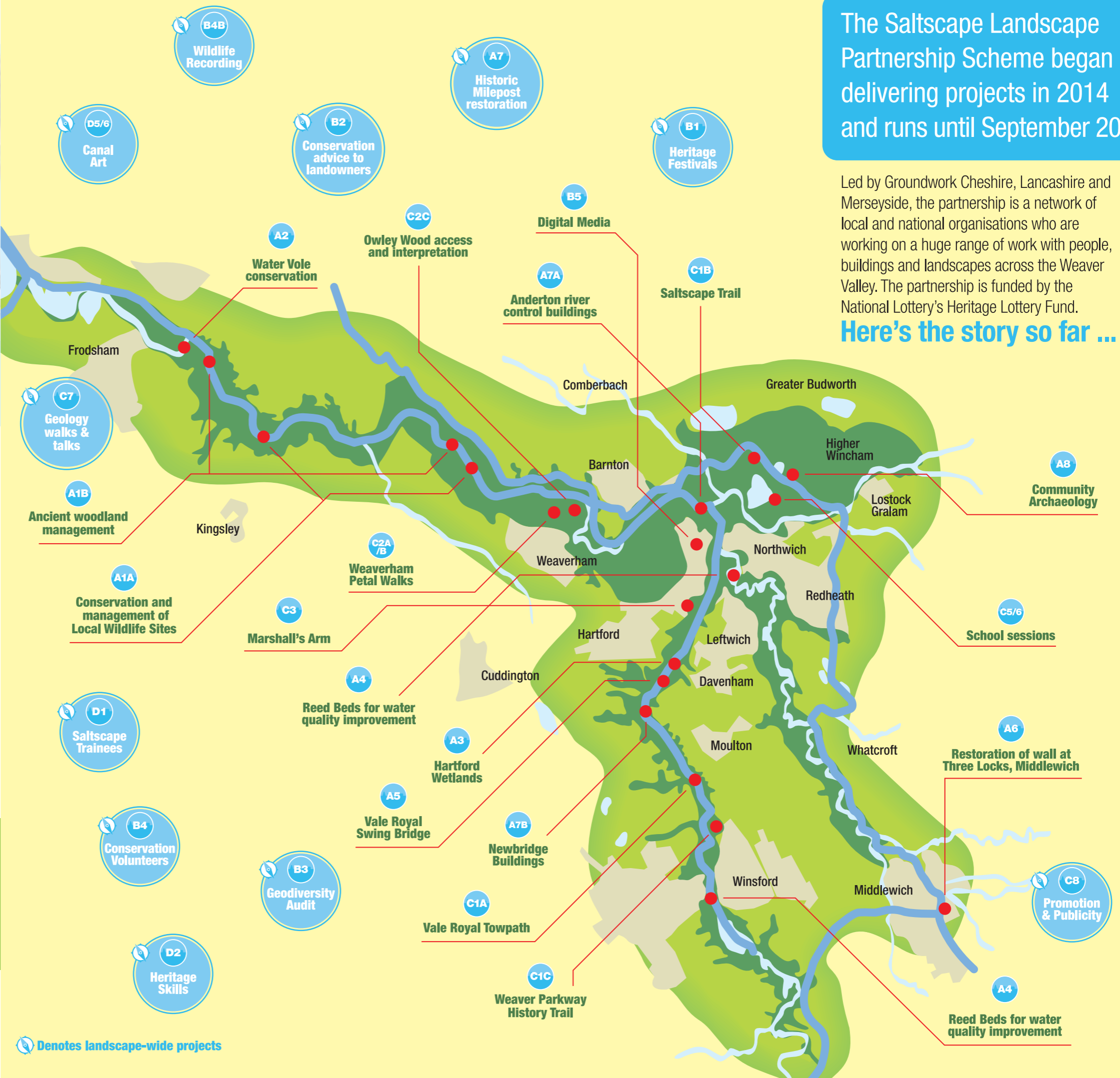




The Story so far...

The Saltscape Landscape Partnership Scheme began delivering projects in 2014 and runs until September 2017.

Led by Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside, the partnership is a network of local and national organisations who are working on a huge range of work with people, buildings and landscapes across the Weaver Valley. The partnership is funded by the National Lottery's Heritage Lottery Fund. **Here's the story so far ...**



To stay up-to-date with the latest news from the Saltscape Landscape Partnership Scheme follow us at:

[f/saltscape](https://www.facebook.com/saltscape) [/salt\\_scape](https://twitter.com/salt_scape)



Details of all the projects and how you can get involved can be found at [www.saltscape.co.uk](http://www.saltscape.co.uk) or contact a member of the Saltscape Team on 01606 723160 [info@saltscape.co.uk](mailto:info@saltscape.co.uk)



Photos: Nick Jones, Tom Marshall

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

### A1A Conservation and management of Local Wildlife Sites Cheshire Wildlife Trust

**Aim:** To bring grassland habitat sites into positive management by providing advice, writing management plans and delivering habitat management work. CWT have completed habitat management works on three sites. These have included scrub clearance, lagoon creation, Himalayan balsam control and stock control. Works are currently being planned at three more sites – including Weaver Parkway, Furey Tip and St Chad's Wood and Pasture, where volunteers are also supporting work.

