

Case Study: Dorset's Natural Capital at its best

Growing for Pollinators: Engaging communities in Burton Bradstock



Lead Partner: National Trust

Other Partners: Bournemouth University, Dorset LNP

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.



Families taking part at a Big Summer Buzz event in 2017 at Burton Bradstock © National Trust



Children at a Big Summer Buzz event 2017 examine a hoverfly © National Trust

Project Summary

The National Trust held three 'Big Summer Buzz' events at Burton Bradstock over the summer holiday to engage with the public about pollinators and the habitat work they were doing. Approximately 60 people (mostly families with children aged 5-15) took part in activities including solitary 'bee-home' making, bug-hunting, and educational puzzles. Feedback was positive and several families returned to subsequent events to take part again.

Work has begun on a 'mini-meadow' at the car park at Burton Bradstock, including regular cutting and removal of arisings, and seed broadcast by hand by a local group of National Trust Volunteers. An interpretation board with information on the habitat creation work we are doing, the type of wildflowers people might be able to see, and the pollinators it will benefit is being designed and built, and will be installed in the early Spring of 2018.

"With the help of this funding, we've been able to engage with our visitors at Burton Bradstock about the importance of pollinators and how we're looking after them. We'll be doing more this year to talk to people about the meadow habitats and invertebrates they support at our sites in West Dorset, including at a bee themed Easter event at Burton Bradstock"
Ecology Officer, National Trust



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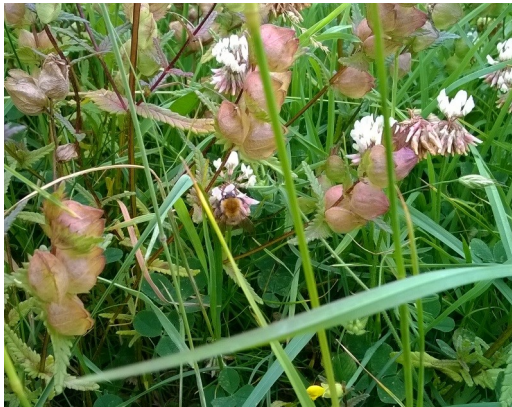


How partnership working benefited the project

The project has enabled future partnership working between the National Trust and Bournemouth University. This includes setting up student placements for summer 2018, when BU students will work on projects at National Trust grassland sites, monitoring the progress of habitat restoration and the impact on pollinator species.



Big Summer Buzz Event in 2017 © National Trust



Common carder bumblebee on white clover in 2018 © National Trust

Sharing of best practice

A National Trust case study of the project has been developed and is being shared across the National Trust.

Surveying

Monitoring of the Burton Bradstock meadow in the summer following restoration work (2018), has shown a dramatic increase in yellow rattle and red clover. Both of these wildflower species provide an excellent food source for pollinators such as bumblebees and butterflies. Management is now in place at Burton Bradstock to encourage the wildflowers to set seed and establish. Hopefully the yellow rattle will continue to suppress grass growth, improving the suitability of the sward for other flowering species over time. The first pyramidal orchid was recorded in the meadow in summer 2018, suggesting that the restoration process and subsequent management are already starting to work.



Meadow brown on yellow rattle in 2018 © National Trust

More Information:

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www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/case_studies
2018



Red clover in 2018 © National Trust



Interpretation board installed at Burton Bradstock © National Trust