



Caring for the Cotswolds

Autumn 2024 Update



Cotswolds
National
Landscape

Victorian Victory

November brought the completed restoration of a treasured community pond feature in Shipton-under-Wychwood.

Caring for the Cotswolds awarded £2,500 towards the Victorian-era pond restoration in 2023.

Wychwood Wild Garden applied to Caring for the Cotswolds in late 2023, seeking funding to help **protect their spectacular ponds.**

'Upper Pond' was once a part of the Shipton Court estate, and was regularly maintained and dredged until **1940.**

Unfortunately, due to minimal upkeep over the last few decades, debris had built up and **very little water depth remained to support wildlife** that called the pond home.

Upper Pond has now been dredged, refilled, and returned to its former glory; **a haven** that wildlife and people can enjoy for decades to come!



Woodland Wellbeing

Our work to improve access to nature is always ongoing and this autumn, two projects focused on widening the welcome.

We caught up with recent grantees, Into Nature CIC and Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum (FoWA)!

Before



After



Into Nature facilitate two **woodland wellbeing** groups near Cirencester for over 18s who live with **mental health challenges, illnesses, or disabilities**. However, the track leading to their woodland site became **unusable** due to heavy rains and deep mud, stopping some participants coming to sessions. With funding, they have scraped back the track to stone - **enabling attendees safe access**; particularly those with limited mobility.

Not far from Cirencester, at the **National Arboretum**, FoWA have been investing in **inclusivity!** With support from Caring for the Cotswolds, **training** was run to ensure every member of staff and volunteer at the Arboretum can be **knowledgeable and supportive of neurodiverse visitors**.



Wrapping up the year

2024 has been another incredible year for Cotswolds National Landscape and Caring for the Cotswolds! Let's look back over some programme highlights...

- We gave **£17,973** in grants this year to local not-for-profit organisations!
- **13 projects were delivered** in our key themes:
 - Conservation of habitats and species (**3**)
 - Environmental education (**2**)
 - Heritage and landscape (**3**)
 - Improving access (**5**)
- Projects in **4 different counties** across the Cotswolds were supported - Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, and Somerset
- **8 new grants** have been awarded!

Super Supporters

Thank you to all of our incredible business members who have supported us this year. You keep Caring for the Cotswolds running - every contribution means another project that can be funded to benefit the landscape and community of the Cotswolds.

Catch up with the work of one of our supporters, Cotswolds Distillery, in the latest issue of the Cotswold Lion!

With thanks to:

Country Walkers

VBT Bicycling Vacations

Go Cotswolds

Cotswolds Farm Park

Cotswolds Distillery

Heath Farm Cottages

Cotswolds Photographer

For more details about the scheme or Cotswolds National Landscape please visit our website.

If you'd like to become a supporter, or discuss a project idea, please contact Nina Stubbington at nina.stubbington@cotswolds-nl.org.uk



**Cotswolds
National
Landscape**