



WELCOME

VALE OF WHITE HORSE CLIMATE ACTION FUND

WEBINAR

07 JUNE 2023

The Climate Action Fund

- Supporting action to protect the planet
- Engaging whole communities
- Spreading awareness
- Mitigating climate change, as well as adaptation measures
- Wide focus – we welcome many different types of projects
- Don't need to be an expert to apply
- Organisations can apply again, and for more than one project



Scoring applications

1. Increasing **awareness and knowledge** of the climate emergency
 2. Community **benefit** and building **community connections**
 3. Embracing **working in partnership**
 4. Long term **benefits** to the **community** and **climate** as a result of the project outcomes
- 0-3 points available for each area of focus



Example

- **Project: Establishment of a community Electric Vehicle (EV) car club** – grant funding to support research and foundations
- Community need/benefit evidenced through current transport links and nature of a rural village
- Had already held an information event on car-sharing
- Community questionnaire
- Involving local school in publicising the project
- Climate, economic, social benefits



Top Tips

- Upload as many additional documents as possible
- Ensure all permissions and licenses are in place at time of your application
- Strong community engagement alongside energy infrastructure projects



**Vale
of White Horse**

District Council

Application Form



Preparation and tips

- Online application
- Give yourself plenty of time to complete your application
- Read the guidance notes provided for the questions
- Ensure you have all documents ready to add to the application form
- You can save the progress of the application form and return to it at another point in time
- Application window closes at **midday Friday 14 July 2023**
- Once application states 100% complete click return to summary and click on **submit application**

Key documents

- Bank statement no more than 2 months old (screenshots acceptable for online banking)
- Letter of authority if applying on another organisations behalf
- Spreadsheet with breakdown of project costs
- Site location plan for planting projects

If you have **not** received grant funding from us in the last 12 months or selected for audit we also require:

- Governing document e.g. constitution
- Detailed financial records of income and expenditure or projections for new organisations

The application form process can be daunting, but if you are unsure of how to answer a question or require any support please contact us, we are here to help

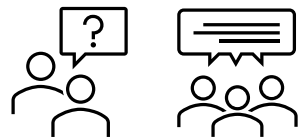
Application Steps

Number	Page	Est. time to complete	Status	Required documents	
1	Eligibility	15 mins	Complete	1 / 1	Edit
2	Organisation and contact details	5 mins	Complete		Edit
3	Climate Action Project details	20 mins	Complete		Edit
4	Community Benefit & Partnerships	15 mins	Complete		Edit
5	Costs and funding	20 mins	Complete	1 / 1	Edit
6	Declaration and submission	5 mins	Complete		Edit

[Submit application](#)



Q&A





Hinksey Trail Regeneration Project

The evolution of a local volunteer
conservation group



The Site

- Local Wildlife Site
- 12 hectares calciferous fen.
- 2km footpaths
- 400m boardwalk

2020 – original aims

- repair broken boardwalk to allow continued public access during lockdown
 - cut back vegetation
-

