

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST 2025 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor C Booth (Chair)
Councillors S Fox, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.

In attendance: Dave Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Steve Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
Councillor J Thorne
One member of the press
No members of public in attendance.

182. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

183. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

184. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2025.

185. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

186. FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided an update on the footpath volunteers' work which was noted. He thanked other volunteers who had covered for him whilst he was on holiday

187. OPEN SPACES MANAGER REPORT

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This was noted by the Committee.

Councillor McGuffie asked that the fence by the bridge at Rockwell Green leading to Hilly Head be looked at as it was broken.

Councillor Lloyd asked that the information board in the Playing Field near the cricket nets be repaired.

188. LONGFORTH FARM OPEN SPACES PROPOSAL

The paper circulated with the agenda was considered.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that:

- (i) It accepts the transfer of ownership of the areas of land surrounding the allotment site and the Ecology Field and the verge area as marked on the attached map.
- (ii) It accepts the transfer of ownership of the play areas on the Longforth Farm development.

- (iii) Officers explore further the transfer of ownership of the footpath between Brendon Road and Lillebonne Way and associated street lighting and bring recommendations back to the Committee.

189. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

A paper from the Climate Change Project Officer had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

190. GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on the 22 July 2025 were noted

RESOLVED:

- (i) To recommend to Full Council that it supports Wellington Community Food in its application to DEFRA for a grant of c£25,500 over three years for improvements to the Community Farm site and surrounding area as detailed in the report.
- (ii) To nominate Councillors J Lloyd and M Lithgow to sit on the Green Corridor Advisory Board.

191. BASINS ALLOTMENTS ADVISORY BOARD

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 July had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

RESOLVED

i) Community Accessible Plot

To approve the quotations from RW Gale for £680.00 plus VAT to scrape back the centre of Track 3 and dispose on an adjoining site and £1885.00 plus VAT Excavate areas pathways to raised beds. Finish with 0.4mm dust.

ii) Tenancy Agreement

To approve a new tenancy agreement clause:

“No tyres are allowed on plots as the material breakdown caused by weathering releases harmful substances into the environment and contaminates the soil”.

192. PUMP TRACK PROPOSAL

The paper circulated with the agenda was considered.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that it agrees in principle to a Pump Track being located in the Recreation Ground on the site identified in the report to enable more detailed planning and preparation work to continue with final agreement being required from the Council to progress the project once detailed costings and plans area available.

Councillor Thorne requested that as part of the development work consideration also be given to looking to use land currently owned by Court Fields School adjacent to the proposed site. He also suggested that CG Fry should be asked if the proposal would impact on its proposed pump track at Jurston Fields

193. BUDGETS

A budget report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.55pm

Initial.....



Title	Open Space Managers Report September 2025
Meeting	Environment Meeting
Date of meeting	17/09/25
Action Required	
Report Author and email address	Darren Hill Open Spaces Manager darren@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 This is an update on the Open Spaces Team.

1.2 The team has been focused on improving the changing rooms and sports pitches ahead of the new football season. They have deep cleaned and painted Dobre Park and some of the playing field changing rooms, we will be working on a three-year maintenance plan to maintain these buildings. The pitches are in, and the grass coverage is good considering the dry summer, due to the demand we have added a 7x7 pitch inside the 9x9 pitch at Dobre Park.

CCTV update, we have worked through the CCTV quotation and Wellington firm Magenta Security have been appointed. We had a delegated spend of up to £30k. Their quote was under £17k with the VAT. I have spoken to the Green Flag people, and this will not affect our Heritage status as it's a removable item. We are just waiting for a start date.

The hanging baskets will be removed in October and the bedding plants and bulbs will be planted from the second week of October.

I have also been working with Steve at Riverside Plant Nurseries on the bedding for next year.

Health and Safety update, we are still waiting on the repair to some play equipment in the REC, we are due to have the parts any day now. We will be removing a roundabout at Corner Close as this has been raised in our ROSPA yearly report. This was a recommendation not a request, however, we prefer to be proactive and

will look to replace this. We have also had one of the large trees looked at Dan Mancini from Somerset Council, he has advised us to leave the tree until spring and see if there is any sign of improvement, we will update you if there are any changes.

The new posts and rail and gate have been installed at Great Meadow.

The second round of Street spraying is due to start this month by Complete Weed Control.

The Nature Recovery Plan will be ready for sign off, this has come from my idea to have a Biodiversity Plan, however, on sharing this with the Green Corridor Group and other it then became the Nature Recovery Plan, the document does include input and documents from Somerset Wildlife, Season Ecology and others. It will be presents to the Green Corridor meeting and then share to you all.

2. Background

2.1

2.2 etc

- Detail all relevant background information including previous decisions that will enable the Council/committee to have a full understanding of what they are being asked to consider,.
- Reference any documents attached as appendices

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

4. Financial Implications

Detail any costs associated with the decision and which budget they will be taken from. Where quotes have been received add as appendices. Needs sign off by DSFM

5. Risks

Set out any risks associated with the proposal and how they are going to be mitigated.

6. Considerations

If the report is for info then it is just for noting

If a decision/s is/are required detail the decisions needed. This will form the basis of the minute of the meeting (subject to any amendments discussed at the meeting)

7. Background Papers

There may be documents that are too large to attach as appendices but that you feel that councillors may find useful. If so detail them here with hyperlinks.



Title	Replant the Toilet Block Bed in North Street September 2025
Meeting	Environment Meeting
Date of meeting	17/09/25
Action Required	To approve release of funds.
Report Author and email address	Darren Hill Open Spaces Manager darren@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

The bed outside the toilet block has broken trip rail and has nothing growing in it. It looks very untidy.

I would like to remove all the old trip rail and roots and make this a sustainable planted bed by planting a Rose bed, framed with an evergreen euonymus hedge. The Open Spaces team will undertake this work.

2. Background

Currently there is work taking place to enhance the areas around playing field. These planters are located at the entrance to the playing fields from the town centre so they will see a lot of footfall.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.

Wellington Place Plan

- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging
- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town

4. Financial Implications

£2,470.00+VAT will be required to undertake this project.

5. Risks

Town Council assets falling into further disrepair. In addition, the area currently looks unsightly and would diminish the impact of the recent enhancement works in the area if the unused bed is the first thing visitors see when they walk through the area.

6. Considerations

To approve release of funds. (£2470.00+VAT)

7. Background Papers

N/A



Title	Tree Purchase Request September 2025
Meeting	Environment Meeting
Date of meeting	17/09/25
Action Required	Decision
Report Author and email address	Darren Hill Open Spaces Manager darren@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to request approval to proceed with Year 2 of the tree planning strategy.

2. Background

The current Tree Strategy Plan has been previously agreed and was presented as a three-year plan. Year 1 has been completed, and it was confirmed at the June 2025 Committee that the Year 2 can commence.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.

Wellington Place Plan

- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging
- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town

4. Financial Implications

The request is for £4,300.00 to purchase this year's trees as planned and replace lost trees from year 1. The price will include the purchase of the trees, compost, stake and ties, as well as pipe. We will be purchasing smaller varieties, the request for money this month is so we are able to purchase them sooner and get them in the ground quicker to allow them to establish quicker.

