



Saltscape Landscape Partnership

Summary of Projects

Saltscape will deliver through four work programmes as outlined below:

1. Salt Legacy

Restoring and protecting the natural and built features of the Weaver Valley

Saltscape was created and shaped by salt and the chemical industry that grew around it. This legacy is a range of habitats, containing a unique mix of flora and fauna which Saltscape aims to restore enhance and protect. Salt has also left its mark on the built environment and there are historic features associated with salt extraction. Saltscape and its volunteers will help secure the future of both the natural and built environments. Projects will include:

Conservation of Ancient Woodland and Grassland	Advise, fund and undertake practical management of ancient woodland and grassland to protect wildlife and increase biodiversity across the Weaver Valley.
Water Vole Conservation	Create 60m of safe water vole habitat on the riverbank at Sutton Bridge enabling the animals to move along the river safely and colonise new habitat.
Wetland Habitat Improvement	Clear scrub, improve drainage and install boardwalks on an important wetland area at Hartford to increase biodiversity and create new public access.
Water Quality Improvement	Install five 100m long reed beds in Winsford and Northwich to provide valuable wildlife habitat and to increase the water quality of the river.
Vale Royal Swing Bridge Restoration	Repair the listed pedestrian swing bridge over Vale Royal Locks to bring the small lock back into operational use.
Historic Wall Repair	Restore the Grade II listed Three Locks Wall on the Trent & Mersey Canal at Middlewich and produce interpretation to highlight the historical significance of the site.
Heritage Milepost Restoration	Record and refurbish the original mileposts along the Weaver Navigation and the Trent & Mersey Canal.
Repair of a Heritage Building on the Canal (Newbridge)	Repair the heritage building on the island at Newbridge in Winsford.
Anderton Boat Lift Toll Building Renovation	Renovate the two toll buildings at Anderton Boat Lift to include an internal historical reconstruction of one building.
Saltscape Community Archaeology	Train volunteers in archaeological survey, excavation and analysis to investigate the history of salt production around Marston and Wincham in Northwich.
Geology in the Saltscape	Survey and designate 9 Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites and promote the unique geodiversity of Saltscape through two conferences.



2. Salt Way

Making the Weaver Valley more accessible for people

Although the salt landscape is well served by a network of towpaths and footpaths, there are some critical gaps and many people in the local community do not make use of them. Saltscape aims to encourage local people and visitors alike to explore the geology and chemistry of salt or engage in activities from rambling to cycling or boating. In particular, the scheme aims to widen the range of users, contributing to mental and physical well-being, skill learning and confidence building. Projects will include:

Vale Royal Towpath Improvement	Create a multi user pathway along the River Weaver between Vale Royal Locks and the Blue Bridge, linking the salt towns of Northwich and Winsford.
Petal Walks at Weaverham	Establish 4 new walking routes around the town of Weaverham so people can explore the landscape.
Marshall's Arm Pathway	Improve two paths through the local nature reserve to create better links between the river and Hartford Campus and Greenbank Housing Estate.
Saltscape Community Woodland Trail	Link the Anderton Boat Lift with the Lion Salt Works via a new waymarked trail through the heart of the salt landscape in Northwich.
Winsford History Trail	Develop a trail along the River Weaver in Winsford, past one of the UK's last remaining rock salt mines with interpretation panels and a pod-cast created by local secondary students.
Geodiversity walks and talks	Deliver geodiversity walks and talks to widen the public knowledge about local geology; the underpinning backbone to the salt landscape.

3. Salt People

Supporting the community to conserve the landscape

Many in the local community are unaware of the unique resource on their doorstep but without their involvement the area will never reach its potential as a living, thriving landscape. Saltscape aims to support many community groups, who in turn through the developing network will support and learn from each other. This will ensure the salt landscape is managed, maintained, respected and appreciated long into the future. Projects will include:

Saltscape Heritage Festivals and Performances	Organise an exciting programme of events and festivals to celebrate the salt heritage of the area over the next 3 years.
Conservation advice to landowners	Liaise with landowners within the project area to secure positive management for existing habitats and opportunities for habitat creation.



Saltscape Wildlife Recorders	Train volunteers in wildlife identification, tracking, surveying and data recording to build a better knowledge and understanding of some of the key wildlife of the area.
Community Volunteering	Provide training and support for community volunteers to learn new skills in both wildlife conservation and built heritage.
Saltscape Digital Media	Enable young people to record, interpret and promote Saltscape through 3 photography projects, 3 audio projects and 3 films.
Community Grant Scheme	Award grants of up to £1000 to support voluntary and community groups working to conserve, restore and celebrate the unique salt landscape.
Invasive Species Initiative	Control himalayan balsam with the help of trained volunteers and pilot a new floating pennywort control project along the River Weaver.

4. Salt Skills

Developing specialist skills in the community

The scheme aims to provide a range of exciting learning experiences, preserving heritage for the future.

Projects will include:

Saltscape Trainee Placements	Create 9 part time placements over the next three years to provide work experience for young people in heritage, conservation and environmental education.
Salt and Science Outdoor Classroom	Engage 25 local schools in a 3 day activity programme to explore the history of the salt industry and impact it has had on local landscape and wildlife.
Heritage and Conservation Training Courses	Deliver an annual programme of workshops and training days in skills relevant to the Weaver Valley ranging from hedge laying to traditional craft such as basket making.
Lime mortar courses	Run hydraulic lime mortar training courses and promote volunteering opportunities to assist in the restoration of heritage structures.
Canal boat painting courses	Organise traditional canal boat painting courses. School children can also have a go at learning to paint the traditional folk art during The Big Draw week.
Preserving the Past for the Future	Arrange visits to the Local Record Office in Chester and organise road shows so people can see the importance of local historical records and <u>understand how to access and add to them.</u>
History of the Salt Industry and Waterways	Deliver sessions which focus on the local history of the area's waterways with particular reference to the River Weaver.