

THE STANLEY SMITH (UK) HORTICULTURAL TRUST

Application Summary Sheet (please do not extent beyond one page)

Contact details

Name: Contact details withheld to comply with Data Protection Act

Organisation: Liverpool Cathedral

E-mail:

Address:

Telephone number:

About your project

Please provide a description of the project which you are applying for a grant for. Use the box below to provide a short high level synopsis and continue on separate sheets with a wider description as necessary.

Liverpool Cathedral is host to one of the largest city centre green spaces. We want to expand on this to increase biodiversity of our wider green spaces, through a partnership with the National Wildflower Centre, who will create new wildflower meadows on our site. This will increase insect pollinators, support bird populations, and offset our carbon footprint. During the pandemic we have seen increased use of our gardens and reported positive impacts on wellbeing. This horticultural transformation of dull grass to joyous colour with the benefits of biodiversity and carbon capture, and educational benefits of wild plants and new habitats for pollinators, residents and visitors.

Please identify the category of the Trust's objectives which you believe your project meets.

To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity

Please describe personnel who will be participating in the project (if appropriate).

Liverpool Cathedral: Rev Canon Dr Ellen Loudon, Director of Social Justice. Yvonne Pearson, Education Officer. // Northern Flowerhouse: Polly Moseley, Producer and Researcher, Liverpool John Moores University / Richard Scott, Director National Wildflower Centre, and Chair of UK Urban Ecology forum.

Please describe your long-term plans for the future of the project once the grant has been used (if applicable).

Liverpool Cathedral has a contract with a grounds maintenance provider, and will continue to collaborate with The National Wildflower Centre, Northern Flowerhouse to maintain the gardens after the first year. The project will work to ensure creative conservation techniques and good horticultural practice are an integral part of the Cathedral's strategic planning.

Financial Information

Please attach all relevant financial information such as expected other income and proposed expenditure.

Sum applied for: £5,000

Please send your application (including this cover sheet and any supporting documents) in electronic form, hard copy or both to the following addresses:

Postal address (hard copies): Dr David Rae, Director, Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

E-mail address (electronic copies): d.rae@rbge.org.uk



About Liverpool Cathedral

Liverpool Cathedral is more than an iconic building. It's a vibrant, active place that the people of the city, regions and world encounter in many ways. As a Cathedral we face out into Liverpool and we see our mission as engaging with the city and the needs and welfare of its people whether they hold a Christian faith or not.

In the last two years we have reflected on our mission and ministry. This led to us seeing the word Encounter become of increasing importance to us. Encounter is how a gala dinner relates to a school trip. Encounter is how a tourist visit relates to an awards ceremony. Encounter is how they all relate to our main purpose of prayer, worship and service. People encounter us in many ways.

In 2019, Liverpool Cathedral had 800,000 visitors and we are rated as the third best thing to see in the city on TripAdvisor (8,900 reviews at 4.5 stars). Our recent visitor survey showed us that 73% of visitors come to the Cathedral to enjoy the atmosphere, and 67% of people come for reflection. Liverpool Cathedral's Gardens and St James Garden are some of the largest city centre green spaces available. During the first lockdown we saw more people than ever before taking the opportunity to enjoy our nature and relax in Liverpool Cathedral's Gardens.

Wildflowering Liverpool Cathedral

Wildflowering Liverpool Cathedral, brings together the new energy of wilding with real horticultural purpose, creative conservation experience, and cultural connections. This will see us work in partnership with the National Wildflower Centre's Northern Flowerhouse movement (www.scouseflowerhouse.com) to create new wildflower meadows in our grounds. Having a wildflower meadow enables us to increase the biodiversity of our green space and in doing so, we will increase insect pollinators, support bird populations, and offset our carbon footprint. Throughout the year our gardens are a sanctuary for those in high density housing, and/or with no disposable income to travel elsewhere.

It will also link to a network of growing projects in terms of making the Cathedral a transformative example as part of a growing eco-diocese and eco-parishes movement.

This also links to the National Wildflowers Centre's work at the Eden Project, and also with a long connection to reverence for biodiversity and horticultural excellence from the time of Christopher Lloyd, (who visited Liverpool for his MEADOWS book) to Fergus Garrett today, at Great Dixter gardens; as well as "brownfield" ecology project work, through urban ecology partners nationwide, including John Little. This work is particularly being highlighted through special sessions as part of the International Nature of Cities Festival (February 22nd-26th 2021).

