



ArtCare's sustainability work

ArtCare's vision

Inspire creativity and innovation in healthcare

Introduction

ArtCare is a team within the Facilities directorate at Salisbury District Hospital. Funded by charitable grants and not for profit activity, the team bring together the strategic goals from health [NHS], culture and creative health in the Arts programme with the primary aim of supporting the health and wellbeing of public and staff in the hospital and activity that supports people in the local community to stay well.

Resources are finite and **the team strive to make best possible use** of materials, money, time, assets and use collaborative approaches to deliver this aim.

ArtCare's strategy for sustainability

Actively support the SFT Sustainability goals, local green plans and regional best practice through championing change and innovation using sustainability projects.

Successful change comes from meeting all three areas of desirability, feasibility and viability.

Desirability

Need or opportunity driving the strategy

Staff stress – staff report needing time off work for stress related illness. enabling staff to access break times in natural environments with spaces away from the public is essential. For example, Housekeeping have no staff room and also have team members with green fingers – a shared staff garden space in SDH central would support their wellbeing needs.

In addition, there are staff living on site – families, students and overseas staff – with only a small percentage of the accommodation offering personal garden spaces

Outstanding patient experience – the hospital has long stay patients [Plastics, Spinal, Stroke], rehab services [Wessex, Cancer] and ICU and End of Life patients.

There are onsite visitor accommodation spaces for Wessex rehab attendees and out of area family members with loved ones in ICU or long stay medical care.

Feasibility

Green assets

The Trust already benefits from being in a rural location with external grounds occupying a large footprint of green space and views of natural landscape from every site boundary.

There are local footpaths and bridleways leading directly from the perimeter of the site.

The nearest National Landscape is less than 1 mile from the hospital boundary

Horatio's Garden – accessible to Spinal Staff, patients and visitors; managed by independent Charity Greenhouses – one at Douglas Arter centre

Poly tunnel – behind Wessex Rehab for Horatios Garden team

Skills and staff

The Trust has an in-house gardens and waste team, a gardener to maintain Charity green spaces and the ArtCare team of staff and volunteers skilled in public engagement workshops and wellbeing activities, including social prescribing.

Volunteer Biodiversity specialist [previous member of staff] with more than a decade of knowledge of the site.

Information and sector support:

External stakeholders include Wiltshire Wildlife Trust [already partners via ArtCare], Natural England [connected via ArtCare and Sustainability lead attending quarterly collaboration meetings] and NHS Forests [connected via Gardens manager, Sustainability and ArtCare]

