



Press Release | 10 April 2014

Students dig in at Carmel College

Over 1000 trees have been planted at a St.Helens college as part of a project to transform the local landscape.

The scheme at Carmel College has included pond restoration and pathworks, wildflower seeding, raised bed growing areas, and the creation of woodland areas within the grounds.

The work was carried out by St.Helens Borough Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, John McIvor at Ecolibrium and eager students from the college. It was funded by a grant of £16,000 as part of the St.Helens Landscape Fund, which is being managed by The Mersey Forest on behalf of St.Helens Council with an additional contribution coming from the college.

Linda Carr from Carmel College said: "The students in the Foundation Learning department have really enjoyed getting involved in the planting process and have gained valuable experience in caring for the environment.

"The whole college community will benefit from the changes this project will provide."

The funding for the work has come from United Utilities via the St.Helens Landscape Fund – a scheme to invest in communities affected by the construction of the West East Link Pipeline, which carries water between Prescot and Bury. It has also been supported by the National Big Tree Plant Campaign, as part of The Mersey Forest.

Brian Tollitt from United Utilities said: "We're delighted that the fund is continuing to support positive work in St Helens. It's great that the college have been able to use it to deliver their plans to improve their own environment and that this will also benefit the community which uses the footpaths running alongside the site."

ENDS

Media contact: Laura Johnson, tel. 01925 859066 / 07770 735755

Notes to editors:

St.Helens Landscape Fund

This Section 106 fund was made available by United Utilities as a result of the construction of the new West East Link Pipeline. It has provided for 12 landscape enhancement and community infrastructure projects in St.Helens. The fund is now closed to new applications, but you can read more about it at www.sthelenslandscapefund.co.uk

The Mersey Forest

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for more than 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted 9 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Environment Agency and businesses.

www.merseyforest.org.uk