



B3.1 Action for Nature

Project Overview: This project aimed to raise awareness of and engage people with urban and rural biodiversity throughout the Inner Forth area, using Ladybirds and Orchards as flagship species and habitats, with a particular emphasis on local schools and community groups. This was done by providing the schools with education packs, which included wildflower seeds or fruit trees along with advice and guidance to encourage them to create different habitats in their grounds and giving talks to local people to increase awareness.

As a result of this preliminary work, the project was able to restore 3 old orchards in Cambuskenneth, Zetland Park (Grangemouth) and Burnside Park (Carronshore) and train 30 people in a variety of new skills including pruning and planting an orchard, winter pruning and grafting. The restoration of previous orchards also meant that heritage varieties of fruit trees were re-established.

Project lead organisation and other organisations involved: Lead: Emilie Wadsworth, CSGNT
Buglife, Forth Valley Orchards, local schools, Local Authority ranger services, Falkirk Community Trust and LBAP staff from each LA

Project Location: IFLI wide

Project dates May 2014 – March 2016

Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
Primary schools engaged	30	53	53 schools (see Appendix) received either a Ladybird pack or an Orchard pack, and used the educational resources and habitat creation tools provided. N.B schools who received both packs are counted twice as they went to different classes or groups.

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Primary schools with habitat creation in grounds	10	10	10 schools who received the orchard pack accepted the trees which went with it to plant in their own grounds. The remaining schools planted their trees in a local park or community greenspace because they didn't have room in their own grounds.
Heritage fruit tree varieties re-established	5	5	Arbraoth Oslin, Thomas Jeffery, Thorle Pippin, Lord Rosebery and Coul Blush.
Old orchards re-stored/re-created	3	3	Cambuskenneth, Zetland Park and Burnside Park
Awareness raising activities/training days	5	4	Training sessions on Planning an orchard (4 attendees); grafting (11); winter pruning (10) and general orchard maintenance (5).
Community groups engaged	0	8	Love our Ladybirds: Falkirk Urban Warriors, Westquarter Glen/Falkirk Nature Fest, Action in Mind (Stirling), Whins of Milton Sheltered Housing and Muiravonside Country Park Volunteers Orchards: Friends of Zetland Park, Tulliallan Growers and Cambuskenneth Community Council

What difference has this project made to the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Inner Forth?

This project has been a great tool for natural heritage by restoring orchard habitat which had once been lost, diversifying school grounds and encouraging the public to create a variety of ladybird habitats in their gardens. In addition to this, the project has led to teams of people volunteering to manage the orchards so that they can be preserved for the future. It is also hoped that by encouraging children to take an interest in nature in their school grounds, they will undertake biodiversity projects at home.

Cultural heritage has also been enhanced as the project has led to the restoration of culturally significant orchards and the promotion of heritage varieties of fruit trees.

What difference has this project made to people?

This project has made a great difference to people. Not only has it provided training opportunities to locals but it has also provided an engaging form of education for children to learn about the environment.

Specific feedback during the planting of the orchard at Zetland Park in Grangemouth, Falkirk - several locals using the park approached during the planting and said how pleased they were that an orchard was being recreated there - a few were old enough to remember the remnants of the last orchard. One lady said she'd been keeping an eye on the first lot of trees planted the week earlier on her twice-daily dog walk.

Useful Links

<http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/projects/recording-celebrating/action-for-nature>

<http://www.csgnt.org.uk/activities/plant-a-mini-orchard>

<http://www.csgnt.org.uk/activities/plant-a-mini-orchard/orchard-resources-and-information>

<http://www.csgnt.org.uk/activities/love-our-ladybirds>

Future Plans

The ongoing management of the habitat creation sites will be the responsibility of the landowner or community group involved in managing the site currently. This project has provided training for the groups; school grounds maintainers etc in specific management techniques, particularly the orchard management.

All educational resources provided to schools have been in electronic format, as well as hard copies, so they can be retained and reused in the future.

Lessons Learned

The Action for Nature project built on biodiversity campaigns that CSGNT have run for several years. The Ladybird theme was very popular with families and schools, and a great tool for engaging the general public at events and for driving the creation of a range of different habitats. The Orchard theme was more specialist, but engaged an audience that CSGNT hasn't traditionally engaged with, and really brought the cultural heritage and natural heritage links out. Identifying site for the orchard restoration was more difficult than anticipated, probably due to perceived management difficulties, but the inclusion of training and support via Forth

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Valley Orchards significantly helped with this. Additionally, sourcing the specific varieties of trees at quite short notice proved a challenge!

Photographic Evidence

The orchard school pack (Emilie Wadsworth)



The school ladybird pack (Emilie Wadsworth)



Pupils planting at Zetland Park (Emilie Wadsworth)



Zetland Park Completed (Emilie Wadsworth)



Funding Partners



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NB the following sections will be removed if this document is shared publicly

Any other comments (confidential)

Appendix

Abercromby Primary

Airth Primary School

Allan's Primary School

Banchory Primary

Bannockburn Primary School

Beancross Primary School

Blackness Primary School

Bo'ness Public Primary I

Bothkennar Primary School

Bowhouse Primary School

Cairneyhill Primary

Carron Primary School

Carrongrange Special needs

Carronshore Primary School

Clackmannan Primary

Culross Primary School

Deanburn Primary School

Fallin Primary School

Grange Primary School

Holy Name RC Primary

Inzievar Primary School

Kinneil Primary School

Moray Primary School

Park Primary

Redwell Primary

Riverside Primary School

Sacred Heart RC Primary

Saline Primary School

St Bernardettes RC

St Frances Xavier Primary School

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St Johns Primary

St Mary's RC Primary

St Mungos Primary

St Serfs Primary

St Serfs R C Primary

Sunnyside Primary

Torryburn Primary School

Tulliallan Primary School