5. Risks

Not replacing lost trees from year 1 will have significant risks on the effectiveness of the Tree Strategy Plan. Ecologically, it will delay canopy growth, biodiversity benefits, soil stabilisation, and climate resilience.

It will jeopardise land and nursery stock as well as drive up future costs.

Strategically, it will threaten long-term targets, disrupts maintenance cycles, and weaken opportunities for scaling.

6. Considerations

To approve the release of funds (£4,300) to continue with the Tree Strategy Plan.

7. Background Papers

N/A



Wellington Town Council Nature Recovery Plan

Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of life on Earth. This includes animals, plants and fungi as well as recognisable wildlife such as birds, mammals and insects. The habitats are the places they live and how they interact with their surroundings as part of the ecosystem. Conserving biodiversity involves restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats as well as implementing measures to promote them in the future. The value of biodiversity extends beyond habitat and species with the benefits extending to a range of economic, social and intrinsic values.

Wellington Town Council recognises the crucial role biodiversity plays in sustaining healthy ecosystems, supporting the wellbeing of residents, and contributing to the fight against climate change. This policy outlines the Council's commitment to protecting, enhancing, and promoting biodiversity across the town.

1. Council Statement

1.1. Wellington Town Council recognises the importance of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. As stewards of the environment, we are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity within our town. Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020). The Town Council has significant opportunity to conserve and further enhance local biodiversity due to our management of multiple open spaces; 65 Acre site known as the Green Corridor, the playing field, the Rec the Park, and two Allotment sites. The council's wider operations including outdoor maintenance, events, public play areas and other open spaces across the town also adds to our environmental responsibilities, whilst simultaneously creating opportunities to raise awareness and implement environmentally protective and enhancing strategies.

2. Aims and Objectives of the Policy

- 2.1.** This policy applies to all employees and Councillors and all working parties with Wellington Town Council.
- 2.2.** The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity within the area Wellington Town Council maintain.
- 2.3.** The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions.
- 2.4.** Consideration will be given to the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- 2.5.** Land management will incorporate environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- 2.6.** The Council will where possible support local businesses and communities by encouraging them to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- 2.7.** Council operations will be undertaken with low impact / nature positive practices in mind.

3. Actions

3.1. Planning applications

The Council will:

- 3.1.1.** When commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- 3.1.2.** Support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- 3.1.3.** Consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.

3.2. Land and property management The Council will:

- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity regarding the management of open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Take special care in the specification of grounds and building maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching

acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.

- Where practicable, source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use.

3.3 Local community

The Council will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website, newsletter, social media channels and at events.
- Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how they can make a positive difference.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land and at events.

3.4 Partners

The Council will:

- Work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area. Biodiversity Policy, Somerset Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust and Seasons Ecology.
- Review local nature recovery strategies, species conservation or protected site strategies and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.
- Create and take into consideration the council's Biodiversity 'action plan'. This is a working document detailing what actions can be taken to support biodiversity within daily operations and when running projects and events.

3.5. Other Actions

- Wellington Town Council have also turned over some of their flower beds into more sustainable planting with pollinator plants Photo A. We have also planted living walls in the Town Centre to help to sequester carbon, Photo B
- Wellington Town Council will add additional hedgerows and dry hedges where possible to help with nature recovery. This will be undertaken by Volunteers and working parties in the Green Corridor with consultation with TTW and Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Wellington Town Council Photo A