Completed ArtCare outputs

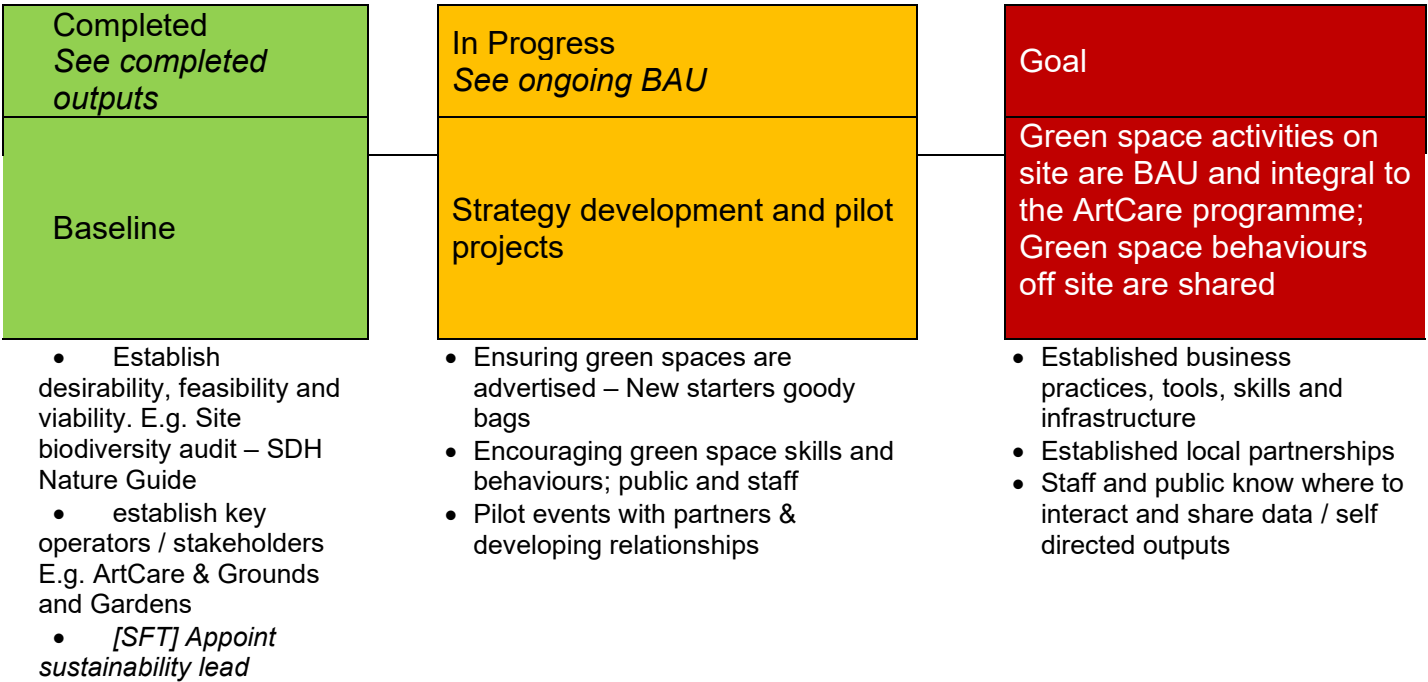
- Two editions of the SDH Nature Guide – James McPherson [supported by ArtCare]. A biodiversity audit in a public facing format to make information appealing
- Presenting at SW NHS Biodiversity symposium with Natural England
- Meadows Garden used in summer for staff drop in/self-led creative activities
- Off-site nature events delivered with new local partners [Wiltshire Wildlife Trust; Cranborne Chase National Landscape]
- Life drawing from Birds of prey – multiple workshops with public and staff
- James is member of Salisbury & District Natural History Society, ArtCare have hosted them on 2 occasions to do wildlife walk

Ongoing green space BAU

[originating from pilots]

- Find your Oasis map – created during COVID for staff; highlights the green spaces on the whole site as well as other wellbeing spaces (e.g. food outlets, library and fitness centre)
- Wellbeing Walks Leaflet – three routes around site and adjacent footpaths for walks ranging between 20 mins and 1 hour; routes also logged on MapMyWalk
- Wildflower seeds and long borders in Meadows garden
- Staff only courtyards adjacent clinical spaces [during COVID and ongoing]; Level 3 adj Lifts 3&4
- Nature Walks – monthly guided walks on site during spring through to autumn including biodiversity recording;
- Staff photography exhibition – started during COVID; nature-based theme to encourage engagement in local green spaces
- Outside spaces are being utilised with some of the Well-City Salisbury workshops. ie. Next course June-Aug 2025 Sketching in the landscape with Nick Andrew.

