathway

1. Contact

The act of engaging with nature through the senses for pleasure e.g. listening to birdsong, smelling wildflowers, watching the sunset.

Green Minds interventions

- Access improvements such as all access paths with resting points and improved seating
- Delivering outreach activities to non-users of parks and greenspaces, supporting nature connection
- Traditional and digital signage raising awareness of particular species in an area
- Building in nature connection into all our activities - including group, guided and self-led, responding to different audience needs

2. Beauty

Engagement with the aesthetic qualities of nature, e.g. appreciating natural scenery or engaging with nature through the arts

Green Minds interventions

- Facilitating student art projects to raise awareness of nature
- Installing camera points to develop a public led photographic collection of landscape changes
- Bringing nature into citywide arts programmes such as Illuminate Light Festival and Immersive Nature Films
- Commissioning 8 citywide arts/ cultural projects

3. Meaning

Using nature or natural symbolism (e.g. language and metaphors) to represent an idea, thinking about the meaning of nature and signs of nature, e.g. the first swallow of summer.

Green Minds interventions

- Online and digital communications that talk about nature in creative and engaging ways, bringing to life the non-human
- Working with school children to create nature inspired poetry and walking trails
- Creation of a citizen nature dictionary

4. Emotion

An emotional bond with, and love for nature e.g. talking about, and reflecting on your feelings about nature.

Green Minds interventions

- A cross sector Nature Based Leadership programme that supports reflection and action linked to a personal connection with nature, sharing stories more widely
- Green Social Prescribing programmes that encourage reflection and response to nature

5. Compassion

Extending the self to include nature, leading to a moral and ethical concern for nature e.g. developing pro-environmental behaviours and nature stewardship

Green Minds interventions

- Support nature based enterprise to steward local natural spaces and provide facilities that help engage a wider audience
- Providing webinars and online toolkits to enable local communities to take action for wildlife in their local area
- Developing a volunteer programme at each Green Minds site
- Building a rewilding network to build local capacity for action

Evaluating nature connectedness

To evaluate the effectiveness of Green Minds activities on nature connectedness we have gathered evidence based on the Nature Connection Index which can be used on individuals and groups of adults and/or children. (1)

The Nature Connection Index also forms part of Natural England's national-level People and Nature survey and is based on the statements below:

- *I always find beauty in nature*
- *I always treat nature with respect*
- *Being in nature makes me very happy*
- *Spending time in nature is very important to me*
- *I find being in nature really amazing*
- *I feel part of nature*

As part of our evaluation framework we have developed a short guide alongside a suite of tools to enable activity deliverers to collect data in line with the Nature Connection Index.

In addition, we are working with social researchers on more in-depth research case studies exploring the role of nature connection pathways within:

- Nature based land management training with our apprentice cohort
- A series of five multimedia creative commissions for both audiences and participants, working closely with Plymouth College of Art

1. Nature Connectedness Research Group, University of Derby Richardson, M., Hunt, A., Hinds, J., Bragg, R., Fido, D., Petronzi, D., Barbett, L., Clitherow, T., White, M., (2019). A measure of nature connectedness for children and adults: Validation, performance, and insights. Sustainability, 11(12).



“I felt inspired by hearing about what is going on across the city and those who are already successfully running community rewilding projects or sites.”

- Participant, Rewilding Network Summer Social

“This was so good for our children as many don't have gardens or spend time outside.”

- Nursery teacher, Keyham



“I walked here most days during the pandemic, the vast views, the peace, the bird life and lovely planting gave me space to just escape the troubles.”

- Stonehouse resident walking down to Devil's Point

Evidencing social value

With our partners at University of Plymouth, Green Minds has looked at how nature connection can add social value at a societal level.

Social value can incorporate many different facets of human society, including attitudes, values, behaviours as well as the structures that frame social organisations and actions (McKinley et al 2019).

During 2021, we carried out an analysis of academic literature and social media commentary on green and blue city spaces, and 138 face to face appreciative inquiry interviews with people who use and don't use parks and greenspaces; people with long term health issues and local families to understand what they value about nature and what the barriers to access were.

Building on these findings, University of Plymouth have been developing a set of social value indicators for cultural, social and heritage values associated with green and blue space - for use both within policy and the decision-making process and to support the collection of useful data that contributes to our wider understanding of these issues at society level.

The table in Figure 1 demonstrates the multi-dimensional lens through which 'value' can be defined, for instance not just through the benefits of nature for physical health, but the importance of acknowledging factors such as the personal (spiritual encounters), social (enhancing social ties) communal (learning environments); aesthetic (the 'view'), sensory, sense of place (heritage) and other facets. Broadening the framework to include experiential

factors, including personal biography, memories, experiences, and frequency of visit (Horwitz et al., 2015) is critical for local decision-making, planning and conservation processes for both short term and long term goals, in relation to the provision, inclusion and accessibility of urban nature (Poe, Norman & Levin, 2014).

Identifying and recognising the multi-layered social value of parks and natural spaces helps to support the justification for the creation, maintenance and upkeep of urban natural spaces in the city of Plymouth, and beyond, putting Green Mindsets into action.

The University of Plymouth undertook a policy document analysis of how nature is represented and linked across a range of statutory documents relating to the Plymouth Plan 2014 – 2034 and Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014-2034. As new policies develop in line with the Environment Act, Green Minds will work with partners to embed the concept of social value of human-nature relationships within placemaking, urban design and cultural initiatives at a citywide level.