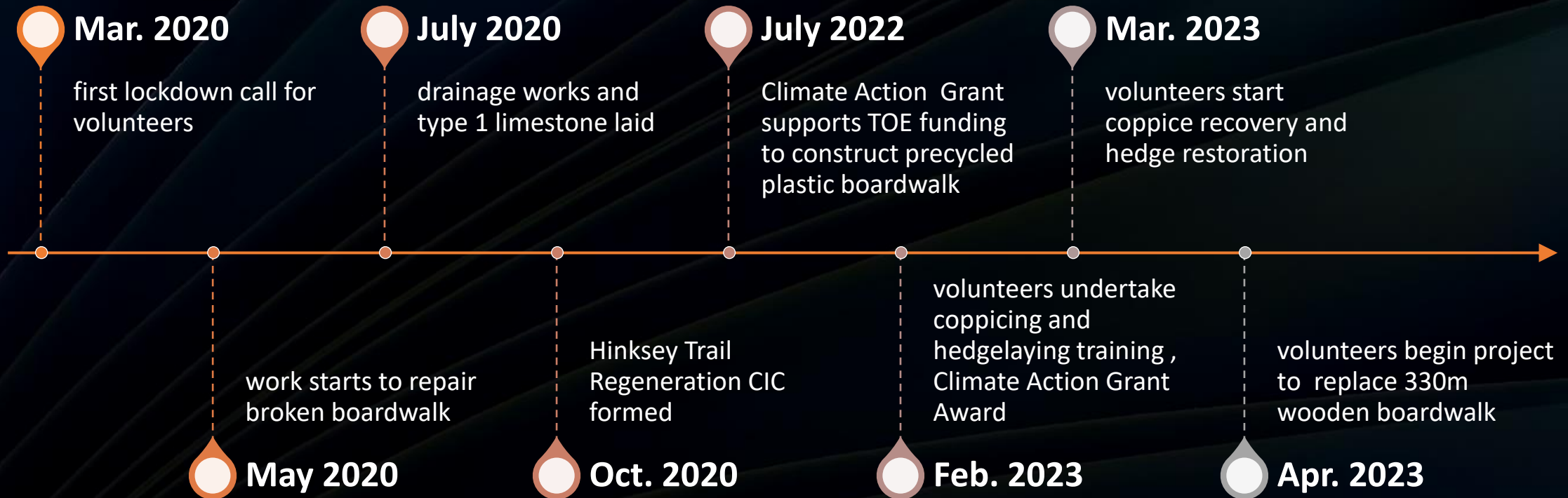


2023 – new aims

- Replace all remaining boardwalk with new sustainable timber construction method
 - Start laying overstood hawthorn to create new hedges
 - Restore coppice
 - Re-route existing paths to allow for grazing
 - Expand reserve to ad 2.5 hectares of mixed woodland
 - Embark on 10-year programme of woodland management
-



Timeline



A photograph of two men in a forest, both wearing white hard hats and carrying large logs. The man in the foreground is wearing a blue sweater and red gloves, while the man in the background is wearing a grey jacket and red gloves. They are standing next to a large pile of cut logs. The forest has many bare trees and some green foliage on the ground.

The Volunteers

- 18 Active members
- Ages 35-69
- Sessions on Thursday and Saturday mornings
- Strong social side to the group
- Keen to expand conservation knowledge and project scope
- Advocates for nature

Lessons learned

- Sociability as important as labour
 - Share achievements on WhatsApp on a sessional basis
 - Encourage people to develop skills at a pace they are comfortable with
 - Provide professional training to expand scope of project
 - Build strong relationships with other groups (e.g. FHT)
 - Gain confidence of funding partners
 - Use social media to get buy-in from local people
-



Social Media

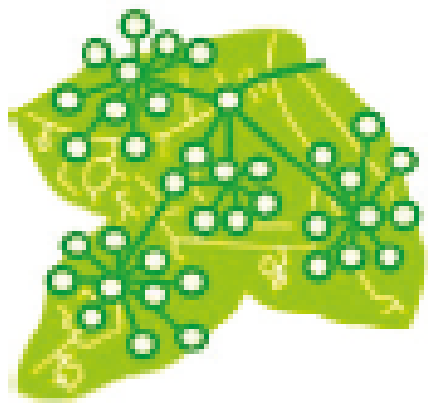
- Facebook group 455 members
 - Instagram 714 followers
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Hinksey Trail Regeneration CIC

[www.hinkseytrail .org](http://www.hinkseytrail.org)



SUSTAINABLE BOTLEY

The Botley Energy Advice Project



SUSTAINABLE BOTLEY

- A small voluntary group, based in Botley, just to the west of Oxford
- A member of the Oxfordshire CAGs network and of Communities for a Zero Carbon Oxford
- Working on energy, green spaces, 'bring and take'
- <https://sustainablebotley.uk/>

The Energy Project

Two linked pieces of work:

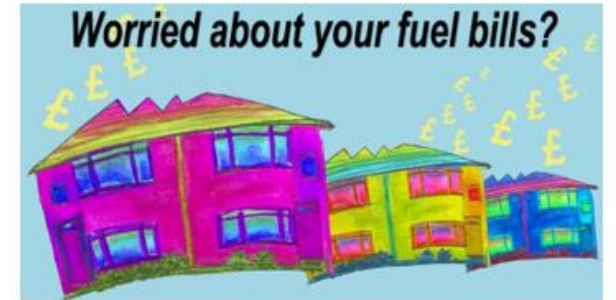
- **A first small project funded by North Hinksey Parish Council** to carry out energy assessments (linked to EPCs) for six representative houses in Botley.
- **The main project funded by Vale of White Horse D.C.**

Built on a successful home energy event '*Stay Warm, Save Energy*' in March 2022 and utilised some existing skills.

The Vale-funded work

Our initial intentions:

- Training local people to offer home energy advice
- Helping people carry out “DIY” measures such as loft insulation
- Carrying out 50 home energy advice visits and advise homeowners how to stay warm & save energy
- Providing advice to all households on how to save energy and find more information
- Improving local awareness through enhanced communication



Botley Energy Advice Day

**Come along to find out how you can save energy
and cut your bills**

- Hear about energy surveys of six typical Botley homes
- Short films on saving energy in Oxfordshire homes
- Exhibition
- Energy advisors to answer your questions.
- Practical tips and advice
- Tea and coffee – all welcome!

