

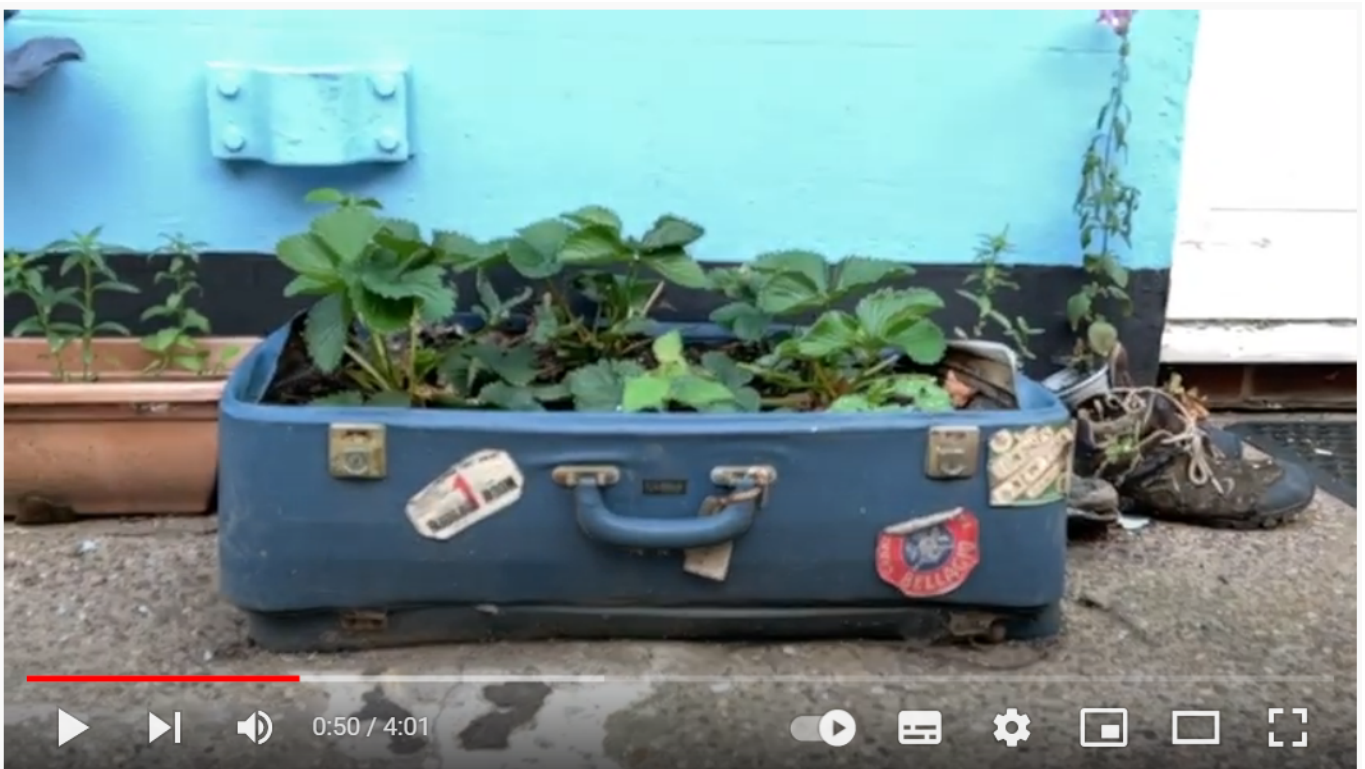
## Case study: Anna's Urban Garden

### Name of project or group

Carpark Restoration Garden. Film and case study written by Anna Goodman March 2022, with help from Joe Williams and Sara Goodman. Video filmed by Ali Farash.

### What actions for nature did you want to take and why?

I started the garden in the car park that surrounds my flat. When I moved in I was instantly struck by the tension between human control and natural rewilding. Next to a skip, the ground had originally been tarmacked over to be exclusively fit for human purpose. However, an overhanging hazelnut tree from a local park, combined with buddleia and brambles had begun to break through the tarmac and create fertile leaf litter, which in turn created a habitat for a variety of birds, insects and butterflies. I wanted to join in the existing rewilding effort by creating wildflower meadows and an insect and hedgehog hotel, using exclusively repurposed materials.



### What resources or support did you need/use?

In the city centre estate where I live, there is a continuous supply of curbside “junk”. I have chosen to see this as an opportunity, so I’ve used pallets, car tyres, pottery, broken recycling boxes, shoes, tea pots, sauce pans that I’ve found around me as planting materials and for my bug and hedgehog hotels.

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### How did you empower or involve others?

Ali Farash, my neighbour, was a professional film-maker in Iran who is trying to make connections in Sheffield. He is also deeply passionate about nature and making it accessible to others. I asked him to film the garden to communicate our shared passion for rewilding urban spaces.

My mother, Sara Goodman, provided invaluable support by sharing her lifetime gardening experience with me. This was my first time growing anything, and I could never have done it alone! I also empowered my husband, Joe Williams, by creating a project that he could join in when he wanted without having to take responsibility for. He enjoys growing plants and connecting to nature, but it can be quite daunting to learn and create a garden by yourself. I could never have done it without my team.

### How did it make you feel?

The garden makes me feel empowered, curious and hopeful. It evolves with the seasons and the junk left outside; when I garden I feel presently connected to nature and grateful to be alive.



### What changes have there been as a result of your actions?

There has been an increase in bees, butterflies, robins and blue tits. Areas of previously stale concrete now have cornflowers, sweet peas, chives and nasturtiums peeping through the cracks, which in turn attracts insects.

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**Have you had any memorable nature encounters while doing this?**

I love watching bumblebees grow nectar-drunk on previously barren ground.

**How have your actions been shared or inspired others?**

Our video is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/vJetP4gv5kA>

I'm inspired by my mother and grandmother who taught me to cherish what others throw away, I'm inspired by Regather, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Nature Recovery Sheffield who breathe life back into Sheffield's green spaces. I'm inspired by Blacka Moor plantation; how dedicated individuals have turned a space dedicated for housing into a thriving forest. These people buoy my hope.

**What is next?**

I'm peeling back more areas of concrete and using broken beds to make raised beds. I'm considering where I can plant hydrangea and add pallet bird boxes. I'm bringing neighbours into the space by repurposing a sink into a firepit. I want human community to be at the centre of natural restoration.