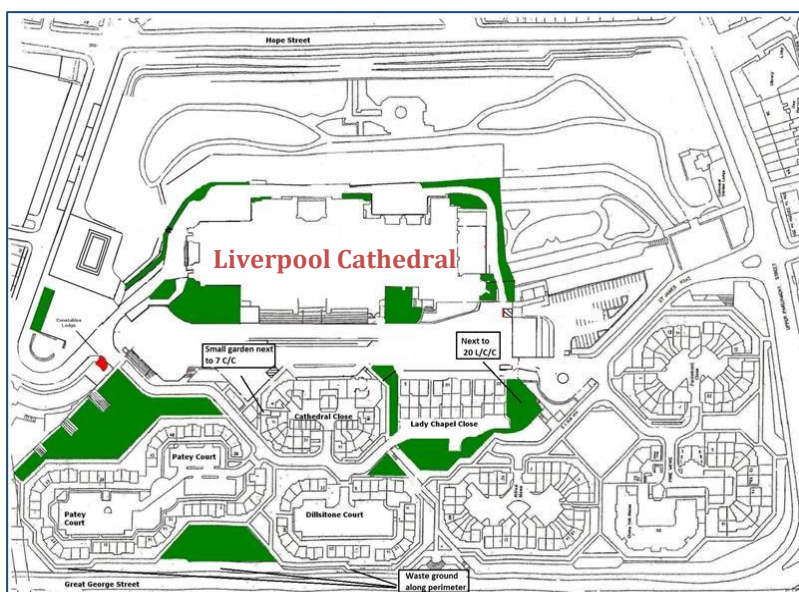
Critically, all the above links directly to responding to Sustainable Development Goals - particularly SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Liverpool City Council is one of the few Cities to voluntarily agree to report on these targets. The Director of UN Habitat herself, **Maimunah Mohd Sharif** came to Liverpool in October 2018 to celebrate World Cities Day, and visited Liverpool Cathedral as part of the celebration.

Since the Church landholding is so large, the work and links of this work to the new Liverpool Cathedral Masterplan is very important and sets precedent and sends messages to the larger Church estate nationally.

This project at the Cathedral helps define a critical link between biological conservation and horticultural practice as a pragmatic response to the climate emergency and extinction crisis. The importance of care and stewardship also links to the longevity of green space around the Cathedral, e.g. the late Tony Bradshaw FRS, a founder of ecological restoration set up the independent Friends of St. James Gardens, and saw the space as his final restoration project.

The project will improve the physical and mental health of city centre dwellers. Being free and accessible, people can use our outside space to reduce stress and anxiety. We will run two free community events for families which will explain to the public the benefits of planting native flora and fauna and how you can encourage "all creatures great and small" even within small sites to benefit the environment.

We have been successful in getting a grant of £1,500 towards a small garden, and are looking for support to maximise our whole planting scheme (below).



Northern Flowerhouse and National Wildflower Centre will create a planting mix of: wild carrot, lesser knapweed, yarrow toadflax, vipers bugloss field scabious, meadow buttercups cow parsley, ox-eye daisy, red campion corn chamomile, corncockle, cornflower corn marigold, corn poppy and cowslip. (Previous planting images below.)



David Garner: Wild garlic and snowdrop planter of St. James Garden at another public wildflower site in Walton, Liverpool 2020



Wildflowers at Croxteth Hall, fronting St. Mary's Church, West Derby by Architect Gilbert Scott, same Architect as Anglican Cathedral.



Snowdrops and wild garlic introduced and multiplied to St.James Garden by the Friends /National Wildflower Centre. An example of creative conservation and horticultural purpose, as these species were not present before these efforts were made.

Canon Dr Ellen Loudon, Liverpool Cathedral’s Director of Social Justice commented: “Responding to climate change is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God’s creation. We are already proud that Liverpool has been recognised nationally as one of only ten Eco-Dioceses and that the cathedral holds a bronze eco-church award. Support from the Stanley Smith Charity enables us to look at how we can offset our impact meaningfully for the first time. These beautiful wildflowers will help us play our part in meeting the Church of England net carbon zero targets by 2030.”

Liverpool has only 16.4% green space, the worst of the UK’s ten most populous cities (image below from The Guardian, 2017 and orange square shows Liverpool Cathedral) and has some of the worst air quality. We therefore have a responsibility to maximise the Cathedral’s green space to have the biggest positive climate impact and through in increasing urban biodiversity. Wildflower meadows uptake higher levels of CO₂, are considerably quicker to establish and hold greater wildlife benefits than tree planting. This map illustrates the paucity of green space in Liverpool City Centre.