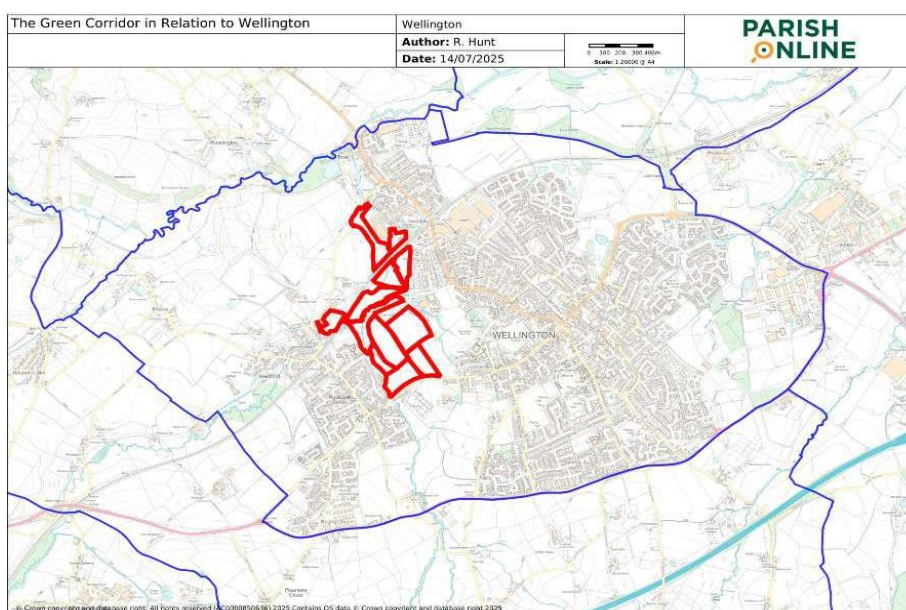
Wellington Town Council Photo B



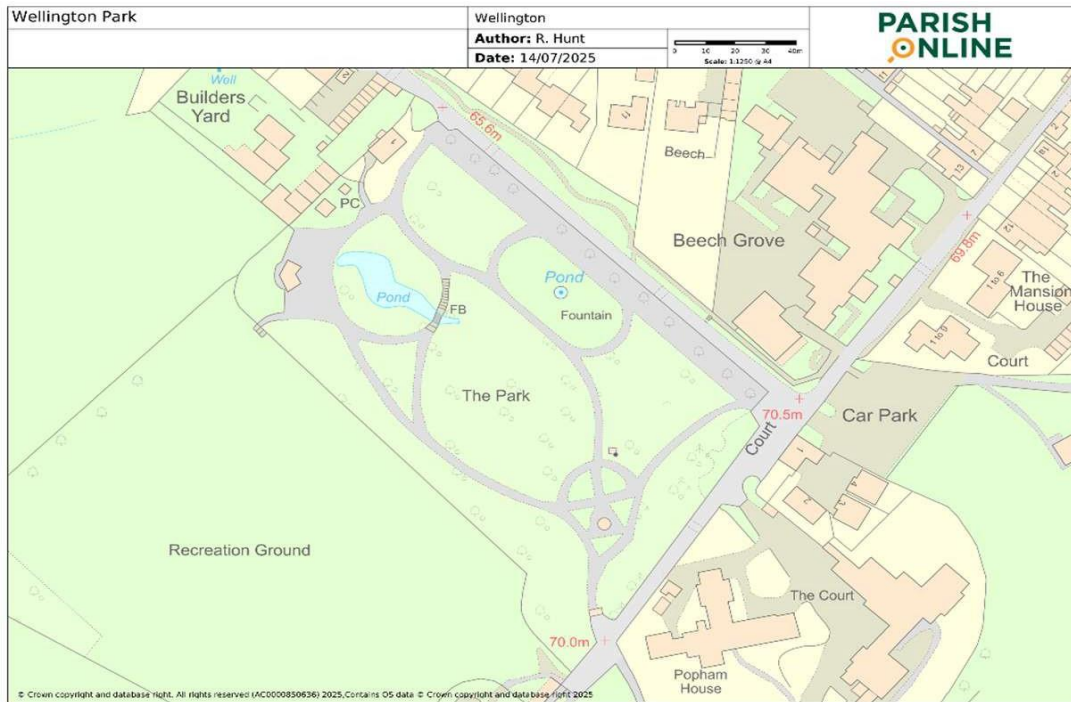
Map A - Wellington Green Corridor



Map B - Wellington Town Council Areas



Map C - Wellington Park



This document was written by Darren Hill Wellington Town Council Open Spaces Manager, with support from Wellington Town Council. Roise Walker Woodland Trust. Olly Hill The Environment Agency. Transition Town Wellington. The Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Thank you to all whom Supported this document. August 2025

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Wellington Green Corridor Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment.

Appendix B – Wellington Park and Recreation Ground Ecological Survey

Appendix C – Wellington Tree Strategy

Appendix D – Fox's Field Bioblitz Report

Appendix E – Fox's Field Bioblitz Results

Appendix F The Governments Nature Recovery Strategy

Appendix G – Somerset Wildlife Trust Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Appendix H – Green Corridor Development Plan

Appendix I – Grassland Management Strategy

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT
WELLINGTON GREEN CORRIDOR, SOMERSET

carried out by



commissioned by

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

JANUARY 2024



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

WELLINGTON GREEN CORRIDOR, SOMERSET

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The information, data and advice which has been prepared and provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report and its contents remain the property of Clarkson and Woods Ltd. until payment has been made in full.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Clarkson and Woods Ltd. was commissioned by Wellington Town Council to carry out a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment of an area of land known as the “Green Corridor”, a swathe of land under the Council’s management which is to be managed to promote the movement of wildlife, public recreation and local food growing.
- The project involved the survey of the 29ha site, mapping of all habitats in the UK Habitat Classification system (UKHab), completion of Habitat Condition Assessments for each habitat and recommendations for enhancement, with the baseline and proposed habitats inputted into Natural England’s (NE) Biodiversity Net Gain calculator.
- This report details the methodology and rationale applied to conduct the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, using the version 4.0 of the NE Biodiversity Metric calculation tool. A description of baseline and post-development habitat type and condition is provided, including justification for the condition assessments applied within the Metric.
- The Site predominantly comprises grassland areas, some of which are under agricultural management and other areas unmanaged, in addition to sustainability-focussed food growing and community recreation areas. A combination of largely broadleaved hedgerow and lines of trees bound fields or stretches of wooded, broadleaved riparian corridors associated with the river habitats. The more unmanaged areas are becoming dominated by ruderals and scrub. Large mature trees are also present throughout the site.
- Enhancements to the Site include changes in management/seeding of grassland to increase diversity, tree and mixed scrub planting and the creation of wetland habitats. Enhancements have been designed with the local landscape characteristics and public access in mind and with input from the Green Corridor Steering Group.
- The proposed habitat management and creation recommendations will result in considerable net gain for biodiversity, with 82.99 Habitat Units (+64.97%) and 10.91 Hedgerow Units (+21.93%) being provided.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 Clarkson and Woods Ltd. was commissioned by Wellington Town Council to carry out a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment of a swathe of land which runs through Wellington. This is to be managed by the Town Council to create a Green Corridor, thereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 To generate income from the creation of new habitats, ongoing management and purchase of equipment, the Town Council commissioned this study to determine baseline habitats and opportunities of Biodiversity Net Gain Unit uplift with the potential for Biodiversity Credit trading in future.

1.2 Project Background

- 1.2.1 In 2023, Wellington Town Council took over the management of a contiguous land parcel running through Wellington with an aim of creating a corridor to enhance wildlife in the local area, plus creation of a space for public recreation and food growing.
- 1.2.2 The approximate centre of the Site is at OS Grid Reference ST127206, as illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Ordnance Survey Map Showing Location of Site Delineated by the Redline (©OS Maps)

1.3 Consultations

- 1.3.1 The Green Corridor Steering Group comments have been taken on board in the preparation of this report. A site visit was conducted with Adam Lockyear from the Steering Group/Community Farm on 23rd June 2023, with several on-line meetings being held and the draft data presented to the collective Steering Group on 7th November 2023.



1.4 Assessment Scope

- 1.4.1 This report provides a quantitative baseline of the biodiversity value of the Site and sets out the enhancement measures, which may be implemented to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) uplift.
- 1.4.2 Habitat features are used as a proxy measure for quantifying the value and importance of nature within a site. This enables assessments to be made on the present and future biodiversity value of a site through the calculation of biodiversity gains and losses.
- 1.4.3 This document aims to:
- Establish the total number of Habitat Units (HU), Hedgerow Units (HeU) and River Units (RU) present on the Site at baseline (baseline units);
 - Establish the total number of HU and HeU that will be lost, created, retained or enhanced during the delivery of each ecological measure;
 - Provide assumptions that have been used when calculating uplift from each measure.

2 METHODS

2.1 Field Survey

- 2.1.1 Habitats within the Site were mapped according to the UKHab methodology¹, with approximately five quadrats taken within each distinctive grassland type, in order to correctly classify grassland (to differentiate Modified from Other Neutral Grassland, in this case).
- 2.1.2 Habitat condition assessments (included within 'The Biodiversity Metric 4.0: User Guide. Natural England. 2023') have been used to assess habitats within this report and are provided in Appendix D. Each habitat has been given a condition score of 'Poor', 'Moderate' or 'Good' depending on the number of criteria passed within the assessment.

2.2 Evidence of Technical Competence and Experience.

- 2.2.1 A suitably competent person is defined within the BNG British Standard BS8683:2020 as a 'person who can demonstrate they have acquired through training, qualifications or experience, or a combination of these, the knowledge and skills enabling that person to perform a specified task.'
- 2.2.2 The BNG assessment has been prepared by Hannah Montag and Heather Parris who are full members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Hannah has undergone UKHab training and both have attended BNG training.
- 2.2.3 All ecologists employed by Clarkson and Woods are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and follow the Institute's Code of Professional Conduct² when undertaking ecological work.
- 2.2.4 The report has been subject to a two-stage quality assurance review by appropriately experienced senior consultants who are full members of CIEEM.

2.3 Limitations

- 2.3.1 The habitat walkover surveys took longer than expected due to the complexity of the Site and subsequently extended into September, a sub-optimal month for botanical surveying. However, given the warm weather during this period, it is not considered that any botanical significance was lost and the grassland habitats could be confidently classified.

¹ <https://ukhab.org/>

² CIEEM (2013). *Code of Professional Conduct*. www.cieem.net/professional-conduct.



