

**Education Officer Bid to JSPB- March 2018**  
**Thames Basin Heaths SPA Strategic Access**  
**Management and Monitoring Project**

**Background**

In Schedule 3, Part 1 of the SAMM delivery agreement, the JSPB committed the SAMM project to undertake the following key objectives:

- i. Finalising and securing implementation of mechanism for collecting developer contributions from Local Authorities and redistributing them to the Project;
- ii. Promotion of new access opportunities for local people (SANGs);
- iii. Monitoring of Planning Permissions granted;
- iv. Monitoring of visitor use of SANGs and SPA;
- v. Monitoring of Annexe 1 birds on SPA sites;
- vi. Analysis and reporting on monitoring data;
- vii. Provision of an SPA-wide on-the-ground wardening service to support and supplement existing management mechanisms;
- viii. Provision of an education programme;
- ix. Appropriate branding of strategic access management;
- x. Creation of new volunteering opportunities (within the monitoring process);
- xi. Demonstration of best practice for strategic access management of visitors and visitor infrastructure, particularly where the supply of open space is heavily dependent on protected areas.

At this stage in the project we have an opportunity to develop provision of education more extensively than we have been able to provide to date, due to increased income and forecast reduction in capital expenditure, as the capital assets of the project are now largely built.

**Budgetary considerations:**

The annual salary costs of an education officer at an appropriate grade to attract the right candidate will be £32,700. This has been pro-ratad in the first year, as the officer will only be in post for 9 months of the F/Y if starting in post in August. There would be a projected increase in Travel and Subsistence costs of £2000 per year, an increase of £8000 in NPRC the first two years to cover training, accreditation and non-salary staffing costs. This has been split equally between the financial years as these costs are likely to be more front loaded. There is a projected increase in £6000 over two years to Programme spend. This has been split 40:60 as it is likely that educational resources will take time to develop and therefore back-loaded. The post will run to March 2020 on a fixed term appointment, to the end of the NE hosting agreement, so any financial risk of approving this post only affects 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. The associated costs of approving this post are set out in the following table:

	<b>Forward forecast</b>			
<b>Scenario</b>	<b>Original 2017/18 figure from Jan 2017</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Basic SAMM programme (as currently operated)				
Salary	£298,878.00	£317,087.66	£300,189.18	£304,989.78
T&S	£41,093.00	£40,952.63	£42,100.00	£42,100.00
NPRC	£10,098.00	£30,700.61	£22,100.00	£22,100.00
Programme	£65,350.00	£49,724.39	£61,350.00	£45,550.00
Hosting and assoc.	£11,581.00	£11,581.00	£11,581.00	£11,581.00
	<b>£427,000</b>	<b>£450,046.29</b>	<b>£437,320.18</b>	<b>£426,320.78</b>

	<b>Forward forecast With Education officer</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Enhanced programme with dedicated Education officer, recruited July 2018	Salary	£317,087.66	£324,714.18	£337,689.78
	T&S	£40,952.63	£43,600.00	£44,100.00
	NPRC	£30,700.61	£26,100.00	£26,100.00
	Programme	£49,724.39	£63,350.00	£49,550.00
	Hosting and assoc.	£11,581.00	£11,581.00	£11,581.00
		<b>£450,046.29</b>	<b>£469,345.18</b>	<b>£469,021</b>

In establishing a need for this post, the SAMM project canvassed local organisations and those further afield to determine the need for and scope of this proposed post.

A summary of the findings is appended.

### Governance

The project will apply for the The Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge to ensure that we comply with this nationally recognised indicator of good quality educational provision and effective risk management. We will also follow National guidance for the management of outdoor learning <https://oeapng.info/>

The purpose of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge is to help schools identify good quality and safe provision, and to reduce red tape when planning educational visits. It incorporates existing safety standards for all types of activity and combines learning and safety into one easily recognisable accreditation for all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences <http://lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/quality-indicators-in-detail>

### Terms of Reference

The Education officer will:

- report directly to the SAMM project manager and follow all Natural England staff policies and procedures.
- apply to the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom to join their badge accreditation scheme
- ensure risk assessments and safeguarding procedures are in place
- make contact with local schools, partners and community groups to offer curriculum based education provision, primarily for KS2 and KS3 children.
- obtain feedback from schools and partners to feed back to the JSPB and provide information to shape and evolve the programme.

The SAMM project manager will:

- Manage the education officer under the Natural England Performance management system
- Report back to the JSPB on number of schools and community groups engaged with and feedback received.

## Appendix 1

**ALL local AMMP group members spoken to are very supportive of this bid and some have already identified how we could work together in partnership to achieve common goals of offering community and schools education on the importance of the SPA birds and education around the effects of disturbance to these species and their habitat by man.**

### **Local Heathland Education Provision**

#### **Surrey Wildlife Trust**

They are currently not delivering any education that is specifically heathland related. They have their own education centre for other forms of environmental education, which schools visit. They do not go into schools. Surrey WT also has an 'Outreach Team' that focus on teacher training rather than leading visits for children.

Not free (chargeable)

Quality control: Awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge Route 2  
<http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/news/2015/04/13/surrey-wildlife-trust-awarded-learning-outside-classroom-quality-badge-route-2>

<http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/outdoor-learning/schools>

#### **BBOWT**

Currently no heathland education programme. BBOWT did run a five year funded heathland education project which finished in 2016, which was then handed over to us in 2017. This now forms the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership's education programme, and has been run using the same format.