Liverpool Cathedral attracts a diverse local audience. Since opening in July 72% of Liverpool visitors are from wards with lower than average household incomes, and 35% are from wards classed as having households in relative poverty. Our volunteers are generally over 65, and by having family days we welcome people to mix across generational boundaries. We are planting the meadows in areas which have the greatest access to those with enhanced mobility needs.

Accessible Nature, Creative Conservation, ecological practice and horticulture purpose

In his 2019 address to the Landscape Institute, Sir David Attenborough, made clear the importance of bringing nature close to our doorsteps in urban areas, and said: “To bring the realities of the natural world to the understanding and love of human beings worldwide.” Wildflowering Liverpool Cathedral will be developed to Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards, which are being updated by Natural England in 2021.

At this moment, it is hugely important to present high aspirations of nature recovery in very prominent public places, and not in places distant from large populations. We wish to show the best possible impact of Nature in and on the city, to show the critical link between horticulture and ecology, and land management. This links to the idea of a community land ethic in the spirit of Aldo Leopold, and indeed the late Tony Bradshaw FRS formerly of Liverpool University. Evidence of his past efforts here can already be seen in St. James Garden, the cemetery below the Cathedral with the past introduction of wild garlic plants. These were originally expanded from a sown and prepared bed of wild garlic seeds, and planted out. These beds have sourced many other sites in the City, and the mass snowdrop planting, aided by the National Wildflower Centre 12 years ago, with the Friends of St. James Garden, could also create future project links.

There is an urgent need to introduce younger groups to this expertise in liaison with the right management plan, co-ordinating horticulture and ecology links - for example by lifting and thinning out the snowdrop clumps and expanding them on the cathedral close. The National Wildflower Centre has estimated 50,000 bulbs could now be thinned and used to expand the existing population on the cathedral site - saving an estimated £7,000-10,000. National Wildflower Centre initiatives like these are internationally recognised as excellent, e.g. in 2010 the ecological masters from Amstelveen came and adopted these techniques, three years later they won a European Gold Medal for Greenspace Medal.

This Terrace Garden is the perhaps oldest know free promenade garden and overlook, as it was over fifty years before the first public park in the world opened in Birkenhead. This Terrace Garden was open to the public from the 1780s and adjacent to the then working quarry, now St. James Gardens.

In addition the magnificent Oratory Building on the Cathedral Estate, which is managed by National Museums Liverpool, links to the potential to amplify this work through connections with their own horticulture and public engagement programmes (an MoU was signed between the Eden Project and National Museums Liverpool in 2018). Wildflowering Liverpool Cathedral also links with curriculum aims between Jayne Seddon’s arts residency, delivered in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, and the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts – which included a beautiful virtual Liverpool Light Night performance prominently featuring wildflower celebrations at the Oratory:- <https://jayneseddonart.com/2018/03/31/revolutionary-nature/>. YouTube video of live event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VT3ooqNqMI>

Fitting ecological and horticultural practice in the curriculum of LJMU, and linking the youthful agencies of LIPA adds great value to the long term experience of St. James Garden, The National Wildflower Centre, and the connectivity with the Cathedral itself. The National Wildflower Centre has made it clear it is excited to work with the Cathedral in a strategic way.

Project Risks

Risk: Disturbing wildlife

Mitigation Plan: We will try and reduce the footfall of areas which are grassed and minimise disruption. Liverpool Cathedral has a breeding pair of peregrine falcons; in the UK peregrine

falcons have been given full legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It is not deemed that this project will disturb their nesting site.

Risk: Covid-19

Mitigation Plan: The volunteers will be asked to work in their household groups and to maintain social distancing. We will follow the Governments rules at the time to make sure all volunteers are safe. Sanitising stations will be available for tools, and PPE provided. All events will be done socially distanced and to household mixing guidelines.

Risk: Safety of use

Mitigation Plan: Sharp tools will not be given to children.

Risk: Weather delaying works or resulting in less than ideal growing conditions

Mitigation Plan: If particularly bad weather is forecast when sowing we have time to delay sowing. In terms of drought during the growing season, we will increase watering schedule.

Personnel Involved

Richard Scott: Urban Ecologist

Richard Scott is Director of the National Wildflower Centre at the Eden Project, delivering creative conservation project work nationally, always with a Liverpool base. He is also Chair of the UK Urban Ecology Forum, He has delivered wildflower landscapes with partners including local authorities and link to the new Northern Forest, which runs between Liverpool and Hull. Richard has developed successful new creative conservation techniques including soil inversion which has delivered startling new habitats across the UK for a selection for grassland, woodland, heathland and dune habitats, which are now extraordinary examples of what can be achieved with the right starting point. This experience was encapsulated in the Award-winning publication *Wildflowers Work* (1993, 1997 and 2004): a practical guide with detailed specifications for implementing wildflower landscapes.

