



NATURAL
ENGLAND

Supported by



The Parks Agency

Wildspaces! Evaluation

VOLUME 2: APPENDICES

for Natural England

Published October 2006

Appendix 1 – Questionnaire to Wildspace! Grant Recipients

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>The Parks Agency</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>&</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Andrew Parsons Associates</p> </div> </div>
<p>The Parks Agency and Andrew Parsons Associates have been commissioned by English Nature to evaluate the Wildspace! grant scheme for Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). The evaluation is looking at the effectiveness of the grant initiative in four main areas:</p>
<p>A To increase the number of LNRs in England</p>
<p>B To realise the potential of LNRs for wildlife and the community by enhancing the quality of experience for users</p>
<p>C To enable the employment of Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) to facilitate community participation in the management and development of LNRs</p>
<p>D To promote the use of LNRs for environmental education</p>

YOUR RESPONSE

E.N. Ref Number of Project	
Respondent's name	
Title/position	
Local authority/organisation	
Telephone number	
Email address	

	Yes	No	
1. If your project employed a CLO will their role continue after the grant period expires?			(1)

	Employer	Job Title	
2. If 'Yes', in what capacity?			(2)
<i>Brief Description of role:</i>			(3)

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3.	In your opinion how important to the success of your project was the employment of a CLO?	Not important	Fairly important	Very important	Critical	
	Please tick box (✓) as appropriate					(4)
	Please comment on why this was/was not important:					
					
					
					(5)

		From (no)	To (no)	
4.	By how many did your number of LNRs increase as a result of the grant?			(6)

5	Did your project:	Yes	No	Please give examples or add comments below (the table will expand to accommodate your own text as required)
	a enable the establishment of Friends Group(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	b enable new community groups/individuals to experience or get involved in the management of LNRs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	c enable long-term community ownership or adoption of LNRs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	d facilitate projects which will benefit people with mobility or learning difficulties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	e provide for young people disadvantaged by lack of access to natural open space?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	f promote environmental education to the public?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	g offer training, learning and personal development opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	h	show innovation in interpretation and community involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	i	make LNRs safe, accessible and enjoyable to visit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	j	realise gains in biodiversity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	k	improve the long-term future and/or sustainability of LNRs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	l	contribute to local and national policies and strategies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

6.	In your view what were the greatest social benefits of LNRs arising from designation?	
	Please comment below:	(31)

7.	In your view what were the greatest environmental benefits of LNRs arising from designation?	
	Please comment below:	(32)

8.	Do new visitor groups/individuals continue to use the LNRs?	Independently?	Through organised visits?	Through the work of CLOs?	
	Please tick box (✓) as appropriate				(33)
	Please give examples and comment as appropriate <p style="text-align: center;">(If your experience is different for different LNRs please explain this above too)</p>				(34)

9.	How involved have Friends Groups and/or other volunteers become in the longer term management and sustainability of the LNRs?	Not at all	A little	A lot	Completely	Don't know	
	Please tick box (✓) as appropriate						(35)

Please give examples and comment as appropriate

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(36)

Q10. In the following questions please tick an appropriate box to indicate your response

In the example below, if you thought voluntary/friends groups have some ability to fundraise you might tick the third or fourth box along from the left as shown below:

None A lot

Please answer the left-hand box if your grant included a CLO, the right-hand box if not

10	Please score how much ability you think voluntary/friends groups have to:				(37-42)
		Projects with a CLO		Projects without a CLO	
A	fundraise	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot		
B	undertake management and maintenance tasks	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot		
C	engage with the wider community	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot		

11	Please score how successful CLOs have been in facilitating these improvements			
a	physical access (paths, entrances etc.)	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(43)	
b	intellectual access (interpretation, leaflets,	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(44)	
c	educational opportunities for local schools	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(45)	
d	educational opportunities for the public	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(46)	
e	improved friends/volunteer groups	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(47)	
f	inter-departmental working within local	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(48)	
	<i>Please list other department(s) involved::.....</i>			(49)
g	partnership working with other	None <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A lot	(50)	
	<i>Please list partner organisations:.....</i>			(51)

Appendix 2

5.3.3 Projects that allowed biodiversity gains to be realised

Comments	Organisation
greatly	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
gains for biodiversity species/habitats eg otters and wet woodland	Cambridge CC
Species and habitats within the County Biodiversity Action Plan being managed appropriately. Species returning to LNRs as management better.	Three Rivers DC
Plan developed for site has helped manage habitats which contribute to the LBAP targets eg promoting positive management for ancient woodland such as coppicing old hazel and providing suitable breeding habitats for key species such as Song Thrush.	Countryside Management Service
Desmoulins Whorl Snail found, otter holt constructed and stag beetle pyramid built. Contributed to Essex Biodiversity Action Plan	Harlow DC
appropriate management	Forest Heath DC
Extra resources have helped improve the sensitive management of these sites which has increased biodiversity.	Mansfield DC
contributing to BAP habitat plan targets	Lincolnshire CC
biodiversity was helped by funding and awareness raised through walks and education	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
studying wildlife birds, flowers, fungus and butterflies - making displays to teach	L B Hackney
achieved at Ruffett and Big Wood - implemented a programme of selective thinning to including light levels and reduce non-native species to allow ground flora to flourish - tree health has been improved - limited coppicing providing a range of woodland structures.	The Woodlands Trust
CLO had key role in production and delivery of the borough's BAP, initiating the BAP process, setting up working groups and writing BAP doc - CLO had a particular focus around biodiversity in schools undertaking a wide range of projects - enabled NCT to deliver broader range of biodiversity projects across the borough.	LB Islington
more habitats introduced through better management - compost heaps, stag beetle loggeries	L.B. Lewisham
improved management for water voles, work to increase areas of magnesium limestone grassland etc.	South Tyneside Council
Biodiversity gains realised across the sites due to designation and protection - preparation of detailed management plans and delivery of habitat management.	Gateshead Council

Comments	Organisation
In line with Durham BAP - ongoing surveying and monitoring of management plans. National Vegetation Classification qualification recently obtained - officers now working with Planning Officers to ensure biodiversity considerations are being integrated into built development proposals.	Sedgefield BC
Vehicle restriction and trench pond digging has resulted in new wetland and improved dune flora - new machinery for grassland management - dune restoration work has increased vegetated area.	Castle Morpeth BC
provided new pond protected from disturbance	Clara Vale Conservation Group
voluntary projects aimed at improving hedgerows, creating water vole and great crested newt habitat, wildflower meadow management and constructing bird and bat houses	North Tyneside Council
sites already managed for biodiversity	Bury MBC
reedbed doubled to 50ha - willow tit work - bitterns booming 2006	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Lowland Heath - Wet Woodland - Acid Grassland - Neutral Grasslands, all improved	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Planting programme and introduction of management regimes are intended to improve biodiversity - long term monitoring will hopefully demonstrate if this has been successful.	Salford CC
Wild About Halton now incorporates the Halton Biodiversity Action Plan and all its targets.	Halton Borough Council
volunteers vital for management of reedbeds and grassland	Rye Nature Reserve
planting of Quiet Garden	Lingfield PC
hopefully long-term gains, as all lessons taught have an underlying theme of conservation and promote biodiversity	Elmbridge Borough Council
drafted site management plans and work programmes aimed at promoting biodiversity	Lewes DC
steady increase in insect and plant diversity and in breeding reptile and amphibian numbers eg grass snake and great crested newt	Sonning Parish Council
contribution to grazing scheme on Hengistbury Head - heathland management work on Kinson and Turbary Commons	Bournemouth BC
Survey and monitoring schemes established - heathland habitat restoration - species safeguarded. Site is also SSSI and SAM	Devon Wildlife Trust
Projects contributing to the action plan for 'public awareness and involvement' set out within the BAP - marsh projects have seen an increase in existing species, waders, aquatic plants and marsh communities.	Devon CC
better habitat management - removal of scrub from acid grass and heathland	Bristol CC
Habitat creation works - Bat Hibernaculum at Wick Golden Valley, management of unimproved limestone grassland, installation of bat and bird boxes.	South Gloucestershire Council
Current management plans on each site - looking at environmental stewardship and forestry commission grant schemes.	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Habitat management undertaken by conservation volunteers has helped improve biodiversity eg bracken cutting, scrub, pond and ditch clearance.	Taunton Deane BC
Improved management and building of bird boxes - education.	Gloucester C C

Comments	Organisation
water vole now on site	CWP Society (Charity)
Practical habitat management such as heathland, woodland, scrub, hedgerow, pond, and orchard has occurred on all 4 LNRs using volunteers and site staff.	Worcestershire County Council
none realised yet	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
new ponds dug, heathlands managed, coppicing - all have increased biodiversity	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Habitat management of woodland and hedgerow habitats significant.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
regular conservation sessions at LNRs - considerable progress towards biodiversity enhancement	Sandwell MBC
indirectly - BAP habitats benefited due to reduction in damage from illegal use of motorcycles on site - due to installation of anti-motorcycle barriers at priority accesses	British Waterways
as before	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Ongoing work following the management plans for the sites will help ensure biodiversity gains.	Leeds CC
restoration of pond - regeneration of woodlands	Kirklees MC
RSPB Fairburn Ings is managed for biodiversity in accord with a specific management plan.	RSPB
Ogden Water - heather moorland, wet woodland, blanket bog, unimproved grassland. Cromwell Bottom - grassland, woodland, wet woodland.	Calderdale MBC
works to Waters' Edge have increased area of reedbed, open water, wildflower meadow, water vole habitat etc - grazing and scrub clearance on Atkinsons Warren has increased area of lowland acid grassland - woodland ground flora increased in Brumby Wood due to sycamore thinning - improved mowing of Frodingham LNR has benefited common spotted orchids and other flora	North Lincs Council
CLO worked closely with BAP co-ordinator to ensure on-site improvements contribute to the aims of BAP	Barnsley MBC
Continued to deliver major gains but low water-levels now threaten integrity of LNR and ability to deliver high quality biodiversity gain.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
All 3 sites incorporate a range of habitats, creating havens within the city for locally threatened species such as skylarks nesting at Hob Moor.	City of York Council
habitat management undertaken by conservation volunteers has helped improve biodiversity	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 3

6.3.1 Details of Friends of Groups set up under Wildspace! – comments by grantees

Friends of Group established in various forms, very time consuming and reliant on public enthusiasm	Cambridge CC
focus for establishing 2 LNRs	Epping Forest DC
Friends of The Withey Beds currently have almost 200 household memberships.	Three Rivers DC
a Friends of The Wick group has been established, consisting of over 70 local residents	Countryside Management Service
three groups established	Harlow DC
high community interest in sites	Forest Heath DC
established and encouraged existing community groups to adopt and become involved with new LNRs	Mansfield DC
3 Friends of Groups established whose work is cont beyond W project.	Lincolnshire CC
two Friends of Groups supported through the project	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
people interested but no official site set up	Draycott Parish Council
I have adopted the Friends of Group and given a new look to the quarterly newsletter.	L B Hackney
Although the project has not enabled establishment of Friends of Groups the Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers have used Ruffet and Big Wood as a location for task days - meetings held with Woods Management Committee on site - voluntary groups 'the woodlanders' often help on site.	The Woodlands Trust
existing Friends of Groups supported by Nature Cons Team - new Friends of Groups formed	LB Islington
CLO supported and worked with existing group called Countryside Volunteers S Tyneside who have been involved in events, projects, surveys on all LNR sites.	South Tyneside Council
Yes but was difficult and time consuming - also attracted already established groups to become actively engaged in the project.	Gateshead Council
four of the LNRs have established successful Friends of Groups - the other two are managed in p'ship - town and parish councils	Sedgefield BC
FO Carlisle Park became more active and involved themselves in park projects and other nearby LNRs	Castle Morpeth BC
Friends of Groups and resident/community groups established to foster ownership of LNRs - eg FO Holywell Dene, Marden Quarry, St Mary's island and rising sun (swallow pond) + Annisford Forum and Wallsend Parks Group.	North Tyneside Council
a new Friends of Group was established for one of the two new LNRs	Bury MBC
No, however was vital in sustaining and supporting groups which already existed	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool

	CC
Wigan Flashes Conservation and Community Group	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
2 Friends of Groups - 1 action group	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
3 Friends of Groups established and an additional group is currently getting started.	Salford CC
The Friends of Murdishaw Valley and were established. Other formative groups were boosted e.g. Friends of Wigg Island. However, establishment was not easy on 3 other reserves and, as a result, we have a more generic role for a borough-wide community group called the Halton Environment Roundtable. This community group receives regular reports on all community activities on LNRs. This is probably the weakest aspect of Wild About Halton	Halton Borough Council
already established - now with 1700 members	Rye Nature Reserve
an established group expanded	Lingfield PC
The Wildspace! Grant was intended to fund a new education project (slightly different to other schemes more geared to increasing LNR numbers.	Elmbridge Borough Council
FO Old Brickfield , Seaford as well as supporting existing groups eg Railway Land WT and Castle Hill Group	Lewes DC
City Wildlife includes a section where existing Friends of Groups can promote their activities and people can start new groups	Brighton and Hove
group now has 100+ members	Sonning Parish Council
new group established for Millhams Mead in 2004	Bournemouth BC
Friends of Group established incorporating residents, decision makers and regular volunteers	Devon Wildlife Trust
FO Stover was already in existence when project started	Devon CC
supported 5 Friends of Groups - Friends of Troopers Hill set up as part of project	Bristol CC
3 new Friends of Groups established - each has a constitution and bank accounts - have secured funding to deliver various projects/ actions	South Gloucestershire Council
4 new groups established - other existing groups given extra support	Bath and NE Somerset Council
2 Friends of Groups established - Weirfield LNR and Frieze Hill Comm Orchard LNR	Taunton Deane BC
4 sustainable Friends of Groups	Gloucester C C
management committee	CWP Society (Charity)
unable to get enough community support	Walsall MBC
Set up voluntary groups at Worcester Woods and Waseley Hills CPs. Friends of Groups attend weekly meetings with site staff to undertake tasks and receive training.	Worcestershire County Council
FO Granville, FO Telford town park	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
at all but one of the 8 sites designated	Stoke-on-Trent CC
none in a formal sense but encouraged greater voluntary involvement at sites that may result in Friends of Groups establishing in the future.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
one group established - 2 others have considerable support	Sandwell MBC

Bumble Hole Cons Grp already in existence and integral to management of project	British Waterways
2 totally independent groups at Hodge Lane and Warwickshire Moor - Great Tameside will be independent within next 6 months	Staffs WT
FO Town Close Hills aka Billy Woods formed May 2005.	Leeds CC
not a realistic target without more community development work to encourage wider involvements	Kirklees MC
Supported existing group and helped lay foundation for new special interest groups.	Sheffield City Council
FO Billy Woods, ongoing efforts by Leeds CC to do similar at Letchmire Pastures.	RSPB
Friends of Group Ogden Water have 120 members - approx third are active in practical nature conservation and assisting / running events.	Calderdale MBC
FO Farnley Hall Fish Pond	Pond Conservation
new group of sheep wardens became FO Atkinsons Warren LNR - scout group became FO Frodingham LNR - local history group forming FO Owston Ferry Castle LNR - young people with autism from AALPs College formed FO Sawcliffe LNR	North Lincs Council
2 groups established as direct result of project - on going	Barnsley MBC
Not a Friends of Group in name	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
all 3 sites have Friends of Groups	City of York Council
we have around 80 members	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 4

