



GREEN ARC

Bringing the BIG OUTDOORS closer to everyone

ANNUAL REPORT July 2006 - March 2007

The North East | from the
GreenArc | Flich Way to
Greater London

Bringing the

BIG OUTDOORS

closer to everyone

GreenArc

End of Year Summary Report

GreenArc is a partnership of Government and non Governmental stakeholders.

It stands for;

- The unimpeded continuation of productive agriculture and horticulture.
- The creation of a network of linked areas in the Green Belt for people, wildlife and good land management.
- Responsible public access to the countryside near towns.

This report aims to:

- demonstrate the progress made from July 2006 to March 2007.
- to inform funders of how their contributions were spent.
- and to advise steering group members of planned activity in 2007-8.

GreenArc are grateful for all partners in-kind contributions to the initiative to date which do not form a part of this report.

The three key objectives of GreenArc are:

- to enhance, protect and conserve the green belt for public use by ensuring GreenArc is acknowledged and understood by specialists, politicians, and communities.
- to increase and expand open space and green corridors to growth area populations by working with delivery partners to extend land ownership and access throughout GreenArc.
- to protect and conserve biodiversity and wildlife by working with the fund raising sub group to deliver the GreenArc biodiversity audit with local delivery partners.

GreenArc is achieving these objectives through the following actions;

- 90 hectares of land have been acquired.
- 5.1 km of access have been established for communities to enjoy the countryside.
- 27 presentations have been given to a wide range of audiences to ensure GreenArc is understood and acknowledged by the private, public and local communities.
- 10 articles have been produced and printed in national regional publications reaching communities throughout the GreenArc.
- 31 seminars and meetings have been attended to ensure recognition of GreenArc at national regional and local level.
- £1,250,000 of additional funding has been secured by partner organisations through external funding sources to achieve GreenArc objectives.
- An office has been established at Stansted airport with excellent access by rail road and train.
- 2.2 staff have been appointed and are in post until March 2008 and employed consultants for 4 months.
- CABE space facilitators have been utilised for 28 days to assist with design aspects of GreenArc.
- Events and seminars to target audiences have taken place in direct response to the GreenArc project report to support the work of partner organisations.



Steering Group

The Steering group has been managed and administered by Green Arc staff, with 3 meetings held at partner organisations accommodation.

Three sub groups have been established to further the key tasks of GreenArc: Implementation, Communications and Community, and Fundraising.

Implementation Sub Group

The group has monitored Growth Area Fund spend profiles and staff have reacted quickly and effectively to ensure best use of government funds to achieve the vision of GreenArc.

Communications and Communities Sub Group

The group has worked to ensure new publicity material meets the needs of specialist audiences. Tailored seminars have been effectively delivered to meet the needs of specific groups and from analysed research from GreenArc reports. The GreenArc website will be redesigned to reflect these actions.

The Fundraising Sub Group

The fundraising sub group are a strong and powerful partnership with the ability to bid strategically for regional national and EU funds to support the work of delivery partners to achieve GreenArc objectives. The group have met on 3 occasion and have agreed a fund raising strategy to enable the implementation of the GreenArc biodiversity plan.

Core Activities

GreenArc has been functioning in a delivery capacity since July 2006, with an office base at Stansted Airport which is easily accessible by road, rail and air. Three staff work from the office and have comprehensive IT equipment allowing them to work remotely when necessary. Staff have attended training courses to develop their technical skills which will be operationally utilised.

Administration

Grant returns for Natural England and Communities and Local Government have been completed on time and on budget. Essex County Council and Government Office East have provided financial accountancy processes to enable this to be achieved.



Activity of GreenArc 2007-2008

Summary

Natural England will continue to provide core costs until March 2008, with Communities and Local Government funding to support the operations manager also runs until March 2008.

Further financial support for the GreenArc programme will be sought from regional, national and European sources to ensure core objectives are met:

- to enhance, protect and conserve the green belt for public use.
- to increase and expand open space to growth area populations.
- to protect and conserve biodiversity and wildlife.