SFT Green space progress to date



Key stakeholders

- Trust Sustainability lead
- Gardens and waste team
- Estates
- **ArtCare**
- Stars Appeal gardener
- Voluntary Services

- Occupational health
- Comms
- PALs
- Wessex Rehab
- IT [for AI support]
- **External links – Two Birds Experience, Salisbury & District Natural History Society, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Cranborne Chase National Landscape, Natural England & NHS Forest**

Areas for growth / development

Making the most of the existing rich biodiversity of the SFT site through improving access, information, understanding and skills



Easy – requires maintaining existing BAU / adding one extra dimension already within resource availability



Medium – requires new skills / assets / time commitment



Hard – Requires investment, new skills and or assets, new business plan and multi-department delivery

What steps will we take to make this happen?	How will we track progress?
All accessible green space locations are communicated to: • public through updated maps on the website and posters on wards • staff via continued distribution of Find your Oasis maps (given to new starters) and via staff Wellbeing intranet site 	Number of visits to webpages / downloads of green space maps Number of maps given out Count Staff ID badge access to level 3 courtyards (x2) annually
Monthly promotion of wellbeing walks on Strava and MapMyWalk for staff and public Set challenges – who can match the porters? 	Number of people logging use of the route Number of challenges per year
Expand and Enhance Green Spaces for Wellbeing: Staff garden self-directed green spaces e.g. Housekeeping / Block 64 garden (old Hairdressing / shop outdoor space) 	Total garden projects completed Use and impact via existing data collection - RTF question? [Public] Pulse survey question?[staff] Number of long stay / EOL patients using spaces Number of staff using for breaks Number of staff gardeners Feedback

Adjust Nature walk routes to include monitoring new biodiversity Features on Hospital Grounds [Strategy / grounds and gardens]10 biodiversity features such as pollinator gardens, wildflower meadows, green roofs, bird boxes, or insect hotels 	Count inhabited features and species; photos where suitable
Preparing for Green social prescribing – training and development of staff, funding applications and pilot programme development   	Number of new partnerships Hours of shadowing / R&D of other existing projects Funding applications prepared and submitted
Healing Nature: pilot for patient nature programme <i>Follow Wimborne model</i> 18 months Pilot Green Social Prescribing for Staff [GSP] <i>Follow Well-City model</i> 18 months   	Number of people Number of hours Outputs Feedback from participants, staff and carers Number of trained team members / vols
	GSP – referral numbers from staff/ Occ health and managers
Continue monthly* guided nature walks and support annual BioBlitz 	Number of participants and hours of engagement Biodiversity records logged.
Encourage regular Nature walk attendees to sign up for citizen science project to support the data collection e.g. Take part in Big Butterfly Count, annual national event between July & August  	Number of attendees recruited to survey Number of national nature events completed
Support the monitoring and Reporting on Site Biodiversity: Complete a baseline biodiversity survey of all green spaces by end of 2027 and repeat every two years.  	% of green space areas surveyed and monitored.
Pilot simple mechanism for staff and public to share their new green habits e.g. #SDHnatureLVR for socials    Or learn and use an existing tool - Wildlife records locally is done by Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre and to submit sightings can be done through https://irecord.org.uk/ training and publicity to create more users of the app.  	Number of tags Sample of posts Number of responses/shares Number of new initiatives adopted at SDH training and publicity events delivered App user numbers
Green corner – segment in Culture Club newsletter every issue; include calls to action via email /social [#] Potential use of ChatGPT for analysing responses to email  	Number of responses on social / email

Annual 'green' outing for staff and volunteers has taken place in July (2023 & 2024) to Coombe Bisset Down with help of Cranborne Chase NL providing transport, this could continue and look at other places to visit  	Number of attendees Number of new locations Capture repeat visits out of organised trips e.g. self reporting – new memberships from
Staying up to date - Maintain local, regional, national and sector connections to follow current priorities and to share our own best practice / lead the field work ; join Rota of representative for attending wider network of meetings 	Number of presentations at local/regional/national forums
ArtCare's operational approach to sustainability • Separate at source waste for all ArtCare activities and use Trust recycling systems • Select suppliers with ESR policy / green strategy • Champion creative health activities that utilise upcycle/ recycle approaches • Donations used to develop new or support existing creative take away / bedside packs • Picture frame loan for community groups • Programming – prioritise local (30 mile radius) artists to reduce carbon footprint of programme • Staffing – working at home / sharing desk and workspaces	