Budgets Finalised - More exciting than it sounds!

The Partnership Board met in November 2016 to assess our Partners draft project proposals and agree the final budget; a pivotal point in our Development year. This now means that we have definition as to who may be delivering projects and how much will be allocated to them from our Heritage Lottery Fund should our second stage bid be accepted. Collectively we have a holistic approach to implementing our projects which means that some of them will touch on more than one of the three themes of Nenescape: Listen to the Past, Explore the Now and Secure the Future: here’s how each project will help deliver the aspirations of each theme.

1. **Listen to the Past – reveal the hidden stories, people and places of the Nene Valley:**

   **Settlers of the River Nene** – Rockingham Forest Trust (Stanwick Lakes), Northants, will be exploring and celebrating over 4000 years of settlers in the Nene Valley, through immersive education and events, including building a ‘multi-era’ barn, giving people a taste of past lives.

   **Walking in Time** – Nene Park Trust (NPT, Ferry Meadows), Peterborough. It has long been known that Roman settlers inhabited the land within and around the park and place names such as Castor and Durobrivae are easily accessible clues. In September 2016, Nenescape funded experts from Durham University to carry out a geophysical survey on one of the parks fields, working alongside Dr Stephen Upex, from Nene Valley Archaeological Trust, the survey confirmed the presence of a former Roman settlement under the soil. Nenescape LPS will help NPT interpret these findings and install new trails and better access to heritage sites. This includes volunteer participation in restoring the old boardwalk in bluebell wood.

   **Journeys of the River Nene** – We were delighted when Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust approached us with their proposal to compose and deliver a musical piece written by Benjamin Till that tells the story of the river Nene and Nenescape are happy to support them.

   **Nenescape on Film** – Film is another media that we will be using to convey a journey along the river. Recording will be managed by professionals from the filming industry and volunteers.
Stories of the Nene, Community Grant – In addition to the wonderful projects already part of this scheme, if successful, Nenescape will also provide a small third party grant to volunteer led organisations, who want to deliver projects that will help to reveal the hidden stories within the Nene Valley. More details of this will be available in the next edition!

2. Explore the Now – discover the valley, its wildlife and history:

Nene Valley Festival – Destination Nene Valley - Nenescape were pleased to sponsor this annual event last September. The Nenescape team were present at both the launch at Chester Farm near Irchester, Northants and then at the finale at Ferry Meadows in Peterborough.

We were delighted to hear from the organisers that numbers of attendees were up and that many more organisations are interested in participating in the 2017 festival. If you can’t wait until then you may wish to get involved at the Annual Nene Valley Tourism Stakeholder Event sponsored by Northampton Borough Council, taking place at Delapre Abbey on Wednesday 29 March at 10.30am. Find out about their work to raise the profile of the Nene Valley.

Enabling access from Waterway to Land - Environment Agency (Waterways), Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been able to fund a Waterspace Study for the River Nene. Richard Glen Associates who hosted a number of workshops with river users, produced the document, which will be available on our website in March 17. This document will support a project for both existing and potential river users, which aims to make the river more accessible and to encourage those who use the river to explore more of our surrounding valley as they travel along.

Out to Water, in to History (Greenway) – lead by East Northamptonshire Council - this project aims to offer a safe and attractive green route enabling access between Rushden, the river and the new Rushden Lakes complex currently under construction. This project hopes to involve the community in bringing the history of Rushden’s shoe town to life, along this existing stretch of Greenway, which will be extended to meet the new bridge over the A45 being installed as part of the development and, in the other direction, to link with the homes and factories originally built for boot and shoe workers.

3. Secure the Future – repair, restore and nurture skills for the next generation:

Investing in Skills – A programme of training and education from this extraordinary Landscape Partnership, will provide opportunities for people to learn about heritage and the environment through apprenticeships, internships and more.
Building Bridges – Angling Trust, Building Bridges is an established national project aiming to understand the cultural differences in approach to fishing in the UK. A survey of local anglers, collected during the last few months is guiding this project to the next level – an exciting pilot education and events programme in the Nene Valley! The extensive survey has shown that perceptions of fishing practices differ considerably between native and immigrant populations, but there has been a largely positive response with ideas and offers of volunteering from more than 200 respondents!

Farming for the Future - River Nene Regional Park and The Wildlife Trust - Habitat Mapping was carried out by Matt Johnson of the Wildlife Trust to discover areas suitable for this project targeting farmers along the Nene who may be willing to create a margin between their land and the river which will have a threefold effect: protecting the land from water intrusion; protecting the river from waste from the land by acting as a filter and by re-establishing habitats for wildlife. Two events were hosted by project officer Georgina Wallis and Matt Johnson from the Wildlife Trust to explain more to landowners about how to get involved. Funding and training through Moulton College will be available through the project if we present a successful bid for stage three delivery.

Resilient River - River Nene Regional Park, using the backwater study completed by Steve Brayshaw with help from Project Officer Viktor Tzikas, 11 backwaters or meanders have been shortlisted at sites along the Nene for improvement. The natural heritage will be restored providing a suitable habitat for fish to breed. This in turn will support a variety of wildlife along the river. If Heritage Lottery approve our second stage bid the following sites will be selected: The Electric Cut (Peterborough), the Embankment at Wellingborough, Barnwell backchannels, Stanwick Lake backchannels, Ashton Lock backchannels, Wellington Fishery, Whitemills (Earls Barton), Upper Wellingborough Lock backchannel, Fotheringhay backwater. The aim is to restore 3-4 per year.

Out and About

Whether it was an event where we were manning a stand, a visit to a place of interest, to meet with partners or potential project contributors we have been overwhelmed by the interest and support we have encountered on our travels.

The Nenescape team is a small one, Amanda (Mandy), Alison (Ali) and Denise; two of the team have grown up in the Northamptonshire area but every day we learn something new about this wonderfully diverse country of ours and more specifically the Nene Valley.

We manned our stand at our first consultation event Peterborough Heritage Festival, July 2016

Peterborough Green Festival, Aug 2016
Matt from the Wildlife Trust loaned us a Mammoth bone and teeth which had been found in the Nene during gravel extraction, it proved a hit with people visiting our stand at the **Umbrella Fair, August 2016**

**Nen or Neen?**

A regular topic of conversation has been how the word Nene should be spoken. There is some friendly discussion in our office as to its pronunciation. Having two Northamptonshire girls in our team means there is a lean in one direction; as a “Nen” girl myself I have trained myself to say “Neen” when I travel past Thrapston. What do you say?

You can hear some responses to our question here: [https://www.wevideo.com/view/741310507](https://www.wevideo.com/view/741310507)

**Prize Draw**

Thank you to everyone who completed one of our surveys, the lovely hamper was won by Marianne Taylor of Northants.

Special thanks to Farringtons Oils, Juniper Trading and Sacrewell Farm who donated items.

**On Volunteers**

We have commenced an audit of current volunteer participation within our catchment area. Using this, and the proposed projects, we will develop volunteering opportunities to provide a range of placements for the many people who have expressed an interest in undertaking a volunteer role with us, if we achieve delivery phase in the autumn of this year

**Website and Social Media**

We have now launched our website

[www.nenescape.org](http://www.nenescape.org)

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nenescape)  [Twitter](https://twitter.com/Nenescape)  [Lottery Funded](https://www.nhl.lotteries.co.uk)