- 2.3.2 The later surveys were also undertaken at a time of heavy rainfall and after some areas of the Site were flooded, making some access difficult and botanical assessments.
- 2.3.3 It is anticipated some margins of error in the mapping may occur throughout the process between collecting data in the field to final mapping on GIS software. However, any such areas are considered to be negligible and non-significant.

2.4 Approach to BNG

- 2.4.1 This report follows the guidance as set out within "Biodiversity Net Gain Report & Audit Templates (Version 1). CIEEM. July 2021". It is also in line with the British Standard 8683:2021 (Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain).
- 2.4.2 The Natural England Biodiversity Metric 4.0, referred to hereafter as 'the Metric', has been used to complete the calculation and assessment which accompanies this document, with mapping carried out on QGIS v3.30.3.
- 2.4.3 For greater clarity, detailed justifications for the choice of habitat types, distinctiveness and condition have been provided within this BNG report rather than added to the comments column of the Metric.
- 2.4.4 It should be noted that this report deals with BNG alone, but there may be other revenue streams such as nutrient neutrality credits and great crested newt district licensing habitats (which could potentially be stacked along with BNG).

Strategic Significance

- 2.4.5 The Somerset Council Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note (draft) November 2023³ has also been used to support this assessment. The guidance states that the "High Strategic Significance" multiplier in the BNG Metric can be used:

"Only where appropriate habitat enhancement or creation:

- a) Is located within and meets the definition of a Priority Habitat or enhancement, expansion or fragmentation zone as defined by the [Natural England] National Habitat Networks dataset....."

- 2.4.6 This statement is ambiguous and will hopefully be clarified in further reviews alongside the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, but we have interpreted it to be any priority habitat created/enhanced within an enhancement, expansion or fragmentation zone. The Site lies wholly within a Network Expansion Zone⁴. The definition of which is:

"Land beyond the Network Enhancement Zones with potential for expanding, linking/joining networks across the landscape i.e. conditions such as soils are potentially suitable for habitat creation for the specific habitat in addition to Enhancement Zone 1. Action in this zone to improve connections between existing habitat networks can be targeted here"⁵.

- 2.4.7 Therefore, Strategic Significance for Priority Habitats in the Metric has been classified as High, given that the aim is to improve connectivity within this strategically allocated area.
- 2.4.8 All other habitats have been classified as Medium strategic significance, however, as they will still contribute to the overall strategic landscape features within the expansion zone, but do not meet Priority Habitat criteria.

³ Somerset Council (2023) *Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note (Draft)* [online]. Available at: https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/bng-guidance-note/supporting_documents/Draft%20Somerset%20BNG%20Guidance%20Note%20Public%20Consultation.pdf [Accessed 02 Jan 2024]

⁴ Natural England (2024) *Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats, England)* [online]. Available at: <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/fceb93850462454ab3fb5acce2be35b/explore?location=50.976466%2C-3.243721%2C15.57> [Accessed 02 Jan. 2024]

⁵ Natural England (2020) *National Habitat Network Maps - User Guidance*. v.2 May 2020 [online] Available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/Habitat%20Network%20Mapping%20Guidance.pdf [Accessed 02 Jan 2024]

3 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1.1 The baseline habitat types recorded within the Site and their associated condition assessments are given in Appendix A. Maps detailing the baseline habitats using the UK Habitat Classification system have been prepared for each parcel on GIS and are provided in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Figure 2 below shows the land parcels and field references used within the descriptions in this section.

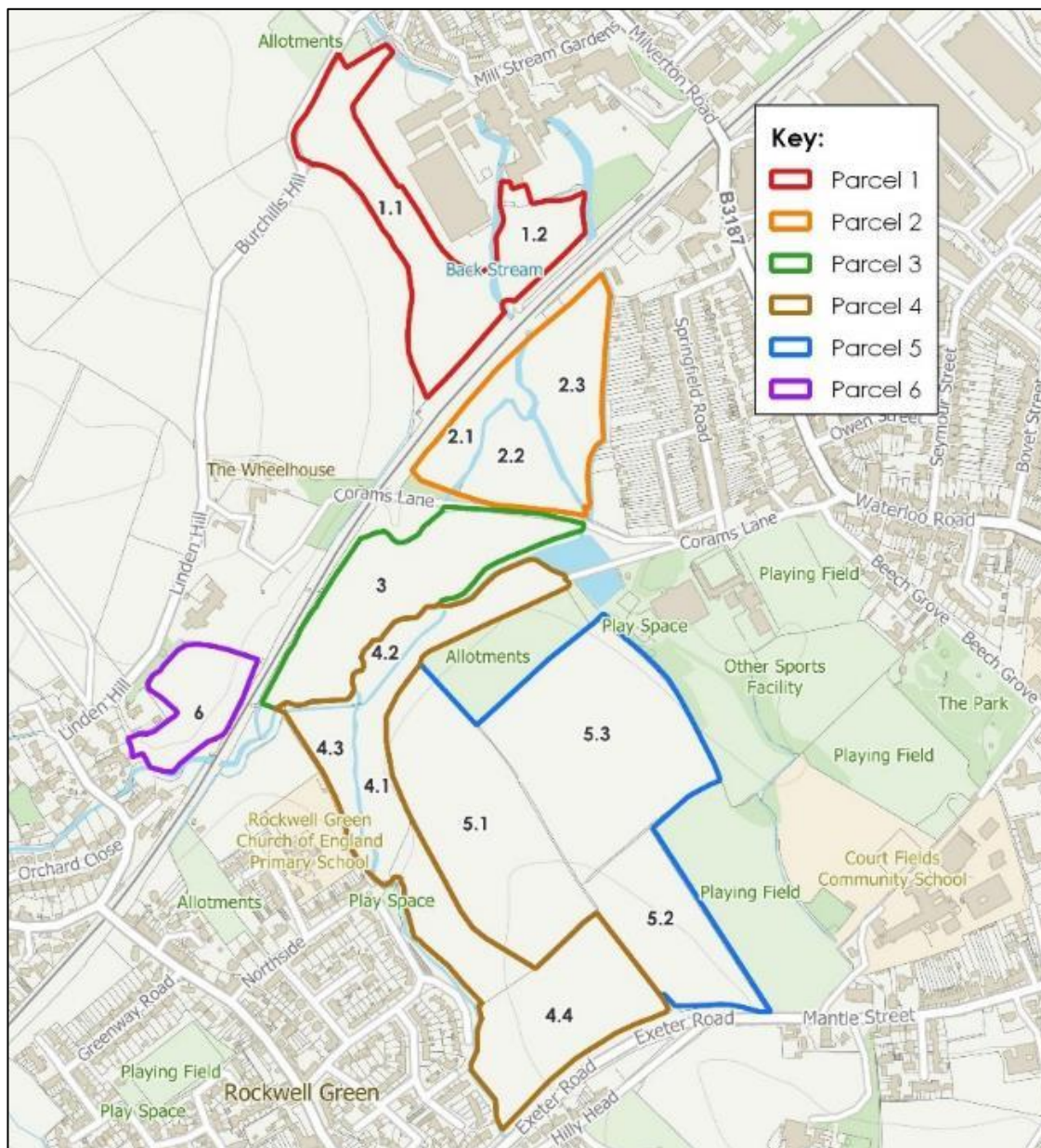


Figure 2: Parcel and Field Reference Locations

3.1.3 No nationally designated sites were noted within the survey area. However, at a strategic level, the Green Corridor linking Tonedale with Rockwell Green forms an important green infrastructure network between the town of Wellington and connected villages.



