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The CANAPE Spring Newsletter - Eagles, Bogs, and a BBQ

Since February, things have progressed well in the CANAPE project. Our Citizens Scientists have been out on the marshes, extracting soil cores to help understand the hydrology and history of the site. After delays caused by the dry weather, the first moss spreading has taken place in Lille Vildmose, bringing the site closer to its original state. At the same time, our excavators on Hickling Broad have done impressive work to complete the first season of work as planned.

To coincide with the coming of spring and the odd patch of sunshine, the first paludi-product of the project has begun production. A charcoal burner was set-up in the Broads, and quickly converted large amounts of waste wood to Charcoal, ready to test with the public as the summer season begins. As a first product test, a small BBQ was held using the first load of Charcoal.



Our first Citizen Scientists are out and about in the marshes, taking soil cores to help build an accurate picture of peat depths in various areas. Students from East Norfolk High School are carrying out the work, taking cores and inputting the data into a specially designed app to record the information.

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What do you do when the ground is too soft for wheels, and your material is too heavy for a backpack? A water level equal to the surface is good for the environment, but a tricky level to move equipment around. The solution? Bring a sledge and tow it in with a tracked excavator.

The dragging of moss onto the site at Lille Vildmose marked the next stage in the restoration process, seeding the site with material to return it to a natural state.

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Something we probably all associate with the coming of summer is the scent of charcoal as the BBQ is fired up. However most of the Charcoal we burn in Europe is imported from around the world, and not necessarily from sustainable woods or manufacturing processes. The start of April marked the arrival of a Biochar burner in the Broads, to make sustainable Charcoal from conservation waste. Click the link below to see a short video of our work.

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At the end of October 2018, a 20 tonne excavator plunged its bucket into the cold water of Hickling Broad, and began the process of carving out a trench. Five months later, a hectare of new land is rising from the water. Nine 50m long geotubes have been put in place, and then pumped full of sediment dredged from the bottom of the Broad. Now we can have a good impression of the scale of the new landscape, even if we still have a lot of work ahead of us before we can call it complete.

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The CANAPE partners came together amid the beautiful surroundings of Lille Vildmose in Himmerland, Denmark. The partners focused on finalising the carbon measuring methodology for the project, and identifying strategies to allow the project to have a long lasting legacy.

We also had the chance to see the local wildlife, including two White-tailed Eagles.

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