

The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss and start to plan a co-ordinated **10-year programme of habitat creation for nature**, including tree and hedge planting and pond and wildflower meadow creation across the area.

This forms part of the work we launched last year to create a **heritage landscape with nature at its heart** across the countryside west and north of Peterborough.

Our idea is that each parish would develop its own habitat creation plan, supported by the partners in the JCC project (Nene Park, Woodland Trust, PECT, Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Sacrewell Farm) who will provide detailed advice, training, and support for ongoing management as well as co-ordinating any necessary grant applications. The partners would also then look at how the individual parish plans can be joined-up to create long corridors of wildlife rich habitat across John Clare Countryside. Ideas that have been discussed include an avenue of oak trees from east to west and from north to south, and/or a similar chain of new ponds/wildflower meadows.

At the meeting we would recap on the Vision for John Clare Countryside and its objectives and look at the major landscape schemes for nature rich habitat creation that we hope to take forward. But our main focus at this meeting would be on the simple opportunities that we can start to plan and deliver this year and that don't involve land purchase. These include as mentioned above tree and hedge planting schemes; pond and meadow creation and provision of nest boxes for bats, scarce birds such as swifts and barn owls and insects. We would like to discuss what help each parish would need to develop its own 10-year habitat creation map and how the partners can help with training, advice and the supply of materials.

The next step following the meeting might be for each parish to develop this map. We can provide support to help with this, perhaps in the form of individual parish workshops. We would then work these up into an overall habitat creation plan for the whole area with a funding and delivery programme. In this way we can keep action very local, but also ensure a landscape scale approach.