



## RSPB Rainham Marshes

**Summary:** Volunteers will plant 500 trees to enhance the environment for Bats, Tawny Owls, Song Thrushes, Nightingales, Blackcaps, Green and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and the experience for visitors. There are in excess of 46,000 visitors annually to the publicly accessible site and over 16,000 of the local community living in this area have RSPB membership. There are 150 local, regular volunteers, some of whom will be involved. RSPB will also engage local youth groups. The local community benefitting from the project are in one of the 30% most deprived areas nationally with issues of high unemployment rates, poor health and low educational achievement. The neighbouring Garrison Estate is one such area and is largely concrete and paved. Access to the natural environment has been shown to enhance people's quality of life, and Rainham Marshes is the estate's closest link with nature.

### **Headline Figures:**

Amount Requested: £1570

Trees planning to plant: 500

Unit Cost: £3.00

Match Funding: £524

Need Analysis: The project will involve planting with residents from Estates bordering the reserve, in the 30% most deprived and most lacking in green space nationally.

### **Breakdown of Trees to be planted on the reserve:**

The project will plant whips that will be beneficial and appropriate to the site conditions and the wildlife prioritised in the application, species such as Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*).

### **How did they fund the project?**

#### **The BTP paid for:**

£1,570 - Trees and equipment (£1,500) & Assistant Warden salary (£70)

#### **The Match came from:**

£254 - RSPB to fundraise

£270 - Skilled volunteers

### **What impressed the Big Tree Plant Panel?**

1/ The project was benefitting a very deprived local community bordering the reserve and the plan to plant the trees was supported by local community groups and RSPB had committed to training volunteers

2/ The project evidenced that they are already engaging the locally community and documented that the planting was to be led by volunteers, mostly local to the site.

3/ The applicant documented clearly the trees to be planted and the long-term maintenance plan, which will be led by volunteers.

4/ The project offered 25% match funding with officer time and volunteers trained up through the RSPB