6.3.1 The principal contributions to LNRs made by Friends of Groups

local residents Friends of Groups are wardening sites and organising events - voluntary teams are assisting with physical management of sites	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
Friends of Groups have not been successful for various reasons but mainly due to lack of motivation from the public and getting past L Auth stigma - 'why should I do that, I pay my Council Tax'.... Some people put off by short term nature of the project. Overall Volunteers have played a vital role in the success of the project and a lot of the management work would not have been possible without their help	Cambridge CC
Volunteers and Friends of Groups regularly involved at most LNRs - regular voluntary days organised, promote LNRs at Environment Fairs and produce newsletters - seek new members and organise events.	Three Rivers DC
regular ongoing steering group meetings set up to discuss progress of 5 year management plan with CMS and St Albans DC and ideas for future – Friends of Group actively promote site through libraries and Tourist Info Centre - increase their membership - work successfully with CMS on conservation tasks and maintenance	Countryside Management Service
organised working parties, influenced management plans, canvassed politicians and helped support grant applications.....	Harlow DC
Aspal Close User Group	Forest Heath DC
groups have varying degrees of involvement - but due to health and safety and increased regulations I doubt any group will be able to completely manage a site	Nottingham CC
Friends of Groups are now taking ownership of their sites including the fishing rights, which provide a steady income for the groups involved - they are telling us what would improve the site as a public amenity and for wildlife - organising contractors etc which can only be positive for the long term sustainability of the project. CLO has introduced Friends of Groups to BTCV who regularly undertake management work , provided groups with source of volunteers, knowledge including training on tools, identification/surveying, which has maintained their enthusiasm for the site.	Mansfield DC
Friends of Groups and local volunteers have become very involved in long term management of certain LNRs - these tend to be LNRs bordering towns and villages	Lincolnshire CC
The groups have all enabled the sites to be better managed through the manpower they bring. Their enthusiasm and promotion of the sites and their work on them is vital to gaining acceptance within the wider community	Groundwork Erewash Valley
Voluntary groups The Woodlanders and The Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers often helped on site.	The Woodlands Trust

Voluntary group is key in ensuring all necessary management work for LNRs is met - without this added capacity the team would not meet their targets and valuable habitats would be lost. The Friends of Groups form a key part in the above and are also the driving force behind raising the profile of the sites within the local community and press - they ensure the sites are managed with a community lead approach and aid in accessing additional funding streams where appropriate.	LB Islington
healthy conservation voluntary base - user groups are stronger and willing to participate actively - community groups are applying for grants to support them and work with the LNRs	L.B. Lewisham
Local community group undertakes pond management, litter clearance and coppicing tasks on an annual basis as well as more occasional management tasks and projects. CLO consults them on changes and proposals for sites.	South Tyneside Council
Voluntary effort is vital in the long-term management of the LNR - volunteers responsible for carrying out the majority of habitat management and a great deal of effort is given to the recruitment and development of voluntary groups. Friends of Windy Nook NP are taking an active role in securing the long-term sustainability of LNRs through fund raising, site development and community engagement.	Gateshead Council
groups actively involved in drawing up management plans and carrying out practical tasks - continue with upkeep of their sites to make future sustainability of the LNRs secure - continue to fundraise	North Tyneside Council
Friends of Groups continue to be a vibrant body of individuals from across the borough all with a keen proactive approach to LNR management.	Stockton BC
Friends of Groups meet regularly with CLO and other council employees to discuss work proposed by council and inform council of work that is needed to be done - regular work parties organised by one Friends of Group others have occasional action days / annual open days.	Bury MBC
varied group strengths - attracting funding, practical hands on work co-ordinated through CLO - all respond well in consultation and development of long term plans and see the management of sites as a partnership with everyone having a clear role - some Friends of Groups have undertaken training sessions and now lead monthly work parties - future success will depend on the cont support and recruitment of new members which would require a CLO or similar person. Volunteers are keen to participate in the work but do not have the time to organise the sessions so retention of a CLO is crucial.	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
£97,000 raised by Friends of Groups	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
sizable Friends of Group assoc with River Darwen Parkway - Pleasington NR located near large crematorium /natural burial site has considerable community input - only Highercroft Woods plagued by significant vandalism (has eased during recent months)	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
FO Kersal Dale are very active, hold regular conservation days, have produced own historical CD Rom of site. Worsley Woods AG are actively dealing with some difficult site management issues that will require long term commitment. Clifton CP Forum is developing events and activities programme and keen to develop interpretative materials for the site.	Salford CC
1. Friends of Wigg Island: bird box making; topping up the bird feeders; creating the "Troll Trail" walk through a small woodland. 2. Friends of	Halton Borough Council

Murdishaw Valley: coppicing work, pond work, bluebell planting, removal of litter. In general, the aim is to encourage management up to a level that the Friends are comfortable with, not at a level which fulfils all the management plan objectives.	
WCCP organises regular voluntary activities throughout the year on the existing and new LNRs	White Cliffs Countryside Project
the reserve is VERY dependent upon the Friends of Group for funding and extra manpower	Rye Nature Reserve
regular weekend work parties - volunteers lead the tree trail using the Wildspace pamphlet	Lingfield PC
A volunteer group existed prior to the scheme and continues to run once a month. Around 20 volunteers meet up for a range of practical conservation tasks.	Elmbridge Borough Council
voluntary sector fundamental in management and sustainability of LNRs - attend practical work parties / committees for management meetings - fully involved in management plans - long term resource and presence has helped raise standard of LNRs	Lewes DC
Friends of Groups have a major role in steering decisions made about management of LNRs through advisory panels and direct management	Brighton and Hove
site managed entirely by small group of volunteers, apart from annual haycut done by local contractor paid for by parish council	Sonning Parish Council
varies from site to site but generally Friends of Groups are more organised and are playing a bigger role in LNR management - FO Kinson Common now organise own open day	Bournemouth BC
FO Exmouth LNR involved in site management - Holyfrod WT manage LNR - FO Trinity Hill soon to be set up - strong community group in operation on Axe estuary sites	East Devon DC
lot of input into practical management but not deeply involved in site management decisions	Devon Wildlife Trust
Friends of Group indispensable in managing the LNR - today and in the future - Stover CP Assoc set up in 1989 to oppose plans for a diner and pull-in for motorists, within the park, cont to raise money and run events to aid the ranger service.	Devon CC
each group is different - some actively lead in writing management plans whilst others do not run work parties and are not able to fully understand the management needs of a site	Bristol CC
Wick Golden Valley LNR Friends of Group have established a subscription membership that numbers over 130 local people - have secured over £25,000 grant funding for site projects and management. Three Brooks LNR Nature Cons Group contributed to the 5 yr community led management plan and are now seeking funding to deliver elements of the plan.	South Gloucestershire Council
volunteers now responsible for opening and closing bird hide (so open to public for longer hrs) - litter picking - reed bed management	South Somerset DC
all have some level of community group involvement - daily / monthly tasks undertaken. Level of activity on sites has increased.	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Frieze Hill group run the reserve with some help from the council when	Taunton Deane BC

needed - other groups happy to carry out tasks when asked.	
Green Farm Orchard is a new group being trained and advised in long term management and fund raising. Barnwood Arb Friends of Group is applying for several grants with guidance from CLO. Saintbridge Friends of Group now meet every 2 wks with 20 - 30 volunteers, they fill a large skip with rubbish every month – plastic and tins are recycled.	Gloucester C C
mid week voluntary group that works across all countryside sites in the borough - worked alongside CLO	Walsall MBC
Voluntary groups have had a big impact on the physical management of the sites. They are aware of the objectives within the management plans including biodiversity, landscape, visitor and governance issues. Some volunteers have become voluntary members of staff with more input on site management. Open days have allowed visitors the opportunity to comment on site issues and suggest improvements.	Worcestershire County Council
practical work parties at Granville, advising on management, helping in grant applications	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Regularly consult health walkers group for feedback from users - volunteers encouraged to contribute ideas and suggestions on way we operate on the reserve, in the visitor centre or in the hide.	RSPB
most LNRs have active Friends of Groups - others experiencing difficulties getting the community involved	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Groups of volunteers continue to be involved in the future long-term practical management of LNR sites.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
contributed to management plan development - help 'warden' sites - arrange events eg litter picks etc	Stafford BC
varies considerably - Sandwell Friends of Group tends not to attract people with management skills to take on LNR	Sandwell MBC
BH Cons Group are volunteers who have always and continue to have a leading role in management of both LNRs - they provide sustainability by being the focus of community support and involvement	British Waterways
2 Friends of Groups are totally independent and make management decisions and run own work parties	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
varies between sites - Letchmire Pastures is struggling to acquire long term voluntary support despite numerous events and publicity - possibly due to the established site on Townclose Hills which is undertaking monthly staff assisted voluntary tasks and guided walks on site. Fairburn Ings is well established and mainly council owned reserve managed by RSPB - it has visitor facilities , shop, classroom etc - refer to Q 101	Leeds CC
will depend on future funding to build voluntary capacity and sustainability	Kirklees MC
Conservation groups already involved in the management of sites - this has continued.	Sheffield City Council
refer to Leeds CC	RSPB
Cromwell Bottom liaison group meets regularly to review management and agree future action	Calderdale MBC
Friends of Group will now run and manage site 100%.	Pond Conservation

varies between sites - relies on a small number of committed individuals - specific problems eg waterlogged gates, are dealt with but long term planning is of less interest to them.	Barnsley MBC
Friends of Groups established and flourished on some sites - others have struggled and despite effort have never got off the ground.	East Riding
2 of the sites managed heavily through Friends of Groups - they do talks to other groups, expanded into other areas and give suggestions to the council on how things could be changed. Other group is made up of younger members who require back support and are not on site as often - however they are energetic and interested and have expertise in the environmental area.	City of York Council
Friends of Group provided some income and support for fund raising activities - help with habitat management	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 5

6.3.2 Projects that enable new community groups/individuals to enjoy LNRs, their management and development work

thousands of individuals have visited their LNRs through organised events for the first time and are now visiting independently - 10 local schools using LNRs for study - disabled groups and individuals now visit due to improved access.....	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
profile raised through LNR leaflet and website + continued work of the CLO through public events.....	Cambridge CC
new groups and individuals cont to be made aware of LNRs and hence will visit the sites - many groups and individuals visit LNRs through organised activities/guided walks - the CLO (now Projects Officer Env) continues to organise events and activities	Three Rivers DC
local artist group - local Herts Moth Group ran a moth trapping day with CMS where over 60 people attended - new members of local community continue to join Friends of Group after seeing improvements carried out by organised conservation tasks	Herts CC Countryside Management Service
school visits continue - new groups coming e.g. photographic	Harlow DC
2 types of group users - 'issue based' who want to change something and 'social' who enjoy helping out	Nottingham CC
LNRs linked through the district by trails so are used by walkers and cyclists and tourists - has increased since publication of leaflet (approx 10,000 copies sent out) - PR on LNRs cont with MDC Councillors (esp Environment Portfolio holder) raising the profile of the network when possible - CLO continues to organise events and work days for Friends of Groups , local community and schools.....	Mansfield DC
All LNRs open to public – people’s awareness of sites raised through events organised by CLO resulting in increased independent visits.....	Lincolnshire CC
groups use site independently - further funding and partnership working has enabled small education projects to cont but would love opportunity to carry out a more sustainable and complete programme of education on reserves	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
Schools now visit independently after teacher training event and initial supervised visits. Education packs were produced to enable them to do that.	Groundwork Erewash Valley
2 voluntary groups using the sites, both welcome new volunteers to join them...	The Woodlands Trust
Training events run by CLOs have enabled schools to use sites independently - locked LNRs have a booking system to enable this.	L.B. Lewisham
Continued development and outreach	L B Camden
The work (conservation, recreation and education) initiated through the project continues to be developed by the Council's Community Wildlife Officer including its commitment to community engagement.	Gateshead Council

Regular communication from individual users - new footpaths have increased usage - new groups and schools organising visits is increasing.....	Sedgefield BC
walks and events attended by public have increased individual visits - public more aware of sites due to Friends of Groups and newsletters -	Castle Morpeth BC
leaflet and promotional work have attracted more users - locals and tourists - schools continue to utilise sites (some as part of curriculum) - some visits organised in conjunction with education staff based at sites	North Tyneside Council
Ongoing - all LNRs are actively promoted, regular organised events on LNRs, CLO work attracts interest by word of mouth and through press.	Bury MBC
sites reportedly and visibly busier - ongoing improvement work - local people often introduced to sites through CLO led events then go on to revisit on their own.....	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
special needs groups continue to visit sites they have worked on to fulfil fitness / healthy living agendas - organised visits from sixth form colleges for case studies eg areas of lowland heath and natural grassland at the River Darwen Parkway - studies by Myerscough College.....	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Increased number of individual users on site following LNR project - rise in profile (both of sites and officer) has increased demand for activities - Friends of Groups continue to develop and gain confidence in running new events.....	Salford CC
1. Wigg Island LNR. Membership has increased and individuals visit the site independently. 2. We here of societies having field trips to the LNRs e.g. North Cheshire RSPB group, Widnes Soroptimists, 3. The Wildspace Officer continues to give talks to groups who come and visit the sites.....	Halton Borough Council
the WCCP cont to promote access through footpath improvements, leaflets, interpretation panels and info on the web site	White Cliffs Countryside Project
visitor numbers cont to increase and more disabled visitors now come along-extra manpower has led to more events and groups being held.....	Rye Nature Reserve
tree trail enjoyed by youth groups - seed gathering Sunday event - visits from local primary school	Lingfield PC
The education project remains very popular, hosting on average 3500 children per year. Spring and Summer have been full for the past 3 years with schools booking sessions months in advance.	Elmbridge Borough Council
groups of adults with learning difficulties visits have increased due to work by community ranger - groups from day centre / social services actively take part in practical/monitoring work on site.....	Lewes DC
pond dipping sessions for Sonning after school club - visits from environmental professionals and volunteers from other projects	Sonning Parish Council
large area of accessible green space in the north of the borough prove very popular - organised events eg walks and environmental festivals continue to be well patronised.....	Bournemouth BC
public events organised by CLO on all LNRs plus creation of intellectual access information	East Devon DC
site open to public at all times - organised visits and public events are provided.....	Devon Wildlife Trust

Volunteers, work experience students, school groups helping with practical activities - educational visits by schools, guides, cubs, cont to grow - in addition to regular LNR users and holiday makers in the area	Devon CC
groups more likely to revisit if CLO there to organise a walk or event for them - particularly true of 'hard to reach' groups and individuals - events and leaflets have encouraged revisits by individuals - schools unlikely to organise own visits - need CLO to do it for them	Bristol CC
Local school groups/ teachers continue to use sites for environmental education/ deliver key stage education, Friends of Groups continue to arrange public events and management sessions on sites.	South Gloucestershire Council
new schools visiting - people in wheelchairs.....	South Somerset DC
as above + heightened awareness of site - increased interpretation including website - legacy of CLO	Bath and NE Somerset Council
council had a walking festival in 2006 in which greater use was made of the reserves - guided walks as part of 'local nature reserve week' in July	Taunton Deane BC
Barnwood Arboretum - local schools make regular visits, botanical illustration Group has weekly lessons, tree warden training through CLO, new website. Green Farm Orchard and Saintbridge will cont if CLO is in post.	Gloucester C C
Production of teachers pack has seen an increase in schools using the site.....	Walsall MBC
Adults with learning disabilities have visited Kingsford to view their artwork and have picnics - they are also visiting other sites with their helpers' assistance. The tailored walks led by the Countryside staff have encouraged these adults to initiate their own visits and venture to sites further a field.	Worcestershire County Council
Green gym (BTCV) , walking for health.....	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Health walks established as part of project - still attracting newcomers and visitors.	RSPB
new people still attending events on LNRs	Stoke-on-Trent CC
New schools groups cont to use LNR sites for educational purposes - new individual visits through events programme organised by the council.....	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
leaflets helped interpret sites to independent visitors - access and signage improvements - formal walks and talks still organised eg Bat Walk - events organised by CLO eg LNR fortnight.....	Stafford BC
Health walks - conservation activities - guided walks - community group visits with CLO. The LNRs with a visitor centre nearby attract more people and are easy to persuade community groups to visit	Sandwell MBC
BH Cons Group continues to play leading role in management of LNRs - organises educational visits for schools, cubs, brownies and guides - regularly visited by adults with learning disabilities.....	British Waterways
sites are better signed, promoted and accessible to everyone - Friends of Groups carry out regular work parties and events involving new individuals and groups - CLO continues to hold activities and events at different sites	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
follow up visits to sites after school visits	Kirklees MC
Use of particular LNRs has noticeably increased - dog walkers etc - guided walks and significant events are led by rangers - CLO/ rangers have helped	Sheffield City Council

establish schemes such as Health Walks which now operate without regular support of CLO.....	
increased independent visitor numbers to most LNRs, guided walks increased over project period.....	Calderdale MBC
Improved access - information on website - information boards on site.	Pond Conservation
Waters' Edge has estimated 50,000+ visitors per year - CLO organises busy diary of events for all sites.....	North Lincs Council
CLO organised numerous visits - improved local involvement - small groups undertake practical tasks with limited support from CLO (Potter Holes Plantation) -other sites community have not taken initiative and rely heavily on CLO support (which will cease once the project finishes) so organised visits will probably not continue.....	Barnsley MBC
ongoing new visitors at some sites - more remote sites need events to foster interest	East Riding
all sites open all day everyday - anyone can visit at any time - good bus links and cycle network- organised events / activities by CLO, Friends of Groups , WT, local schools, youth service, Greenworks, probation services, health walk groups, YMCA, York cares and many more	City of York Council
we accom vast variety of groups incl RSPB, Wis, Natural History Socs, Baden Powell Groups, Health and Walking Groups, Art Classes, Beekeeping	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 6