Emerging Social Value Indicators



Figure 1. Summary typology of 'Social Values', emerging from academic literature on green and blue spaces. Table adapted from Zhou et al (2012) and incorporating updated literature from Lovell et al (2020), de Bell et al (2018), Kenter et al (2015), Horwitz et al (2015).

Communications that inspire action

Communicating the need for changes to public space management, what a nature-rich cared for city looks like and the social value of this has been critical to getting buy-in and creating a sense of a city full of Green Mindsets.

We have used the pathways to nature connectedness and the emerging social value indicators to inform our communications messages for a wide audience, co-designing materials with our communities, local leaders and partners. This has included film, signage, webinars and social media campaigns. We have focused on playful messages that support nature connection, which reach out to new audiences.

To support changes in values and attitudes as well as behaviour, we use the **'See, Think, Do, Care'** digital marketing framework. (1)

1. Avinash Kausik <https://www.kaushik.net/avinash/see-think-do-care-win-content-marketing-measurement/>

"With Green Minds, Real Ideas have been commissioned to create a series of immersive experiences with the idea to provoke change, get people to think differently, and hopefully to change behaviours as well. The idea of rewilding came about because of the conversations we've been having through Green Minds and with partners."

- Claire Honey, Real Ideas Illuminate Festival Manager



Action for insects

See, Think, Do, Care: Case Study I

Alongside physical changes to reduce our grass cutting and increase wildflowers across the city we have run social media wildflower campaigns and on-site signage to raise awareness of the changes.

We encourage people to share images of wildflowers in their gardens or in local spaces, and share tips on how to manage them best for wildlife through national campaigns such as Action for Insects.

Over the last year we have noticed much more social media debate on changes to grass cutting, wildflower management and the use of pesticides. We are increasingly noticing that those favouring 'neat and tidy' spaces are being challenged by those supporting more nature-rich spaces as awareness and understanding of our natural environment increases - asking what does a cared-for city look like?

As we came out of the first lockdown, The Rebel Botanists chalked Plymouth pavements and paths pointing out the names of so called 'weeds', highlighting their value as urban pioneer plants.

More groups and individuals are approaching us, wanting to take action and increase wildflowers in their local areas. Green Minds have responded by sharing a series of on-site and online training sessions and digital resources through our Rewilding Network to encourage and support this inspiring Action for Insects.



Image by Eva McGrath

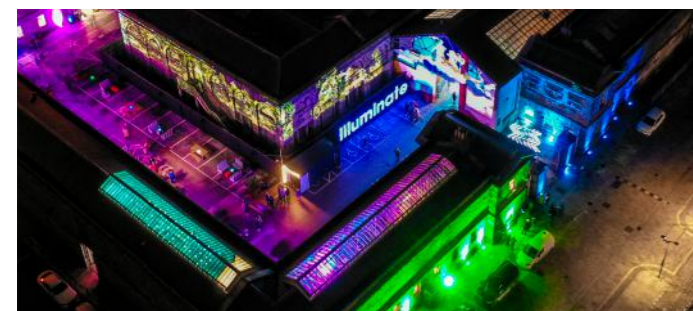
Making nature more visible using the arts and digital technology

See, Think, Do, Care: *Case Study 2*

Working with Real Ideas, Green Minds influenced the city's annual light festival 'Illuminate' 2021 to have an ecological focus where international artists raised awareness of terrestrial and marine species and created a series of immersive experiences in the city's virtual cinema dome.

Illuminate included a piece called 'Re-wilding' (Florian Guibert), which visualised an alternative future where buildings were allowed to incorporate nature. The event was free and 25,947 visitors attended and 93% of these were Plymouth residents. Real Ideas will build on this experience to develop their nature based immersive dome offer with Green Minds over the next phase of the programme.

Inspired by Illuminate, Plymouth College of Art and PCC have worked with Low Carbon Devon to jointly commission a series of local cultural projects which will work with communities in creative ways to 'make nature more visible' in 2022, including hands-on participation in making and creating.



Living Nature Lab

We're also exploring the role of digital technology in revealing nature - the University of Plymouth's Smarter Futures programme is working with The Data Place enterprise to collect, collate and format natural environment data for sharing on an open data platform for environmental assets in Plymouth.

Our pilot living lab in Central Park is informing the next steps for sensing and engagement trials across other Green Minds sites.

We have installed an open source sensor network and prototype digital engagement through a series of QR code enabled signage that reveal data about wildlife activity, air quality, temperature, humidity and the number of visitors. Access and visualisation of this data is through a live dashboard on site to engage park users through revealing live data about nature and we'll be 'asking the park' about what's happening through a live chatbot at Central Park!

Image by Jay Stone

Beaver fever

See, Think, Do, Care: *Case Study 3*

Social media engagement from the beaver reintroduction was the the highest we have ever experienced - a 970% increase on our average engagement.

Building on this engagement we ran a series of popular webinars, including an interactive element to get more involved through practical volunteering and citizen science.

We also developed a schools resource pack, educational visit offer and promoted a beaver naming competition to further raise awareness and understanding of urban rewilding across Plymouth.

The charismatic beaver proved to be an effective gateway to promote a range of volunteer opportunities and engage a more diverse audience. It has also promoted urban rewilding activities such as citizen science/ ecological monitoring and wildflower seed harvesting; and participation in our Take Action for Wildlife training and volunteer programme.

