

## Press release



### Wildflowers and schools

A project is just commencing to encourage schools to start growing wildflowers from seed. Once grown these plants will be used in the school wildlife areas, or planted into local Pocket Parks or other community wildlife areas. Many wildflower rich areas have disappeared with the loss of associated butterflies and bees. In fact about 97% of this type of species rich grassland has been lost over the last 100 years and it is very important both for the county and nationally that what remains is properly managed. If small areas of habitat can be restored using plants grown at schools then that will help benefit biodiversity.

The seed supplied to the schools was either collected locally or donated by a local farmer who also supplied the trays for the schools. A range of species were supplied and these included: Ox-eye daisy, Common knapweed, Red campion, Self-heal, Ragged Robin, Birds-foot trefoil, Betony, Cowslip and Ladies bedstraw.

This project is being co-ordinated by the Revital-ISE project of the River Nene Regional Park with help from NN2 Residents Association and Burton Latimer Pocket Park. The locally collected seed was mainly collected on one of the Revital-ISE Community Training events 'meadow management' at Newton Field Centre in early September.

The schools involved are from Northampton: Whitehills Primary, Northgate School Art College, Boughton Primary, Kingsthorpe Village Primary. From the Kettering area: Brambleside School, Havelock Junior, Loatlands Primary, Meadowside Primary. Evelyn Clawson a teacher from Brambleside School was quoted as saying 'its really valuable for us to take part in projects such as these'.

Any organisations or groups who have projects within the Northamptonshire area which they think could link with RNRP please contact the Revital-ISE Project Manager at [rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01604-237243.

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Contact details:

Dr Robin Field, Revital-ISE Project Manager, River Nene Regional Park  
Tel: 01604 237243 email: [rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.riverneneregionalpark.org](http://www.riverneneregionalpark.org)

### **Notes to editors**

#### **Revital-ISE Project**

The Revital-ISE project provides an outstanding opportunity for partnership working between landowners, land managers, local authorities, Government Agencies, environmental groups, and local communities to re-establish a high quality environment throughout the Ise Valley that meets the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century community. The Revital-ISE Project Manager post is part funded for three years by the Environment Agency and hosted by the River Nene Regional Park.

#### **The River Nene Regional Park (RNRP)**

RNRP is a Community Investment Company that is hosted by Northamptonshire County Council and can hold assets and land on behalf of the community. It is an independent organisation that was constituted under the framework of the Treasury's Green Book and is recognised as a Treasury model for the environment in relation to sustainable growth area funding delivery.

#### **RNRP Vision**

"By 2016 the RNRP partnership will be an independent, inclusive, reciprocal and beneficial partnership of public, private and third sector members. It will be nationally and internationally recognised as the centre of excellence for the piloting, co-ordination and delivery of regional sustainable development, addressing strategic issues such as Climate Change, the enhancement of local biodiversity and the innovative development of the environment as an asset for social development, education, leisure & recreation, heritage and cultural activity, and as a primary vehicle of economic regeneration."