

Friends of Portbury Nature Reserve Community Grant Programme



Friends of Portbury Nature Reserve was established in 2019 to engage the local community with the wildlife on their doorstep. As well as raising public awareness, they seek to safeguard the site's future as a nature reserve working closely with North Somerset Council and other environmental organisations.

Organisation: Friends of Portbury Nature Reserve

Project: Interactive nature trail

Beneficiaries: visitors of all ages, genders and income brackets

Location: Portbury, Somerset

Region: South West

Impact: The Hinkley Connection project involved a new high-voltage electricity connection between Bridgwater and Seabank near Avonmouth, bringing low carbon, homegrown energy to six million homes and business across the UK.

£20,000

Awarded to Friends of Portbury Nature Reserve

For further information please visit:

www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme

Community Helpline
0800 279 3408

In March 2023 Friends of Portbury Nature Reserve was awarded £20,000 to support the creation and installation of a permanent but seasonally changeable Wetlands Trail at Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve.

The project involved installing 12 A2 lecterns with wildlife panels displaying winter (from October) and summer panels (from April). Each panel has a number of interchangeable interactive elements such as quizzes, facts and things to look out for.

It also developed a metal Wilbur water vole trail for visitors to the reserve to find and a bug house to encourage biodiversity.

To additionally support trail the project created a flyer, updated the nature reserve map and produced a digital trail available to download from the dedicated Wetlands Trail webpage (<https://www.portburywharfnaturereserve.co.uk/wetlands-trail/>).

The creation of the Wetlands Trail has raised the profile of the Friends of Portbury Wharf within existing partners as well as to the general public, with more people signing up to the mailing list.

Comments on social media about the installations have been positive;

'The boards are very informative and are appropriate to where each one is placed, highlighting what you might see there. Great that they are seasonal and will be swapped at appropriate times. Brilliant work by Friends of Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve Community Group and others. A great way to get people interested in wildlife and the reserve.'

'Thanks for this. As a novice but very interested bird watcher I struggle to know what I'm looking at! This will definitely be a great help.'