- 3.1.4 Wellington Basins Local Nature Reserve is situated adjacent to the Green Corridor, north of Parcel 5 and beyond a line of trees. Of local historic and landscape interest, the reserve comprises ponds with varied marginal flora and is also known to support a range of wildlife, including dipper *Cinclus cinclus*, grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and at least five bat species⁶. Other projects undertaken immediately adjacent to site by Clarkson and Woods (in 2016) confirmed the number of recorded bat species present in the local area to be at least twelve species, including rare greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* bats.
- 3.1.5 A water vole conservation project undertaken across the River Tone catchment in 2012, and which Clarkson and Woods Ltd were also involved, confirmed the presence of water voles along watercourses connected with Parcel 3 and Parcel 4, although not within the footprint of the current Wellington Green Corridor survey area.

3.2 Area Units

Woodland

- 3.2.1 Woodland habitats within the Site were limited to developing woodland only, as established woodland parcels were recorded outside the redline boundary only and riparian wooded corridors mapped as "Line of Trees". The river network extending through the Site is associated with a riparian wooded tree belt, but failed to consistently meet woodland habitat classifications due to the variable and restricted widths of the riparian belt, a lack of woodland ground flora and/or the lack of open space (due to the restricted footprint of these areas, compared with the typical expanse of woodlands). It was therefore decided to include these features as a Line of Trees to ensure the most appropriate habitat condition assessments and opportunities for habitat enhancement, where appropriate, could be considered. Refer to Section 3.3: Linear Units for further details.

Other Broadleaved Woodland

- 3.2.2 A small area of Other Broadleaved Woodland comprising white poplar *Populus alba* was recorded within the south-western corner of Field 2.1, Parcel 2. Tree growth was uniform and comprised an estimated 50 – 80 trees with trunk diameters approx. 150mm DBH (Diameter at Breast Height). Bramble-dominated scrub surrounded the woodland with a line of (native, broadleaved) trees to the west (a railway embankment) and wooded embankment, beyond a shallow ditch, to the east.



Photo. 1: Woodland Visible in the Background (cluster of white poplar trees) within Parcel 2

⁶ Natural England (2023) *Designated Sites View: Wellington Basins LNR*. [online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1082980> [Accessed 24 October 2023]

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.3 The area of woodland was assessed to be in 'Poor' condition, reaching only a score of 16 (out of 39, Table A1, Appendix A refers). The low condition score was due to uniform age classes and lack of regeneration and veteran trees, presence of a single naturalised species, restricted structural diversity throughout the habitat type, nutrient enrichment from flooding of the adjacent river and presence of Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*. The condition assessment and associated Habitat Units associated with the woodland habitat is given in Table 1 below.
- 3.2.4 Although structural diversity was limited at a habitat level, the woodland still strengthens habitat connectivity between adjacent woodland and nearby railway and riparian wooded corridors. Therefore, within the Metric it has been given a Strategic Significance multiplier of 1.1.

Table 1: BNG Condition Assessment Overview – Woodland

Location	Feature Ref.	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
Location 2	W2.1	Other broadleaved woodland	Poor	0.09	0.38

Grassland

Floodplain Wetland Mosaic

- 3.2.5 Field 1.2, Parcel 1 was categorised as Floodplain Wetland Mosaic habitat and comprised grassland with a mosaic of scrub and small trees (dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp.). The grassland area contained species associated with wetter conditions (including hard rush *Juncus inflexus*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and willowherb *Epilobium* spp.), in addition to small areas of standing water within the eastern area. Abundant Himalayan balsam was also recorded at this parcel.
- 3.2.6 An average of 9 species/m² were recorded within quadrats taken from the grassland within this field.



Photo. 2: Floodplain Wetland Mosaic Habitat, Field 1.2



BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.7 The habitat was assessed to be in 'Poor' condition, failing Criterion B, D and F, as set out in Appendix A Table A2. The habitat within Field 1.2 was not considered a good representation of Floodplain Wetland Mosaic habitat (Criterion B) due to the restricted extent of wetland species within the eastern section only. More than 10% scrub cover (approx. 20% recorded at the time of survey) resulted in the failure of Criterion D and abundant invasive non-native Himalayan balsam failed Criterion F.

Table 2: BNG Condition Assessment Overview – Wetland

Location	Feature Ref.	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
Location 1	F1.2	Floodplain mosaic habitat	Poor	0.79	5.43

Other Neutral Grassland

- 3.2.8 Grasslands recorded across the Site included fields under regular management, such as haycuts (e.g. Parcel 3 and 5) and others left unmanaged and/or used for recreation and community purposes. It is understood that Parcel 5 and Field 4.4, Parcel 4 were farmed as arable until ~1998, but managed as pasture and hay meadows thereafter. The results of botanical quadrats have been included within Appendix A, Table A5.
- 3.2.9 Parcel 2 comprised three fields categorised as Other Neutral Grassland, but with considerable scrub encroachment within Fields 2.1 and 2.3. Overall, an average of 8.4 species/m² were recorded within Parcel 2, just below the average species counts typical of medium/higher distinctiveness grasslands. However, the overall characteristics of this parcel were considered to be more closely related to Other Neutral Grassland than Modified Grassland. The total number of species recorded across Parcel 2 was 26 species, but noting this was not an exhaustive species list. Species recorded in addition to those listed within the botanical quadrats (Appendix A4 refers) included: sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, hairy sedge *Carex hirta*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, dovesfoot cranesbill *Geranium molle*, greater birdsfoot trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, horsetail sp. *Equisetum* sp., rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, plus blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hazel *Corylus* sp. and elder *Sambucus nigra* scrub saplings. Himalayan balsam was also recorded occasionally around the periphery of Field 2.2 and 2.3, but frequently throughout Field 2.1.
- 3.2.10 Overall, Parcel 3 comprised a lush, grassland dominated sward with evidence of recent flooding and sediment deposition, particularly across the west and central sections. The average species count was also 7.2 species/m² and example broadleaved species included (some of which were found outside quadrats): cut-leaved cranesbill *Geranium dissectum*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* (frequent, occasionally abundant), hawksbeard spp. *Crepis* sp. and meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*.
- 3.2.11 Within Parcel 4, areas of Other Neutral Grassland were generally restricted, with the exception of the entire field at Field 4.4. Throughout F4.2 the sward was tall with occasional ruderals, indicating infrequent management and little recreational access. It was situated between a watercourse and below an adjacent footpath. Ground conditions were soft underfoot in places with species indicative of wetter habitats recorded, including: meadow sweet, wild angelica and hairy sedge alongside common couch *Elymus repens*, cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* as the dominant grasses/sedges.
- 3.2.12 Areas of Other Neutral Grassland within Field 4.1 were tussocky and dominated by false oat grass and cocks foot, but with the perimeter delineated by frequent footfall along an adjacent path. Botanical species count within these areas ranged between 5.5 – 6.6 species/m². A greater species count (avr. 6.75sp./m²) was also recorded within Field 4.4, which appeared unmanaged and establishing as a tussocky grassland.
- 3.2.13 Despite lower species counts typical of less diverse grasslands, the overall characteristics of these areas were considered more similar to Other Neutral Grassland than that of Modified Grassland habitats.