Sat. Nov. 26th Seacourt Hall

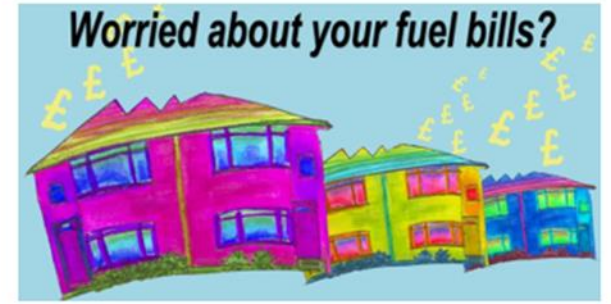
11am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 3pm
(morning and afternoon sessions)

Organised by Sustainable Botley with support from
Vale District Council and North Hinksey Parish Council.



What we did

- Surveyed 8 homes (NHPC funding)
- Trained three local people on validated courses who are committed to continuing volunteer support
- Published 3 articles in the Sprout, our local newsletter
- Held a successful event in November 2022
- Engaged the local community, e.g., via parish council, Annual Parish Meeting, various community groups, including Senior Lunch Club
- Delivered a postcard to every household outlining what we are offering and inviting people to get in touch
- A report on the home energy assessments



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Two main audiences

- **People on low incomes – fuel poverty work**
- **People with money to spend / invest on retrofit**

The Postcard

One side talking about energy costs and basic saving

ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR FUEL BILLS?

We can offer help here in Botley.

Are you paying too much?

Are you aware what grants and support are available?

Could you use less energy and still stay warm?

Most homes can save 5-10% of your energy costs.
We can call or visit you to talk about your energy use and bills, and offer advice on getting financial support.

- Email us: **sustainablebotley@gmail.com**
- For more information visit:
www.sustainablebotley.uk
- Call on **07421 083950** *(and leave a message)*



SUSTAINABLE BOTLEY

SEE ALSO...

- For advice on saving energy and money go to:
bit.ly/Oxfordwinterwarmer
- Better Housing Better Health
0800 107 0044 (FREEPHONE)
- Citizens Advice
0808 278 7909



And one side
talking about
retrofit and
improvements

ARE YOU CONSIDERING HOME IMPROVEMENTS?

If you want to invest in having a home that is warm and cheap to heat we can help you to:

- Identify where heat is being lost
- Understand what would make your home fit for the future
- Find ways to cut energy waste, cold spots and mould
- Cut your 'carbon footprint'



SUSTAINABLE BOTLEY

Sustainable Botley is a local voluntary group. Our work on saving energy is supported by North Hinksey Parish Council and Vale of White Horse District Council.

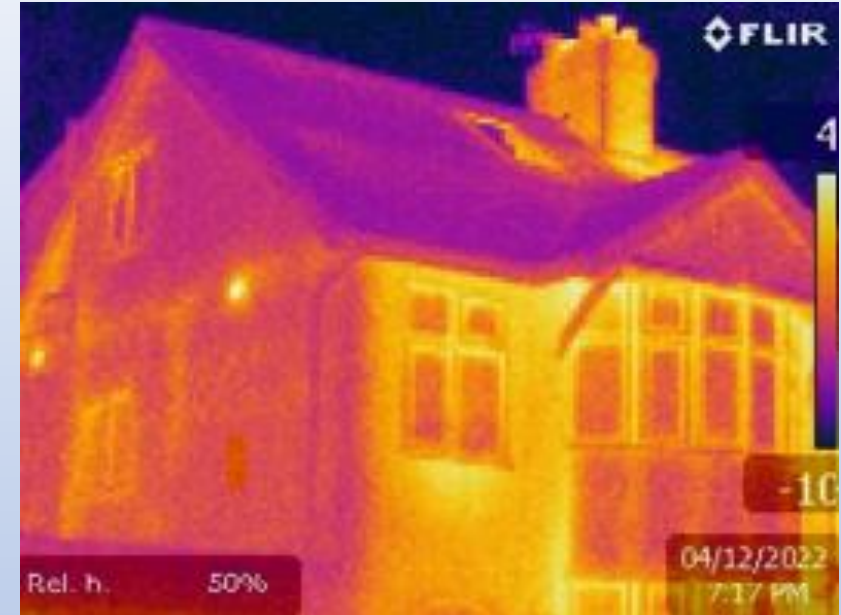
We can call or visit you. Our surveys and advice can help you to get started and find other support:

- For more information visit:
www.sustainablebotley.uk
- Email us: **sustainablebotley@gmail.com**
- Phone **07421 083950**
(and leave a message)



Some extra work:

- We did thermal imaging visits for a number of homes, during which we were able to show occupants where energy is being lost, and what they can do about it.
- We identified clearly that there is scope for many homes to consider switching heat pumps, whether or not there are already energy efficient, thus challenging conventional wisdom



The report

This enabled us to characterise the energy challenges characteristic of houses typical in the parish and produce a report on these homes that considered their energy balances and the best possibilities for retrofitting.

