



Cirencester

Basic Goal

The ERDF Wild Towns Project will enhance Cirencester's greenspaces and access around the town through the completion of the Hare Festival Way.

Vision Statement

Cirencester's many greenspaces will be enhanced through the ERDF Wild Towns project. The creation of wildflower meadows, a bat hibernaculum tunnel, restoration of the penstock weir and tree planting alongside the river will assist in flood management. All of these things will be complimented through the completion of the Hare Festival Way and a new accessible bridge joining up the Old Nursery site and City Bank.

Various open grassland sites across the town will be enhanced through wildflower planting and management. Old Nursery Site, City Bank, Victoria Road playing field, Kingshill green space, St Michael's Park, Watermoor Church, Watermoor roundabout, Roman Amphitheatre, Four Acre Field, the Roman wall in the Abbey Grounds and Burford Road roundabout will have management carried out to return flower meadows back to capital of the Cotswolds.

The Hare Festival way was created in 2014. As part of ERDF Wild Towns, this will be completed to create a circular walk around many of the town's greenspaces. Along with the completion of the Hare Festival way, a new accessible bridge will be installed to replace the current footbridge which links the Old Nursery site and City Bank.

To compliment the creation of these areas of habitat a tunnel based at city bank will be explored and bat roosting features installed. This tunnel could provide an important area for bats to hibernate throughout the winter. Summer roost and breeding boxes will also be placed around the town which will complement the meadow creation which will provide foraging areas for the bats during the summer months.

Cirencester has many waterbodies running through and around the town. As part of the project work will be carried out on Penstock weir to increase the flow control flowing into the lake. This will prevent the lake from overtopping and flooding the town. In the process water that is held back on the local grasslands will be act as water retention areas creating habitat for birds such as Snipe. Jack Gardeners green space will also have the alder carr habitat enhanced through the planting of further sapling trees. This habitat will act as a water retention area and reduce flood risk in the town.