BBOWT visited around three schools per year in the Crowthorne area, carrying out both classroom and heathland sessions. This was mainly for KS2, but also involved on KS3 science club. Funding covered both the sessions and coach transport to Wildmoor Nature Reserve.

#### **HIWWT**

On the mainland, HIWWT deliver a very small amount of heathland education through their partnership with SDNPA on the Heathlands Reunited Project (see above). Again, this would be in the form of a John Muir award.

On the Isle of Wight, HIWWT offer educational visits to their Bouldnor Forest site under HLS, which includes visiting a heathland restoration area (it involves Forest Schools type activities, and they only touch on heathlands). They do not charge for these visits as payment comes through HLS for each visit. They only offer site visits, with no indoor classroom sessions. Education sessions are promoted at local events and information is also available on their website.

They have two members of staff who work full time on delivering education on the Isle of Wight. Education is banded into three projects; beach visits, adult visits to Bouldnor Forest (for adults who have been experiencing poor mental health), and school pupil visits to Bouldnor Forest (for Special Educational Needs/ underachieving pupils etc.). Quality control through feedback forms. Awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge.

### **Hampshire County Council**

Do carry out environmental education, but not specifically to heathland. Ad-hoc and tailored to the teacher's/ group leader's needs. Not free – chargeable.

Mostly badge groups (i.e. scouts and brownies), plus a few schools. Last year this amounted to 4 schools and 9 other organisations. Includes activities such as minibeast hunts, pond dipping etc. Can be tailored to curriculum e.g. life cycles.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/education>

HCC local staff are very supportive of this bid and they would like to work with us to explore providing the following:

Address the problem with fires (arson) on the Common (heaths): a big issue, particularly during school holidays (it's no coincidence that fires and Easter/summer holidays tally!). The Fire Service and Police no longer have officers specifically employed to target school liaison. HCC used to attend school assemblies and speak to hundred plus children at a time, but no longer have the resource to do this.

Family activities/workshops worked well in the past, but HCC struggled with not having anywhere to run them.

After school clubs/ Health walks (teenagers?)/ Ornithological club (inc SPA birds) Young dog walkers (promoting responsible dog ownership at young age)

They are currently recruiting a commons and community liaison officer, offering an excellent opportunity to liaise in delivering some of the above.

### **Heathland Conservation Society:**

HCS has joined a new local initiative called Surrey Heath 'Natural Borough' and The TBH Partnership to become involved especially as it has a strong educational element.

The Heathland Conservation Society have expressed full support for this bid.

### **Forest Schools:**

Local forest school provide chargeable services, either funded privately or through school's PPA cover or free school meals budget which caters for disadvantaged pupils.

Sessions are led outdoors in practical and creative tasks for a range of ages and teach EYFS curriculum skills such as communication and language, physical skills, social and social/ emotional development as well as life and KS1/2 curriculum based skills and environmental awareness. This is tailored to individual requirements or run as a programme for families.

## RSPB

Have Visitor Experience staff who cover non curriculum type stuff like fun activity clubs aimed different ages - aiming to enthuse children about nature, they also organise events on the reserves as well as many other aspects of visitor experience.

Also a schools side and schools outreach, so either go into schools or schools come to reserves and they deliver curriculum based materials. Schools outreach service is chargeable.

Provision covers all of the primary KS. Also have secondary school children taking part in Dof E at reserves, as well as regular volunteering and work experience.

Local RSPB staff were very supportive of the SAMM project extending the education provision across the SPA by the recruitment of an education officer

## **Other Heathland education provision:**

### **South Downs National Park Authority**

The SDNPA is only involved with heathland education through its 'Heathlands Reunited' project, which is a five year HLF funded project.

The Heathlands Reunited Project is made up of 11 partner organisations; these organisations share the educational responsibility for this project. Between all of the organisations the target is to involve four schools per year across the partnership. Jonathan Dean just coordinates. No classroom sessions are offered, but there are outdoor heathland sessions, all of which are packaged into the class achieving a John Muir Award.

All educational activities are funded through HLF, which includes transport and staff time (including school staff time).

Different ages are catered for, but it is predominantly KS2, with some KS3.

Uptake from schools is quite low. Jonathan Dean contacted around 40 schools; only around 9 schools expressed an initial interest with only four schools taking it forward and getting involved.

Quality control: this education project receives feedback by sending out evaluation forms to the schools. However, Jonathan noted that only around 20-30% are completed and returned.

### **Urban Heaths Partnership (Dorset) – model similar to proposed provision.**

Delivers education to a list of target schools but also deliver to anyone who makes a request for education. This includes students from preschool, where we concentrate on environmental engagement, Primary schools with National Curriculum related activities

linked to Science or Geography and Secondary Schools with an Arson Courtroom Drama and Science related activities. These schools are across Bournemouth Poole and Dorset.

The number of staff working on this is one full time member of staff and one part time assistant 2 days a week.

Field work is based on heath or school grounds as well as classroom sessions and is free. It covers all ages although greatest uptake by primary for Heathland fieldwork. It is promoted by Emails, flyers and active phone calling.

There is good uptake with the vast majority of target schools worked with each year and other requests

Delivery lead is an experienced qualified teacher with experience across the age range so from recruitment point of view that probably deals with immediate quality control. Assistant has worked at an FSC for the past 10 yrs. Always seek verbal feedback from teachers, hand out teacher and student feedback forms after sessions.

Schools arrange own transport. All target schools in walking distance from the Heath.