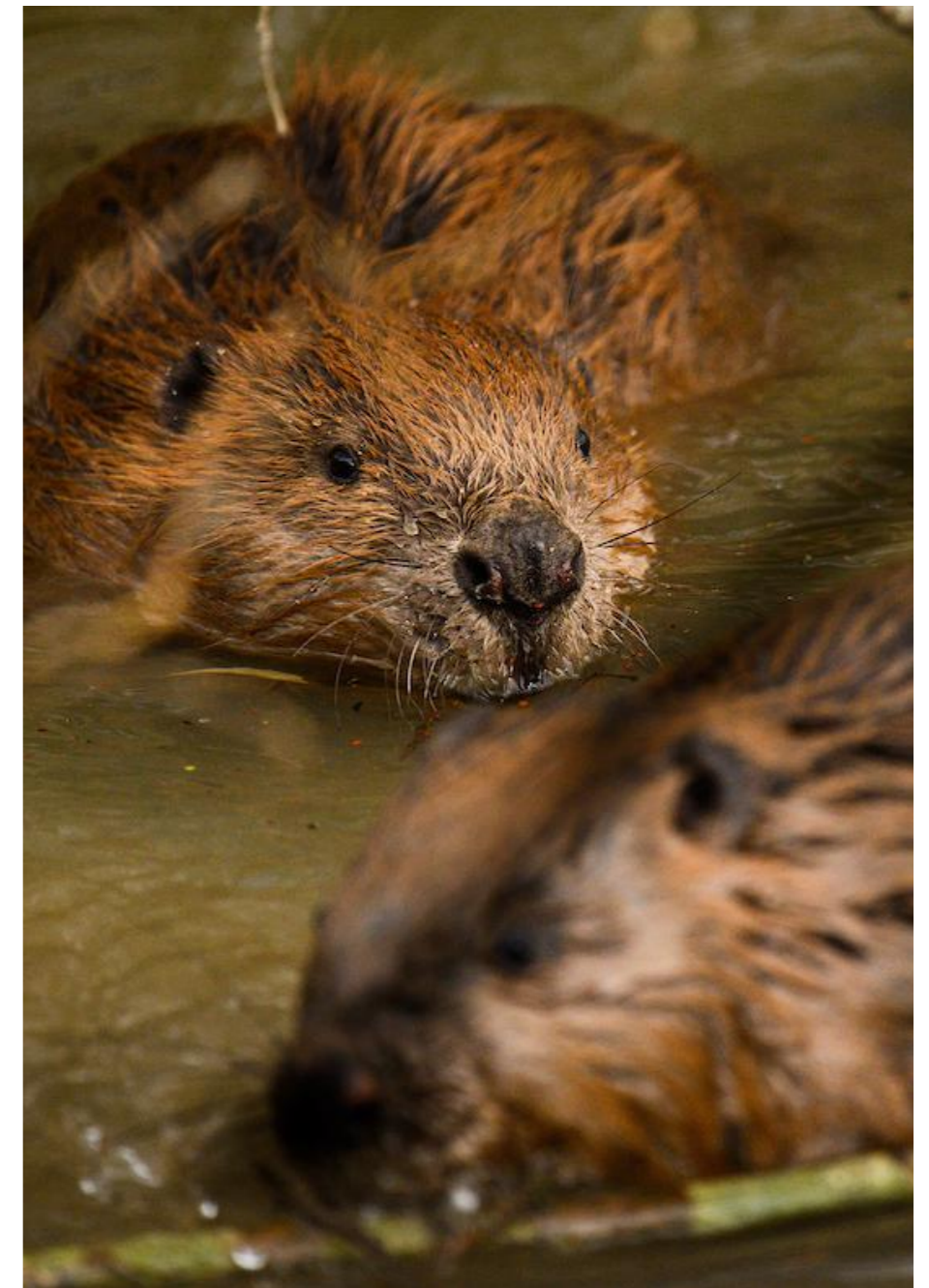


Image by Chris Parkes

Embracing complexity and taking a systems wide approach

Creating a more collaborative interdisciplinary network of practitioners and researchers and developing new co-stewardship infrastructures. This aims to recognise nature as a stakeholder, creating strong feedback loops between policy and day to day management.

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Working with complexity: Applying systems thinking in the Green Minds context

Natural resource management issues are complex, involving multiple interactions between a range of human stakeholders and natural landscapes with their associated ecologies.

Green Minds aims to take a systemic approach to support decision making, knowledge transfer and policy making in this complex environment.

One of the key principles of systems theories is that systems comprise of multiple actors, with unique and diverse views about how the system works. Engaging with the insights of these actors can create a better understanding of the underlying structures and functions that cause a system to operate in a particular way and identify leverage points to deliver radical change at a number of levels.

As part of the Green Minds programme we carried out a participatory systems inquiry over 6 months with 27 of our partners' staff to:

- develop a shared understanding of the system in which urban rewilding is taking place
- build relationships and awareness between diverse stakeholders
- identify actions which would maximise the impact that the project could have

Green Minds Systems Inquiry Methodology

Understanding the issue:

Literature review; Existing knowledge and experience; Local context.



Gathering data from the field:

Appreciative Inquiry interviews with 140 local residents and 52 greenspace staff; Review of existing greenspace policies; Social media sentiment analysis on Green Minds sites.



Focus groups with partner organisations:

Review of the data and exploring the enablers and barriers for urban rewildings.



Mapping the system with partner organisations:

Rich picture workshops; Creation of an initial concept map; Identifying key leverage points.