6.3.3 Projects that show innovation in their approach to LNR interpretation and community involvement – comments from grantees

Comments	Organisation
to a degree	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
assistance with practical management and interpretation at events and on-site	Cambridge CC
interpretation using the arts was the main inspiration	Epping Forest DC
wide range of activities offered to involve people in the LNRs	Three Rivers DC
installation of 2 new entrance signs made of timber with lettering routed onto the board - design was v popular	Countryside Management Service
interpretation using the arts was the main inspiration	Epping Forest DC
new signage boards - hide, display and fabric screen created with public hands on events	Harlow DC
Interpretation developed with Friends Of Group's involvement.	Mansfield DC
getting schools out onto NR - managed some site interpretation too	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
new signage and info boards to advertise free walks - translated the education info into Turkish etc	L B Hackney
self guided leaflets produced - way marked trail installed - interpretations panel, voluntary group involvement.	The Woodlands Trust
Particular success achieved finding alternative ways to encourage hard to reach groups (esp BME groups) into the reserves - through consultation specific events were set up eg Diwali.multi-faith events, elderly peoples growing group and health walks programme.	LB Islington
CLOs used every opportunity to maximise publicity and contribute to local initiatives eg Lewisham Walking Festival. Schools involved in projects and construction of LNRs	L.B. Lewisham
A unique sculpture and conservation project involving local school children that won a good design award.	South Tyneside Council
Innovative solutions to interpreting special interest of LNRs - production of panel with audio unit for kittiwake tower LNR - sensory zone, arts features.	Gateshead Council
Via the events programme, use of the arts, installation of interpretation boards, wide variety of marketing techniques and public relations methods to inc press releases and bi-annual full colour newsletter.	Sedgefield BC

Comments	Organisation
Enabled link with international exchange charity - young people from across the globe come and work on sites for 2 wks - encouraging local people to join in. Youth for Christ's international NEI project involved in similar way - youth offenders, the army, HM prisons, fire brigade, TV location filming, involved in site management and interpretation. Gateway art feature doubles as height restriction barrier - carved gate detailing leaves in the wood - self led walks packs designed by volunteers - site signage - walking festival.	Castle Morpeth BC
project has always attracted attention and acknowledgement - was innovative in being only LNR in the borough run entirely by the community	Clara Vale Conservation Group
new interpretation provided - some groups securing own funding for panels /leaflets and tools	North Tyneside Council
new community arts projects	Bury MBC
provided leaflets and signs - basic stuff rather than innovative	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
Nature Reserve leaflet and signage	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Volunteer of the year award given to one of the Blackburn volunteers - community input with interpretation boards on Arran Trail and River Derwen Parkway	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Use of web cams on LNRs and production of mini movies that are downloadable from the Halton BC web page.	Halton Borough Council
touch screen in local shop (now used in our local info centre)	Rye Nature Reserve
this is the first project of this nature to be run in the borough	Elmbridge Borough Council
designed several interpretation boards creatively illustrating imp of the local environment - ran a diverse activity programme for community participation	Lewes DC
objective of the website	Brighton and Hove
changeable information boards purchased and rotated according to the seasons, wildlife present etc	Sonning Parish Council
local community involved in development of route linking LNRs and other green space - Gulliver's Walk	Bournemouth BC
carried out schools art project	Devon Wildlife Trust
The Poetry Trail is an example of interpretative innovation - only one in the country - bus stop enhancement scheme, nesting bank and habitat (marsh)enhancement scheme involved special needs groups and volunteers from local community.	Devon CC
lots of innovative events and interpretation projects-making a CD-Rom with disabled young people - willow evening with people with mental illness	Bristol CC
successful projects include Peregrine Web Cam , Beer Mats for Wildtracks, BatBeat!, CD project for Youth Clubs, Wild about Wapley calendar with youth clubs and young carers, Chinese year of the Monkey celebrations. Details on website www.southglos.gov.uk/wildspaces	South Gloucestershire Council
project was a job share between an environmentalist and an artist - innovative approach to attract and involve people on LNRs	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Tree planting, archaeology days, apple days, bulb planting with special needs groups.	Gloucester CC

Comments	Organisation
community hosted event with artist and children	CWP Society (Charity)
Interpretation project carried out with local primary school to design a series of panels for the sites on the topics of birds, trees and intro to site.	Walsall MBC
Design of promotional material has been changed and tailored to attract new user groups.	Worcestershire County Council
users invited to highlight areas on sites where improvements could be made	Stoke-on-Trent CC
involvement of community artists to work with children producing interpretation materials	Sandwell MBC
all interpretation materials, web site and community events were branded together to provide a seamless resource of information for all visitors	British Waterways
community involvement at the heart of every site from the beg - local people involved in writing management plans, fundraising and designing interpretative material	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Wildlife explorer and kids clubs, schools out reach, phoenix groups.	Leeds CC
community groups working with artist to develop signage	Kirklees MC
To some degree - interpretation boards and leaflets developed - involvement of local people in the life and future of LNRs was very successful.	RSPB
many examples of good practice	Calderdale MBC
in association with Coversands Heathland Project Atkinsons Warren LNR have been interpreted through interactive CD-ROMs + website - in association with other funders Waters Edge has sustainably built visitor centre which includes displays and live footage of wildlife - in one of the most deprived areas of Scunthorpe CLO has managed to recruit and motivate an active group of voluntary sheep wardens to enable sustained grazing of heathland.	North Lincs Council
standard accepted methods utilised	Barnsley MBC
Generally well regarded in this field.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
on-going site interpretation with help from groups	City of York Council
excellent interpretation facilities enjoyed by a large amount of people	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 7

6.3.4 Projects that make LNRs safe, accessible and enjoyable places to visit

Comments	Organisation
exceptionally	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
raised profile, more people at reserves (unknown before)	Cambridge CC
LNRs have been opened up, footpaths improved, access increased, interpretation boards installed , leaflets produced	Three Rivers DC
positive improvements including production of information leaflet promoting the site, woodchip resurfacing and installation of 3 recycled plastic benches	Countryside Management Service
improved access	Harlow DC
Securing boundaries to prevent misuse of the site by off road vehicles - improved interpretation has added to the publics understanding of the site, its wildlife and history.	Mansfield DC
this was an important element in the development of all new LNRs	Lincolnshire CC
interpretation made sites more accessible to visit	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
improved accessibility has increased usage which makes the site safer and more enjoyable	Draycott Parish Council
Keeping pathways clear, litter picking - running a voluntary programme / community involvement.	L B Hackney
Archaeological survey produced - redesigned main car park and entrance due to escalating fly tipping problems - reduced ASB.	The Woodlands Trust
CLO increased interpretation at sites - worked closely with voluntary groups to improve access and raise awareness on certain issues to do with safety, dog fouling.	LB Islington
photographic evidence shows major access/safety improvements and the joy of children exploring LNRs	L.B. Lewisham
improved management, signage, interpretation boards, events etc.	South Tyneside Council
Major improvements achieved in the security and accessibility of LNRs increasing public enjoyment.	Gateshead Council
Upgrading of footpaths - management plans address safety issues and access - programmes of works implemented. Interpretation boards in place.	Sedgefield BC
Repaired paths, bridges, steps and handrails - vegetation clearance on paths added to core management task fro GM dept - funding sought and awarded to resurface car parks and install signage in some sites.	Castle Morpeth BC
provided extra facilities (hide and pond) and info for schools, leaflet and information board production	Clara Vale Conservation Group

Comments	Organisation
Volunteers' hard work has made LNRs cleaner, more enjoyable places to visit - improvements to footpaths, boardwalks, dipping platforms, gates, fences and stiles to help access and safety	North Tyneside Council
improved information now available for sites	Bury MBC
approx 4km path upgraded and sites generally made more welcoming / cared for	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
barriers on trails to prevent motorcycles	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
footpaths cut back and improved - escape routes cut through dense woodland area	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
There are on-going works, improvements and repairs to vandalism / unwanted visitors.	Halton Borough Council
booklet prepared visitors for their visit and warned of dangers present	Rye Nature Reserve
improved access and safe route to school through the reserve	Lingfield PC
opened up new audiences to our LNRs, many local children did not realise they were there	Elmbridge Borough Council
all sites have full annual risk assessments and maintenance programme as part of offsite management plans	Lewes DC
web site improves people understanding of city LNRs - encourages people to look for species and habitats	Brighton and Hove
site already met these criteria	Sonning Parish Council
various improvements to access points and path surfaces - fencing to deter motorbikes at request of site users	Bournemouth BC
damaging activities and threatening atmosphere removed	Devon Wildlife Trust
The projects provided more information for visitors and increased their enjoyment of the LNR - new route opened up for the Poetry Trail that hadn't been officially accessed before.	Devon CC
some improvements in access and production of leaflets - websites for information	Bristol CC
Gorse Covert LNR rec'd additional street lighting following planning for real exercise. Access audits and improvements/ highway improvements undertaken on many sites.	South Gloucestershire Council
improved access from the town centre	Crewkerne TC
much safer site as a result of completed works	South Somerset DC
fun to visit	Bath and NE Somerset Council
improved signage - felt safer - boardwalks extended and repaired	Taunton Deane BC
A huge amount of voluntary hours and BTCV hours clearing, planting, paths and fencing.	Gloucester C C
new bridge and footpath	CWP Society (Charity)
Yes but not to the extent we would have liked due to limited financial and staff resources.	Walsall MBC

Comments	Organisation
Under represented groups enabled to visit LNRs - physical access improvement projects developed - improved visitor info and interpretation at each site.	Worcestershire County Council
infrastructure enhanced, eg safety measures	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Wildspace funding enabled improvements in access and interpretation to LNRs	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Improved signs, onsite interpretation and access features provided.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
capital investment has improved experience of visitors - access improved	Sandwell MBC
many of the funded physical works were to make safety improvements to access and greater connectivity between the LNRs and the canal system	British Waterways
through appropriate management	Staffs WT
Establishment of Friends of Group - parks patrol make regular visits to town close and Letchmire.	Leeds CC
ongoing access improvements - activities planned to make visits fun	Kirklees MC
helped towards this aim	Sheffield City Council
this is probably an overview that needs to be gained from Leeds CC.	RSPB
improvements to footpaths, boundaries, increased awareness and signposting LNRs	Calderdale MBC
trees safety work - largely in Brumby Woods and Atkinsons Warren - education packs allow teachers to organise enjoyable visits - interpretation panels - vehicle barriers - Axholme Line has been resurfaced as a Greenway	North Lincs Council
LNRs more accessible and safe - increased usage - West Haigh Wood continues to suffer misuse and further long-term work is required for significant improvements	Barnsley MBC
Have had no issues in this regard.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
CLO working directly with local community has enabled most safety issues to be sorted as they arise.	City of York Council
all categories met - reserve is within guarded military area	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 8

7.3 Why the employment of a CLO was important to the success of projects

Without the CLO there would have been no resources to implement the project - none of the project targets would have been met	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
There would have been no one else available in the council to lead the work	Cambridge CC
Without a dedicated officer the work would not have been achieved - no time or resources available to promote LNRs or engage with local communities.	Three Rivers DC
profile of biodiversity in the town was raised - events attracted large amount of interest	Harlow DC
projects need managing - people like to see someone face to face and get to know them	Nottingham CC
post allowed an officer to concentrate full time on the LNR project which raised their profile within the council and local communities - able to produce detailed management plans by raising internal and external funding - forming Friends of Groups - encouraging use by schools.	Mansfield DC
Without CLO employment funding the CC would not have considered taking on Wildspace! Scheme - due largely to lack of staff to implement capital only project.	Lincolnshire CC
financially it allowed time to be spent developing and delivering education on our LNRs - goes hand in hand with management of urban nature reserves as they are as much about people as wildlife	Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire (formally Environ)
Abney Park is a green space within the urban inner city area - it is a culturally diverse area with 244 languages within Hackney. The community projects I deliver are trying to engage people whatever their age, ability or cultural background in the hope that if local people enjoy the green space they will return and continue having healthy walks and feel part of a community project.	L B Hackney
renaissance of nature reserves in Lewisham would not have been possible without CLO involvement - ongoing impetus to support volunteers and user groups	L.B. Lewisham
Current staff levels could not have carried out the amount of community development and running of events.	L B Camden
Existing countryside team staff did not have the time capacity to undertake the type of work programme delivered by the CLO.	South Tyneside Council
CLO was able to progress notification of the LNRs, co-ordinate community involvement, develop volunteering opportunities, deliver extensive programme of public events and educational activities, develop a range of interpretative materials, deliver capital works and habitat management programmes and promote contact with the natural environment through the local media. Without the appointment of an officer this would have been	Gateshead Council

impossible.	
provided a staffing resource to develop and implement a forward plan that will help meet the strategic priorities for the Borough of Sedgefield - protect, conserve and enhance biological diversity - ensure sites are accessible, attractive, safe and welcoming - sustainability- improve understanding and 'ownership' of natural environment - reduce levels of anti-social behaviour within green space.	Sedgefield BC
Work outlined in grant could not have been achieved without CLO to implement it - engage with local people and be point of contact for the reserves - useful as neutral arbitrator between divided opinions in a reserve. The number of reserves and volume of work needed to bring reserves to a good accessible standard is such that it is unlikely a capital or smaller revenue grant alone would have been effective.	Castle Morpeth BC
CLO very important as no resources available before to have someone concentrating solely on LNRs - able to engage with local communities , enable habitat enhancement and increase awareness about the sites	North Tyneside Council
existing staff did not have time to pursue the declaration of LNRs	Bury MBC
Liverpool CC had no funding to develop LNRs, therefore funding for CLO made project possible -also able to attract other sources of funding to get things going - bringing external money into the city made the project more attractive to the council.	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool
funding allowed for the development and designation of the Wigan Flashes LNR management and development of further funding	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Staff resource was not available to carry out the work before Wildspace! - supplied a significant contribution to raising the profile of sites involved both for local community and officers / local politicians.	Salford CC
LNRs are as much about people as nature – a dedicated officer is required to deal with both	Halton Borough Council
The CLO had the sole responsibility of implementing a brand new education project. Due to the existing workload of the countryside team, only minimal assistance was available.	Elmbridge Borough Council
work that the project began and ran over 3 yrs became v high profile within the LA - succeeded in raising profile of nature reserves and facilitating community involvement in site management - had positive effect on council's decision re cont of community ranger post at end of project	Lewes DC
delivery of project would not have been possible without employment of CLO	East Devon DC
CLO able to take responsibility for the site resulting in less abuse and damage	Devon Wildlife Trust
Without CLO no capacity to run project. Prior to Wildspace! LNRs received no extra support and no distinction between LNR and SSCI in the city. CLO needed to support local community groups, improve site management, run events and engage with local schools and other groups	Bristol CC
not enough human resource to designate more LNRs - run a varied and large amount of events - create sustainable community groups	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Without the post LNRs would not have been adopted and the Friends of Groups would not have materialised.	Gloucester CC
if we had had one it would have made project more successful	CWP Society (Charity)