- 3.2.14 Parcel 5 comprised three fields containing Other Neutral Grassland regularly managed with summer haycuts. Although perennial rye grass was recorded on occasion, common bent dominated the sward overall alongside frequent sweet vernal grassland and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Broadleaved species considered sub-optimal for Other Neutral Grassland when recorded at higher densities (i.e. creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, dandelion *Taraxacum* sp. and white clover), but alongside more typical meadow species such as common catsear *Hypochaeris radicata*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and ribwort plantain.
- 3.2.15 The average species count in Field 5.3 was 8.6 sp./m². In comparison, species diversity within Field 5.1 and Field 5.2 were less diverse but the overall number of species likely underestimated, as the field had been cut shortly before a survey visit. The species count within Field 5.2 averaged 4.5 species/m² with abundant common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and sweet vernal grass. Common sorrel, white clover (<5%) and yarrow *Achillea millefolium* were the few recorded broadleaved species. Repeat botanical surveys undertaken between May/June – July/August prior to cutting (or grazing) would provide a more representative species list and further inform future management and monitoring plans.
- 3.2.16 The grassland recorded within Parcel 6 included indicators of grassland modification and increased nutrient, such as frequent creeping buttercup and occasional common nettle *Urtica dioica*. However, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* dominated across all quadrats, whereas creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* was the next most abundant species, followed by cocks-foot. Therefore, Parcel 6 grassland was considered to be more representative of Other Neutral Grassland than Modified Grassland. Six grass species were recorded in total and an average 8 species/m².

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.17 Parcel 2 grasslands were considered to be in poor condition, failing essential Criterion A, scrub cover $\leq 5\%$ (Criterion D), frequent access or presence of Himalayan balsam (Criterion E) and some sub-optimal species (as per the condition assessment sheet) lowering the overall species count further (Criterion F).
- 3.2.18 Field 3 was assessed to be in poor condition, as the habitat failed Criteria A, E and F, in addition to C as there was little bare ground amongst the sward. In contrast to Parcel 2, however, Criterion D passed as scrub and bracken cover were $\leq 5\%$ and $\leq 20\%$ respectively.
- 3.2.19 The small area of Other Neutral Grassland within F4.1 was infrequently managed with a longer sward (approx. 60 – 120cm) dominated by false oat grass, cocks-foot, Yorkshire fog and frequent common nettle. With the exception of Criterion D (due to a lack of scrub/bracken), this habitat failed all BNG criteria and was therefore assessed to be in poor condition. F4.2 was also assessed to be poor condition, as it failed all criteria except both B (variable sward height) and B (scrub and bracken cover <5 and 20%) respectively. Lastly, Field 4.4 was categorised as in poor condition, as it passed B and favourable coverage of scrub/bracken.
- 3.2.20 Parcel 5 grasslands were considered to be in poor condition. Despite passing three criteria (B, C and D), failure of essential criteria A (i.e. the grassland is a good representation of the habitat type) restricted the habitat condition to poor only.
- 3.2.21 Parcel 6 grassland habitat was assessed to be in poor condition due to failure of all criteria with the exception of C (i.e. coverage of bare ground between 1-5%) and D (i.e. no more than 5 and 20% coverage scrub and bracken respectively).



Photo. 3: ONG within Field 2.1



Photo. 4: ONG within Field 2.2



Photo. 5: Location 3 ONG after recent flood



Photo. 6: Field 5.3 ONG facing west

Table 3: BNG Condition Assessment Overview – Other Neutral Grasslands

Parcel	Feature Ref.	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
Parcel 2	All	Other neutral grassland	Poor	1.66	7.32
Parcel 3	F3	Other neutral grassland	Poor	3.21	14.12
Parcel 4	All	Other neutral grassland	Poor	3.15	13.85
Parcel 5	All	Other neutral grassland	Poor	10.21	44.92
Parcel 6	All	Other neutral grassland	Poor	1.05	4.62

Modified Grassland

- 3.2.22 Fields within Parcel 1 and Parcel 4 were assessed as Modified Grassland given low species count and failure of at least two criteria as per habitat type g3c Other Neutral Grassland within UK Habitat Classification v2.0.
- 3.2.23 Parcel 1 was dominated by cocks-foot, with occasional occurrence of common nettle and creeping cinquefoil, present amongst an unmanaged sward approx. 40cm tall. The total species count was 5.4 species/m² with a total of nine grasses, including perennial rye and timothy grass. This low species count and less than 20% broadleaved herbs within the sward resulted in the failure of Other Neutral Grassland criterion.



- 3.2.24 Frequent access, including dog-walking and associated nutrient-enrichment, throughout Parcel 4.1 resulted in a shorter sward compared with other Parcels. Frequent occurrence of common bistort was considered probably likely to have resulted from frequent disturbance. Overall, sward height was indicative of relative footfall with a shorter sward (approx. <10cm near to The Basins pools) and increasing towards field boundaries.

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.25 Parcel 1 Modified Grassland (Field 1.1) passed all criteria with the exception of Criterion 1 (i.e. at least 6-8 species/m²), resulting in poor condition as the highest achievable condition.
- 3.2.26 Field 4.1 also failed Criterion A with an average 5.3 species/m², in addition to Criteria 4 and 5 due to footfall increasing physical damage greater than 5% and bare ground greater than 10% respectively. Without passing essential Criteria 1, this habitat was also categorised as poor condition only.

Table 4: BNG Condition Assessment Overview – Modified Grasslands

Parcel	Feature Ref.	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
Parcel 1	F1	Modified grassland	Poor	2.25	4.94
Parcel 4	F4.1	Modified grassland	Poor	1.47	3.24

Heathland and Shrub

- 3.2.27 Scrub was present within each Parcel with the exception of fields within Parcel 5 and 6 (due to regular management of these fields). Elsewhere, scrub was most frequently recorded extending from boundaries and most extensively within fields at Parcel 2.

Bramble Scrub

- 3.2.28 Bramble Scrub was the most prevalent scrub type. It was either patch-forming, extensive cover (in particular Field 2.1 and 2.3) or comprised small areas (Parcel 3 and Parcel 4), below the minimal mappable area for this project (approx. 400m²). Therefore, this was recorded as Target Notes (Table 8 below refers).
- 3.2.29 Although impenetrable in many places, Himalayan balsam had also infiltrated scrub habitats - Photo 7 below refers.
- 3.2.30 Bramble Scrub is excluded from condition assessment and assigned the default condition of "N/A".