Evaluating the process and identifying next steps



The Green Minds systems map

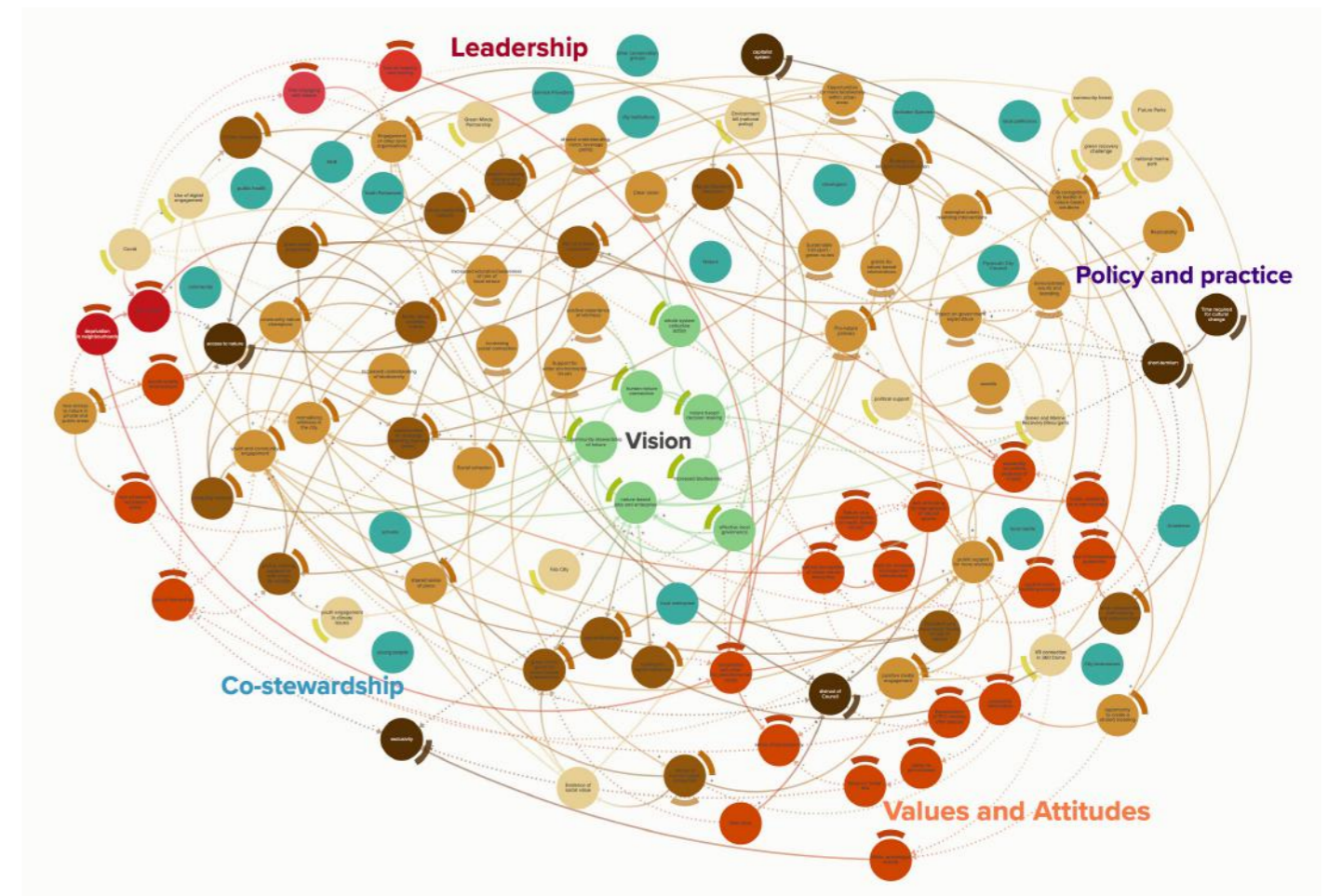
As well as helping to develop the Green Minds Theory of Change (page 12), our Systems Inquiry identified 4 themes to direct our efforts within the system over the next 2 years.

Prioritising **values and attitudes** that reduce the separation between humans and non-humans, using new ways to make everyday nature more visible and providing more nature connection opportunities for health and wellbeing

Inclusive **co-stewardship** approaches that empower more diverse communities to get involved in co-production and action that ensures an equitable distribution of environmental benefits and disbenefits, with a focus on social as well as ecological value

Capitalising on new UK environment legislation, health and climate initiatives to support the development of new cross sector **policy, planning, practice** and finance for evidence-based nature solutions, with Green Minds partners leading the way

Partnering with other nature, health, culture, economic and climate initiatives to create a new generation of nature-based **leadership**, reinforcing the social and ecological benefits of a city with nature at its heart to scale and sustain action



Green Minds Systems Map

Developed from discussions as a tool to support understanding and areas of leverage at mid-point review in the project.

See the [website link](#) to view and explore the systems map in detail.

<https://embed.kumu.io/ce34b0ed6b3958dd682484e5a2752bd3#untitled-map>

Outcomes from the systems inquiry process

The process of systems inquiry has enabled the multi-sectoral Green Minds partnership to pull together a breadth of knowledge and experience and build relationships to create a clearer vision for the programme, owned by the partnership.

There is a clear appreciation of the need to work across sectoral boundaries, the value of time to develop trusted relationships, a commitment to trying something new and a recognition that there may be a need to give something up to benefit the wider system.

This way of working will continue throughout the life of the project, testing our ideas and evaluating the impact of any changes we make. We will also evaluate how this approach has impacted on the way that partners work more generally.

Improved systems understanding and awareness

“Listening to other opinions and ways of thinking has helped me see different perspectives between experts from different professional areas. I can now appreciate there are many ways to enable change”

- Tom, Real Ideas

An embedded way of working

‘this process emphasises that changing attitudes to nature needs multiple approaches and interventions. Do we still have some work to do on our own Green Minds? ... [we need to] make these discussions and exercises part of business-as-usual’

- Andrew, PCC

Building relationships

“I have really enjoyed the discussions with partners, partly as a chance to get to know people better, and to feel connected in the context of working from home for the majority of this project!”