### A1B Ancient woodland management The Mersey Forest

**Aim:** To engage with landowners of ancient woodland and provide advice, write management plans and deliver habitat management work to protect and enhance the ancient woodlands of the Cheshire salt landscape. Eight site visits have been made and woodland management advice given. Habitat management plans are being written and additional funding opportunities sought.



### A2 Water voles Cheshire Wildlife Trust

**Aim:** This project aims to manage 100m of riparian habitat and provide training for volunteers in water vole survey. Volunteers have been trained in water vole survey techniques and surveys of the works site, near Frodsham, will take place in summer 2017.

### A3 Hartford Wetlands Canal & River Trust

**Aim:** To improve the condition of a key wetland site along the Weaver Navigation at Hartford. The improvements will increase the biodiversity of the site and create new public access, with habitat works, surveys and boardwalk creation undertaken by community volunteers. So far two scrapes (hollows which gather water) have been created. A third scrape is due to be created this autumn / winter. The design for the boardwalk is currently underway, with works planned in 2017. Volunteers will be able to help with this project.

### A4 Hartford Wetlands Canal & River Trust

**Aim:** To install 500 metres of floating reed beds at sites in Winsford and Northwich where combined sewage outfalls lead to poor water quality in the river. Floating reed beds were installed by CRT in March 2016 and water quality monitoring is being undertaken by the Trust.



### A5 Vale Royal swing bridge restoration Canal & River Trust

**Aim:** To repair the swing bridge at Vale Royal Locks which forms part of several grade II listed structures at this site. The bridge forms an important pedestrian link across the Weaver Navigation. The bridge was removed in February 2016 and is currently in secure storage with CRT's contractor. Shot blasting of the structure revealed interesting makers marks which have been documented by CRT. Further refurbishment work needs to take place, with reinstatement of the bridge planned for late summer 2017.

### A6 Restoration of wall at Three Locks, Middlewich Groundwork / Middlewich Town Council

**Aim:** To restore the Grade II listed Three Locks Wall on the Trent & Mersey Canal, a designated Conservation Area. This project has been delayed and is currently being revised to take place in 2017.



### A7A Anderton river control buildings Canal & River Trust

**Aim:** To renovate two control buildings at the base of the Anderton Boat Lift. Refurbishment of the buildings has been completed. Initial drafts for the interpretation have been drawn up and installation of the boards will be undertaken by volunteers. Projected sounds within the buildings will reflect noises that would have been heard when the boat lift was in operation in the early part of the last century. They are now part of the guided Top of the World Tour around the site.

### A7B Newbridge buildings Canal & River Trust

**Aim:** To work with the community to repair a heritage building on an island at Newbridge in Winsford. Volunteers will receive training in lime mortar pointing and brickwork repairs led by an expert heritage trainer. Once repaired, the community will have use of the building.



### A7C Historic milestone restoration Saltscape delivery team (previously CRT)

**Aim:** To restore historic waterway mileposts. Volunteers will be trained to record and refurbish the original mileposts along the Weaver Navigation and Trent & Mersey Canal.

### A8 Community Archaeology Saltscape delivery team with University of Salford

**Aim:** To research and document less well-studied sites associated with the salt industry in the Weaver Valley. Targeted excavations will be undertaken and volunteers trained in archaeological techniques. The skills workshops included Finds Processing & Archiving, Landscape Survey, Historic Building Survey, Archaeological site techniques, and Historic Landscape Research. More talks, workshops and digs are planned for 2017.



## Making the Weaver Valley more accessible for people

### C1A Vale Royal towpath Canal and River Trust

**Aim:** To upgrade the final stretch of the River Weaver Navigation towpath between Northwich and Winsford. The section between Vale Royal Locks and the Blue Bridge will create a popular year-round multi-user pathway connecting the salt towns.



### C1B Saltscape Trail Friends of Anderton and Marbury

**Aim:** To create way-marked trails through Northwich woodlands interpreting the impact of salt on the present environment, including a new path to improve access between two of the areas iconic tourist attractions: Lion Salt Works and the Anderton Boat lift.

### C1C Weaver Parkway History Trail Friends of Weaver Parkway

**Aim:** A trail of five interpretation boards around Weaver Parkway in Winsford. The trail will highlight the rich history of the salt industry and ensure it is not forgotten. This project was completed in 2015.



### C2A/B Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham Trust

**Aim:** A scheme to improve access to heritage features around the village of Weaverham. Two trails for Weaverham are in the planning stages and the trail interpretation materials are being drawn up.

### C2C Owley Wood access and interpretation Cheshire Wildlife Trust / Friends of Owley Wood

**Aim:** To improve the access and interpretation within Owley Wood, encourage woodland regeneration and provide training to upskill the group. The local community will repair the site boundary and paths and install new steps, bridges and boardwalks to improve access through the woodland as well as coppice part of the woodland.



