



GREENWAYS

countryside project

Annual Report

April 2010 to March 2011

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(<http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/lwn1109/>)



GREENWAYS
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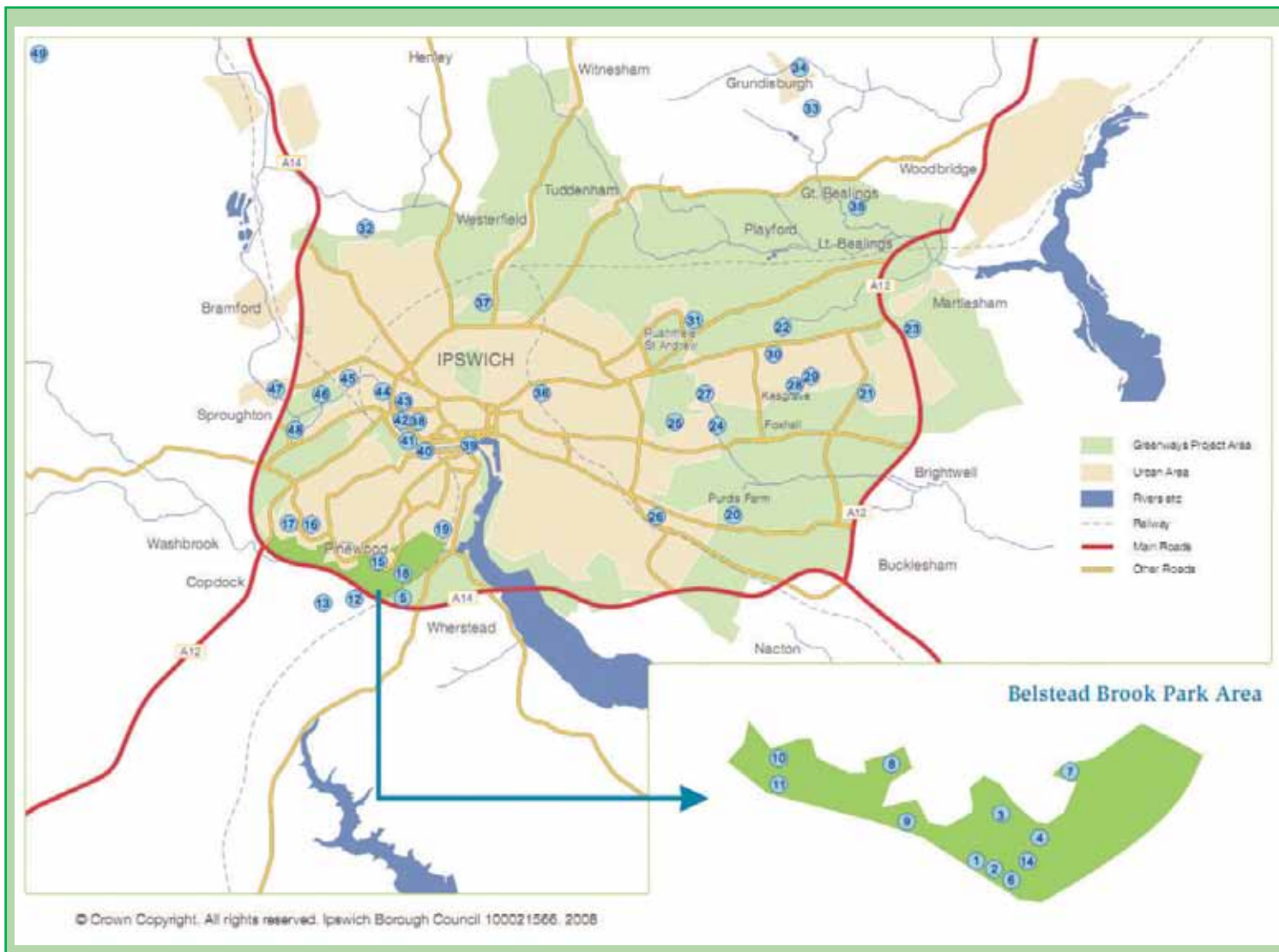
The Greenways Countryside Project exists to protect and enhance the countryside, landscape and open space across an area of about 100 square kilometres in and around the town of Ipswich, and home to around one quarter of the population of Suffolk, for the benefit of wildlife and local people. The project relies on volunteers to complete much of its practical conservation work. The Greenways Project is a very successful and well-established partnership between Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and the local community.

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The map shows the sites where the Project and its volunteers have carried out practical management work between April 2010 and March 2011. The management work is intended to maintain and improve wildlife habitats and access for local people. Most of the sites listed will have had routine maintenance tasks carried out in addition to more major work and new infrastructure.

Routine maintenance can include litter picking, path cutting, cleaning information boards, repairing fences, boardwalks, bridges, hedge trimming, coppicing etc. The case studies here try to capture some examples of the more significant improvements that have been carried out in the year. If you would like further information on any of the sites, please contact the Project.

Greenways Project Area Map



Key Achievements

- The second year of grant funding from the Haven Gateway Partnership (HGP) has allowed considerable improvements to be made at Alderman Canal and in Belstead Brook Park (see case studies).
- The HGP funded River Ranger has been in post for most of the year, helping to manage the river corridor and involve more people in its management.
- Funding this year from the HGP has totalled over £173,000 – a massive amount by the Project's standards – allowing considerable infrastructure to be put in place or improved.