- Sabrina, Data Place

Determining strategic direction

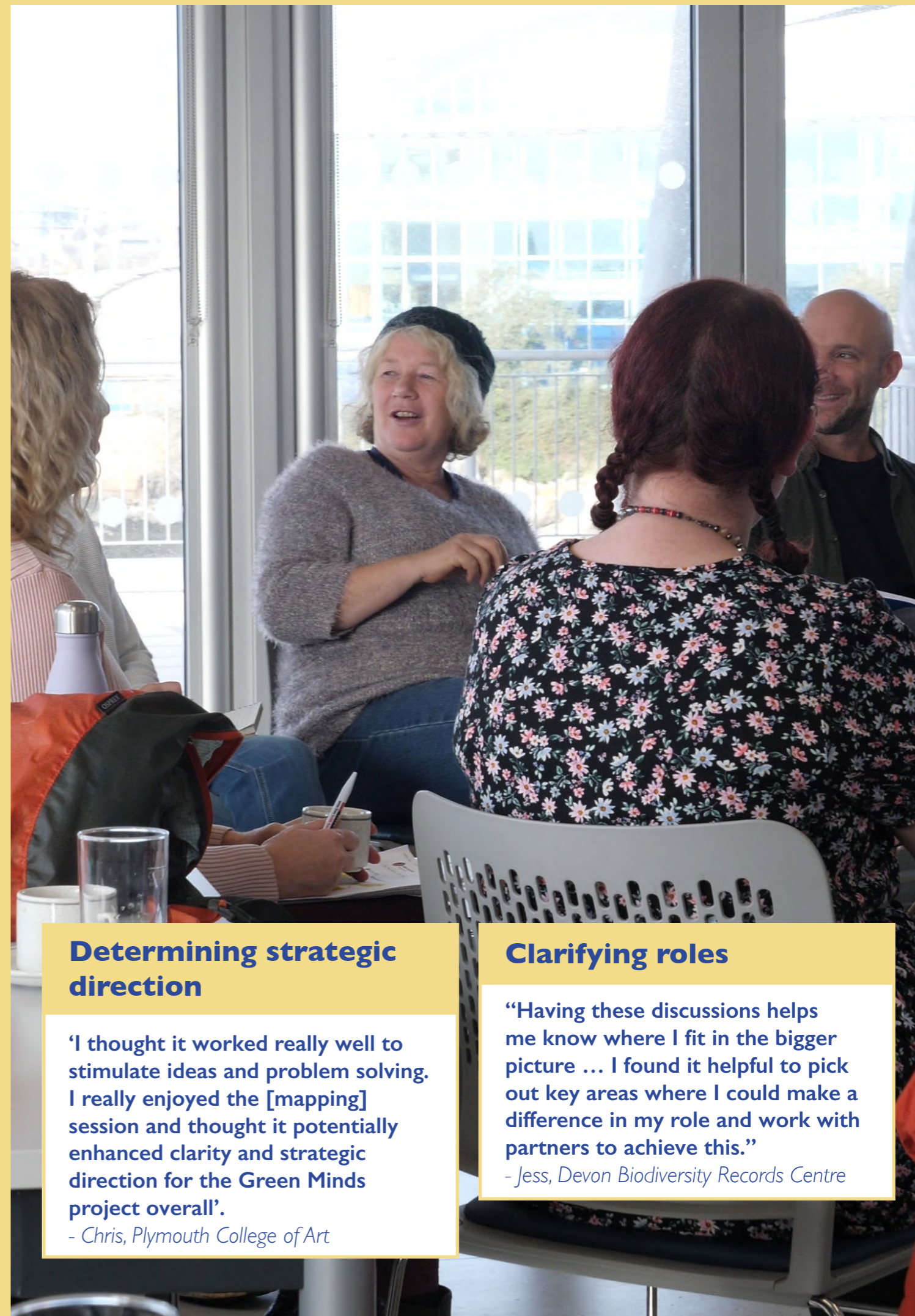
‘I thought it worked really well to stimulate ideas and problem solving. I really enjoyed the [mapping] session and thought it potentially enhanced clarity and strategic direction for the Green Minds project overall’.

- Chris, Plymouth College of Art

Clarifying roles

“Having these discussions helps me know where I fit in the bigger picture ... I found it helpful to pick out key areas where I could make a difference in my role and work with partners to achieve this.”

- Jess, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre



Developing new co-stewardship models

Green Minds is trialling different approaches towards collective care that respond to our diverse greenspaces and community needs, and support community empowerment.

This work aims to empower more diverse communities to get involved in co-production and stewardship that ensures an equitable distribution of environmental benefits and disbenefits, with a focus on social as well as ecological value.

Aligning with PCC's Community Empowerment Programme this approach aims to move from a position of "we'll tell you what we want to do and what we think the city needs", to "we'll collectively find out what our communities need and collectively work together to deliver the city we want".

"During these past two years of the pandemic, it's been amazing to see an increased appreciation of the importance of greenspaces for our mental and physical wellbeing - a simple and free prescription for improved health! Parks and verges left with longer areas of grass were teeming with butterflies, insects, small mammals and birds."

- Ed Parr-Ferris, Conservation Manager Devon Wildlife Trust



Collective action: Plymouth's rewilding network

Across Plymouth, individuals, community groups and organisations are taking action to support biodiversity by rewilding grass verges, creating new habitats, planting trees, inspiring connection with nature and much more.