Mixed Scrub

- 3.2.31 Mixed Scrub was recorded across all fields within Parcel 2. Whilst bramble remained an abundant species, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, willow *Salix spp.* and occasional alder were also recorded. Himalayan balsam was also recorded in places.
- 3.2.32 A small area of scrub was situated within Field 4.2 including alder *Alnus glutinosa*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, goat willow *Salix caprea*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and hazel *Corylus avellana*.

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers

- 3.2.33 Table A11 in Appendix A gives full details of the condition assessments for this habitat. Areas of Mixed Scrub at Parcel 2 failed all criteria with the exception Criterion D relating to well-developed edges along scrub and tall grassland forbs forming adjacent habitat, although the scrub was not of sufficient age to have established grades or rides (Criterion E). Overall, the scrub was a poor representation of this habitat type due to limited number of species and limited age classes (Criterion A, B). The presence of Himalayan balsam also resulted in another failed Criterion limiting the overall score to 4/5 failed criteria.

3.2.34 The Mixed Scrub situated at Parcel 4 was assessed to be in moderate condition, with a diverse mix of woody species and good representation of this habitat type (Criterion A), presence of different age classes (Criterion B) and well developed edge habitat (Criterion E).



Photo 7: Impenetrable bramble scrub, Field 2.1

Table 5: Overview BNG Condition Assessment Results - Scrub

Parcel	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
Parcel 1	Bramble scrub	N/A	0.01	0.05
Parcel 2	Mixed Scrub	Poor	0.47	2.08
Parcel 2	Bramble scrub	N/A	1.2	5.3
Parcel 3	Bramble scrub	N/A	0.01	0.04
Parcel 4	Mixed Scrub	Moderate	0.04	0.35
Parcel 4	Bramble scrub	N/A	0.13	0.57

Lakes

Ponds: Non-priority habitats

- 3.2.35 A small, horseshoe-shaped waterbody (approx. 80m²) was recorded within Field 2.2, Parcel 2 in addition to a small natural depression holding water close to the watercourse (Target Note 1 refers, Appendix B (Parcel 2)). The waterbody was dense with vegetation including meadowsweet, soft rush *Juncus effusus* and water pepper *Persicaria hydropiper*, and holding approx. 10-15cm water. Heavy rain had occurred in the days prior to the survey. Although water levels may have been above typical water levels, the recorded species indicated that the area is likely to be wet all year-round.

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.36 The temporary and un-shaded nature of the pond elevated the condition to this habitat to moderate, as shown in Table A13 in Appendix A. However, a lack of emergent, submerged and floating plants failed Criterion H and high turbidity failed Criterion A.



Photo 8: Small temporary pond (or scrape) within Field 2.

Sparsely Vegetated Land

Ruderal / Ephemeral (Secondary habitat)

- 3.2.37 Areas of ruderals were recorded in all areas with reduced management, therefore excluding Parcel 3 and Parcel 5.
- 3.2.38 Within Parcel 1, ruderals (common nettle *Urtica dioica* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*) dominated the south-western corner of Field 1.2. Common nettle also dominated an area of ruderals approx. 450m² within the south-eastern corner of Field 2.2 and surrounding a sewage manhole, with evidence of recent overflow.
- 3.2.39 Within Parcel 4, patches of ruderals had established adjacent to boundaries, watercourses and where footfall had not suppressed vegetation growth. It also extended extensively throughout Field 4.3. Within this field, ruderals dominated the entire field with an approx. height of 120cm (Photo 10 below refers). A large swathe of ruderals was also present in Parcel 6, surrounding the mature trees within the field and dominated by common nettle. This habitat was also in poor condition.



Photo 9: Ruderals adjacent to boundary (background) with grassland habitat in foreground in Field 4.1, Parcel 4



Photo 10: Field 4.3, Parcel 4 dominated by ruderals throughout (facing south)

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.40 Table A15 in Appendix A shows that Ruderal vegetation within Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 both achieved poor condition due to the presence of Himalayan balsam, an essential criterion (Criterion C) for achieving good condition. Although there was an absence on non-native invasive species at Parcel 4 and 6, low species diversity resulted in the failure of Criterion C.

**Table 6: Overview BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Results - Ruderals**

Location	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
F1	Ruderals	Poor	0.21	0.47
F2	Ruderals	Poor	0.04	0.08
F4	Ruderals	Poor	1.15	2.53
F6	Ruderals	Poor	0.23	0.51

UrbanAllotment

- 3.2.41 A forest garden area had been created at Parcel 1. Similar habitat was also recorded around the northern boundary of Parcel 6, however not recorded as such due to its restricted area.
- 3.2.42 A more traditional allotment, designated as a community farm growing locally produced fruit and vegetables and flowering planting in addition to wildlife refuges, was recorded within Field 5.3, Parcel 5.

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.43 Both areas of allotment habitat were assessed to be in good condition with a range of features available for invertebrates and vertebrates to “live, eat and breed” and structurally diverse vegetation. This is shown in Table A15 in Appendix A.

Table 7: Overview BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Results – Allotments

Parcel Ref.	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Area (Ha)	Baseline Habitat Units (HU)
Parcel 1	Allotment	Good	0.51	3.39
Parcel 5	Allotment	Good	1.33	8.79

Developed Land; Sealed Surface

- 3.2.44 A designated, asphalt footpath extended through the northern section of Parcel 3, linking The Basins situated on the east with Rockwell Green (south-west). BNG condition assessments are not applicable for Developed Land, Sealed Surface.

Individual TreesRural Trees

- 3.2.45 A total of seven standard (in-field) trees and five groups of trees (i.e. those not associated with hedgerows or other boundary habitats) were recorded within the Site. Although the green infrastructure setting is a mix of rural and urban (i.e. within fields and on occasion close proximity to hard surfaces), standard trees (and groups of trees) within the Site not contained within boundaries were categorised as Rural Trees to enable the most appropriate habitat classification within the BNG Metric. This is as per the User Guide suggestion: ‘The methodology described above [i.e. Accounting for Urban trees in biodiversity Metric 3.1] for calculating area equivalent and condition may also be used for individual trees outside of the urban environment.’.
- 3.2.46 The total area occupied by Rural Trees within the Site was 1.14ha according to the Urban Tree Helper Tool. Within the Metric, this area was not counted towards total Site area, and the areas beneath the trees were recorded as the relevant habitat types.



BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview - Appendix A refers.

- 3.2.47 Habitat conditions varied between parcels, as shown in Table A17 in Appendix A, with the presence of non-native species and establishing trees (lacking ecological niches (Criterion E) associated with mature trees (Criterion C)) typically reducing habitat conditions.
- 3.2.48 This included Parcel 1 where Group 1.1 (G1.1) comprised non-native maple spp. therefore failing Criteria A (at least 70% species native) and immature hawthorn failing E and F (more than 20% canopy oversailing). A young group of trees (G4.1) at the southern end of Ditch 4.1, Parcel 4 only reached moderate condition also, as it failed Criteria C (more than 50% of trees are mature) and E.
- 3.2.49 Introduced species dominated G4.2, limiting habitat condition to poor, subsequently passing D (good tree health) and F only.
- 3.2.50 All seven individual standard (in-field) trees (at Location 1, 3, 4 and 6) and remaining groups of trees (G1.2 and G4.1) all achieved good condition status.

