



SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST



Restharrow Scrape Development Project

RESTHARROW SCRAPE PROJECT feedback from the management group:



I volunteered a considerable extra amount of time during the development phase of the Project, where my individual contribution was to handle the Planning Application through to a successful outcome. I had never done anything like this before so it was both a demanding and an interesting task to see through to completion.

Since the Project has been 'up and running' I have assisted as a member of the Observatory Trust's Conservation Team in such activities as fencing and gate installation, done in order to control livestock grazing in the area. I have continued to lead birdwatching walks for members and a growing number of visitors on most Sunday mornings, which always include a visit to the new Scrape and have assisted with the growing number of school groups which are visiting the site. As Chair of the Trust, I have given my full support to the continued funding of an Assistant Warden from January 2022, a major part of whose role is to develop our education and outreach work linked to Restharrow Scrape.

Ken Chapman

I have been a regular volunteer with SBBOT since 2014 in a 'meet and greet' role at the Field Centre. In 2018 I was asked to join a group working on developing the Restharrow Scrape Project as I'd had

previous experience of setting up projects in the voluntary sector and raising funds for them. Following the successful funding of the project I was asked to become a member the group managing its implementation.

I have found this an extremely interesting project in which to be involved and have enjoyed working towards a common goal with the other members of these groups, most of whom are trustees of SBBOT. During the implementation stage I have willingly volunteered my time to help with the project's management and have gained knowledge and experience in the process. In particular, I have learnt about the heritage – the habitats involved and the wildlife that might be associated with them. I've also I learnt about evaluating a project, a process in which I'd had only limited experience previously.

More than anything else, because the members of the working groups and others more peripherally involved have developed as a community, I've benefited from being a part of that. I've enjoyed explaining it to our volunteers, other members and visitors, helping to build wider 'ownership' of what we have been doing.

Roger Jones

It has been an interesting process. In my mind it was essential that the land was acquired to safeguard the Observatory's future.

Bob Dean Treasurer

I have been involved with Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory in some way on and off for over 50 years.

Since 2014 I had become more engaged with the Observatory again – volunteering with the moth recording, ringing and meet and greet teams. Eventually I was asked to become a Trustee.

In this role I was aware of the opportunity that presented itself of improving what I felt was a less than effective Scrape. Somehow, I became the leader of the project to buy and improve the field in which the Scrape sits for both birds and their human observers. Together with Roger Jones I compiled the application to the National Lottery for funds. This was quite the learning curve in working out what we knew and what we needed support with.

Once we had secured the funds from National Lottery and several thousands of pounds from organising various activities, applying to Trusts (this one helped by finding others with knowledge and contacts), and our adopt-a-plot project, we were able to begin the project.

We had a management team of six plus teams working on each approved purpose. These all reported to the management team which I led. It was great to expand my organisational and management skills in a completely new context. I learnt a lot about how to keep it all manageable and ensure relevance of time spent. I enjoyed being part of a very committed group of people to achieve a worthwhile end.

Sally Hunter