Our CLO played a crucial role co-ordinating and overseeing the various projects across the 4 sites. Researching and engaging with hard to reach groups was time consuming and required different methods to be employed to enable this.	Worcestershire County Council
spend time on getting local people involved	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
workload of existing employees would not have allowed time-consuming setting up and running Friends of Groups and the designation process involved committee reports etc	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Point of contact - source of information - inspiration and expertise - someone to do all the work that's generated!	Stafford BC
Insufficient capacity within existing staff structure to achieve the objectives of Wildspace!	Sandwell MBC
the LA does not employ anyone specific to manage LNRs - no community involvement at all before the project began	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Prior to the grant the sites received Parks and Countryside staff and management input shared amongst all other sites across the metropolitan district - grant provided the opportunity for a dedicated member of staff to focus on 3 project sites and their surrounding communities. Supported by our existing resources - 2 existing sites + 1 recently designated.	Leeds CC
CLO was the key to engaging with the community and delivery of the project.	Sheffield City Council
Without additional officer number of declared LNRs would be significantly less - officer needed to conduct community consultation, create Friends of Groups and engage local communities - increased capacity to facilitate environmental education, interpretation, access and biodiversity works - raised profile of LNRs within the Council.	Calderdale MBC
existing staff did not have spare capacity to declare and manage new LNRs or form relationships with community groups- CLO post is unique in promoting nature conservation within the local community- it encouraged involvement and motivation	North Lincolnshire Council
CLO was responsible for managing and delivering all project outputs - with no CLO this would not have been achieved due to lack of available resources	Barnsley MBC
Employment of a member of staff to assist in facilitating the primary target areas of Wildspace! Was considered very valuable however lack of financial support for the core Swale and Ure Washlands Project meant that employment of any dedicated staff beyond Autumn 2004 was unrealistic - a part time role was totally inadequate to take forward a wide reaching project.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
crucial as City of York Council has been going through budget cuts and would not have had the manpower available to accommodate the workload and ability to engage with the range of communities necessary	City of York Council
CLO able to attract the people in the community and keep the reserve maintained	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 9

7.3 (cont) In what the capacity the CLO role continued after the grant expired

Building on success of Wildspace! - taking principles of community involvement in LNRs & other green spaces across Cambs & Peterborough - assisting community groups to set up wildlife rich green spaces	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough
work with local people & groups on the designation, development, management & promotion of existing & potential LNRs	Cambridge CC
As CLO role (managing & designating LNRs, educational activities, community involvement etc) plus added responsibility representing the Council at County & District Environmental Forums, organising the Council side of the annual Canal, Community & Environment Fair, as the main contact for the County Wildlife Sites, etc	Three Rivers DC
CLO chose to leave of own accord. Hope to appoint a Biodiversity Officer - similar role	Harlow DC
cont working with Friends of Groups, raising profile of LNR sites, events programme & subsequent PR, encourage greater responsible use of sites, educational & recreational use, LNR management, raise internal council & external funding to increase biodiversity & deliver management plans.	Mansfield DC
Promotion, identification, selection & management of projects that encourage & empower local communities to become actively involved in the care & enjoyment of the natural environment.	Lincolnshire CC
manage sites which were designated as LNRs - unfortunately not the financial capacity to carry on the education role of the CLO - seeking funding to start new educational project as consider this most important	Groundwork Leicester & Leics (formally Environ)
Job share with co-ordinator in order to stay working for the Trust.	L B Hackney
Day to day management responsibility for Islington's Nature Conservation Team, Islington's 3 LNRs & all assoc work of the service.	LB Islington
1) responsible for Nature conservation across the borough 2) engagement & educational activities in Ladywell Fields - part of Quercus Project	L.B. Lewisham
Cont to manage LNRs. Liaise local community, run events, develop sites, work with volunteers	L B Camden
manage council owned countryside sites inc LNRs for people & wildlife, provide biodiversity & protected species advice to colleagues & public, develop & deliver events programme, countryside projects, develop & maintain the LNR network.	South Tyneside Council
build upon the successes of the Wildspace! Funded Next to Nature Project in engaging local communities, particularly those in areas of social deprivation and/or who lack access to the countryside, in the care, management & appreciation of LNRs.	Gateshead Council
conserve species of biodiversity value - encourage best practice, network with stakeholders - develop, support & advise Friends of Groups - conserve, manage, enhance & increase access to countryside sites - develop & manage new projects - identify & implement activities for existing sites - raise awareness & promote green space & biodiversity issues	Sedgefield BC

as CLO role + misc wildlife issues (red squirrels , bats etc) & comments on planning applications.	Castle Morpeth BC
cont development of LNRs within the borough	Bury MBC
cont of Wildspace! Role - same contract & aims - enhancement of LNR sites, involvement og volunteers, working with friends groups etc. Present funding 'til Mar 07 but further 3 yr bids submitted to cont role	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
CLO role continuation + development of further LNRs	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
support the management & development of 4 existing LNRs - co-ordinate designation of 5th site - work with Salford Ranger Team to support local groups, develop opportunities for voluntary involvement, events, activities, education programme.	Salford CC
Same job description but with new funders – Heritage Lottery Fund and Wren Landfill tax credits	Halton Borough Council
Full time, permanent role managing Link Up with Nature - the environmental education project set up during the Wildspace! Scheme.	Elmbridge Borough Council
cont role of existing community ranger & CLO but merge post into one full time position - co-ordinate day to day strategic management of 8 nature reserves/open spaces across the district - promote community involvement in site management / voluntary in practical conservation - environmental education programme provision - grant funding applications etc	Lewes DC
duties relating to environmental interpretation, education, community involvement	East Devon DC
cont CLO role part-time	Devon Wildlife Trust
Nature in the city project - 2 yr project funded by Your Heritage (HLF) & Neighbourhood Renewal. Focus on engaging communities with 6 sites of natural heritage in Bristol , all are or will be LNRs	Bristol CC
unknown at present - could be some type of CLO	Gloucester CC
the role has been funded for a further year by the CC whilst we seek grant funding to continue the post on a longer term basis. We have widened the remit of the CLO to cover all Countryside service sites.	Worcestershire County Council
Reserve management	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Similar to Wildspace! But new planning/biodiversity remit	Stafford BC
cont in same capacity as before	Sandwell MBC
establish 3 new LNRs with assoc Friends of Groups, maintain support at existing LNRs & with existing groups, promote use of all sites through environmental education & public events	Staffs WT
the role of CLO covers a range of things undertaken by our Ranger Service across the district & although we are not able to keep the post of CLO with its concentrated focus on just 3 sites the member of staff who was employed as CLO has gone into our redeployment process - it is envisaged that on return from maternity leave their employment in a role which utilises their skills will cont.	Leeds CC
Development Ranger for the Shire Brook Valley & 4 other woodland sites in the area.	Sheffield City Council
lead on facilitating community involvement helping to deliver site management with spec ref to LNRs - identifying & developing new target audiences with spec ref to Councils core priority target groups - work with Education Officer to deliver schools environmental education workshops -	Calderdale MBC

work with team leader, sites & access in recruiting & development of voluntary ranger service.	
to work with local communities in N Lincs to manage LNRs, heathlands & woodlands for wildlife, educational use & public access	North Lincs Council
details to be determined	Barnsley MBC
similar role as outlined in original bid - engage & work with the community on developing areas of green space into LNRs & there on going management & educational development	City of York Council
cont CLO role - responsible for cont community involvement with the reserve	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 10

7.3.5 Projects that enabled long-term community ownership or adoption of LNRs

Comments	Organisation
to a degree	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
good press coverage raised whole profile of LNR designations and the grants	Epping Forest DC
The Friends of Groups have led to strong community ownership of the LNRs	Three Rivers DC
enabled informal long term community ownership	Countryside Management Service
Residents involved on one site. General public and interested parties with others.	Harlow DC
through Friends of Groups, community and school involvement	Lincolnshire CC
achieved through Friends of Groups and education events + spin off projects	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
local people have become involved with running children's nature studies, etc	L B Hackney
while the Woodland Trust cont to own the sites the voluntary groups are heavily involved in the management of them - has brought about a sense of community ownership.	The Woodlands Trust
CLO devoted time to create strong personal links with a wide range of groups fostering their inclusion and involvement and lasting relationship with the reserves.	LB Islington
Friends of Groups inspired to bid for money through 'awards for all' and 'breathing spaces' - new groups aspiring to LNR status	L.B. Lewisham
Not specifically though CVST probably have greater ownership of some of the LNR sites because of the project.	South Tyneside Council
Local communities able to develop a sense of ownership and Gateshead Young Carers were able to adopt their site.	Gateshead Council
Byerley road Friends of Group has active, committed membership demonstrating a strong sense of ownership - led to development of management plan with CLO - seeking further funding to enhance project further.	Sedgefield BC
One PC is keen to take on management; however, their agenda for doing so may not be in the best interest of all users.	Castle Morpeth BC
helped further reinforce the legitimacy of the group - lease from the council has been significantly extended from 10 to 25 yrs	Clara Vale Conservation Group
Foholywell Dene and Rising Sun have set up annual membership fees to raise money and help perpetuate their work	North Tyneside Council
all LNRs remain primarily under the control of L Auth with community groups participation	Bury MBC

Comments	Organisation
jointly developed management plans with the community - now under implementation with supervision of friends groups	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
Sunnyhurst Woods Friends of Group very proactive on all levels of practical work, management and access	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
several now have integrated management groups / committees working with Community Ranger	Lewes DC
long term security of site ensured through parish council ownership - plans underway for neighbouring site in separate ownership, to be established as an informal extension to LNR	Sonning Parish Council
increased sense of community ownership	Bournemouth BC
support rec'd from local schools and council	Devon Wildlife Trust
no specific agreements (eg leases) set up with community groups but community ownership has been generated	Bristol CC
Wick Golden Valley LNR now has management and access agreement in place for next 99 yrs.	South Gloucestershire Council
more people visited	South Somerset DC
community groups to continue after CLO with some support from council	Bath and NE Somerset Council
especially at Freize Hill	Taunton Deane BC
4 LNRs adopted	Gloucester C C
Momentum needs to grow but good foundations have been put in place eg volunteer groups, regular park users.	Worcestershire County Council
Friends of Groups have active say in LNR management	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Friends of Group established and support by staff over the 3 yrs	Sandwell MBC
Management of LNRs made easier by physical outputs funded through Wildspace!	British Waterways
Hodge Lane , Warwickshire Moor and Tameside NR	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Billy Woods possibly most developed Friends of Group.	RSPB
local communities regularly keep records and report on problems on LNRs	Calderdale MBC
Farnley Hall	Pond Conservation
2 of the Friends of Groups are very strong and organise own events and activities such as recycling at St Nicholas Fields	City of York Council
lots of enthusiasm but no cash	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 11

7.3.6 Projects which benefit those with mobility or learning difficulties

Comments	Organisation
nothing specific though indirect improvements through working with people with mental illness and/or drug/alcohol problems	Cambridge CC
Several voluntary days / educational wildlife activities have involved people with learning difficulties. RADAR kissing gates installed where appropriate.	Three Rivers DC
surfacing improvements - installation of 3 recycled plastic benches	Herts CC Countryside Management Service
boardwalks for access installed	Harlow DC
as part of our normal service, health walks etc	Forest Heath DC
Establishment of Mareham Pastures Litter Wardens - run by North Road Outreach Centre for adults with learning difficulties.	Lincolnshire CC
new paths increased access for all users	Draycott Parish Council
We have disability projects such as hand made crafts - we have disability access, parking and toilets - ideal setting for groups.	LB Hackney
CLO particularly focused on involving those with special educational needs (adults and children) including horticultural training, walking programmes and educational work.	LB Islington
CLOs worked with many special needs groups and individuals - worked to improve access and on appropriate interpretation of sites	LB Lewisham
Plan to audit sites and improve access for all.	South Tyneside Council
Sites subject to thorough access audit and recommendations acted upon where possible to provide access for all including provision of surfaced paths, removal of barriers, installation of wheelchair accessible dipping platforms and tactile arts features. Diverse programme of activities including practical conservation management, formal recreation and education provided for people with learning difficulties, special needs, and emotional / behavioural difficulties.	Gateshead Council
Installation of new footpath at Ferryhill Carrs has enabled people less mobile to access most areas of the reserve.	Sedgefield BC
Riverside path widened and resurfaced in Scotch Gill woods for wheelchair access - worked with special needs schools and other mobility or learning difficulties groups come to Cresswell Dunes and Scotch Gill without CLO help - accessible car parks and paths.	Castle Morpeth BC
Project facilitated people with learning difficulties as regular volunteers carrying out management tasks. An orienteering course for individuals with mobility/learning difficulties installed at swallow pond - 'Trail-O' and 'Makaton'	North Tyneside Council
Disability is taken into account but none of the LNRs are ideally suited for use by people with disabilities.	Bury MBC
regular work parties / training with special needs schools	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside /

Comments	Organisation
	Liverpool CC
two learning difficulties volunteers every week	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
4 of the regular volunteers had special needs and attended with a day care supervisor	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
We have regular Health Walks at Wigg Island LNR.	Halton Borough Council
no , but other projects have since	Rye Nature Reserve
several groups of children with special needs have taken part in outdoor lessons on LNRs.	Elmbridge Borough Council
directly funded disabled access paths - opened up previously inaccessible areas for wheelchairs	Lewes DC
nothing yet	Sonning Parish Council
tools and equipment purchased for group with spec needs at Hengistbury Head	Bournemouth BC
improved access provision - gates, access track, trail, interpretation	Devon Wildlife Trust
in addition to 3 special needs groups involved with the projects and management of LNR, the majority of the Ted Hughes Poetry Trail (pt of which was funded by the Wildspace! Project) is fully accessible to wheelchair users.	Devon CC
walks and projects for people with mobility impairments and learning difficulties have taken place - new disabled access path installed on one LNR	Bristol CC
Many sites benefited from improved access eg stiles replaced by kissing gates, access audits in conjunction with S Glos Disabled Action Group. Events have included working with adults with learning difficulties.	South Gloucestershire Council
provided wheelchair friendly path around the flatter parts of LNR	Crewkerne TC
new bridges and boardwalks created all ability route	South Somerset DC
access improvements - access audit should help lever funds in the future	Bath and NE Somerset Council
Sixpower Countryside Project' enabled people with leaning difficulties to use the reserve as a fun way to learn, understand and enjoy nature and along with Selworthy Spec Needs school helped to develop a nature trail at Children's' Wood LNR using 'Total Community Posts' Benches provided on some sites to assist visitors with limited mobility.	Taunton Deane BC
Community Allotment now thriving next to Spainthridge Balancing Pond.	Gloucester CC
2 new access points and purchase of wheelchairs	CWP Society (Charity)
Having a dedicated officer allowed outreach work to be undertaken with a range of groups who had not used the site previously.	Walsall MBC
Arts project undertaken with adults with learning disabilities at Kingsford Forest Park. Series of guided walks at LNRs organised for adults with learning disabilities and their helpers.	Worcestershire County Council
restoring paths and installing wheelchair accessible kissing gates	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
events were offered to some visually impaired groups but no uptake	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Enabled groups with learning difficulties to gain experience in practical activities.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC

