



General update 25th September 2020

Activities since last circulated board update (17.7.20)

- Our National Trust-led volunteer work parties resumed in late July with small groups, as did our weekly walks in Twerton led by Twerton Timebank. With Avon Wildlife Trust staff now returned from furlough Community Action for Nature volunteer work parties resumed in September and we anticipate our Landscape on Prescription activities (social prescribing for people in South West Bath suffering health issues) will resume in October.
- Our one-year University of Bath Psychology Department placement student Seher Singh has been working primarily on preparing for the resumption of the Landscape on Prescription activities as well as the weekly health walks, looking at increasing participant numbers, unpicking the data sharing issues and planning the evaluation. She has also been supporting wider project work.
- During August (in the window of least restrictions) we were able to hold a trio of socially distanced family fun days at Pennyquick Park in Twerton, Springfield Park in Foxhill, and Kensington Meadows nr Snow Hill. Numbers were necessarily restricted but still reached a total of 178 participants trying activities like archery, rock climbing, tree climbing and paddle boarding (see pictures overleaf).
- Our 'Explore the Bathscape area' video was well received and had 2,500 views in its first weeks online.
- Using the design skills of a Bath Spa University placement student we published 5 self-guided online trails. We will review feedback and use as a basis for our future trail guides.
- With the advent of the Government's 'rule of 6' in August we took the decision to scale back our September 2020 walking festival. Whilst technically we could have argued all the planned guided walks were organised outdoor events and therefore not subject to the 6 person limit if split into groups, we felt that many walks would be difficult to control and carried a reputational risk as well as unnecessary risk to walk leaders and attendees.
- The Walking Festival instead comprised of a mix of nine managed group walks led primarily by other organisations, together with promotion of self-guided discovery through video walks, online trails and wildlife films as a 'virtual festival'. This allowed us to experiment with features such as participatory online walks, temporary art installation nature trails and producing family activity trails. We will be doing google analytics in coming weeks to assess the use of these online resources.
- Wildflower seed was harvested by the National Trust for the second year and will be sown in Kensington Meadows and other sites this autumn.
- We continue to liaise with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and in November will be presenting our case for extending the grant end date by a year, whilst remaining within existing total budget. Rough budget calculations indicate that likely underspend spread across several projects coupled with a healthy contingency budget will allow us to cover staff costs, though possibly moving to reduced hours during the extension period. The extension will allow staff and our commissioned delivery partners to avoid having to squeeze target delivery into a shortened timeframe due to the months lost to Covid.
- Our twitter followers have risen to 1211 and Instagram followers to 661.

Upcoming activities

- Research articles written by volunteers during lockdown will be added to the 'learn' section of our website by the start of October.
- We will be looking to progress our access projects in the autumn, working with the Cotswold Conservation Board who won the commission to deliver our circular path and associated walks work.
- We have our annual review meeting with the National Lottery Heritage Fund on the 11th November.



BATH CITY FARM

TRAILS

ODD DOWN, SOUTH STOKE TO MIDFORD
6.5 miles, 10km
3-4 hours

HERITAGE FUND

Spotted in September on ivy flowers

All these amazing pollinators may be found where ivy is in flower.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Ivy Bee <i>Halictus</i> | Honey Bee <i>Apis mellifera</i> | Footstool hoverfly <i>Simulium</i> |
| Common Drone Fly <i>Eristalisia</i> | Red-collared Humblebee <i>Colletes</i> | Tapered Hoverfly <i>Simulium</i> |
| Common Wasp <i>Vespa</i> | Mormonite hoverfly <i>Simulium</i> | Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter</i> |

Find information about these species by following the QR code:
You may also spot many other flies & hoverflies, butterfly flies & ladybirds.

HERITAGE FUND www.bathcityfarm.co.uk info@bathcityfarm.co.uk

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BATH CITY FARM
September Nature Trail

Wildlife observations & text by Mike Williams

Follow the nature trail from the big bus and into the woods to discover what wildflowers are living on the farm in September. We've put out four signs for you to find - one by the bus, two in the field beyond the bus and one in the woods beyond that. See how many you can find, and learn more about them.

LOCATION 1: IVY FLOWERS

Ivy Bee (*Colletes hibernica*) - This species was new to science in 1993 and first recorded in Britain in 2001. It has only recently become established in Bath but is now fairly common. They make large neat aggregations that can be seen above or on the ivy leaves, but as it is a specialist of ivy flowers, these nest-sites in which the females lay their eggs and their favourite food source is ivy flowers and in some years they are very abundant on the farm.

Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) - More numerous in the farm site than the bees, although there are some areas where they are not. Unlike the Ivy Bees they live together in one big nest and have a worker caste that performs the task of collecting nectar and pollen, while the queen stays in the hive laying eggs.

Footstool Hoverfly (*Simulium hibernicum*) - The scientific name means "floating water-beetle", but it is also known as the footstool due to the shape on the thorax. This species breeds in ponds (and occasionally in cow pats) but is often found some distance from water. The adults are often found feeding at a variety of flower including ivy, and are probably seen looking at the leaves in sunny weather.

Common Drone-fly (*Eristalisia tenax*) - This is a very visible species and can often be seen dark, with only the midrib at the tip of the abdomen. It is most, it always has a black back surface being running down the side. This species is a common, but since the honeybees so that it is often not seen out of leaf of getting stung. They feed in ponds and the lot in the well-known fly-tailed muggler.