**Roots to Shoots - Project Progress Report**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of project** | **A2 Brymbo Heritage Area - Ecology Area** |
| **Vision statement** | 1) Making the space more accessible for visitors, especially schools groups, sensitively clearing areas of dense annual plant growth and weaving a network of informal paths through the area; and  2) Developing the area’s potential as a ‘mini’ nature reserve, starting to record species and do more to enrich the environment for wildlife to ﬂourish further |
| **Date of report** | 25th May 2018 |
| **Staff & volunteers participating this quarter** | Gary Brown, Paul Tincello, Sue Perry, Lynze Rogers, Bernard Winstanley, Keith Williams-BHT  Rhian Hughes, Lucy Boyatt – Enfys Ecology  Iwan Edwards – Wildlife Trust  June Lincoln, David Heard, Helga Hughes, Dominic Gillespie – BHT volunteers |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** **plan** | | |
| **Year 1** | **Years 2-4** | **Years 5-7** |
| NRW Licence agreement  Series of Pond and amphibian survey’s April – May 2018 to ascertain water quality and specie numbers.  Site work Seasonal activity agreement in line with Enfys Ecology advisers.  On site ecological officer working with Enfys Ecology to observe, record and evaluate activity | NRW licence agreement extension/amendment  Site Management Plan  Consider Health & Safety aspects in and around the ponds making it safe environment for visitors.  In line with above investigate safer access e.g. viewing/dipping platforms  Create picnic area and enhance pathways and trackways – safe access and transit  Investigate and create new habitats mitigation against other site developments | Ecology area established as one of the key destination sites within Brymbo Heritage site with all areas accessible to all and well maintained.  Ecology area managed by BHT in accordance with licence agreements with fully qualified staff responding and delivering site maintenance guided by seasonal Management Plan.  Ecology area recognised and promoted for its protection and preservation of amphibians, birds and other animals, flora and fora. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **01/06/18** | **01/09/18** | **01/12/18** | **01/03/19** | **Total** |
| **Capital Budget** | £13,241.96 | £4000.00 | £2000.00 | £2000.00 | £21241.96 |
| **Actual** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Revenue budget** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Actual** |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Activities this year against plan (from previous report – if applicable**) |
| * One-year NRW licence agreement established working with Enfys for proposed site works * Under Enfys supervision Blast road gates extended and hard-core surface laid to allow railway carriages to be brought on site * Tree clearance completed along Blast Road fence line where they were over hanging over road removing potential hazard * Working with Enfys 6-7-week pond and site survey * Pathway shrub and tree sapling clearance * Pond life awareness session delivered to staff and volunteers by Wildlife Trust * Agents House restoration to allow for re-location of volunteers including some necessary groundworks to prevent flooding from underground stream. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Key highlights and achievements this year** |
| * BHT has established an excellent working relationship with Enfys and through their constant support NRW ensuring that all works are carried out within the licence agreement * BHT has dedicated officer on site who works closely with Enfys to ensure all site activity is recorded and notified identifying Enfys supervision where necessary. * 6-7 weeks of pond survey work which will give a clear indication of Newt and amphibian population size, completed report can be circulated to contribute to site awareness and external interest. * All the BHT trustees, staff and volunteers more aware of Ecology protection and preservation on site and key contact point. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Lessons learned/changes needed** |
| * Management Plan required to clarify seasonal work activity in line with NRW licence agreement (Greater Crested Newt hibernation) * Land transfer still pending * Any site work needs to be in line and take account of seasonal hibernation patterns of protected species such as Greater Crested Newt which can limit and delay site development creating some frustrations |

|  |
| --- |
| **Activities for next year** |
| * Working with Enfys secure NRW Licence agreement extension including additional works to pathways/trackways, pond bund and platforms, drainage improvements, new design work for small stretch of newt fence under trackway. * Completion and circulation of Management Plan to give seasonal direction to site activity work * Completion and circulation of Newt (and other amphibian) survey work report highlighting population size * Working with NRW identify other ecology areas which could allow for the migration of Newts (and other amphibians) to new locations allowing for necessary site development to take place * Working with NRW, BHT design team, staff and volunteers develop picnic area and improve steps up to and around the Blast colliery. Design cost up easily accessible 'dipping platforms' which minimise the disruption of natural habitat whilst improving health and safety for visitors and pond survey participants. * Secure land transfer agreement for Ecology area and subsequent planning permission for future site developments (e.g. Buildings, Carriages and containers) * Working with Enfys, Wildlife Trust develop and maintain several awareness and training sessions for staff and volunteers. * Advertise and promote the ecology area as part of BHT attractions using digital media (e.g. COFNOD) and other more targeted traditional methods |