Green Minds is connecting, promoting and supporting this action through a programme of peer learning events, specialist advice, practical toolkits and networking socials.

We are currently working with Plymouth Octopus Project, Food Plymouth and Devon Rewilding Network to expand the network and share best practice and learning with organisations and individuals across the county.

Image by Chris Parkes



Community land management: Keyham Shed, North Down Crescent Park

Keyham 'Shed', North Down Crescent Park has been taken on by Keyham Neighbourhood Watch to develop a community cafe.

They group now have a PCC licence for the building and have produced a business plan and financial forecast for the council to consider prior to any longer term agreement and initial funding for refurbishment of building. Keyham Neighbourhood Watch have had an active role in the wider co-design of the park to improve landscaping and planting for people and wildlife.



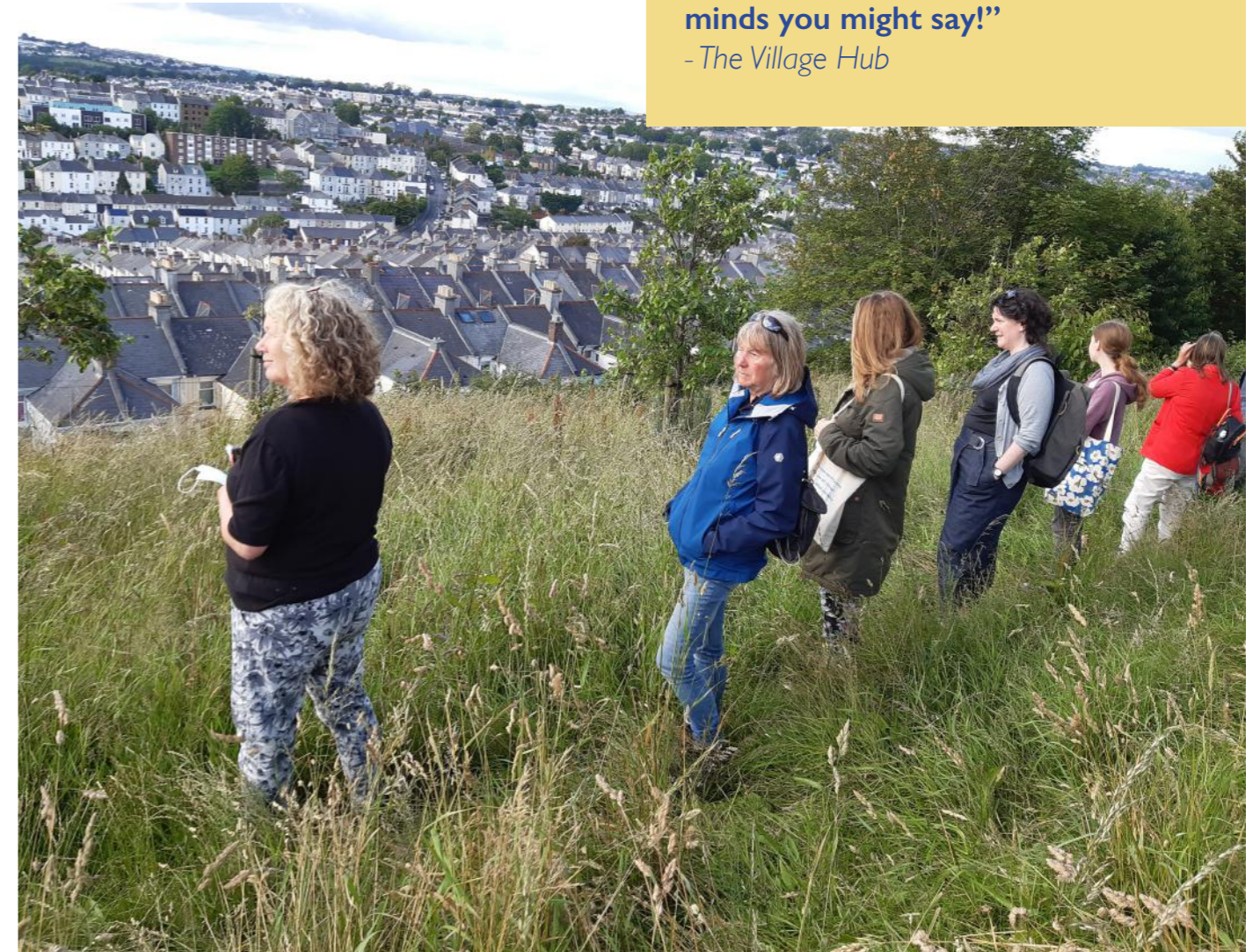
Community land management: The Village Hub

The Village Hub is a community enterprise that has taken on a licence from PCC to manage part of Blockhouse Park.

As part of the Green Minds grant they have been able to design and landscape an outdoor learning area for the park and are about to animate the park with a series of creative community events, aimed at reaching new audiences in their community.

“Green Minds has helped us design and develop our park to support nature and and bring together people who live in our area and were interested in rewilding, but had never met before - a meeting of minds you might say!”

- The Village Hub



Developing nature based social enterprise

Green Minds is building on the work of Future Parks and its Enrich Programme findings (led by Real Ideas) to directly support social enterprises and community business, not just to start-up and grow in greenspaces, but to also have a positive impact on their natural environment.

The Enrich programme was a mixed co-design working group of 48 council officers, from across Plymouth City Council departments and social enterprise/community businesses who are leading activity and have an expertise in green spaces. It highlighted the significant and greater role these community enterprises can play in collectively caring for our urban green spaces, supporting a more regenerative economy and having a restorative impact on the natural environment.

