

A8 Landscape Conservation Program – including grants

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>Project to enhance the condition of the landscape character and biodiversity by providing advice, assistance and grants to landowners to secure restoration and enhancements aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of geographical sites • Woodland restoration and management • Grassland restoration, management and creation • Hedgerow restoration • Restoration and management of priority UK BAP habitats • Dry stone walling restoration • Barn repairs <p>This included sites throughout the lower Derwent Valley project area, recognised within the Derbyshire Regionally Important Geological Site and Local Wildlife Site systems, Local Nature Reserves and/or where priority habitats or species are known to occur.</p> <p>Practical work was undertaken by the Natural Heritage Project Officer working with a team of volunteers and local groups and individuals associated with sites. Ecological objectives for each site were identified and agreed within a brief site management plan.</p>
<p>Lead Organisation</p>	<p>DerwentWISE Scheme Office</p>
<p>Partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) • National Stone Centre (NSC) • Derbyshire County Council (DCC) • Natural England (NE) • Forestry Commission (FC) • Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) • Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) • Arkwright Society • Chatsworth Estates • National Grid • Alderwasley Parish Council • South Peak Geology Group • East Midlands Geological Society • Local landowners and community groups • Christian Guild
<p>Location</p>	<p>Biodiversity priority sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crich Chase meadows LWS (and proposed SSSI) – thistle control, bramble control, scrub control • Alton Manor Wetland LWS – grassland cutting • Sandbed Lane Recreation Ground LWS– grassland cutting and scrub control

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wapping Complex LWS – scrub control and bramble control • Duffield Millennium Meadow LWS– woodland and grassland management • Crich Chase LWS (and proposed SSSI) – bracken control in target area to encourage regeneration, sycamore thinning • Smith’s Rough LWS – light pruning to open up the disused tram line between Crich Quarry and Ambergate. • Scarthin Rock – meadow restoration • Kennel Wood LWS– rhododendron removal • Ridgeclose Cottage Meadows LWS– ragwort control • Milford Riverside Meadow LWS– willow and alder control • Littlemoor Wood LWS – ride and glade creation, bracken control • Matlock Parks LNR and part SSSI – sycamore removal, • Patchett Wood – rhododendron removal • Swinepark Wood – rhododendron removal • Derwentside – Himalayan balsam control • Hopton Quarry – scrub and bramble removal • Ible - SSSI scrub removal and fencing <p>Geodiversity priority sites requiring practical management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke’s Quarry LWS and RIGS • Hoptonwoodstone Quarry LWS – light vegetation clearance • Prospect Quarry RIGS– vegetation clearance • Bonsall Wood Basalt • Hoptonwood Quarry • Scarthin Rock • Allestree Park • Black Rock and Sheep Pastures Quarry • Buckland Hollow • Terrace Quarry RIGS • Ible Dolerite Quarry • Great Rake • Crich Tors 	
Duration of project	April 2014 - March 2019 Yrs: 1-5	
Total cost of project	£47,196	
Volunteer time	£5,050	
In-kind time	£446	
Outputs	<p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 LWS managed and restored to a favourable or recovering condition. UK BAP Biodiversity habitats enhanced and restored or created • No. of non-designated sites managed and restored to a favourable or recovering condition 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 LWS managed and restored to a favourable or recovering condition. UK BAP Biodiversity habitats enhanced and restored or created • 31 of non-designated sites managed and restored to a favourable or recovering condition

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 LGS restored and returned to a favourable or recovering condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 LGS restored and returned to a favourable or recovering condition
Headlines/added value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of ha of sites restored/maintained/created – 46.18 • No. of metres of fencing created – 1778 • No. of metres hedge restored – 762 • No. of metres dry stone wall repaired – 1614 • No. of grants – 10 	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 An <i>integrated approach</i> to natural and cultural heritage and landscape character conservation • A2 The delivery of <i>significant, long lasting improvements</i> to the condition (and extent where appropriate) of priority sites and features, and hence to the landscape character • A3 Long term improvements to the landscape <i>brought about through better understanding, engagement</i> of land managers and communities, and land use policies and activities <i>based on good information</i> • B2 An <i>increased public understanding</i> of the value of the landscape, and of the need for it to be conserved and restored • B3 Increased <i>engagement and capacity among landowners and communities</i> to care for the landscape in the long term • D1 The perpetuation of <i>traditional crafts</i> necessary for the maintenance of the landscape • D2 Opportunities for <i>local people to develop skills</i> to enable them to engage with their local landscape and its conservation, and benefit from personal development and improved employment prospects • D3 Increased <i>knowledge</i> 	
Lessons Learnt	<p>Through the training of volunteers to a higher skill level the number of positive habitat activities can be increased. Building strong relationships with community groups and local landowners has been an invaluable part of this project</p>	
Any recommendations going forward	<p>Ensure permissions on sites are sought before allocated to a project output. This relates the LGS sites where the target was not achieved.</p>	