### C3 Marshall's Arm pathway Friends of Marshall's Arm

**Aim:** To make Marshall's Arm Local Nature Reserve more accessible by creating of new routes through the woodlands.

### C5/6 School sessions: Natural Environment & built heritage Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Lion Salt Works museum

**Aim:** A joint project to design and deliver a natural environment education package. The scheme will provide school children with in-school sessions learning about the natural environment and science of salt, followed by trips to Anderton Nature Park and Lion Salt Works museum. Cheshire Wildlife Trust will work with 600 school children, provide two INSET days for teachers, and a resource pack. This project delivered its second year of school sessions in 2016. So far CWT and LSW have worked with 405 children over 16 classes and from across 9 primary schools.

### C7 Geology walks and talks Cheshire RIGS

**Aim:** A series of walks and talks to give an introduction to geodiversity in general and specific to the area. Eight guided walks and 12 talks will be provided, with a target of 240 attendees.

### C8 Promotion and publicity Saltscape delivery team

**Aim:** To promote and publicise the Saltscape to a wide audience. This has supported the design of a Saltscape logo, branding, website and social media, as well as leaflets and booklets promotional material and photography.

## Developing specialist skills in the community

### D1 Saltscape trainees Saltscape delivery team / Cheshire Wildlife Trust

6 trainee placements will happen over the life of the Landscape Partnership.

### D2 Heritage skills Saltscape delivery team

**Aim:** A wide range of opportunities for people in the Saltscape area to attend talks, walks and workshops to raise awareness and show people new skills. To date, Saltscape have held over 35 bookable events attended by nearly 350 people.



### D5/6 Canal art Day Star Theatre

**Aim:** To enable people to explore a traditional local art form based on the waterway network which serviced the salt industry in the area. This project will deliver 20 half day workshops to primary school children and two full day courses for adults.

## Supporting the community to conserve the landscape

### B1 Heritage Festivals Saltscape delivery team

**Aim:** To ensure a Saltscape presence at a number of local festivals and events within the Saltscape area. The Saltscape team have attended eight of the Weaver Valley heritage festivals in 2015 and 2016. These have included Winsford Salt Fair and Regatta, Middlewich Folk and Boat, Frodsham festival and Heritage Open Days across the Saltscape area.

The team have also attended other local events, such as the Pedal Power Festival in Northwich, events at Lion Salt Works museum and the Royal Cheshire County Show. We are always looking for volunteers to help us on our stalls.



### B2 Conservation advice to landowners Cheshire Wildlife Trust

**Aim:** To liaise with landowners within the Saltscape area to secure positive management for habitats and identify opportunities for habitat restoration /creation.

- Advice has been given to 7 landowners and 2 stakeholders at 6 sites.
- Management prescriptions have been written for 5 Local Wildlife Sites. Greenheys Farm, Acton Bridge Meadows and Marston Flashes.
- Advice has been given to 1 site along the River Dane.
- 3 Wildlife Sites have been brought into positive management.

### B3 Geodiversity audit and conferences Cheshire RIGS

**Aim:** To undertake an audit of geodiversity in the salt landscape and recording of the findings. Six sites have been audited so far:

- Pickmere Lake
- Ashton and Neumann's Flash
- Adelaide Mine Works Site
- the Northwich to Middlewich Brine Run
- Holford moss
- Shipbrook Flash.

Two of these sites (Ashton & Neumann's and Pickmere Lake) have been sent to the local authority to have them designated as sites of geological importance.



### B4 Conservation volunteers Saltscape delivery team

**Aim:** Organisation and delivery of volunteer work parties to carry out conservation tasks on sites within the salt landscape. Work days will focus on achieving outcomes for other strands of this project such as woodland management, wetland creation, species and habitat survey work. A total of 102 days have been volunteered overall.



### B4B Wildlife Recording rECOrd

**Aim:** To train volunteers in species ID, survey techniques and data recording. Wildlife recording events will be organised to enable volunteers to utilise new skills and to target areas of the Saltscape that are lacking in wildlife records. The events planned for the 2017 season are focused more on data generation with a particular aim of filling gaps in data for the Saltscape Project area. In the last quarter a dragonfly training day was held, and our trainee Fiona organised a follow-up survey for volunteers to practise their skills!

### B5 Digital media and promotion Saltscape delivery team

**Aim:** To work with the local community to teach multimedia skills to young people. The participants will use the new skills they have learnt to document and advertise the heritage of the salt landscape. Two video projects and one graphics project have been completed with students at Mid-Cheshire college. One audio training session was provided to Lion Salt Works volunteers. Planned projects include:

- Audio project working with community groups in Winsford
- Film projects working with Mid-Cheshire college students
- Photography projects working with community groups



### B6 Community grants

**Aim:** A fund to support Friends groups and others with training and small donations for running costs/projects. The fund aims to support eight groups. This project has been delayed and is currently being revised to take place in 2017.



### B8 Animate

**Aim:** A one year programme of performance events that celebrates the salt landscape via the rich and diverse nature of performing arts. The project will provide opportunities for groups to explore heritage sites in the Saltscape area through performance arts (e.g. spoken word/poetry/music/drama). Workshops will be provided, with performances being given at the four heritage festivals in 2017.

