Lewes & Ouse Valley eco-nomics
Valuing Local Natural Capital
L&OVe

Update for July 2015

Lewes Neighbourhood Plan 3-day Community Engagement Design Forum

Film of Lewes Neighbourhood Plan: Developing an Ecosystem Approach released

Compensating our carbon footprint– what a small area of wet woodland it doing for us

Nature*gain* in motion …. Update on successes

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Lewes Neighbourhood Plan 3-day Community Engagement Design Forum

On 30th June a major community consultation over the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan begins, with 3 days of opportunity for representatives from any community groups in Lewes, residents and people from business and other organizations based in or trading from Lewes to have a say in the future of the town.

This is a real opportunity to come and get your voice heard and to learn about what is currently being suggested by members of the Lewes community on Housing; Transport; Community, Culture & Leisure; The Built Environment; Sustainability …. And hopefully on Business and the Local Economy too!

L&OVe will be represented, with Colin and others keeping the Ecosystem Approach in participants minds – encouraging and challenging all to recognize the value of our local environment to Lewes.

Film of Lewes *Neighbourhood Plan: Developing an Ecosystem Approach* released

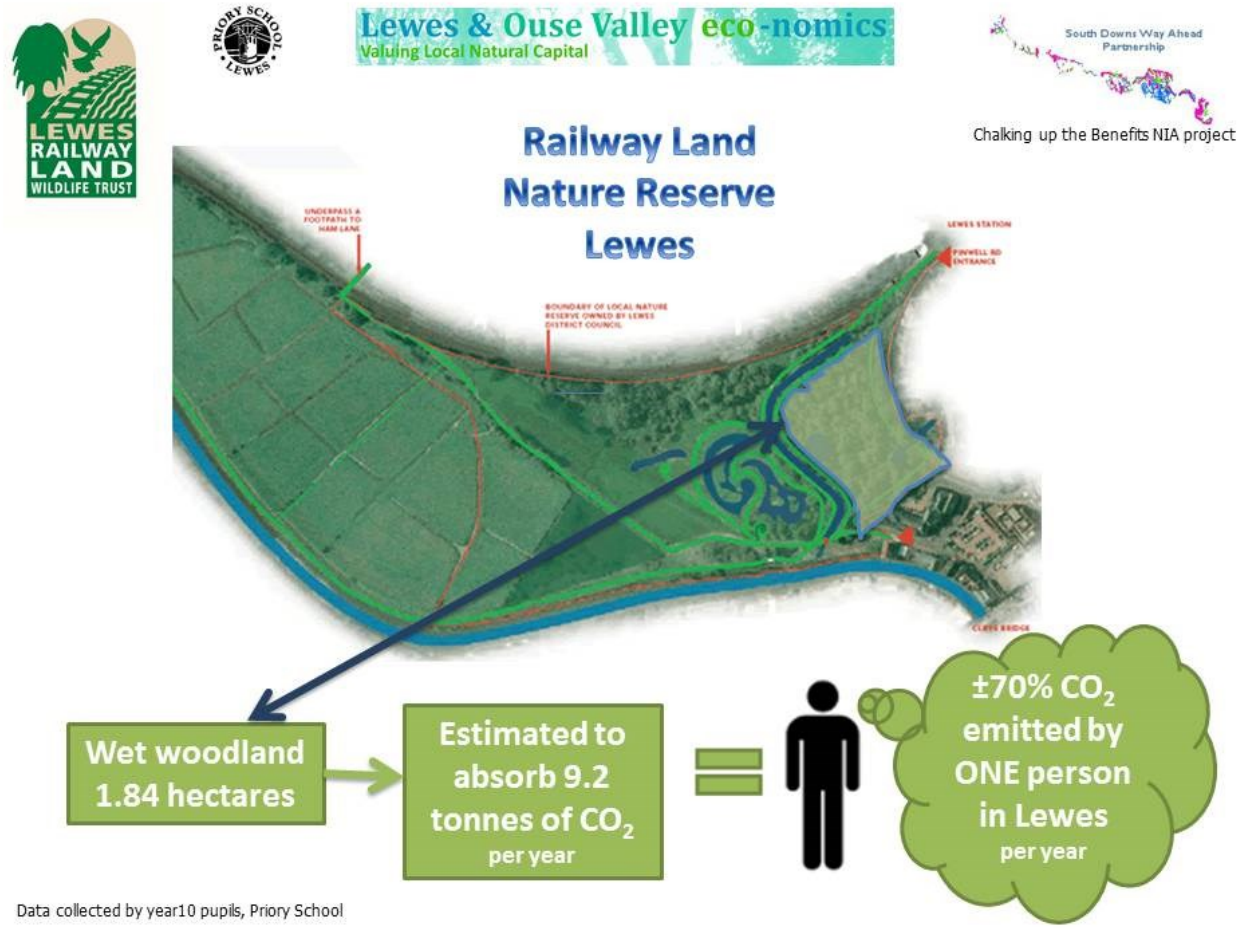
Take a look at this film –- a L&OVe production – sweeping shots of Lewes and its surroundings, people enthused, engaged and having fun identifying what Lewes' landscape does for its residents, businesses and organizations! We hope it'll inspire you to get involved.

The film is the final output from the *Chalking up the Benefits* project, showing how Colin, Andrew and others from L&OVe have worked with the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan Steering group to encourage them to take an Ecosystem Approach to the Lewes NPlan – with success!!

Look out on the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan website lewes4all for a 5 minute, short film, coming soon (from the same fold) that is designed specifically to draw local people in to get engaged and involved with the Neighbourhood Plan …. And so increase its validity as a truly grassroots 'neighbourhood' plan!

Compensating our carbon footprint ….. what will it take? Some answers in the woods?

Thanks to pupils from Priory School "Chalking up the Benefits", we now have a rough idea of what a small area of woodland in the Lewes Railway Land Nature Reserve is doing for us. The InfoGraphic below illustrates this …… and gives us some idea of what Carbon Compensation for people in Lewes District would look like when translated into a physical area of woodland!



Thanks to Kirsten Firth from TTL and the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Topic Group for the infographic.

Partnership work between Colin as *Chalking up the Benefits* Project Officer and John Parry of Lewes Railway Land Wildlife Trust led to John bringing year 10 pupils and their teachers down to the Railway Land for a practical session back in 2013 which included measuring an area of mixed native woodland to calculate how much carbon it was sequestering. The pupils used a 'Rule of Thumb' guide from staff at the UK Carbon Code ….. it's a simplification of scientific reality, but gives us a reliable ball-park figure.

The data on carbon emissions comes from REAP via Ecofootprint work done by Colin with the Sustainability team from LDC during 2008/2009.

Naturegain in motion - update!

Thanks to Ruth O'Keefe, all 3 councils based in Lewes (Town, District and County) have now passed a motion recognising the value of local natural capital to Lewes, its residents and our local economy. The wording of the motions will soon go up on the L&OVe website (but the motion passed by the Town Council was given in full in the March L&OVe update and TTL Newsletter). Colin worked with Ruth to prepare the motion and also prepared a briefing for councillors to accompany the motion.