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- 1624 days of volunteer time given by regular volunteers, local groups and others – across the sites. This represents a colossal effort (the equivalent of more than 7 full time staff!) for which we are extremely grateful to all of those who have helped.
- The first year of the Big Lottery Funded 'Access To Nature' partnership with CSV has seen the project grow and involve a wide range of people who have not been interested in nature conservation and the countryside previously. The project has benefited from a grant (administered by Natural England) of more than £350,000 over three years.
- Funding was secured from the Big Lottery via Mind for a partnership with CSV and Family Action to provide opportunities for people accessing mental health care to get out into the countryside and get involved in our work. The 'Ecoroutes' project has been running since June 2010 with great success – see case study.

List of sites

Belstead Brook Park

- 1 Spring Wood (LNR)
- 2 Millennium Wood (LNR)
- 3 Bobbitts Lane Meadows (LNR)
- 4 Ashground Plantation (LNR)
- 5 Bobbitts Lane – upper area
- 6 Butterfly Ride
- 7 Stoke Park Wood (LNR)
- 8 Ellenbrook open space and Playing Field
- 9 Thorington Park open spaces
- 10 Belstead Meadows
- 11 Belstead Lower Meadows (CWS)
- 12 Thorington Hall Farm area
- 13 Belstead Heath
- 14 Bobbitts Lane Allotments

Southern fringe

- 15 Netley Close open space
- 16 Belmont Road Wood
- 17 Belmont Road open space
- 18 Braky Wood
- 19 Maidenhall Allotments (Community Garden)

Eastern Fringe

- 20 Purdis Heath (SSSI), Purdis Farm
- 21 Martlesham Heath (SSSI)
- 22 Sinks Valley (SSSI), Kesgrave High School.
- 23 Martlesham Common (CWS)
- 24 Mill Stream (LNR), Rushmere St Andrew
- 25 Sandlings, (LNR), Rushmere St Andrew
- 26 Warren Heath (CWS)
- 27 Farthing Wood, Kesgrave
- 28 Long Strops Pond, Kesgrave
- 29 Cedarwood Green, Kesgrave
- 30 Legion Green, Kesgrave
- 31 Chestnut Pond, Rushmere St Andrew

Northern Fringe

- 32 Whitton Footpath Link
- 33 Grundisburgh Millennium Meadow
- 34 Lyttleton's Meadow, Grundisburgh
- 35 Kiln Farm Meadow (CWS), Gt Bealings
- 36 Former St Mary's Convent site, Woodbridge Rd.
- 37 Fonnereau Way

Western Fringe and the River

- 38 Alderman Canal (LNR)
- 39 River Path – Stoke Bridge
- 40 River Path – Princes St to West End Rd
- 41 River Path – West End Road
- 42 River Path – West End Rd to Handford Rd
- 43 River Path – Handford Rd- Yarmouth Rd
- 44 River Path – Yarmouth Rd to Riverside Road
- 45 River Path – Boss Hall
- 46 River Path – ex-Sugar Factory
- 47 River Path – A14 to Sproughton
- 48 Churchman Way

Wider Area

- 49 Priestley Wood (SSSI), Barking



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- Future Jobs Fund – during the year, the Project has benefited from the help of six FJF employees for six months each - entirely funded by the scheme. The six individuals have worked extremely hard assisting with our larger than normal workload. Many thanks are due to Mike Baldwin, Colin Snell, Sean Howard, Margaret Regnault, Adrian Garlick and Matt Mudd.



20010/11 Annual Report *continued*

Case Studies

Ecoroutes



A partnership between Greenways, CSV and Family Action has attracted grant support from the Lottery via the mental health charity Mind. Each week the scheme provides opportunities for people accessing mental health care to join us on one of the sites to carry out practical conservation work. A number of volunteers have helped by supporting the scheme's participants – ensuring that there are many benefits, including exercise, motivation, social interaction, sense of achievement and learning new practical skills. The scheme has been very well attended and has seen several of the participants develop substantially. CSV have produced a short film about the project – itself involving more volunteers, filming and editing.

Alderman Canal Local Nature Reserve

During the year, volunteers have been very busy at Alderman Canal LNR, utilising the grant funding from the Haven Gateway Partnership to build two new footbridges and over 200 metres of raised timber boardwalk. The new bridges allow more choice for people walking through the reserve, making the site feel safer. The boardwalks provide all-weather paths across some of the wetter areas and have worked well at 'pulling people in' from the recreation ground area. The main path alongside the Canal has also been resurfaced by contractors – a major task, involving the need for new fencing between the path and the Canal. The new bridges and paths were officially opened by the Mayor of Ipswich, Councillor John Le Grys on 21st June 2011.

Belstead Brook Park – Ellenbrook area



The former playing field alongside Ellenbrook Road has had a 'face-lift' – including a new path from end to end (with viewpoints of the Brook, where kingfishers can be seen); a new timber fence (much more welcoming than the old chain-link fence there before) and new access gates. Across the road a new footbridge and tarmac path leads into the Ellenbrook open space with access to the play area. The bridge and paths help to link the two sites across the road, further strengthening the connectivity of Belstead Brook Park.

Bobbits Lane Local Nature Reserve – wildlife viewing tower

Following the extensive wetland improvement works of last year, the Friends of Belstead Brook Park had long wanted a way to be able to see into the wetland by way of a raised platform. The metal tower was constructed by a local contractor, with volunteers building the boardwalk link to it. From the tower, one can look over the wet meadows, the Brook itself, and into the trees of Ashground Plantation.



How to get involved

If you would like to be involved in any way with the work of the Greenways Project, or would like any further information about the Project, its aims and its work, please contact the Project on 01473 433995, or email greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk
Some further information can be found on our web pages at: www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways