

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Key Stage 3 Geography topic about National Parks
Employer Partnerships	✓	With National Trust Grade 1 listed park and garden
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Learning about development plans and the team of staff

Year 7 Geography students come up with ideas for development plans at Clumber Park

The Geography team at George Spencer Academy in Nottingham identified two topics it wished to bring to life in partnership with external organisations. One involved year 7 students learning about Sustainability and Conflict in the National Parks. The teacher brief explained the aim was, *'... to make the national park section of year 7 slightly more relevant to the lives of students, for them to understand that the conflicts that play out in the NPs are also manifested much closer to home, and that there are careers available inherently within the topic.'*

Existing classroom resources explored issues in the Peak District and Lake District National Parks, which many students had not visited. An approach to the National Trust's Clumber Park resulted in a project that engaged students in the site's 10-year investment programme, called 'Clumber Park Revisited'. Students were asked to come up with ideas to help achieve the National Trust's objectives of enhancing visitor experience at the same time as conserving the special qualities of the place. The project was given added relevance when a serious act of vandalism caused major damage to Clumber Park's iconic ornamental bridge that was built in 1760.

Students' ideas ranged from music festivals, light shows and litter management to woodland adventure areas, movie nights and paddle boarding. Students presented their ideas in the classroom and peer-selected the best, which were sent across to the education team at Clumber Park. A subsequent visit to the site gave students a chance to see the place first-hand and ask questions about how it is managed.

Benefits for the Students

- The project involved a large parkland area to the North of Nottingham, which many students are likely to know about or have visited
- Students felt the experience was real, not only involving a local National Trust site, but presenting a topical issue that had featured in the local news
- Students were motivated by working in groups and the element of competition, with only the best presentations being sent to the team at Clumber Park

Benefits for the School

- Incorporating information about 'Clumber Park Revisited' required only adaptation of existing classroom resources, which linked with previous units of learning
- The Geography team places importance and value on field study. The classroom project gave relevance and interest to a subsequent visit to Clumber Park
- Both the Geography projects were presented to the school's leadership team as examples of good practice when considering how to connect other curriculum subjects to real life

Benefits for the Employer

- The National Trust has a major commitment to an education programme that usually requires intensive support from its staff
- This project engaged a whole year group of students and required no preparation of sessions or visits to the school
- The students (and their families) were informed about the facilities at Clumber Park and the ambitious, long-term development plans

Career Skills Project – Clumber Park revitalised

THE NATIONAL TRUST

Our vision is for the Clumber Park landscape to be healthy, beautiful, rich in culture and nature, enjoyable – and make money as a result.
Peter Nixon, Programme Sponsor

And we need your ideas!

Problems and conflicts at Clumber Park that need solving

Key players/groups at clumber park

Because _____ might be in conflict with _____

Because _____ might be in conflict with _____

Because _____ might be in conflict with _____

The bridge
What happened?

It is important because

Clumber Park Revisited
A 10 Year Investment Framework

Year 7 students learning about 'Sustainability and Conflict in National Parks' were challenged to come up with ideas about the 10-year development plan for the National Trust's Clumber Park site. The best ideas were chosen by students in the classroom before being sent to the education team at Clumber Park and a subsequent field trip to visit the place.