Since then, Green Minds have supported 7 community businesses with advice and funded a total of £45,000 through small grants that benefit wildlife and people in the south west of the city. For every £1 funded through Green Minds an additional £7 has been brought into these businesses through their own enterprise and external investment, a total of £315,000. Funds have enabled new green space improvements and enterprising activity, engaging community members and increasing biodiversity in the Devonport and Stonehouse neighbourhoods. Recipients include a park based theatre for families; an innovative approach to using technology to develop citywide community beekeeping; a forest school in a disused park pavilion; an outdoor classroom in a public park and a community growing hub. The legacy will include improved spaces for people and wildlife; increased visits; a network of nature based enterprises; and a resource hub on best practice to support other cities to take this approach.

Nature Based Enterprises - supported by Green Minds Grants:

- **Stiltskin Soapbox Children's Theatre** - art garden and performance space creation as part of children's theatre in Devonport Park
- **Snapdragons CIC** - outdoor learning area for childcare and community groups focused around a disused bowling green in Victoria Park
- **Food Plymouth, Generous Earth Project** - creating community composting site and training in Victoria Park
- **Cliik** - Transformation of a grey streetscape in North Stonehouse into urban garden, growing and community space
- **Pollenize** - revealing hidden nature by bringing images and activity of bees to people in the city through installation of cameras and sensors in their network of bee apiaries
- **The Village Hub** - management and improvement of green space in Blockhouse Park into community/outdoor learning space
- **Be Unique** - community outdoor fitness in nature taking place weekly in Victoria Park

Image by Chris Parkes



Learning and next steps

From our emerging co-stewardship trials it's clear that there is not a one-size fits all approach! Stewardship approaches need to respond to unique communities and greenspaces. In response to this diversity, and to support replication in other areas, Green Minds is pulling together a spectrum of participation and case studies that give examples of a range of nature based stewardship models.

We are also working with Plymouth City Council's Community Empowerment Programme and wider community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure long term support of greenspace co-stewardship networks and models which recognise the value of these spaces as social infrastructure as well as the benefits for improved biodiversity within the wider placemaking agenda.

Building on feedback from the Green Minds nature based enterprise trials about the challenges they face navigating the legal and procedural requirements to set up businesses in public natural spaces, our partners at Real Ideas are in the process of creating an online resource hub to support social and environmental entrepreneurs who have ideas for nature and/or park based business to take forward their initiatives. This will be launched in May 2022. We will also have an impact and evaluation report on the enterprise approach available in June 2022.

Nature based leadership

As part of our systems approach to sustainable land management in Plymouth we recognised the need to strengthen and increase cross-sector involvement in the care of nature.

The Nature Based Leadership Programme was developed and facilitated in partnership with Realise Earth - established experts in sustainability leadership working with experienced leaders, professionals and business owners who care about the climate and environment crises and want to make a difference.

This action-orientated programme was aimed at managers of teams and projects across different sectors to develop their strengths as a leader for nature recovery, and to enable positive action on some of society's biggest challenges such as inequality, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

The key elements of the programme are:

- Social values approach to nature-based leadership and how these determine attitudes and behaviours, drawing on the latest research from the Common Cause Foundation
- Systems thinking in action to identify the most promising opportunities for leaders and organisations to gain the support of funders, decisions makers and other stakeholders for nature-based solutions
- Nature Based Leadership Network to share experience, insights and collective wisdom and build support for sustainability, that catalyses and supports change
- Ongoing coaching/advice to support action and help implement changes



Participants are from a range of sectors, organisations and professions including engineers, a children's charity, education, community business, commissioning and planning. Currently in the action plan phase, the programme will be assessing the impact of this cohort in Spring 2022 and identify the next steps. Future phases are likely to include expanding the nature-based leadership network; peer mentoring and a targeted second cohort to further increase the diversity of the network.

“When the email came round with invites for this Nature-Based Leadership Programme, aiming “to build the strengths of leaders for a nature recovery and take positive action to tackle society’s biggest challenges”, my initial thought was that this doesn’t apply to me! I’m not a leader! But it sounded really interesting so I applied anyway and was happily accepted.

As a planning officer I deal with various proposals relating to biodiversity/nature /the environment, and the application of the planning policies in order to assess development. This course has got me outside of this planning bubble and thinking more about values and wider systems.

I’ve particularly enjoyed the new connections made on this course in relation to other exciting projects in Plymouth, and a key learning point for me is that anyone can be a nature based leader.

The course has inspired me to use nature in wellbeing sessions, as part of my role as wellbeing champion. I have just delivered my first session in nature, and received really positive feedback”.

- Katie Graham, Planning Officer



Policy and practice to leverage systems change

Innovative green finance: Biodiversity net gain and habitat banking

As the new Environment Act comes into force we are continuing work with PCC's Environment Planning to support the development of a Local Nature Recovery Network and Strategy for Plymouth; completing all our baseline ecological assessments following Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) principles; collating our natural environment data into an online data platform; and implementing BNG at Central Park and Derriford Community Park. This will help us to create strong feedback loops between day to day management changes and policy.

The University of Plymouth's Smarter Futures programme is working with The Data Place enterprise to collect, collate and format natural environment data for sharing on an open data platform for environmental assets in Plymouth, supporting BNG approaches. This will be complimented by a live visual dashboard installed in Central Park and accessible online. The dashboard will be developed as an educational, motivational and empowering tool to get communities inspired to take action for nature.

