



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



Big City Butterflies introduction

Project Background:

Big City Butterflies is a 4-year project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project will inspire Londoners to discover butterflies and moths and help connect them with nature and their local greenspaces.

- The delivery phase of the project began in May 2021 after a successful development phase in 2019.
- The project is working across 17 inner-London boroughs: Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge, Newham, Lewisham, Greenwich, Wandsworth, Southwark, Lambeth, City of London, Camden, Brent, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham.
- During the development phase, links were made with partners in the above boroughs such as site managers, local council staff, community groups, schools and local businesses.
- Flagship sites were selected for each borough based on factors such as diversity of Lepidoptera present, access and facilities, potential for improvement and links to communities/volunteer groups.
- In addition to this, a longer list of green spaces surrounding flagship sites were selected which we have called our satellite sites (e.g. schools, allotments, parks etc).
- Aims of Big City Butterflies:
 - To help Londoners discover and connect with butterflies, moths and the greenspaces that support them.
 - To improve the quality and connectivity of green spaces in London
 - To increase levels of recording and monitoring across London
 - To engage with new audiences
 - To enable BC to develop and test new approaches to conservation in an urban context
- The project has three main themes; **improving habitats**, **recording** butterflies and moths and **engagement** (inspiring Londoners to discover more about these amazing insects). The project activities, detailed below, fall into those three themes.
- The Big City Butterflies delivery team is made up of Ele Johnstone (Engagement Officer, ejohnstone@butterfly-conservation.org) and Steve Bolton (Conservation Officer, sbolton@butterfly-conservation.org). Ele is leading on engagement activities Steve is leading on conservation activities. We will both be delivering elements of the recording and monitoring activities.

BCB Project Activities:

Improving Habitats (Steve leading):

- Habitat management training workshops for staff/volunteers/community groups
- Site management advice visits
- Conservation budget for seeding, planting and turf stripping

Recording and Monitoring:

- ID & Recording training workshops staff/volunteers/community groups
- Helping to set up new butterfly monitoring schemes

Engagement (Ele leading):

- Engagement events for the local community/general public. These will include a diverse programme of events (aimed at a variety of audiences) such as walks, talks, moth trapping mornings, family gardening sessions, arts and crafts sessions and many more.
- As part of the programme of engagement, we will also be working with London-based artists to deliver community arts workshops.
- Primary School Workshops
- High footfall events/campaigns. E.g. attending a large event with a Big City Butterflies stand (festivals, shows, open days)

You can sign up to our newsletter at the bottom of the project webpage [here](#).