



NENESCAPE

Landscape Partnership Scheme

Our final issue at Development stage: LCAP delivered and looking forward

LCAP, what is that?

The **Landscape Conservation Action Plan** is a tome of a document which is presented to Heritage Lottery Fund at the end of the development stage. It finalises the project plans, shows what has been learnt during development, explains what is expected to happen during the 5-year delivery period and what is anticipated beyond that for each project. Anything relevant to Nenescape from the last two years is included along with a plethora of budgets, job descriptions, maps, surveys and more.

HLF will use this to ensure they have confidence in our scheme and, if so, will give us permission to commence Delivery in autumn of this year. A major and pivotal piece of work, which has been a truly collaborative effort, bringing together the skills and expertise of the whole partnership.

Mid-term review

HLF provide projects such as ours with mentors and are supportive in helping with LCAP submission. Part of that support is having a mid-term review with both our Mentor and Grants Officer to assess progress and to make sure that we were on-track to produce a comprehensive document.

Amanda Johnson, Project Manager, Alison Cross, Interpretation & Community Engagement Officer along with some board members and delivery partners attended the review on 22nd March and were given encouraging feedback. If you would like to see the short film they presented on the day, please go to: <https://youtu.be/fzQLzN7kUVQ>

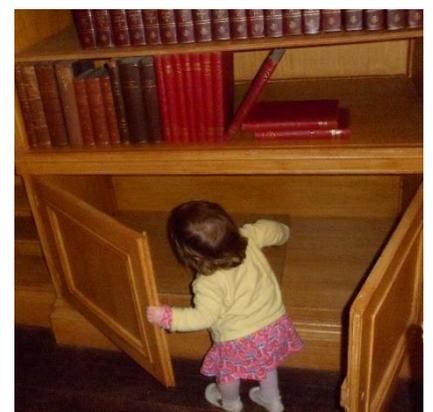
Annual Nene Valley Tourism Stakeholder Event



We went along as guests to this event sponsored by Northampton Borough Council.

Held at Delapre Abbey on Wednesday 29th March we had the opportunity to promote the Nenescape partnership but also to see what has been happening within the abbey walls.

We liked that families will be able to explore the building without the restrictions that have to be imposed when historic houses contain heirlooms. Although sad that the original contents of the abbey were removed it does allow for more freedom for visitors to explore.



Zara exploring in Delapre Abbey library, Denise Horn, Nenescape

Ice Age to Digital Age, partners selected

This is one of the Nenescape managed projects, made up of a number of individual initiatives headed up by our ICE Officer, Alison Cross. Tenders for filming and digital partners, were procured in January 2017 and two partners were selected to lead on the following projects:

Artcodes along the Nene

Akin to QR codes, the artcodes team at Nottingham University use image recognition technology in the same way but offer so much more. As the name suggests, the code for scanning, directing and subsequently pinging information back is all contained within artwork. No special skill is necessary, it can be as naïve or as complex as the designer wishes, therefore anyone who can use a pen can make their own code.

The beauty of artcodes is that the code/artwork itself can inform the viewer but by using an app another dimension is added; you may receive an augmented reality experience, a link to a website or a stand-alone piece of information.



Pilot workshops were held with partners from the Greenway project. We transferred some of our sketches onto leather.

If you would like to find out more, draw your own artcodes go to <http://www.artcodes.co.uk/>

If you enjoy what you find, and, more importantly, if you would like to become part of the *Artcodes along the Nene* project as a volunteer, please let us know.

Nenescape on Film

The Nenescape project as a whole will need to be documented and evaluated throughout, filming will be one way of doing this. Screen Northants, a Community Interest Company based in Northampton were successful in their bid to provide a digital record for us. They will be on-board throughout the delivery phase and were responsible for the filming of our presentation (see Mid-term review).

Enabling Access from Waterway to Land

The Waterspace Study produced in conjunction with the Environment Agency is now on our website:

<http://nenescape.org/projects-1/2016/8/4/land-to-waterways-access>

Please be patient as the 140-page document takes a little while to load.

Nene Valley Festival 2017

The date for this year's Nene Valley Festival has been set: 16th - 24th September with 'Active and Outdoors' as its theme. As the Nenescape team will be away from their desks over the summer months please use <http://www.nenevalley.net/festival-home> to keep up-to-date with what is being planned for this super event.

Britain's Best Surprise



Northamptonshire, Britain's Best Surprise, launched in March 2017 at Boughton House, is

the county's biggest ever campaign to attract visitors. A new official tourism website and events listing www.northamptonshiresurprise.com forms part of the campaign and attracted more than 17,000 visitors in its first few weeks. More broadly, the campaign has contributed to the county's tourism industry enjoying a bumper Easter with venues reporting record numbers.

To be sustainable, Northamptonshire's reinvigorated place marketing requires will build its success on the close working relationships in many areas, one such partnership already in full swing is the Nene Valley and Nenescape teams, enabling a spotlight and informed focus on the Nene Valley as Northamptonshire's star green/ environmental/rural attraction. Please contact info@northamptonshiresurprise.com to share feedback and partnership opportunities.