Key Areas of Work

- Implementation of the GreenArc biodiversity plan will enable Biodiversity Action Plan targets to be met by local delivery partners.
- Partnership working with steering group members and partners to ensure public and outcomes are achieved.

- Higher uptake of Entry Level Scheme, Higher Level Scheme and England Woodland Grant Scheme in GreenArc.
- Better communications between farmers and landowners
- Increase in volunteer activity to ensure better understanding of GreenArc and its objectives
- Offer best value for government and partner organisations
- Ensure planning gain are used to meet GreenArc objectives
- Strategic responses to local issues through grant aid
- Close liaison and co-operation with Communities and Local Government. Local delivery vehicles and East of England Development Agency to maximise opportunities that may arise for new project work to enable future land acquisition and rural enterprise to offer long term sustainability
- Close co-operation and partnership working needs to be maintained and developed with the all quadrant group to ensure the North East quadrant maximises opportunities within European
- Future work with discrete projects within GreenArc will be maintained and developed to ensure all opportunities are maximised for partners: Stort Valley, London Olympics, Thames 2020, Stansted expansion, M11 and M25 widening, Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Implementation of Horserwise Project with FWAG, local farming groups and local authorities, with a follow on Deerwise programme - delivered by the Deer initiative.
- Re-allocation of Communities and Local Government grant aid to ensure acquisitions meet profile to achieve the vision of GreenArc.



GREENARC PROJECTS



AMWELL

GreenArc has contributed towards the purchase of Amwell Nature Reserve, a 108 acre nationally important wetland site. This project aims to safeguard and significantly enhance the considerable biodiversity value of Amwell Nature Reserve in Hertfordshire and ensure the availability of the site for public visiting into the future.

THEYDON BOIS

The Woodland Trust has purchased a 79 acre site within Theydon Bois and has planted 35,000 native saplings which are acting as a buffer zone to the M11. This site is a highly important strategic landscape link between Epping and Hainault Forest which is indicated in the GreenArc project report.



LEE VALLEY CYCLE PATHWAY

The project consists of a 2.8 mile long pathway from Clayton Hill, to Hayes Hill Farm, Waltham Abbey. This project forms part of the Lee Valley Pathway which is one of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority's flagship projects. This project will increase cycle access along the whole 26 miles of the Regional Park and cycle access to the wider GreenArc landscape, the project will be completed in April 2007.

SEAWARDSTONE MARSHES

GreenArc has been working with the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to improve this 15 ha site. The site was previously used as a site for dumping pulverised fuel ash and the aim is to enhance the site with improved wet grassland and woodland management to increase the biodiversity value of the area. Access works have also been undertaken in 2006 as this site is a strategic link on the London Loop a circular walking route around London.



GREENARC PROJECTS



HORSEWISE

This project delivered by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group aims to integrate horses into an attractive landscape, addressing the issues of grassland management and to encourage the provision of horse access and safe exercise areas in the GreenArc. This will delivered in 2007.

DEERWISE

This project delivered by the Deer Initiative aims to promote the sustainable management of deer throughout the GreenArc area to support delivery of the vision of the GreenArc. This will delivered in 2007.



COMPOSTING

Greenarc are working with Essex County Council and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to offer communities the opportunity to learn more about composting in order to reduce waste to landfill sites and raise awareness of opportunities in conservation volunteering at hub sites.

LANDOWNER'S SEMINAR

As a direct response to the Greater London Authority and London Development Agency report "Farming and the Greenbelt", GreenArc invited 50 farmers to a seminar where they could directly engage with statutory bodies and advisors and funders to address their needs and issues.



GreenArc Support & Delivery organisations:



Any Questions, Views or Comments ?
email; info@greenarc.org

Website: www.greenarc.org

Cover image: Amwell Nature Reserve - former gravel pits in the Lee Valley near Ware, which have been restored to a diverse wetland nature reserve which is now internationally important to nature conservation. (© Herts. & Middlesex Wildlife Trust)

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