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Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme



Exploring the Nene Valley: people, heritage and identity in a changing landscape

A project by River Nene Regional Park CIC

To understand and promote the identity of the Nene Valley and explore how past industries and peoples have shaped the landscape.

To bring communities together, developing their skills to respond to current and future pressures through the interpretation and restoration of heritage and habitats.



An introduction to us



River Nene Regional Park is an independent community interest company creating a network of environmental projects (known as 'green infrastructure') extending from Daventry to Peterborough linking the towns of Northampton, Towcester, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby. This is an independent, not for profit organisation that is able to hold assets on behalf of the community. It has to meet certain standards and produce an annual community report.

The five-year Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme is one of these projects, born of the environmentally-focussed work of another project, the Nature Improvement Area (www.nenevalley.org). Nenescape combines the natural heritage conservation and restoration work of the NIA and brings it together with community heritage, historical research and more public engagement to form a scheme of projects along the River Nene that celebrates the landscape's past, explores its present and secures its future. A board of members steers the team of three staff, who also work closely with mentors from the funders, the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Nenescape's work is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, an organisation which distributes the money raised by National Lottery players to hundreds of projects every year across the UK. There are many different types of projects and Landscape Partnership Schemes are just one. Each of the partners within Nenescape brings with them a level of match funding, time, resources and most will also include volunteer time. The Heritage Lottery grant totals £2.6million and the total value of Nenescape with all partners' contributions is approximately £4.5million.

The partners working with Nenescape on the delivery of the 16 projects are:

- Rockingham Forest Trust (Stanwick Lakes)
- Nene Park Trust
- Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust
- Screen Northants
- Destination Nene Valley
- East Northamptonshire Council
- Environment Agency
- University of Nottingham (Computer Science dept.)
- Angling Trust
- River Nene Regional Park
- Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

In addition to these, there are countless organisations and people throughout the area who will be supporting Nenescape in various ways, and many people who we keep in touch with through our newsletter, social media and website updates.

Overview of Nenescape

Bringing together over 11 organisations along the River Nene between Northampton and Peterborough, we will preserve, protect and promote the river and its heritage. This will be delivered through three broad themes, each supported by a number of partnership projects:

Listen to the past

Through a series of activities, interpretation and community engagement, this theme looks to reveal hidden stories and share them on wider platforms. This will include:

LTTP1 - Settlers of the River Nene (Stanwick Lakes multi-era barn and immersive history)

LTTP2 - Walking in Time (Nene Park Trust boardwalk and interpretation of archaeology)

LTTP3 - Ice Age to Digital Age – Interpretation, research and support for partners

LTTP4 - Ice Age to Digital Age – Nene Journey (NMPAT musical composition and performance in Royal Albert Hall in November 2017)

LTTP5 - Ice Age to Digital Age – Nenescape on Film (Screen Northants documenting and promoting project)

LTTP6 - Community Grant (flagship grant £40k and series of smaller community grants)



Explore the now

By encouraging exploration and increasing knowledge of the natural and built heritage, this theme aims to promote the Nene Valley as a visitor destination:

ETN1 - Nene Valley Festival (Destination Nene Valley's annual week-long collection of events)

ETN2 - Out of Water, Into History (East Northants Council promoting and connecting Greenway between Rushden Lakes and the town)

ETN3 - Enabling Access from Waterway to Land (Environment Agency improving information and access to and from river)

ETN4 - Ice Age to Digital Age – Artcodes Along the Nene (University of Nottingham with creative digital engagement)

ETN5 - Ice Age to Digital Age – Extracts from a Changing Landscape (creative mental wellbeing project)



Secure the future

In order to provide a sustainable future for the health of the river, its wildlife and its stories, it is important to provide the right tools for new generations to continue to identify with and invest in their heritage

STF1 - Building Bridges (Angling Trust building relationships between fishing communities)

STF2 - Resilient River (RNRP river restoration for improved ecology)

STF3 - Farming for the Future (Wildlife Trust & RNRP wildflower meadow restoration and grants scheme for farmers)

STF4 - Volunteer Task Force (Nenescape volunteering programme)

STF5 - Investing in Skills (Nenescape grants for training, education and apprenticeships)