Comments	Organisation
6 LNRs rec'd considerable sums of capital investment to improve footpath quality	Sandwell MBC
interpretation including website (held all on site education materials so that people could learn from another location) -created disabled access viewing platform	British Waterways
construction of disabled access path in Hodge Lane- interpretation at various sites	Staffs WT
Facilitating guided walks for 'walking for health', Asylum seekers, hiring scooters and disabled portaloos for events during LNR week.	Leeds CC
working with a groups of elderly people with mobility problems	Kirklees MC
Not a specific outcome - outreach visits to schools promoted RSPB's education schemes which take particular account of children with special needs - RSPB Fairburn Ings currently developing path works and facilities (DDA) to better accommodate people with disabilities.	RSPB
Improvements to footpaths for people with mobility problems at Ogden Water, Cromwell Bottom and Scarr Wood	Calderdale MBC
all abilities access paths created in Atkinsons Warren through Countryside Stewardship Scheme - new boardwalk bid for Frodingham - FO Sawcliffe (young people with autism) - students with learning difficulties from Grimsby College helped with reed planting at Waters' Edge	North Lincs Council
Creation of accessible routes - good quality footpaths.	Barnsley MBC
Excellent interpretation building and facilities are generally highly praised by visiting groups and individuals.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
All sites have hard surface paths allowing access to all - Green Works (working with people with learning difficulties) assist on all sites doing different management tasks. St Nicholas Fields is equipped with facilities for regular volunteers with learning difficulties.	City of York Council
full disabled facilities including doors and walkways	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 12

8.3.1 Projects that promoted environmental education to the public

Comments	Organisation
over 100 community events	Cambridge CC
family events (walks, bat and moth nights, open days etc), school activities and out of school educational activities have all been run at the LNRs	Three Rivers DC
annual regular scavenger hunts organised during LNR week with children in the local community using Wildspace resources packs - Easter egg hunt run by volunteers where over 50 children participated	Herts CC Countryside Management Service
leaflets and panels legacy	Epping Forest DC
many events and activities focussed on biodiversity species and habitats	Harlow DC
very much so, eg development of a waymarked nature trail - school group visits	Forest Heath DC
Through education events on sites - working with Friends of Groups - production of education and awareness raising material eg leaflets.	Mansfield DC
Through interpretation and events.	Lincolnshire CC
project was promoted by local media - also guided walks	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
a series of action days and walks were held and continue to be	Draycott Parish Council
Designing new leaflets and a green envelope to advertise free sessions to schools.	L B Hackney
Successful launch event on 14th Aug 2002 promoted sites - self guided leaflet produced - way marked trail installed - interpretations panel ensured to educate the public and give info about the woods.	The Woodlands Trust
CLO responsibility for furthering Islington Ecology Centres environmental education programme - developed a number of site specific educational packs - educational workshops on species ID etc were also organised - projects set up in training around particular aspects of conservation ie horticulture and habitat management - interpretative leaflets produced to improve visitors learning experience.	LB Islington
Through conservation workdays and other events including guided walks, bat walks, river surveys. Users were educated in the significance of LNRs and wildlife	L.B. Lewisham
CLO ran large number of public events which encompassed environmental education.	South Tyneside Council
local primary and secondary schools and colleges involved in activities - wildlife watch groups established to provide opportunities for young people 7 - 11 to explore the natural environment - extensive public events programme.	Gateshead Council
annual summer events programme developed including tree walks, woodland birding, butterfly bumble, nocturnal wanderings etc.	Sedgefield BC
guided walks and public events are run throughout the year - specific issues taken to the press and high lighted in the councils 'Gateway' magazine - Castle	Castle Morpeth BC

Comments	Organisation
Woods and Water education pack was heavily influenced by the LNRs	
display boards and leaflet increased knowledge and awareness of LNR	Clara Vale Conservation Group
many events organised - bat walks, moth nights, butterfly and wildflower walks	North Tyneside Council
environmental education activities are organised for the public but did so prior to appt of CLO	Bury MBC
regular guided walks, talks, fun days, school projects, open days etc	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
fortnightly events throughout the year	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
interpretation boards and booklet production	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Programme of educational activities both for schools and non school audience.	Salford CC
As above, the organised visits to LNRs for Key Stage 3 and 4 lessons are continuing.	Halton Borough Council
booklet and touch screen widely used	Rye Nature Reserve
reserve now used as outdoor classroom with the help of our tree trail publication	Lingfield PC
13000 school visits in 4 years	Elmbridge Borough Council
ran numerous environmental educational events across a range of sites including open days, craft events, pond dipping, bug hunts	Lewes DC
objective of the website	Brighton and Hove
many nature walks and pond-dipping events held for local groups, residents and visitors	Sonning Parish Council
programme of walks and talks - environmental festival at Hengistbury Head - open day at Kinson Sommon	Bournemouth BC
schools events - informal training , workshops held , college projects initiated	Devon Wildlife Trust
Leaflets detailing the wildlife and history of the LNR and broadleaved woodland interpretation board promote environmental education to the visiting public - education pack used by school groups and home-taught children - posters and newsletters detailing management work on projects available to inform the public.	Devon CC
lots of events involving environmental education	Bristol CC
Over 180 individual events attracting over 3200 participants throughout the life of the project.	South Gloucestershire Council
2 on site interpretation boards and viewing point	Crewkerne TC
new education pack to schools on site	South Somerset DC
interpretation boards, leaflets, events, films	Bath and NE Somerset Council
education packs produced and copies sent to schools - information boards, leaflets, council website, guided walks to inform about the wildlife on LNR	Taunton Deane BC

Comments	Organisation
Boxes for loan to the public - over 150 events open to the public.	Gloucester CC
used for education events	CWP Society (Charity)
a series of events provided by CLO covering a variety of subjects related to the sites.	Walsall MBC
informally through guided walks, improved info and interpretation - visits from schools, guides, scouts etc	Worcestershire County Council
large number of wildlife events held	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
walks and events from Staffordshire Bat Group, WM Bird Club and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on LNRs	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Through events, on site interpretation, site newsletters. Biggest achievement is providing outdoor learning experience for schools close to LNR sites	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
production of leaflets and interpretation boards	Sandwell MBC
interpretation materials and website promote knowledge and understanding of industrial and natural heritage of the LNRs	British Waterways
regular guided walks and events	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Range of themed guided walks and activities eg dragonflies at Letchmire and glow worms at Townclose Hills, mosaic making etc - also encouraging and facilitating corporate conservation days through work with 'Leeds cares'.	Leeds CC
leaflet produced	Kirklees MC
In addition to outreach work with schools, CLO undertook a range of events which enabled the local public to understand, appreciate and participate in wildlife conservation.	RSPB
over 250 public walks, talks and events run on LNRs	Calderdale MBC
education packs written, printed and distributed for each LNR - CLO organised and ran many educational events for schools, community groups and the general public	North Lincs Council
environmental education sessions with schools - production of school pack for local schools	Barnsley MBC
talks, walks etc	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
range of activities throughout the hols for young and old to get involved in - also weekend /evening activities are available	City of York Council
on numerous occasions	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 12

8.3.2 Projects that provided for young people disadvantaged by lack of access to natural open space

Comments	Organisation
variety of activities and a face of someone to talk to on the open space	Cambridge CC
Young people involved in the events - main aspect of the grants	Epping Forest DC
two LNRs are in deprived areas and two are adjacent to areas classed as deprived	Three Rivers DC
site regularly used by young people to play and explore in	Hertfordshire CC Countryside Management Service
Community Service Team and adults from St Elizabeth's Centre for physically and mentally disabled	Harlow DC
Working with schools and encouraging those in deprived areas to visit the sites - working with excluded pupils.	Mansfield DC
the whole basis of project was focussed on Leicester's lack of access to natural open space and on getting urban children onto green spaces	Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire (formally Environ)
projects to involve disadvantaged young people in working on-site also held	Draycott Parish Council
Created a new children's garden behind our environmental classroom.	L B Hackney
Ruffet and Big Wood is on the edge of large working class housing estate and provides valuable public amenity for local residents including young people - used by school children for going to and from school - both sides had paths cut to enhance natural open space and facilitate access for all pedestrians whilst keeping horses and motor cycles out - local community have a safe LNR within walking distance.	The Woodlands Trust
CLO worked with children on particular features to be incorporated into the reserves such as seating areas - an after schools programme 'the green team' was run to develop the idea of junior warden with primary school children in the upper yrs.	LB Islington
lots of engagement with schools	L.B. Lewisham
Gateshead Youth Offending Team - Gateshead Young Carers Group - Teenagers 2 Work - all actively engaged in project.	Gateshead Council
LNRs sited in areas within the 'indices of multiple deprivation' -educational / awareness raising events encouraged access by young people eg carrot club, scouts, cubs and primary schools - millennium volunteers.	Sedgefield BC
open space is not in short supply in this area, however appreciation of wildlife and good, well maintained access within open spaces is much more of an issue	Castle Morpeth BC
local 'watch' groups, youth offenders, scouts, brownies and other youth groups benefited from provision of dedicated green space through events, practical tasks and training run through Wildspace	North Tyneside Council
Schools visits, play schemes and children's activities do occur but did so prior to appt of CLO - Bury does not particularly suffer from social deprivation.	Bury MBC

Comments	Organisation
not sure - plenty of greenspace around but possibly made people look at it in new ways	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
Young Root's project developing water borne nature trail, funded by HLF	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
several school groups visits to sites - site based events including a well attended summer play- scheme	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
1 site in particular has benefited in terms of legitimising use and encouraging access for young people.	Salford CC
Up to 20 school visits a year were conducted by the Wildspace Officer, averaging 400 pupils a year. Generally speaking, most pupils had not visited LNRs or similar areas of natural open space.	Halton Borough Council
schools in socially deprived areas were successfully targeted	Elmbridge Borough Council
by designating Castle Hill and Newhaven LNRs the future of greenspace is secure - lots of children in this area which is classed as deprived	Lewes DC
City Wildlife promotes locations of all the main areas of natural open space in the city - tells users how to get there	Brighton and Hove
not applicable in Wokingham district - plenty of open space around	Sonning Parish Council
site open to public for appropriate activities - school events	Devon Wildlife Trust
LNR is not in a residential area - however Stover is serviced by various bus routes so access could be gained by young people wishing to visit.	Devon CC
visits involving schools in areas of urban disadvantage - project involving disabled young people who do not have regular access to natural green space also took place	Bristol CC
Projects have engaged youth clubs/ young people, many from areas of high deprivation - eg Wild About Wapley Project, BatBeat!, and the Avon Valley Graffiti Project working with local youth club members.	South Gloucestershire Council
Chard countryside day - really good event, 350 attendees	South Somerset DC
Some events specifically aimed at disadvantaged youth - others aimed at attracting people not interested in purely wildlife events.	Bath and NE Somerset Council
boardwalks improved to assist access - school usage - brownie pack went on bat hunt at Norton Hillfort LNR	Taunton Deane BC
Barnwood Arboretum - Apple days, Bonanza day - work with local museum education service, loan of boxes	Gloucester C C
Arts project with primary and high school in Rubery at Waseley Hills CP. Partnership with youth service to host 2 youth carnivals at Waseley Hills CP - over 1500 people to each event. Several arts workshops and open days at 3 of our LNRs.	Worcestershire County Council
CLO organised full programme of events - many spec for children – these were very popular	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Staffordshire Moorland is a relatively rural area with good access to natural open spaces.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
2 junior ranger groups established - 1 surviving	Sandwell MBC
LNRs surrounded by disadvantaged communities - grant enabled more	British Waterways

Comments	Organisation
children to visit and learn because sites were safer	
LNRs made more welcoming and accessible - some projects specifically involved young people such as Kettle Brook Youth and Environment Project + work with Tamworth and Lichfield College, young offenders etc	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Running RSPB kids clubs wildlife explorers and phoenix groups.	Leeds CC
created opportunities for access and building relationships with the site	Kirklees MC
Wildlife clubs set up at RSPB Fairburn Ings including wildlife explorers, a Saturday club, play scheme days and various activities on other LNR sites.	RSPB
Funding was gained for subsidised school transport to 3 of the LNRs used for environmental education.	Calderdale MBC
Waters' Edge not open to public prior to its reclamation/ designation as LNR - 4 LNRs in Scunthorpe provided improved access to natural greenspace for some deprived wards in N Lincs	North Lincs Council
project worked directly with young peoples groups and schools - visits and practical tasks undertaken on LNRs	Barnsley MBC
as above - reserve is generally open 24 / 7 - interpretation building open during most daylight (working) hrs.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
provide wide range of habitats and freedom to explore and encounter nature	City of York Council
schools for children with learning difficulties	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 13

8.3.5 Projects that offer training, learning and personal development opportunities

Comments	Organisation
specific to volunteers assisting with practical work	Cambridge CC
Volunteers received training ranging from first aid to strimmer use. Courses on wetland, woodland and grassland management organised and practical days such as hedge laying tech and wildflower ID	Three Rivers DC
training, learning and personal development ops organised for Friends of Group by CMS including practical skills such as removing sycamore saplings and improving path surfacing with woodchip - health and safety	Herts CC Countryside Management Service
skills based conservation training	Harlow DC
increased use of sites for training through BTCV and Community Action For Wildlife Project - Friends of Groups working on projects	Mansfield DC
Through conservation volunteer projects and involvement of Friends of Groups.	Lincolnshire CC
guided walks and increased learning for volunteers	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
We have NVQ level 2 in conservation for adults to take with their voluntary time.	L B Hackney
Sutton Nature Cons Volunteers have used the sites as location for task days -	The Woodlands Trust
focus on NCT voluntary programme - support mechanisms in place to help volunteers develop in their roles, accessing support and training.	LB Islington
training in environmental management provided for volunteers - BCTV involved in access improvements - 'Envirowork Lewisham' social enterprise for local unemployed, involved in remedial repair to sites and installation of interpretative signage	L.B. Lewisham
training opportunities on butterfly transect, survey for water voles, lay a hedge, pond management etc	South Tyneside Council
Training opportunities in practical conservation management for wide range of volunteers, students and work placements- 'weaving with wood' provided opportunities for personal development.	Gateshead Council
via the countryside volunteers programme and educational events.	Sedgefield BC
Northumberland College community days for students - New Deal work teams - 'education out of school' schemes - placements range from one off tasks to 3 wk work shadowing - training courses within the dept on hazardous plants, tree ID for grounds maintenance staff	Castle Morpeth BC
Helped provide environmental and interpersonal skills training for volunteers. Some have gone on to acquire jobs as a result of their increased skills and confidence	North Tyneside Council
joint training delivered to volunteers, friends groups and students in collaboration with BTCV	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC

Comments	Organisation
NVQ and other practical training	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
to all volunteers	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Regular voluntary conservation days have been developed involving local people.	Salford CC
The project offered around 4-6 training sessions a year, on some aspect of species identification e.g. moths, beetles, birds etc	Halton Borough Council
first aid course for volunteers	Rye Nature Reserve
Forum allows people to post pictures of unrecognised species and ask for help - species recording generally through the website has promoted understanding and awareness amongst nature wardens	Brighton and Hove
pond-dipping sessions held for Sonning after school club and Baden Powell groups	Sonning Parish Council
programme of student evenings - improved access to research data	Bournemouth BC
regular voluntary groups established	Devon Wildlife Trust
Long and short-term volunteers and work experience students gained on-site training and learning opportunities whilst working on the projects.	Devon CC
supported student projects and conservation work for young people excluded from school / out of work	Bristol CC
Training provided in a wide range of fields of expertise including photography, site management, wildlife monitoring, green woodworking skills, environmental education.	South Gloucestershire Council
apprentice ranger trained in countryside management	South Somerset DC
wildlife management training given to council parks staff - 'Sixpower groups' learnt some basic woodcarving skills	Taunton Deane BC
work with BTCV on all 4 sites - adult continuous education and training (ACET)	Gloucester C C
bat recording and habitat management	CWP Society (Charity)
Extensive work carried out with Youth Offending Teams to help rehabilitate young offenders.	Walsall MBC
Members of voluntary groups are entitled to training. 'Woodlands Alive' event users able to try or learn something new e.g. woodland management techniques and crafts- art workshops were available at our multi-cultural picnic.	Worcestershire County Council
butterfly recording	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
training in hedge laying, heathland management and coppicing for Friends of Groups	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Work experience for volunteers, some of which went on to gain employment in conservation sector.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
members of BH Cons Group undertook IT training and developed personally due to their experience of managing the funded project	British Waterways
Staffs WT training programme and involvement with Tamworth Voluntary Centre voluntary support scheme	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Numerous volunteers / friends of have received training - first aid, brush cutter, RSPB wildlife explorer, RSPB child safety and welfare, plant ID, how	Leeds CC

Comments	Organisation
to carry out glow worm transects and NVC training.	
through practical conservation days	Kirklees MC
CLO set up teacher training days, facilitated training of RSPB field teaching staff in outreach activities, training of RSPB volunteers in activity development and conservation management techniques etc.	RSPB
Practical sessions with public on all LNRs including sessions on training.	Calderdale MBC
project provided training in sheep warden skills, natural healing, plant and invertebrate identification etc	North Lincs Council
practical tasks for BTCV volunteers - organised practical sessions with youth groups	Barnsley MBC
not since Autumn 2004	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
Training available on most tasks especially for those just starting volunteering - also work with Green Works, YMCA and BTCV who offer formal certificated training.	City of York Council
job experience, course work experience rehabilitation of offenders	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 14

See section 9.1 **The social impact of the Wildspace! scheme**

We asked grantees what were, in their view, the greatest social benefits of LNRs arising from designation and grant support. Of the 77 responses to our survey, 65 grantees answered this question and all were very positive about the social benefits of the projects.