Sustainable Botley



Home Energy Assessments

**An evaluation of energy use and energy saving opportunities
in eight typical Botley homes**

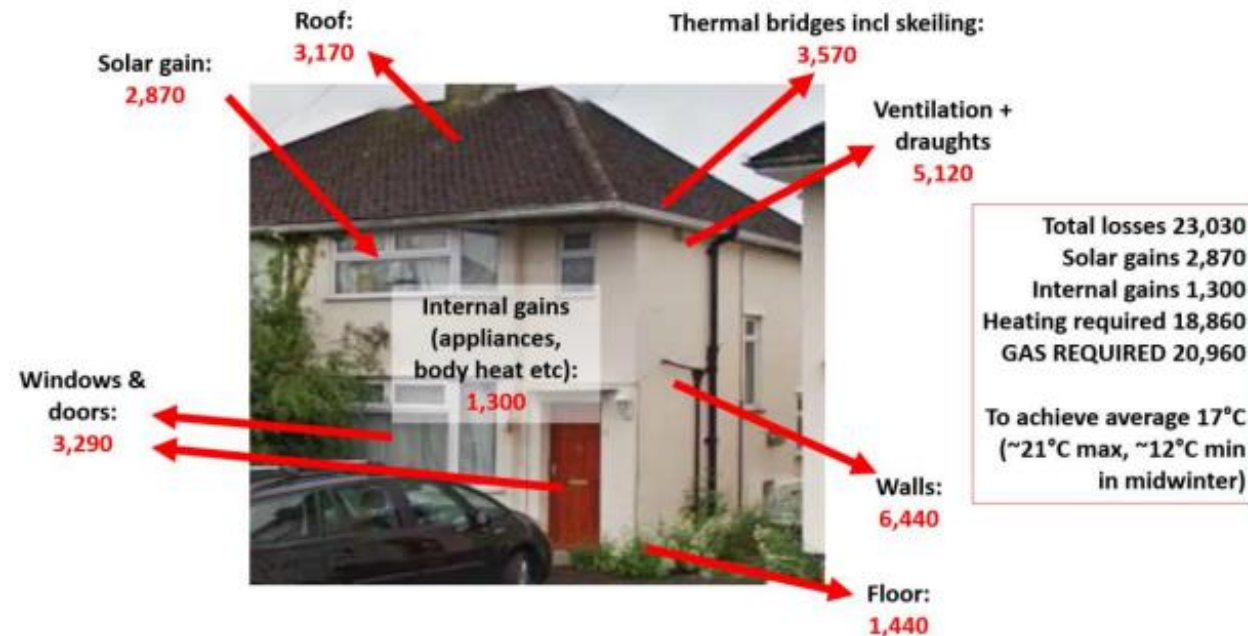
A report for Sustainable Botley by Laurie Michaelis

March 2023

Heat balance

Central to calculating the heating requirement for a home, and to identifying where the main savings can be made, is the principle of the **heat balance**, which can be seen in the figure below. This is the balance for a 1930s 3-bedroom semi in Elms Rise.

Heat balance – kWh/year



For this house it is clear that the biggest opportunities for saving energy are insulating the walls and improving airtightness. The loft is already insulated but additional insulation would make a significant difference at low cost. The windows and doors account for 14% of losses, but they are already double glazed. Replacing them with high performance triple glazing and insulated doors

The learning

- Most interest in our work came from people with money to spend; less from low-income homes
- We identified scope for future work that can help to further our goals of helping our community reduce their carbon footprints, including:
 - An enthusiasm for retrofit advice within our community, which we intend to act on in future projects
 - Feedback that householders are thinking more seriously about heat pumps
 - Less interest from households on what simple/low cost actions can be undertaken to help them save energy

Getting to the low-income homes

We are not the only group facing this problem. We will be working to:

- Work with existing organisations that actively engage with older / low income people and are trusted
- Help them understand and get what they are entitled to
- Engage with faith-based organisations
- Make links with social housing providers

Next steps

- Continue to build our skills in engagement, retrofit, fuel poverty
- Develop better links with other local organisations
- Publicity now to start to get people active on energy saving this autumn
- Build further links with other groups working on these issues.

THANK YOU!

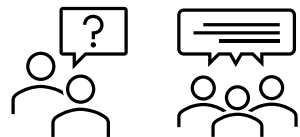
Chris Church chrischurch@cooptel.net



SUSTAINABLE BOTLEY



Q&A



Thank you!



If you have any further questions please email
climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk or
grants@southandvale.gov.uk or you can ring **01235 422405**

The deadline for applications:
midday Friday 14 July 2023