In 2014 Richard won funding from Kew Gardens and the National Lottery (beating 4 other UK Cities by public vote) to create “England’s Wildflower Flagship“, for the Liverpool and Manchester Tale of Two Cities Project, which demonstrated a new kind of cultural ecology project. The National Centre Wildflower Centre homed with the Eden Project in Cornwall, and with a strong partnership with National Museums Liverpool demonstrates creative conservation techniques with wildflowers, and encourage the bold creation of wildflower landscapes in both urban and rural environments, to reverse biodiversity decline, and lead positive responses to the climate emergency and extinction crisis. Richard was chosen as one of 20 individuals for the San Miguel Rich List in 2018, highlighting those who pursue alternative forms of wealth.

Richard will work with a local gardener and the Cathedral grounds maintenance staff.

As added value Richard is based at National Museums Liverpool who are interested in the cultural engagement and in pooling some in-kind support for education sessions. Also Richard is working as part of a research team with Regenerus (Bootle) and LJMU to chart carbon capture, which could be extended to these sites.

Rev Canon Dr Ellen Loudon, Canon Chancellor Liverpool Cathedral & Director of Social Justice Diocese of Liverpool

Ellen has had various roles in the Liverpool Diocese since 2008, and since May 2017, she has been Director for Social Justice for Liverpool Diocese and Canon Chancellor for Liverpool Cathedral, and leads on the Fairness and Wellbeing agenda. She is the Independent Chair of VS6 and Advisor for VCFSE sector to Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham. Ellen also taught Drama at Edge Hill University between 1995 and 2006. Ellen read both her

PhD in Music and BA in Theology at the University of Liverpool, and has lived in Liverpool since she was 18. She has written a book - *12 Rules for Christian Activists: A Toolkit for Massive Change*.

Yvonne Pearson, Education Officer Liverpool Cathedral

Yvonne has been a primary school teacher for over 30 years since graduating from Edge Hill College. She has taught in a range of state and independent primary schools in Cheshire, Manchester and Salford and has been a subject leader for PSHE, ICT, DT and humanities. Yvonne was a member of St John Ambulance and was Divisional Officer in the Warrington Adult Unit before becoming County Badger Leader as part of the Cheshire Youth Team. She had the honour of being inducted into the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 2009. As Education Officer, Yvonne has led the Education programme at Liverpool Cathedral since September 2019, and will develop two family events around wildflower planting.

Budget

Due to Covid-19's huge financial impact on Liverpool Cathedral, we are unable to divert funds to new projects and therefore are relying on external support. Our application to the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust will go in its entirety to the Northern Flowerhouse costs for staff time, seeds and compost.

Income of £8,900 is required for the project and we hope to attract that from three trusts and funds including the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust. Expenditure that we hope is eligible for Trust support consists of site preparation, seed purchase and recycled urban substrates. Additional non-eligible costs include marketing, administration and volunteer management.

Last audited accounts:

- Income £3,725,302
- Expenditure £2,450,708
- Unrestricted reserves £1,151,692

Please find our 2019 audited accounts attached.

Project Timeline

Milestone	Date	Actions
Final pre assessment	28 March 2021	Pre-project photos, soil testing to match best native species. Site finalisation. Seeds selected and purchased.
Volunteer and staff training	14 April 2021	Northern Flowerhouse to teach best practice on day 1 of sowing. Final site prep (clearance of lawns etc).
Promote project	14 April 2021	Photographs, blog, social media take over with Northern Flowerhouse.
Sowing	28 April 2021	Native seeds sown.
Flowering	31 August 2021	Seeds flower throughout August, maintenance of the meadows. Photographs taken.
Photography competition	21 August 2021	From flowering until 21 August, competition for best photograph of the wildflowers, winner gets free cream tea in the café.

Event 1	07 August 2021	Family event: bug hunting, explaining the importance of native species.
Event 2	21 August 2021	Family event: bug hunting, explaining the importance of native species.
Meadow management	30 September 2021	Mown meadows, seeds collected/reseeded ready for 2022 season.

Long Term Plans

Liverpool Cathedral has a committed group of volunteers and paid staff who maintain our gardens and green spaces. With the support of the Northern Flowerhouse we will develop a programme of maintenance for the wildflower meadows (including seed collection) to ensure that they remain an asset for the people of Liverpool City Region for years to come.

Liverpool Cathedral has an annual maintenance contract for our grounds and garden, and with support from the Northern Flowerhouse, we will ensure that the gardens receive the specialist care they need.