Their comments are listed in full below:

community cohesion - tolerance and communication - increased interest in wildlife and environment - increased confidence in expressing views	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
Safe and accessible greenspaces next to urban areas - opportunity for people to learn about the wildlife and people value of the spaces.	Cambridge CC
profile of LNRs raised - usage dramatically increased - attracted voluntary wardens and Friends of Groups are meeting and giving feedback – LNRs can be used by people of all ages	Epping Forest DC
easily accessible greenspace for large number of people in areas classed as deprived - series of activities to engage a wide range of people who would not normally visit a LNR - opportunity for people to become actively involved in the management of their LNR	Three Rivers DC
LNRs help to provide area of green space for the benefit of the local community	Herts CC - Countryside Management Service
community involvement in conservation tasks - creating awareness of long grass areas	Harlow DC
sense of community ownership / uniting community - neighbours getting to know each other	Nottingham CC
Accessibility to natural greenspace for local communities, encouraging the formation of Friends of Groups making members feel they are a useful part of the community - health benefits for participants.	Mansfield DC
The communities surrounding each new LNR have been encouraged to become involved in development and management of each reserve - ranged from Friends of Groups assisting with practical projects and events - strong sense of community ownership created, bringing communities together in a positive way.	Lincolnshire CC
awareness and accessibility - appreciation and respect for the local environment - promoting healthy activity in green spaces - encouraging young people to take an interest	Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire (formally Environ)
site promotion has raised profile and awareness of LNR	Draycott Parish Council
Giving recognition to the value of an area of land and pride that it gives to community members involved in the management of it. Also shows it fits into a wider network - part of something bigger	Groundwork Erewash Valley
main beneficiaries are the local community who now have a safe LNR within walking distance - ASB has been addressed regarding fly tipping, free running horses and off road motorcycles - access has been improved for all pedestrians and a path network provided.	The Woodlands Trust

They form easily identifiable areas that people recognise as areas of wildlife value - often lacking in inner city areas. Properly managed LNRs form a focal point for community where diverse groups can become involved together to benefit the local environment - provide a breathing space where people can enjoy natural world, both physically and mentally - everyone can enjoy them.	LB Islington
Community groups established along with local ownership and involvement. CLO employment - provided vital work engaging, involving and educating the community.	L.B. Lewisham
Use of sites by local people (housing estates next to sites) - improvement of local area - being used- infrastructure upgraded.	L B Camden
increased profile in the local context, supported by events which encouraged new and old users onto the sites - opportunity to manage LNRs more effectively through the capital money and the time of the CLO has meant the LNRs are more attractive and friendly places to visit.	South Tyneside Council
Provision of accessible natural greenspace - direct involvement in the development of sites - greater awareness of the natural environment and importance of regular contact with it - interaction between groups and individuals brought together through the project.	Gateshead Council
Raised awareness - increased understanding - community cohesion (Friends of Groups and volunteer days) -educational - intergenerational- increased use and 'ownership' - exercise and leisure - increased funding opportunities - sustainability - partnership working.	Sedgefield BC
sense of achievement to those involved when site is designated - opening of new paths has enabled public to enjoy sites more - social platform for groups to get together and make new friends	Castle Morpeth BC
grant enabled us to firmly establish the reserve as a community resource, mainly by raising its profile	Clara Vale Conservation Group
Valuable recreational and educational green space has been guaranteed for today's residents and future generations - awareness and understanding of LNRs has been raised - wildlife protected - quality of life for residents in area. Friends of Groups have strengthened links within communities and local councils - volunteers have found new skills, met new people and gained confidence.	North Tyneside Council
improved accessibility and greater public awareness and understanding	Stockton BC
LNR designation has boosted moral of communities giving them more confidence in the Local Authority's commitment to biodiversity.	Bury MBC
voluntary activities provided a regular opportunity for people to meet and get to know each other - focus for developing a sense of community eg Friends of Groups, consultation etc - local people coming together to improve things	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
access to community events and education funded by Wildspace	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Greater public use, understanding of local environments and empathy for traditional management approaches	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Providing local people with opportunities to get involved at different levels - Friends of Groups, conservation activities, events and activities programmes. Increased awareness of local sites and opportunities available.	Salford CC
1. Use by secondary school pupils with the Wildspace Officer. The project targeted that difficult to reach group of 13 – 16 year olds. 2. There is greater signposting and interpretation of the LNRs for non – organised visits. There is the often heard comment "I didn't know the site was there!"	Halton Borough Council

helped raise awareness of wildlife issues (chalk grassland)	White Cliffs Countryside Project
established a legal framework which encouraged partners and establishment of Friends of Group in 1972 - this has enabled the reserve to grow steadily and provide better facilities for visitors	Rye Nature Reserve
public access, community involvement, education and fun workshops and environmental games on the LNR	Lingfield PC
Increased publicity has undoubtedly resulted in an increase in user numbers. Many people including locals were, and still are, unaware of their proximity to LNRs and their importance.	Elmbridge Borough Council
gives local community sense of long term permanence and security for their green space - offers community long term view of management and developing management partnerships with land owners - opportunities for social involvement within management structure eg clearing scrub, committee participation etc	Lewes DC
increased awareness from local people about nature on their doorstep	Brighton and Hove
Enjoyed and used by greater cross-section of local community - shared feeling of ownership - respected by young and old alike - act as informal custodians. NB important to note site was already designated LNR before Wildspace! Grant awarded, but there is no doubt that the grant helped reinforce social benefits of site	Sonning Parish Council
provided opportunity for local residents to get involved with management of local site and make a difference to the environment - sense of ownership has developed on some sites	Bournemouth BC
community involvement and creation of ownership of areas previously of limits - increased awareness of biodiversity issues	East Devon DC
provision of safe local public wild space - educational and training opportunities	Devon Wildlife Trust
the fostering of greater involvement of the local community in the management / development of LNR - especially by special needs groups and people from socially and economically disadvantaged areas (Torbay New Deal Group)	Devon CC
Community pride in local green space - LNR status raises profile which encourages more people to benefit. Social benefits gained from events and activities held on LNRs - need to be supported in some way (eg through CLO role) and do not come simply though a site being designated	Bristol CC
establishing new Friends of Groups has brought communities together - raising awareness of sites/ biodiversity through improved access/interpretation to sites - improvements in mental and physical well being through the establishment of green gym projects on LNR sites and other practical conservation tasks.	South Gloucestershire Council
The site being secured in perpetuity for the benefit of present citizens and future generations of Crewkerne and district.	Crewkerne TC
better publicity for site in deprived town of Chard - public events saw whole new audience attending site	South Somerset DC
able to put time and effort into establishing Friends of Groups - using wide range of approaches to interest cross section of community	Bath and NE Somerset Council
greater awareness of LNRs - positive involvement from vol groups	Taunton Deane BC
Saintbridge Balancing Pond 'ownership' and pride in area plus better funding. Green Farm Orchard better community awareness of greenspaces, clear	Gloucester CC

policy of use, public pride, better funding, community ownership and training for Barnwood Arboretum.	
greater community ownership - breaking barriers between people.	CWP Society (Charity)
raised the profile of the LNR locally and created greater awareness of sites - currently have higher status within the council and are likely to be maintained to a higher standard.	Walsall MBC
wider recognition of what LNRs are and that they are a facility on peoples doorsteps for everyone to use.	Worcestershire County Council
RSPB Sandwell Valley was designated an LNR in 1991 - well before Wildspace! Project started. Since 2002 CLO post definitely increased opportunities for people's engagement with local communities and at other LNRs	RSPB
enabling members of the local community to become involved in the management and long term future planning for their LNR	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Sustainable environmental educational use of sites leading to greater appreciation by children of the value of local sites - hopefully this will lead to less vandalism and other such problems in the future at LNRs - enabled volunteers to gain practical experience in site management.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
supporting Friends of Groups , events and initiatives - supporting organisations that in turn support disadvantaged groups - bringing different people tog inc family groups and different age groups	Stafford BC
none were designated	Sandwell MBC
Bumble Hole LNR and Warrens Hall LNR were already designated before the project	British Waterways
establishment of Friends of Groups and regular work parties and events	Staffs WT
Greater awareness locally of the high quality semi-natural public open space nearby.	Leeds CC
improving access to natural spaces for local people - inclusion for under represented groups - (designation helped with project funding)	Kirklees MC
Providing a framework to publicise and promote the site has increased their use by people who may not otherwise have visited the sites - helped open up their experiences and allowed them to become involved and learn.	Sheffield City Council
unable to comment - need to contact Leeds CC.	RSPB
greater community ownership of LNRs with increased community spirit	Calderdale MBC
raised awareness of the site and the 'neutral zone' of the site - opportunity for community groups to work with local authority officers and to develop and take ownership of a project - everyone is equal on site.	Pond Conservation
improved social cohesion in deprived areas - regular meetings of volunteers and groups - increased casual use of sites by the public bringing enjoyment, healthy exercise and a connection with nature	North Lincolnshire Council
celebration and community ownership - increased local profile and therefore number of visitors	Barnsley MBC
the enjoyment new visitors gained from visiting local sites - feeling of contribution from otherwise excluded young people - community awareness	East Riding
has brought people together and allowed them to share experiences - Clifton Backies is surrounded by the old 1970s estate and the new 2000 estate - these people now integrate better due to the events and activities on the LNRs.	City of York Council

Foxglove has become a focal point in a seriously deprived area for schools, groups and members of the local community who previously knew nothing about wildlife in the area

Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 15

See section 9.2 **The environmental impact of the Wildspace! scheme**

We asked grantees what were, in their view, the greatest environmental benefits of LNRs arising from designation and grant support. Of the 77 responses to our survey, 60 grantees answered this question and all were very positive about the social benefits of the projects.

Their comments are listed in full below:

increase in hectares of wildlife rich green space - protected sites for nationally and locally rare/ scarce/threatened wildlife - more people walking /cycling to local site rather than using cars - increased support for wildlife/environmental agendas - increased commitment from Local Authority and local MPs	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
Active management of the reserves which would not have been implemented leading to degraded habitats and loss of species.	Cambridge CC
designations have seen extra resources both financially and staff and volunteer time - consequently sites are continuing to improve their biodiversity - restoration of ancient woodland management	Epping Forest DC
bringing previously neglected areas of wildlife importance into a suitable management regime - bringing LNRs/wildlife to peoples attention so they realise its importance (and help) - instigating appropriate management that has seen species return to the LNRs	Three Rivers DC
increased its long term protection for future generations	Countryside Management Service
protection of green spaces in Harlow which is targeted for development in the future	Harlow DC
protection from development - raised maintenance issues up political agenda eg councillors taking interest in seemingly 'ok' site which was under-managed	Nottingham CC
Protection of important natural assets of the district inc protection of wildlife and river corridors and natural habitats and species.	Mansfield DC
Given people the opportunity to take active role in care and improvement of their local environment - local community have seen their efforts make a significant difference.	Lincolnshire CC
awareness raised, greater biodiversity, ownership and designation reducing risk of sites being 'lost'	Groundwork Leicester and Leics (formally Environ)
educational events held - access improvements	Draycott Parish Council
Management plans written along with surveying to establish how and what to manage. Promotion of sites as LNRs to attract volunteers and additional funding. Precedence to manager and maintain site by local authority after designation.	Groundwork Erewash Valley
Access to grants, public perception (sites more valuable now they have LNR status) - ability to deal with threats of re development in the future.	The Woodlands Trust
Designation ensures long term future of important natural areas in the UK - LNR status raises profile of area and highlights importance for wildlife - impedes unwanted development of the area.	LB Islington
better access, safety through sensitive management - more habitats created – more involvement and greater educational usage on sites	L.B. Lewisham

