

# ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

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<b>Award category</b>	Shaping Places for People
<b>Project Title</b>	Bathscape -revitalising our landscape for people, communities and heritage
<b>Local authority entrant</b>	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Partner/s if applicable</b>	National Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust,Cotswold Conservation Board, Bath Spa University, University of Bath, Bath Naturalists Society, Woodland Trust, Bath Preservation Trust, Visit Bath, Wessex Water, Federation of Bath Residents Association

## Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Engaging a greater number & wider range of people exploring and conserving the green setting of Bath, benefitting their health & wellbeing.

## Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlCTV3pTVv0>

## Shaping places for people: How was this project an innovative response to a significant concern? (150 words max.)

The Bathscape is a stunning landscape of international importance as the green setting for the City of Bath World Heritage Site, full of heritage, social history and wildlife. With a large, disconnected population the pressures upon the Bathscape are extensive, but so too is its potential for health, enjoyment and inspiration.

The Bathscape Scheme brings together a broad partnership with a shared ambition to see the value of the landscape recognised, addressing threats to its condition. Though portrayed as wealthy, Bath's demographic masks a gulf in income, education and health and the scheme seeks to further challenge the social inequality that is prevalent.

Twenty five interconnected projects bring the landscape centre stage, making it better managed and experienced. Bathscape aims to engage a greater number and wider range of people to: explore the built and natural environments; become involved in its protection; and improve their health and wellbeing.

## Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

Bathscape began in 2018. An independent midway project evaluation was undertaken March 2021. Significant successes include the Walking Festival, unlocking volunteer capacity across the area,

working with target communities and landowners. Bathscape Walking Festival received Highly Commended in the events category of the 2023 Bath Life Awards. Bathscape Footprints Podcast has been nominated in the Audio & Radio Industry Awards (May 2023) -nominated in two categories, The Grassroots Award and Best Local Show

The new Circuit of Bath walk (20.5 miles) is now recognised on the Long Distance Walks web site. The future proofing of the route is being delivered by trained volunteer rangers. Recognising digital barriers faced by sectors of community, Bathscape worked with Avon Wildlife Trust & National Trust to put together bug hunting kits that were distributed to areas of greatest deprivation via children's centres. 2022 Walking Festival evaluation 74% responded that they would explore more countryside.

**Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)**

Strong partnership working secured National Heritage Lottery Funding for the Bathscape partnership programme in 2018. All partners have stayed committed to the five year scheme that is now extended to 2025 due to Covid impact. Cotswold National Landscape Wardens provide training to new volunteers who maintain the Circuit of Bath walking route( 21 miles). Bath City Farm in the deprived Twerton Ward is a key delivery partner. Funded by Bathscape it runs courses for young people not in employment, education or training. The AQA sessions are the only activity that the Farm does for post 16 age group. One person stated how it has transformed their life, from rarely leaving the house to wanting to do more courses. Bath Mind participate with wellbeing walks. Recently, local housing association, Curo, ran sessions for young people and Ukrainian refugees interested in construction industry, with Bathscape introducing them to Green Skills.

**Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care and external organisations. (150 words max.)**

Over 3000 walkers have participated in the 6 walking festivals. To date Bathscape has recorded 1640 volunteers (exceeding 795 target). A quote from the mid term Evaluation Report illustrates benefit : 'the practical work and training are things I would never have learnt or tried before'. 6280 people have attended events held in deprived wards exceeding the original target figure of 3800. The Circuit of Bath is being maintained by volunteers. Six archaeological sites have been surveyed by Bath & Counties Archaeological Society using equipment purchased by Bathscape engaging 53+ volunteers. Landowners have supported the scheme;10 of the target of 12 new flower rich meadows to be created have been seeded. Towards the goal to deliver 80ha of improved woodland, landowners owning total of 49Ha of woodland have received advice. Kilter Theatre is now running additional events at Bath City Farm, independently, building on the interest developed during their Bathscape residency.

**Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)**

The Partnership developed the Bathscape Landscape Partnership Scheme and has been successful in attracting £2.2 million funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, The World Heritage Enhancement Fund, Network Rail, Bath & North East Somerset Council and partner organisations. The Bathscape scheme provides small grants to support local community projects. Recent recipients include: £1950 to Corston Community Orchard for purchase brushcutter, pruning equipment and a noticeboard. Bath City Farm received £10,000 for 1100m of fencing around the Farm and scrub clearance. Network Rail funding was for Biodiversity Offsetting that has funded woodland management and access improvements. Councils Section 106 funding has funded seed collection at number of sites. Wessex Water have funded student placement for research project to monitor pharmaceuticals in waste water related to preventative health care and green social prescribing activities run by Bathscape partners.

**All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry**

Bathscape is led by small team of 3 staff - Dan Merrett Project Manager, Lucy Bartlett Senior Project Officer and Emma Carlisle (maternity cover for Julia Kennaby) Volunteer Coordinator. The mid term Evaluation Report 2021 included many quotes referencing the value of Bathscape and support it has provided:

'The project had secured some funding to improve the landscape aspect of our World Heritage Site, I got in touch with them and we managed to get a grant for our land. Our neighbourhood clubbed together and bought a meadow and woodland, and with the help of the Grassland Society and Avon Wildlife Trust they evaluated the state of the grass and trees.'

'We have 37 acres and it's quite a biodiverse piece of land, a lot of our activities are largely focused on just two acres, the rest of it is left unmanaged and it's enabled us to better manage that larger space. Without that support it would have continued to be neglected.'

'I've had loads of conversations with Lucy over the time to find ways to connect the local community. A lot of it has been about support, a sounding board, the organisation has helped me non-stop, their trust in me has been really critical, I haven't found that trust in any other organisations and they've been inspirational to work with. It's been a bloody delight. Lucy is great to find contacts for anything I need.'

[www.bathscape.co.uk](http://www.bathscape.co.uk)