



Somerset Green Pathways for Life

Background information

Froglife is a national wildlife conservation charity that specialises in the conservation of amphibians, reptiles and their habitats. We believe that the long-term success of conservation efforts can only be maximised through the inclusion of people from wide ranging backgrounds, and one of Froglife's defining features is our commitment to involving people in every aspect of our work. Our goal is to make nature accessible to everyone, and the activities that we deliver are designed to encourage and enable as many people as possible to play an active role. This includes people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, people with dementia, people with mental health issues and young offenders. We aim to maximise the benefits to us all of working and volunteering in green spaces, both mentally and physically.

Somerset Green Pathways for Life aims to enhance the lives of people living with dementia in Somerset through conservation activities.

There are approximately 8,720 people with dementia in Somerset, rising to about 11,400 by 2021 (Source: Somerset Choices, 2019).

1. Project aims and objectives

- To provide practical wildlife-oriented activities to people living with dementia in Somerset, to increase their confidence, transferable conservation skills and emotional, social and physical wellbeing.
- To deliver at least 60 sessions each year, with an average of 8 people per session
- To improve at least 3 sites for wildlife each year

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- To work with at least 4 different support groups or newly created groups each year
- To evaluate the project and share learning within Froglife and beyond

2. Project activities

People with dementia and their carers will be at the heart of the project. The Project officer will consult them to find out which activities are most appropriate. The Project Officer will then develop tailored choices of activities for people to choose from, including:

- Creating a dementia friendly garden (with distinctive scents and colours people with dementia retain)
- Wildlife gardening
- Bird box building
- Pond, hibernacula or bog garden creation
- Pond dipping
- Wildlife Photography
- Butterfly/bee observation
- Willow weaving
- Bird feeding and identification
- Tree bark rubbings and stories
- Creative activities, eg clay modelling

3. Partnership working

The Project Officer will liaise with a wide range of partners in Somerset to ensure that this project complements other work. Partners are likely to include: the Alzheimers Society, Dementia café leaders, Side by Side, potential community venues, Somerset Nature and Wellbeing project and Somerset County Council.

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