Creation of new habitats, cleanliness, local awareness of value of small sites.	L B Camden
Management has been more focused and linked to local BAP to benefit key species and habitats.	South Tyneside Council
Statutory protection afforded the sites through notification - eligibility for funding of biodiversity led projects - improved management as a result of the project.	Gateshead Council
protection , enhancement and maintenance of wild-space habitats and species - raised awareness, increased understanding, reducing likelihood of ASB	Sedgefield BC
ability to make and enforce bylaws preventing ASB - freeing of funds for site maintenance - publicity raising sites from 'wasteland' to Nature Reserve - greater respect for LNRs	Castle Morpeth BC
safeguarded the future of valuable open spaces - councils have shown their commitment to protecting , restoring and maintaining important habitats - enabled money to be spent on improvements to access, creation, landscaping and habitat management.	North Tyneside Council
Improved management of valuable conservation and education resource and accessibility to a wider stream of funding sources.	Stockton BC
Appointment of CLO to oversee community liaison and Management of what were prime biodiversity sites has freed up other members of staff to look at other sites and policy.	Bury MBC
changing peoples perception of sites - realising their value for wildlife / environment rather than just as park or greenspace - hopefully the outcome will mean more responsible behaviour / greater awareness of the environment	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
Bittern conservation and reedbed outputs	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
ability to pinpoint management towards the BAP and HAP local and national listed targets	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Improved physical management of sites.	Salford CC
1. Bringing species rich grassland into management at Hale Road woodland LNR. 2. Creation of new wetland / reedbed at Oxmoor LNR	Halton Borough Council
enabled management to be re-introduced to 12 hectares of chalk grassland	White Cliffs Countryside Project
as above which led to greater staffing levels and funding enabling improved management of habitats and extension of reserve	Rye Nature Reserve
increased habitat	Lingfield PC
local school children will hopefully take more ownership of their local countryside sites. (again, LNRs were already designated so hard to address these issues)	Elmbridge Borough Council
protection from development through the planning system - active management will offer individual habitats and species a chance of stability - improvement for biodiversity	Lewes DC
easier to draw external resources for conservation management	Brighton and Hove
protection and enhancement of what was a small Great-crested Newt population -now 400 animals spread between at least 5 ponds, with more habitat being created as part of neighbouring change of use planning permission.	Sonning Parish Council
perception of the site changes and it is recognised that its worthwhile committing time and resources to its management	Bournemouth BC

better management of sites - creation of local BAP	East Devon DC
cessation of damaging activities allowed repair and restoration of damaged habitat and arrested long term decline of SSSI	Devon Wildlife Trust
Opportunity to carry out habitat enhancement schemes - many existing species have increased in number.	Devon CC
encouragement of the LA to spend more money on site management – Friends of Groups encouraged to learn more about site management for wildlife	Bristol CC
Bringing important LNR sites into management, fostering support and protection within communities, improving access for all to sites, improving interpretation and awareness of the importance of sites / biodiversity.	South Gloucestershire Council
a clear management plan and the commitment to the community that it is not just another recreational area.	Crewkerne TC
protection of urban fringe greenspace as valuable community and wildlife space	South Somerset DC
Revamping management regimes - consultation with professionals and local people. Community groups empowered to carry out conservation tasks	Bath and NE Somerset Council
grant enabled management plans to be produced for each reserve - thus enabling appropriate habitat management for wildlife	Taunton Deane BC
Tree planting and bird/bat boxes, new pond, bulb planting - better funding enabling all groups to work to good management plans - base line surveys help secure the LNRs for the future by acting as an incentive to Friends of Groups ensuring long term security of sites.	Gloucester C C
habitat management for BAP	CWP Society (Charity)
Having the resources to improve the sites for a short term period.	Walsall MBC
Greater profile and prominence within our greenspace estate. Hopefully the designations will assist in future funding apps such as Environmental Stewardship and England Woodland Grant Scheme to ensure sustainable biodiversity and landscape management.	Worcestershire County Council
LNR designation helped locals realise value of their own LNR - realise they had a vital part to play in their future	RSPB
ability to spend Wildspace work items budget and for Friends of Groups to apply for external funding to further biodiversity on LNRs	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Habitat management in line with that required for appropriate habitats as cited in the Staffs BAP - greater understanding of habitats and species present through baseline ecological surveys.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
Greater protection - local awareness from communities and Council (inc planners!)	Stafford BC
as before	British Waterways
management work carried out by Friends of Groups and contractors (employed as a result of Staffs WT working in partnership with Tamworth BC)	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
the designation of Letchmire in itself sends out a message that the site is a valuable resource - continued parks and countryside input can be interpreted on site in this light to help build local understanding and increase engagement with the site.	Leeds CC
habitat creation and management work - (designation helped funding)	Kirklees MC

Including the above, has helped reduce misuse of the sites and increased people's awareness of the wildlife on them. Designation has helped focus resources towards these sites and demonstrated that they are valuable assets. Some protection has also helped benefit the environment.	Sheffield City Council
as above	RSPB
improvements in access for local communities and biodiversity gains	Calderdale MBC
Long term protection - raised awareness of site - increased interest - survey work- capital works undertaken.	Pond Conservation
designation provides a policy driver to focus management resources on environmental improvements and habitat management + public amenity	North Lincs Council
Statutory protection against development or alt management pressures - short term capital injection to implement much needed onsite improvements.	Barnsley MBC
protection - awareness of value -environmental education	East Riding
Large areas of wild green space in the heart of the city and housing estates around York linked through a network of cycle paths. It is an unusual and fantastic resource on the doorstep.	City of York Council
has raised awareness of local people and provided a venue for people to meet, walk, observe and study - huge community success	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 16

9.2.1 Projects that improved the long-term future and/or sustainability of LNRs

Comments	Organisation
raise profile in Council - proofed by continuation of post	Cambridge CC
project helped improve long-term future and sustainability of LNR site - development of management plan and Friends of Group	Herts CC Countryside Management Service
helped establish some core funding just for the LNRs	Epping Forest DC
sites improved and level of conservation practices enhanced	Harlow DC
entered into appropriate management arrangements and contract	Forest Heath DC
Has enabled the designation and long term protection of these sites from development.	Mansfield DC
Project only concerned with creating new LNRs but all have long term sustainable future.	Lincolnshire CC
raising awareness	Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire (formally Environ)
Worked with the only other LNR in Hackney- Springfield Park - and helped develop community events.	L B Hackney
Encouraging Edolph's Copse voluntary wardens will ensure the project remains the same for the future.	The Woodlands Trust
CLO raised profile of LNRs within council hierarchy - increased capacity of NCT to access funding and generate own income - improving future of the service.	LB Islington
CLOs laid foundations for active participation by individuals in conservation volunteering and governance of LNRs	L.B. Lewisham
Mostly by retaining the CLO as a permanent member of staff.	South Tyneside Council
Designation secures long term future - success of the project has led to the appointment of a full time member of staff responsible for the development of LNRs and community engagement - greater degree of resources available as a direct result of the project.	Gateshead Council
As before and by securing involvement / ownership by the local communities - Wildspace importance within communities for relaxation, play, leisure, exercise and educational opportunities. Green space now being developed by Countryside Officers	Sedgefield BC
LNRs better used by wider range of public - need to keep them in good condition has increased - profile raised	Castle Morpeth BC
Community groups set up continue to play an active role in managing and promoting LNRs in the future - immediate future secured with the habitat and other improvements made.	North Tyneside Council
no real commitment to LNRs prior to appointment of CLO	Bury MBC

Comments	Organisation
sites previously unmanaged - now with 100 year management plans with council and community support - council undertaking maintenance work	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside / Liverpool CC
looking at future funding opportunities	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
improved access, habitats, greater interpretation facilities and promotion / publicity of sites	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Increase investment from local auth particularly in terms of regular maintenance due to designation as LNR - raise profile locally - adoption in UDP.	Salford CC
The project continues with new sponsors!	Halton Borough Council
provided assets that are still being used	Rye Nature Reserve
long term management plans and policies combined with active management and partnerships with community through Friends of Groups and trusts have led to a sustainable long term future for LNRs	Lewes DC
improves our understanding of the quality of selected habitats (habitat monitoring) which will be used to effect management prescriptions	Brighton and Hove
Undoubtedly the injection of Wildspace! Funds set the site up nicely for long-term sustainability - making it a cherished area for the local community	Sonning Parish Council
significant impact on rising general awareness of the Borough's LNRs and improved community involvement	Bournemouth BC
site now in cont management with management plan	Devon Wildlife Trust
Increased public awareness through interpretative elements, guided walks/ press articles and along with Devon CC funded projects have helped raise the LNRs profile.	Devon CC
profile of LNRs raised in Bristol	Bristol CC
On-going commitment within S Glos Council established to manage LNR sites and declare new LNRs subject to resources.	South Gloucestershire Council
Newly designated sites have further layer of protection - local awareness raised due to community involvement.	Bath and NE Somerset Council
public awareness has increased public ownership of LNRs	Taunton Deane BC
Training of Friends of Groups - good management plans and improved public awareness.	Gloucester C C
Greater promotion and management of the sites has made future management more secure.	Worcestershire County Council
closer liaison with local council	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Friends of Groups have raised the profile of LNRs - council now liaising with groups to ensure future management	Stoke-on-Trent CC
Helped kick start sustainable educational use of LNR sites by schools nearby.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
increased profile of LNRs - involvement of local people will help achieve sustainability	Sandwell MBC
increase in visitor numbers due to promotion of LNRs - visitor centre takings increased revenue for the BH Cons Group	British Waterways

Comments	Organisation
Friends of Groups have adopted sites and raised awareness of importance to local authority	Staffs WT
FO Townclose will continue to be facilitated by the local Auth Parks and Countryside Service - Letchmire Pasture will continue to be managed by the local authority.	Leeds CC
commitment from KMC to manage LNRs and declare new sites	Kirklees MC
RSPB is confident that RSPB Fairburn Ings - its profile and public involvement - has been enhanced by the work of the CLO - it will greatly inform future RSPB Community Education on developing sites in the Aire Valley area. Unable to comment on other sites - would need to contact Leeds CC.	RSPB
No long term strategy existed prior to Wildspace! Project.	Calderdale MBC
appt of CLO and formation of Friends of Groups - production of management plans	North Lincolnshire Council
revenue funding remains key issue to ensuring LNRs maintained as safe and enjoyable - project helped in short-term but high level of commitment required for sustainability	Barnsley MBC
CLO has shown the potential of the sites for use within the local community eg education and importance of these sites within the city - those involved will not let these sites fall by the wayside.	City of York Council
profile raised but revenue money remains near impossible	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 17

9.3 Projects that contributed to local and national policies and strategies

Comments	Organisation
greatly	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough
success acknowledged in the wider area - a good example of a L Auth managing LNRs and promoting them	Cambridge CC
biodiversity targets action for the district to create LNRs	Epping Forest DC
contributed towards Hertfordshire BAP and St Albans Green Space Strategy	Herts CC Countryside Management Service
biodiversity targets action for the district to create LNRs	Epping Forest DC
worked on BAP species	Harlow DC
biodiversity	Forest Heath DC
BAP - Green Flag - walking the way to health - Greenwood community Forest	Nottingham CC
Project has contributed to the local community (LSP) strategy, Mansfield Nature Conservation Strategy, Nottinghamshire BAP.	Mansfield DC
was part of Agenda 21 and work closely with the Council	L B Hackney
Woodland Trust policy and strategy.	The Woodlands Trust
Production and implementation of BAP and other policies - enabled NCT to establish wider links locally and nationally by sitting on forums involved in policy making.	LB Islington
Lewisham's Biodiversity Action Plans, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Community, neighbourhood renewal, and cultural strategies.	L.B. Lewisham
S Tyneside Environment Strategy, Durham BAP, Strategic Water Vole Recovery Plan etc.	South Tyneside Council
Council's commitment is detailed in the authority's Countryside Strategy and Unitary Development Plan.	Gateshead Council
UK strategies including Sustainable Development, climate change, health, transport, economy, green space development, cleaner, greener, safer, planning guidance notes and open space needs assessments for LDFs - local policies and strategies including country environment, SBC green space, Durham BAP and SBC local development framework.	Sedgefield BC
NBAP and BAP UK - targets and objectives for habitats such as dune and lowland grassland, pond creations and species targets for harvest mouse, barn owl, red squirrel and bats	Castle Morpeth BC

Comments	Organisation
contributed to N Tyneside Council's community strategy, corporate performance plan and local BAP	North Tyneside Council
EN guidance of 1 per 1000 is now council policy.	Bury MBC
National Bittern, Willow Tit, Reedbed. Wet woodland, mossland regional BAPs written	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
contribution towards several local and national BAPs and HAPs	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
helped at local level and now sites are including in UDP	Salford CC
Halton has reached the EN target on people per LNR hectare. Our figure is 1 hectare per 831 people.	Halton Borough Council
influenced ESCC in promoting coastal wetlands	Rye Nature Reserve
Parish councillors made a visit as a result of the project	Lingfield PC
management plans all cross linked to local / national policies and strategies eg LDC local plan , BAP , Urban Habitat plan	Lewes DC
site has become a valued good-practice example for community led small nature reserve establishment in the Berkshire area - project won Dorothy Morley Conservation Award for Community Projects in Berkshire in 2004 - described by judges as 'very inspirational' - visited by environmental professionals and volunteers from other projects to find out more about establishment and management of small community sites for nature conservation.	Sonning Parish Council
Bournemouth's Community Plan and Leisure Strategy, Dorset Biodiversity Strategy	Bournemouth BC
contributes to SSSI condition improvement - national, regional and local BAPs - Local Auth Local Plan - provision of public open space - upheld safeguarding of protected habitats - improved access to disadvantaged groups	Devon Wildlife Trust
Contributed to the implementation of the strategy for 'public awareness and involvement', Devon CC strategic policies relating to environmental education / conservation of natural environment as set out in Devon CC Strategic Plan.	Devon CC
CA Diversity Review - local BAPs - Parks Wildlife Strategy (Bristol CC)	Bristol CC
Contributed to local Community strategies and influenced Council policy - eg new LAA targets.	South Gloucestershire Council
positive contribution to local BAP	Taunton Deane BC
element in the decision by the council to rearrange the street care portfolio - liveability Glos CC - tree strategy Glos CC	Gloucester C C
UK BAP (reed bunting / water vole)	CWP Society (Charity)
Corporate Diversity Policy - Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan - Landscape Character Assessment for Worcestershire.	Worcestershire County Council
LNRs are new to the agenda of the council	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Designation and involvement of community in LNRs is a Stoke-on-Trent City Community and Natural Heritage Strategy policy. Staffordshire BAP	Stoke-on-Trent CC

Comments	Organisation
Contributed to local policies on sustainability with regard to education provision.	Staffordshire Moorlands DC
has met local policies on improving access to greenspace and providing opportunities for physical activity eg health walks	Sandwell MBC
the works and particularly the barriers installed have helped halt decline of important habitats	British Waterways
Tamworth's Local Strategic Partnership	Tamworth BC ? Staffs WT
Work of the CLO has contributed greatly to the realisation at Fairburn Ings of local, regional and national public engagement and youth and education imperatives.	RSPB
local BAP - UDP	Calderdale MBC
UK BAP, PPS9, Regional Spatial Strategy, N Lincs local plan and community strategy - Scunthorpe Framework, Lincs BAP	North Lincs Council
contributed to the aims of the local development framework and LBAP	Barnsley MBC
contributed to the aims of the local development framework and LBAP	Barnsley MBC
Swale and Ure Washlands Project now awaiting adoption by NY County Council.	Lower Ure Conservation Trust
links into the council plan on quality green spaces, BAP and local plan.	City of York Council
much admired and used locally	Foxglove Covert LNR

Appendix 18

Additional data from interviews

To validate and provide further insight into the data collected through our survey questionnaire we carried out in-depth telephone interviews with grantees, English Nature Conservation Officers who had been involved with the scheme and with Wildspace! managers and carried out accompanied and unaccompanied site visits to LNRs.

We have analysed these interviews and identify below the main points of view expressed, along with any particularly pertinent and interesting comments. The data is arranged in the same order as in the interview pro formas.

