

Case Study: Dorset's Natural Capital at its best

Growing for Pollinators: Ansty Wildflower Patch



Lead Partner: The Heart of Dorset Environment Group

Other Partners: Dorset Wildlife Trust

Project Background

As part of the National Pollinators Strategy Defra launched its second round of Local Pollinator Project funding for Local Nature Partnerships. Dorset LNP were successful in its bid for a joint project between the National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust and Bournemouth University to run between 2017-18.



Wildflower patch 2018 © Maria Clarke

Project Summary

As part of Local Pollinator Project, The Heart of Dorset Environment Group in Ansty, were provided with materials to establish a small wildflower patch in the village, in front of the village hall. Seeds were sown and propagated before being planted out. Supplementary planting (funded through the sale of a book about the local environment written by The Heart of Dorset Environment Group) has led to an established patch of wildflowers which benefit local pollinating insects and wildlife in general.

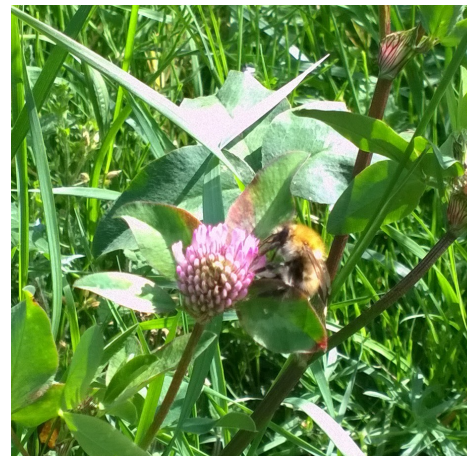


Orange hawkweed (fox-and-cubs)
© Maria Clarke

Outcomes

- A new wildflower patch has been created, offering a new resource for pollinating insects. Wildflowers / grasses include: oxeye daisy, red and white clover, orange hawkweed, birds-foot trefoil, ragged-robin, cowslip and camomile., cocksfoot grass and false oat grass.
- Pollinators attracted to the site include common carder bee, white-tailed bumblebee, blue dragonfly, hover flies, brimstone and peacock butterflies.
- Local people had a chance to be actively involved in the project and learn about supporting wildlife in their area.
- Despite initial concern about the project local community members have commented to The Heart of Dorset Environment Group how nice the area looks.

Common carder bumblebee on red clover
© Maria Clarke



Quote

"The project has highlighted the importance of providing wildlife corridors for insects and more local people have come forward to offer to help other areas in the village which is the perfect outcome!"

Anna Davies, The Heart of Dorset Environment Group

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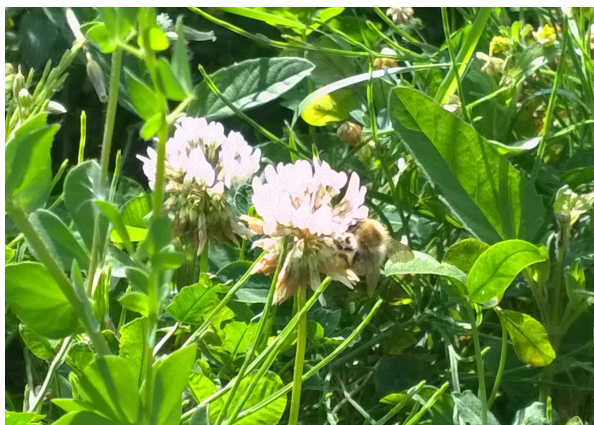


Oxeye daisy and birds-foot trefoil
© Maria Clarke

How partnership working benefited the project

DWT was able to provide Ansty with the resources needed to establish a wildflower meadow through the DEFRA funding, and share expertise.

The Heart of Dorset Environment Group provided volunteers to help achieve the planting out.



White clover © Maria Clarke

Contact

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2018

Difficulties

Despite 46 people taking away trays of wildflower seeds to grow, only 13 people returned their trays for planting out, and germination rates were low. The patch of land was further stocked by buying plug plants using money raised by The Heart of Dorset Environment Group.

Staff change over at DWT resulted in a drop in communications for a period, which resulted in extra work to rebuild contacts.



Oxeye daisy, cocksfoot grass and false oat grass
© Maria Clarke

Quote

“Without the expert advice from the Dorset Wildlife Trust the local volunteers would have found developing the project very difficult. DWT's staff and local volunteers kept the project on track and enabled local people to realise how important these little patches of wild flowers can be. Our local environment group now has more volunteers and so many people have commented on the positive outcomes for both wildlife and the local community.”

Anna Davies, The Heart of Dorset Environment Group