In 2022/23 working with partners at National Trust and Future Parks we will use BNG to support PCC to set up a habitat banking vehicle to access private finance to fund nature restoration, creating a new financially sustainable system for the long-term maintenance of nature-rich green infrastructure across the city that delivers social as well as environmental value.

We will share the learning to support others to fast follow this new way of financing nature in the UK.



Green Minds Partners leading by example, incorporating environmental policies into core work

The Green Minds partners have challenged themselves to lead by example. Already we are seeing the influence of their involvement in the programme on the values, policies and practice within their own organisations.

“The world needs creatives now, more than ever. It is a defining proposition from Plymouth College of Art to put art, design and creativity at the centre of the world’s ‘wicked’ problems - the arts encapsulate how we relate to the world as human beings and rebuilding our relationship with the environment is fundamental. Green Minds is central to the college’s mission of creative learning and commitment to social and environmental justice.”

- Stephen Felmingham, Academic Dean, Plymouth College of Art

“Working on Green Minds has been brilliant for Real Ideas and has helped us to gain the knowledge and experience to prioritise actions that have a positive impact on nature and communities in which we work. It has supported our thinking to develop our new One Planet Living Action Plan and embedded our approach to regenerative practice both inwardly and with partners and clients.”

- Lindsey Hall, Chief Executive, Real Ideas

‘Active to Thrive is a Plymouth-wide, long term, strategic action plan to 2034 across the whole sports, leisure and physical activity system. The work of Green Minds and its focus on Plymouth’s green and blue assets is key to the delivery of this plan and to increasing physical activity in Plymouth; and supports our longer term policy aim of a high quality and functional network of natural blue and green spaces exist that enable people to be more active, now and in the future.’

- Ruth Harrell, Director Plymouth Public Health

Moving forward

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Next steps

Using the learning identified through action research in the first half of the programme, we have identified key activities to progress towards the end of the project under our three core themes.

This next stage of the programme will enable us to identify what can be transitioned into business as usual and what can be scaled up and replicated elsewhere.

Urban rewilding interventions

- Supporting the development of a Plymouth Local Nature Recovery Plan
- Taking a co-design approach with our communities we will increase urban rewilding and improve access to our key investment sites and continue to monitor their impact on biodiversity, community health and wellbeing and connection to nature
- Continue our nature based land management training for greenspace staff and expand to other major land managers in the city such as housing associations; expand neighbourhood trials for pesticide-free streetscapes in partnership with the Pesticide Action Network

Creating Green Mindsets

- Deliver a programme of community engagement and volunteering events under our 'See, Think, Do and Care' framework, targeting new audiences and partnerships that support sustainable nature stewardship
- Deliver a series of community led creative commissions to make nature more visible across the city
- Continue to engage and widen cross sector professional audiences through our webinar series and an experiential training programme
- Deliver a programme of social media campaigns themed around nature connection and taking action for wildlife

Embracing complexity and taking a systems wide approach

- Influence city-wide policy/strategy that support nature-based decision-making with associated nature-based KPIs
- Supporting the development of Biodiversity Net Gain and the creation of an urban model for habitat banking that delivers social and environmental value
- Deliver phase 2 of the Nature Based Leadership programme and further increase the network across sectors
- Strengthen, expand and evaluate our land management co-stewardship structures

Knowledge sharing and scaling up:

During 2022/23 we will:

Publish a series of in-depth insight papers with an associated webinar series to share learning, challenges and the impact of project activities and innovations

Produce a 'kit bag', with evidence-based tools and resources to share our learning and influence emerging Plymouth projects such as the National Marine Park and Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest, as well as for wider dissemination to UK/EU audiences

Work with the UIA Expert to support and mentor at least 3 other cities in our Green Minds approach to a nature based sustainable land management system

Insight papers coming up:

- Pathways to nature connectedness and the implications for placemaking
- Systems thinking and system change to inspire nature based solutions
- Urban rewilding in practice
- Realising social value and how this can inform planning and delivery
- Co-stewardship of natural spaces: co-design and co-management for urban placemaking
- Making nature more visible: the impact of creative communications

A flavour of what will be in our kitbag:

- Urban nature nurture - a suite of resources for effective participation in nature with diverse groups
- Nature based leadership - case studies and resources to develop personal and group based programmes
- The role of digital in supporting nature connectedness - case studies and tools
- Nature based land management - case studies to inspire other urban areas

Image by Chris Parkes



Made possible by the inspiring communities, groups and organisations working to support people and wildlife across Plymouth, including:

Active Devon
Ambios
Argyle Community Trust
Art and Energy
Butterfly Conservation Trust
Chris Parkes Photography
City College
Clean Our Patch
Community Life & Wildlife (CLAW)
Devon and Cornwall Police
Devon Local Nature Partnership
Devon Rewilding Network
Drake Primary School
Elder Tree
Friends of Plymouth's Parks and Greenspaces
Food Plymouth
Ford Primary School
Keyham Barton Primary School
Keyham Green Places
Keyham Neighbourhood Watch
Keyham Scout Group
Livewell Southwest
Living Churchyards
Low Carbon Devon

Marjon University
Montpellier Primary School
Nash & Co Solicitors
Ocean Conservation Trust
Plymouth Community Homes
Plymouth Environmental Action
Plymouth Octopus Project
Plymouth Scrapstore
Pollenize
Rebel Botanists
Rewilding Britain
St Lukes
The Box
The Village Hub
Theatre Royal Plymouth (Funky Llama)
University of Exeter
Westcountry Rivers Trust
Wolseley Trust
Woodland Trust
Youth Parliament



Image by Plymouth College of Art



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#GreenMindsPlymouth

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