1 What were the biggest challenges faced in managing the scheme and delivering projects?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal issues, including staff changes • Poor inter-departmental communication in local authority • Difficult for new officer to come up to speed (x2) • Line management of CLO (2 part-time posts) was difficult because of existing pressures on manager • Lack of CLO continuity because of maternity leave • CLO job insecurity because of short-term funding • Many partners needed a lot of time for liaison • Hard to get schools on board initially despite brochures and presentation, finally cracked by approaching science departments direct • Funding for school transport was a problem after grant ran out • Trying to get interested people to actually come out – not many willing to actually do work • Lack of widespread support • Selling “nature” to 13-16 year olds • Tailoring project to National Curriculum • Cap on capital funding made it hard to make an impact early on and much time was wasted raising money from other sources for materials and tools • Too much work to run 3 LNR projects and maintain momentum (part-time post) • Too much work for a part-time post • Requirement for designation before funds available made it hard to bring sites to a high enough quality for designation • Generating community involvement and engaging hard-to-reach groups (x8) • Fund-raising difficulties (x2) • Project was already running so we had to tailor activities to meet the need of the Wildspace! scheme • Working with a controversial industry (quarrying) meant we were seen as tied in with the “enemy” – local political issues meant it was hard to win over local communities • Very bureaucratic compared to relatively small capital-only grant
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match-funding difficult for local authorities • Setting up Friends of Groups and engaging with communities where no active group existed was very time consuming (x2) • Working with local authorities without dedicated officers was difficult • CLOs could be isolated within local authorities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult for some projects to tick all the right boxes • Difficult to ensure applications from small groups were of sufficient quality • Short educational courses in school holidays were sometimes cancelled because of other competing activities • Timescale of grant too short for some projects • Difficulties in getting the hard-to-reach groups to come forward and tempting to go with middle class groups
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with extremely high demand – this meant some applications were trimmed to ensure targets were met • Conditions of scheme were hard to enforce in all projects • Difficult for a new manager to come up to speed • Ensuring claims were made on time • Ensuring all the required information was supplied • Transport and Health & Safety issues biggest obstacles for schools

2 How did projects show innovation and good practice?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webcams at LNRs – kestrel nesting boxes, kingfisher watch • Websites (eg LNR-cambridge.gov.uk has had more than 1 million hits) • Facility for making mini-movies as part of school work • Videos produced for all LNRs • Management plans key to co-ordinating efforts of partners • Pill box turned into temperature and humidity regulated bat roost • Ran alongside complementary Local Heritage Initiative project to mutual benefit • Monthly worksheets produced to be implemented by Parks Service • Establishment of Junior Management Board – children involved in third party negotiations • Creation of strategy to feed into the minerals industry
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network in Cornwall for LNR managers – started by CLOs who could be isolated – met twice a year • Volunteer group shadowing and swapping of equipment and expertise • Giving people a sense of mission and a cause bigger than individual projects • Field Centre with two-way mirrors, integral beehives, eco-friendly systems, special room for bird-ringing • Communities engaged in arts projects on LNRs • Using two half-time officers with complementary skills • Strengthening of in-house teams in local authorities
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some projects notable for targeting senior level schoolchildren • Projects that provided for learning in a fun way

3 Were biodiversity gains realised and can these gains be quantified against Biodiversity Action Plans?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National BAP gains – skylarks, meadow pipits, brimstone butterflies • Part of County BAP, especially heathland • Better recording identifies gains (x5) • Reedbed creation (x3) and habitat action plan implemented, with recording • Bracken management implemented • Management plans are aimed at biodiversity gains and local authority monitors and
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> records • BAPs under review but stag beetle loggeries now being recorded • Local HAPs implemented • Fencing to protect sensitive areas • Gains made but hard to quantify (x4) • Greensward improvements to counter 30% losses of coastal grasslands • Provision and management of bat boxes (x4) • Improvements in marshland habitat
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities tended to structure applications around BAPs and delivered what they said • Sometimes it takes time for gains to be realised even if the management process is underway • More volunteers meant more management leading to biodiversity gains • Increase in habitats • Better recording through BARs • Emphasis on people could diminish biodiversity – multifunctionality can be inimical
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most projects linked to BAPs, the focus of work in local authorities • Recording has raised profile of LNRs in local authorities • More than 300 new LNRs declared so clearly there are real gains

4 Were projects successful in making LNRs safe, accessible and enjoyable places to visit?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNRs were accessible already – scheme was more about promotion • Some sites were 30 metres from schools that did not know LNR existed • New sites opened to public • Improvements to footpaths, bridges and boardwalks and wheelchair access (x9) • Provision of “all access” kissing gates • Fencing improved • Tree surgery to improve site safety (x2) • Problems with burnt out cars solved with barriers and gates and provision of car parks (x2) • New design of anti-motorcycle gates with radar key for disabled was successful • All 10 LNRs have council risk assessments • LNRs managed to maintain sight-lines • Paths kept clear 1m either side • Sites had been neglected for years and had bad reputations • Clearance of vegetation around entrances (x2) • Restricted sites now open more often and attended to reduce ASB • Circular routes created and handrails provided on some routes • On-site presence has increased safety (x3) • Accessibility audits carried out • Barriers to access removed wherever possible • Entrance features well maintained • Tipping and vandalism now stopped
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNRs made safer and more enjoyable • Better interpretation (x2) • Lots of improvements to footpaths and boardwalks (x3) • On-site presence in some LNRs made a difference to personal safety • LNRs improved without a doubt in this respect • Progress made on crime and ASB by involving more people • Specialist advice on access needs of special needs groups obtained from Fieldfare Trust • Local art projects encouraged more people to visit and explore

Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grantees tried hard – a lot of work done on clearing and widening pathways • Projects put on a lot of group walks, including group dog walking • Many different events held • Friends of Groups have encouraged a sense of ownership and pride and a desire to keep LNRs nice
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5 Were projects successful in enabling and encouraging new community groups/individuals to enjoy LNRs, their management and development work?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13,000 children from 25 schools were introduced to LNRs in one project • Involvement was offered to university and colleges but, unlike schools, there was no take-up • New groups attracted – on one LNR this was mostly ethnic groups • Existing Friends of Groups re-energised • Meetings were advertised and mail drops used to invite people to activities with children, food was provided – turnout was surprisingly high • New Friends of Groups created (x11) • Surestart and youth groups have joined in • 6 new High Schools pulled in • Brownies and Guides now run their own events • Events have brought in new people (x4) • Attended visits attracted new community and school groups and elderly people • Engaged with mental health support group (x2) (Cobwebs, MIND) and drug intervention programmes • New volunteers engaged in recording • New Deal project
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of both existing and new groups increased • This is stand-out aspect of the scheme – all have benefited • Established groups have been refreshed • A lot of the work by CLOs was in forming new Friends of Groups from interested parties • Many individuals come for the odd day but long-term volunteers need more nurturing • Seen as a good way of getting fresh air and exercise and getting hands dirty • LNRs must have the right tasks arranged for volunteers – this requires more management • Outreach work and art projects successful in attracting new people
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of CLOs has engaged with a wide range of groups • High incidence of repeat school visits leading to repeat visits with parents • Success in attracting new groups was recorded in regular reports

6 Were projects successful in showing innovation in their approach to LNR interpretation and community involvement?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets for schools, specific to each class, to link with national curriculum • National Grid funded new entrance and interpretation boards • Mostly standard, tried and tested techniques (x9) • Stories of each site compiled • Publicity stands installed at events • Friends of Group wash signs regularly – no vandalism so far
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans facilitate community involvement • ‘Art in the Countryside’ enabled young people to use a forge and sculpt steel and stone • Website and Visitor Centre set up and run by Friends of Group • Disability friendly interpretation boards • Post-a-postcard initiative for feedback • Exceptionally high-quality leaflets produced • Volunteers worked with County recorders for birds and moths
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area team used a sample of a successful application to guide applicants • Recording wildlife is a good way of achieving interpretation and involvement • Links made with other groups with similar and different sites and interests • Mostly standard courses, work days • Websites new and unfamiliar to a lot of people • Sponsored bird-boxes and bird ringing effective in increasing involvement • Community art exhibitions
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a great variety – mostly traditional notice-boards, panels, leaflets, newsletters and waymarkers • Gateways and artworks were successful • Mosaics and exhibitions of local art • Roadshows around libraries and public buildings • Outreach important

7 Were projects successful in offering training, learning and personal development opportunities?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schoolchildren only • Training for volunteers – brush-cutters, grassland management, first aid, hedge-laying, fencing, path building (x6) • Modern apprenticeships • Task Force for young unemployed • BTCV helped with training – use of tools, tree identification, health and safety, machinery, pond management etc (x4) • CLO supported by Countryside Management Services • Opportunity to help write management plans • Work days with employees of local companies • No formal training courses but much ad hoc training in surveying and monitoring (x2) • Low uptake of IT and Office Management training – people preferred practical training • Management training • Promotion of species recognition (x3) • Employment foundation project for local people • Training through New Deal
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in practice and theory was widespread (x4) • Encouragement of local art
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some projects were targeted at this • Training in practical tasks and talks about habitat management • Voluntary groups taken to others sites to exchange skills and experience • Skills database set up • Green Gyms led to greater involvement

8 Were projects successful in providing for young people disadvantaged by lack of access to natural open space?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in a wealthy area with socially deprived parts • Activities linked to Play Scheme and school holidays – 15 children for whole day • New LNR in deprived area with educational activities • Young people targeted in flyers for activities in Easter and summer holidays • Special days for teenagers and youth clubs • Teenagers like doing manual work as they can show off • Boys Clubs and Army Cadets – like rough work and slashing and burning • Younger children like planting • Work on LNRs give young people confidence and awareness of personal safety • Targeted local schools to bring in children from neighbouring housing estates • Events and activities best way to attract young people • Consultancy (The Big Green) engaged to lead events • Hosted “Sixpower” project aimed at 18-30 year olds • “Workpower” visited and helped with surveys • School holiday events for youth • Events for Young Offenders • Poetry and Art event • Annual Big Draw arts event • Youth Club ran Bat sound recording, graffiti removal, charcoal-burning and shelter decoration projects
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti removal project aimed at young people • Area team targeted areas of deprivation as these areas tend to be under-resourced • Green Gym and Youth Groups participated in practical work parties • Continued with Youth Offenders Programme • Junior Management Groups set up • Children on housing estates provided for
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very successful with younger groups to age 11 • Teenagers more difficult but some success • Strong Friends of Groups help get young people involved • Some projects have regular groups for different ages and some have Youth Committees • Duke of Edinburgh Awards have linked to some LNRs

9 Were projects successful in providing for people with mobility or learning difficulties?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 special needs schools targeted for practical conservation work • Many children with Downs Syndrome enjoyed hard physical work • Targeted groups working with people with learning difficulties and behavioural problems – hard work, but rewarding • All sites given hard surface paths and circular routes • Worked with “Greenwork” for groups with learning and mobility difficulties • Special needs group engaged in moth trapping and charcoal burning – have to stay on LNR overnight • Group of people with autism undertook photography project • Accessibility audits carried out for all LNRs to comply with DDA • Wheelchair accessible kissing gates installed • Events with mental health support group • Photographic project with residential group for people with learning difficulties • Programmes of guided tours
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Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special needs groups targeted (x2) • Access trails created (x2) • Projects generally now more aware of the issues
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work done with these groups • Regular half-morning sessions held in some projects • One group produced a CD of sounds in the LNR – marked as an achievement

10 Have there been any effects on projects of local authority budget cuts and/or reorganisation?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effects only – when 23 months ended the lead person was promoted and the temporary CLO post was made permanent • Lots of political support • Council is reorganising but short of resources – CLO post has been retained through temporary extensions – it is hoped resources will be found to make it permanent • Wildspace! budget can't be cut because it is external funding • At the start staff movement created difficulties • Constantly seeking funding (x2) • Conservation strategy produced which adds support
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities did not have to find too much match-funding • One local authority had designated lots of LNRs without following the guidelines and therefore had to do them all again • One post was made difficult through reorganisation which led to budget problems • Other than officer time the local authority made little input
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been uncertainty for some projects although as money has been committed upfront there is little threat • Where the CLO fits within local government is important and this varies around the country • Majority of CLO posts have been secured through alternative funding

11 What do you think will happen to the long-term management of LNRs after the grant runs out?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not affected – schools programme will continue • Pump-priming has resulted in new post being created so work will continue • If CLO post ended work would revert to Parks Dept and LNRs would decline • Other grants have been secured to maintain work – HLF 'Your Heritage' and Landfill Tax • LNRs will decline as council does not have the budget or expertise • Council is laying people off to save money and Friends of Groups can't manage LNRs on their own • LNRs will be kept at improved standard
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some LNRs will continue to be managed from own resources of local authorities • One will decline, one at risk from uncertain local authority management and two safe in county council management • No source of future revenue funding is a problem but in effect volunteers will keep sites going, helped by management committees and plans • Depends on strength of local support
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority have a commitment from local authorities but priorities can change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Friends of Groups are important but even these are subject to the loss of key individuals • Local authorities are not tied to future funding but management plans and management agreements help • They now have legal designations as LNRs and/or SSSIs so will continue to be maintained
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12 What do you think will happen to CLOs after the grant runs out?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now permanent officer with wider responsibilities (x10) • Temporary extensions of post • New external funding secured for post (x4) • On secondment from wildlife trust and will return when funding expires • Now can only afford a part-time officer post which is not so effective
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About half will be subsumed into countryside or greenspace management (x4) • Some stop-gapped, some stop dead (x2) • ASB work will cease • Offers a way into conservation work even if temporary
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some will be absorbed into departments, some will find additional funding, some will leave • Majority of CLO posts have been secured through alternative funding

13 Do you think the local authority is the right host for CLOs or would they be better employed by some other body?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council owns enough land to make it worthwhile • Council owns key land in important areas • Local authorities know how to make bids • Employment conditions are better in local authorities (x2) • Have to overcome some communities' hostility to the council (x3) • Worked well (x7) • Local authorities tend to push people onto other work – other organisations more focused on wildlife • Local authorities have economies of scale and offer support in nature conservation sections and other facilities • CLOs well placed in local authorities alongside understaffed ranger services • Pros outweigh the cons
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly local authorities are appropriate but sometimes other groups like Groundwork or BTCV can lead – quality varies from place to place • Local authorities vary in their capacity and ability – CLOs better housed with organisation with nature conservation as its focus if they have the admin capacity • Local authority have the community role central to their responsibilities but funding is too affected by national government and capping
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLOs in other organisations have benefited from independence but LNRs harder to get designated • Wildlife trusts are strong on community involvement • Background of CLO has a big impact – two different approaches, from community development and nature conservation backgrounds • CLOs experienced easier networking in local authorities

14 What do you think would make the CLO role more effective?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No security in job – distracting towards the end of grant • Longer period of funding would have been better (x2) • Induction pack would have helped giving details of scheme and project • Wildspace! email group was very helpful in reducing isolation – could have been there from the start • More could have been done to reduce isolation (x2) • External support was slow • Training from EN about LNRs and engaging communities (x3) • More capital funding so time not wasted in securing other funding (x3) • More support in practical matters – funding, education, marketing, promotion – any of these could have been full-time • Being full-time rather than part-time • Lower reporting requirements • Greater influence over the planning system
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer term funding – can take two years to get rolling (x5) • Some projects over-ambitious • More capital needed in allocation of funds • Ideally five or six years’ funding • Welcome pack • Replacement staff need help • Better networks to nurture young and inexperienced staff • Move agenda on to green infrastructure and PPG17 quality issues • Need to develop a team to take the work forward • EN supportive nationally but not in offering support to local projects • Greater acceptance by officers working in Development Control • Less reliance by EN on six-monthly reports
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer-term funding • More resources to deliver capital items • Conference held once, perhaps should have been annual • Start-up pack • Better networks

15 Any other points you would like to make about the effectiveness of the Wildspace! grant scheme?

Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should have been an exit strategy that enabled spare money to be fed back into topping up existing projects • Without it there would not have been more LNRs – now even more in pipeline • Email contacts and networks would have been welcomed earlier • Was a worthwhile scheme – would be no LNRs in city without it • Real benefit was having someone in funded post • Effective scheme – especially revenue funding element which made it easier to lever in capital funds • Timescale was too short (x4) • More money, more time – so much to do • Allowed (London Borough) to come on in leaps and bounds – very successful in so many ways - people and wildlife • Very positive scheme, ran smoothly even though EN were ‘hands-off’
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very successful scheme has brought this into mainstream council work • Successful project which has made a real improvement to both our sites • Some targets attached to the grant were too ambitious and difficult to achieve – a sliding scale of implementation would be better than performance targets • Extremely valuable scheme and would like a replacement • EN managers were very helpful and helped us achieve our aims
Conservation Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be continued – very successful scheme • Could have been more coordinated across other NOF schemes – Doorstep Greens BTCV etc – one-stop shop might have been better – perhaps Natural England could do this • CLOs conference very useful and feedback was tremendous – CLOs liked feeling part of a bigger team – conference should have been an annual event • Scheme really made projects happen – was well thought out with clear parameters and targets which made decision-making easy • Limited pot meant some moderating of awards to get as many good projects as possible • Funding of posts was wholly appropriate
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense that the scheme had run well • Bureaucracy could have been better – reporting requirements felt to be onerous by some