Peterborough Cathedral's big birthday

Keep an eye out for news of Peterborough Cathedral's 900th anniversary celebrations, culminating in 2018. Included in this are plans to revitalise education, music and worship as well as several conservation projects. Find out more here: <http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/home/the-peterborough-900-campaign.aspx>

Oundle Food Festival 2017

OUNDLE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

On Saturday 24th June
from 9am until 4pm.

With over 75 stalls, music
and dance from the fringe
festival and family

entertainment this free event promises to be a lovely day out for all. A park and ride facility will be in place or catch the X4 or 24 bus to enjoy the full range of items on offer! One of our partners, Destination Nene Valley who organise the Nene Valley Festival each year, will be there. Destination Nene Valley Project Manager, Karen Williams and her team would be pleased to see you too. For more information and a list of stallholders: <http://www.oundlefestival.org.uk/2-uncategorised/160-oundle-food-festival-2017>

BOB (Buddies of Beckets)

This community group of around 30 volunteers are concerned with the preservation and development of Beckets Park, Midsummer Meadow and Radland Plaza.

Formed in June 2016 they have links with Northampton Borough Council, the University of Northampton, Northamptonshire Police, local residents and park users as well as local businesses.

Funding to transform Becket's Park into a Wellbeing Park has been received.



They are holding a large community event to promote understanding between different communities. It has a Bollywood/Asian theme, but other communities such as African, Russian, Irish etc., all local talent, will also feature,. **Mela@Beckets Park is on Sunday 30th July from 12 noon until 4pm.**

There's no website at the moment but more information can be found:

www.facebook.com/pg/bobnorthampton/about/?ref=page_internal

A new online heritage resource

Northamptonshire County Council has been working to develop a new website that brings together the knowledge of heritage across the whole of Northamptonshire. Following the creation of a heritage strategy for the county, a need was identified for this online resource, which is free to access now at the following address:

<http://www.northamptonshireheritage.co.uk>. The Nenescape team are looking forward to working with the county council to extend research into the area's history and ensure that the public can access it easily.

If trees could talk...

Nene Park Trust have recently launched their Moments with Trees project, which will share people's stories of the trees in the park and celebrate them in new and exciting ways. Also funded by Heritage Lottery, the project team are working to find out what the public want included in the events and engagement programme. Have your say here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DVT39HP>.

From the team



Amanda: What an amazing year this has been. I was born in the Nene Valley and I've been lucky enough to raise my children here too. But I have learnt more about the river and the landscape over this last 12 months, than in all the years living and working here, there is so much more to discover. There are over 30 conservation areas in our valley, 30 Local Wildlife Sites and countless nature reserves. To top this off, our beautiful wetlands are internationally recognised for overwintering bird habitats. The River Nene has supported industry for centuries and is now a haven

for people and wildlife to explore and make their homes. I'm so proud to be a part of this story, such a positive partnership and remarkable team.

Ali: This year started as an exciting but daunting prospect. I moved to the area without having known it before and started building up a picture of the many layers of history and heritage the landscape shows. A year on, I feel I have begun to scratch the surface and can't wait to continue throughout the next 5 years. The best part of this year has been sharing my enthusiasm for Nenescape with many different people, and seeing their interest and ideas grow too.

Denise: The last year has been unbelievable, I have enjoyed my job so much. On a personal note, canoeing for the first time was a real achievement - travelling from Thrapston to Oundle (the lunch at Wadenhoe was the easy bit). As Mandy, Ali and I have travelled around our Nenescape I have met so many enthusiastic and genuine people; learnt unexpected things about the area I grew up in and have taken pleasure in exploring in more depth places further along the valley. I look forward to continuing my journey.

And finally...

The Nenescape journey began more than three years ago with an ambition born out of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA). A pivotal experience for the Nene Valley, the NIA brought partners together around a common aspiration and provided a vehicle through which organisations could achieve their individual aims in a coordinated and collaborative way, leading to big improvements in the way the valley is managed for nature and for people.

Nenescape has capitalised on this foundation and expanded beyond anyone's expectations leading us to a comprehensive scheme of projects covering all aspects of our valley's heritage. The natural environment still features in the scheme but also

included are elements of our built heritage, even those hidden beneath the ground, and our rich cultural and social heritage. All these elements are carefully woven together in Nenescape to propel us towards a better understood, better managed and more accessible valley.

It has been a long, and at times difficult path to submission of our Stage 2 bid. There have been tensions, compromises, tough negotiations and frayed nerves. There have also been incredible blessings; shared understanding and appreciation of the valley's heritage, unearthing of information long forgotten and the forging of strong, respectful and enduring friendships.

It has been my privilege to take this journey with the Nenescape team and partners. I am immensely grateful to every single person who has played a part in this partnership and incredibly humbled by the enormous pool of talent and passion that we are lucky enough to contain in our numbers. I would like to personally congratulate Amanda, Ali and Denise for their incredible efforts to get us to a successful submission of the Stage 2 bid – very well done ladies, your investment is seen and appreciated. And to all of the partners, thank you, thank you, thank you for your commitment, your perseverance, your time and energy and for your friendship.

Kathryn Hardcastle
CEO River Nene Regional Park CIC – host partner

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