



LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

# Stepping Stones – Countryside Skills

## An Interreg funded micro project



[www.uponthedowns.org.uk](http://www.uponthedowns.org.uk)

# Stepping Stones

A two year project (hopefully 2019 & 2020) with two French partners and two English partners

- CCCU (England Centre for Practice Development)
- The Bay Trust
- Les Blongios
- CPIE (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement Val d'Authie)



# Stepping Stones - Summary

Skills based project that aims to bring the most socially disadvantaged closer to the labour market. It does this by providing a natural progression route:

1. Countryside Engagement (John Muir Awards)
2. Countryside Skills Training
3. Evaluation and Prospectus



# Countryside Engagement

Delivering John Muir Awards to those furthest from the labour market

1. The Bay Trust and WCCP delivering in UK
2. CPIE and Les Blongios trialling in France with assistance from UK partners

WCCP involvement

- 100 JMAs (60 Discover, 40 Explorer)
- £30,000 staff time, £4,000 equipment



# Countryside Skills

40 training programmes across all partners

WCCP involvement

- 10 training programmes (week long training programmes)
  - gaining experience of conservation work attending tasks
  - Specific training requests (e.g. Folkestone Town Sprucers)
  - Groups around High Meadow
  - Chainsaw and brushcutter courses for the best!



# Countryside Skills

- 8 short-term contracts (2 months) offered to those hand picked after training programmes. They will be chainsaw and brushcutter trained. Two cohorts of 4 each doing winter site management
- £25,000 staff time (organising training programmes and supervising short-term contracts), £25,000 for short-term contracts, £13,300 for external training, £7,000 for equipment

Must all be from socially disadvantaged groups



# Evaluation and Prospectus

Primarily delivered by CCCU

- Evaluation of all projects, evidencing value, impact on participants etc.
- Creation of prospectus that can be given to potential clients
- Workshops presenting results



# Interreg – isn't that an administrative burden?

It does have its challenges – but.....

- WCCP will be employing an administrator to do all of the paperwork (it won't land on Sue's desk)
- It's much easier than it was during Landscape and Nature for All
- 80% intervention rate
- Will cover costs of existing staff





# What happens next?

- Draft application ruminated on by partners
- Approval sought from WCCP staff and DDC hierarchy
- Application in October 2018
- Start early 2019