Table 8: Target Note Overview (Appendix B figures refers

Target Note Ref.	Parcel Ref.	Description
TN1	Parcel 1	Depression/backwater of adjacent watercourse, containing water at the time of survey
TN2	Parcel 2	Small area of other neutral grassland surrounded by dense bramble scrub
TN3	Parcel 2	Area of bramble scrub and longer sward vegetation surrounding telegraph pole
TN4	Parcel 2	Overflowing sewage manhole cover
TN5	Parcel 2	Area of mixed scrub, ruderals and rushes
TN6	Parcel 5	Rabbit droppings and mammal entrance, with shovel and stones near to entrance
TN7	Parcel 5	Human activity and damage (burnt vegetation/tree stumps and litter) within hedgerow, impacting protected species (badger sett)
TN8	Parcel 6	Recent mixed new tree planting, including fruiting trees



3.3 Linear Units

- 3.3.1 Both Hedgerows and Lines of Trees were recorded across the Site with species lists and habitat condition assessments included within Appendix A.

Hedgerows

- 3.3.2 Regularly managed, dense native hedgerows largely bounded fields within Parcel 5 and the southern boundary of Parcel 4. Some were recorded as species-rich and all but 5_H2 and 4_H3 contained regular standard trees. Hedgerow feature 4_H4 comprised a remnant, species-poor hedgerow only connected centrally by an extended length of fence and occasional semi-mature oak and ash planting.
- 3.3.3 Taller hedgerows were recorded at Parcel 1 and 6, each partially forming a site boundary.
- 3.3.4 Overall, most hedgerows were assessed to be in good condition, failing few criteria. The exceptions were 4_H3, 4_H4 and 6_H2, as shown in Table A21 in Appendix A.
- 3.3.5 Although 4_H3 passed most criteria, failure of two core criterion (i.e. A1 (height) and A2 (width)) restricted habitat condition to poor only. Overall, this hedgerow had been managed to less <1.5m and with was narrow in width.
- 3.3.6 Similarly, Hedgerow 4_H4 achieved poor condition only after failing multiple criteria (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and E1) due to general poor condition and an extensive gap within the centre of the hedgerow, despite some tree planting.
- 3.3.7 Hedgerow 6_H2 was assessed to be in moderate condition only as it had more than two failures due to few tree age classes (Criterion E1), presence of non-native invasive species (D1) and nutrient enrichment (C2).
- 3.3.8 Although their overall habitat conditions were assessed to be good, Hedgerows 5_H1, 5_H3 and 5_H4 were subject to >10% damage caused by human activities. This included garden waste disposal affecting 5_H1 and 5_H3 and anti-social activity (including fires and litter) around the base of mature standard trees situated centrally within Hedgerow 5_H4.

Line of Trees

- 3.3.9 The majority of Line of Trees habitats were associated with tributaries of Back Stream or connected human-made water features, plus access routes, such as the track between Parcel 2 and Parcel 3.
- 3.3.10 Frequent species recorded along the length of watercourses included alder *Alnus glutinosa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, goat willow *Salix caprea* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Some introduced species were present within some Line of Trees habitats associated with adjacent residences or forming access routes (e.g. 3_LT1 and 2_LT6).
- 3.3.11 All Line of Trees habitats achieved moderate condition, as shown in Table A20 in Appendix A, failing Criterion D relating to the presence of 'undistributed naturally-vegetated strips of at least 6m on both sides ...'. This was due to access routes running through the green infrastructure to link urban areas or watercourses. It could be debated that the vegetation adjacent to some Lines of Trees is in fact largely undisturbed (e.g. 4_LT6), which would elevate such features to good condition. However, an assumption was made that public access has the potential to undermine this.
- 3.3.12 Breaks in tree canopies also resulted in failure of some criteria, but this is typical habitat structure where such habitats run adjacent to watercourses, as the bank structures will be liable to change. An exception is 4_LT2 which ran parallel to a former leat frequently accessed by pedestrians. At this location, footfall has contributed to the gaps in trees and associated canopy (Photo 11 below refers).



Photo 11: Line of Trees (4_LT2) impacted by frequent pedestrian footfall

3.4 River Units

Ditches

- 3.4.1 In addition to watercourses (rivers and leats) bounding some redline boundaries, approx. 360m of ditch habitat, connecting two sections of river, was recorded within Parcel 4 (Appendix B (Parcel 4) refers). The ditch was approx. 1m deep and 1-1.5m wide, bounded by approx. 1m of marginal aquatic vegetation, ruderals and occasional scrub on either side.



Photo 12: Ditch 4.1 running parallel to footpath

BNG Habitat Condition Assessment Overview – Appendix A refers.

- 3.4.2 The ditch was assessed to be in poor condition achieving only 5/8 criteria, as shown in Table A31 in Appendix A. Although some sections of ditch appeared to have clear water, many were turbid with dogs evidently accessing in places resulting in failure of Criterion A. Few aquatic plants were recorded within the ditch (Criterion B) and water levels were considered below "sufficient" levels (approx. 50cm for small ditch mid-summer) therefore failed Criterion C.

Table 9: BNG Condition Assessment Overview – Ditches

Parcel	Feature Ref.	Broad Habitat Type	BNG Condition	Length (km)	Baseline Watercourse Units (HU)
Parcel 4	D4.1	Watercourse - ditches	Poor	0.362	2.83



Rivers and Streams

- 3.4.3 In addition to ditches recorded on Site, rivers and leats (associated with former nearby industrial works) run through the main green corridor (north to south), as well as forming the western boundary of Parcel 6. These watercourses are tributaries of the River Tone, situated north of Site, within an area prone to flooding⁷.
- 3.4.4 As the watercourses fall within 10m of the redline boundary, they were included within the biodiversity assessment due to current BNG requirements, even though it is understood that specific river improvements are not within the scope of this project. A total of 27.31RU were recorded on baseline surveys. An overview of watercourses has been provided below to include positive and negative condition indicators recorded during MoRPh river surveys and illustrated in Figure 3. In some instances, adjacent land-use changes, as recommended within this report, will inevitably have potential to positively impact the overall habitat condition of watercourses recorded on Site.
- 3.4.5 Parcel 1: At Parcel 1, the eastern tributary of Field 1.2 was slow-moving with sluggish flow and assessed to be in fairly good condition. Bank modification (i.e. straightening and widening) was noted and considered a likely contributing factor to reduced flow rates. Residential gardens bounded the eastern aspect, but with broadleaved trees and scrub forming the western boundary. Himalayan balsam was frequently recorded. The presence of non-native invasive species, channel modification and substrate, residential-use of adjacent bankside habitat and heavy siltation (due to low flows) were all negative indicators along this stretch. In contrast, the presence of more naturalised margins, species-rich broadleaved trees, natural bank profiles, including exposed bare sediment banks, woody debris and species-richness of macrophytes, were positive indicators for the parcel.
- 3.4.6 The western tributary at Parcel 1, Field 1.2 had similar negative indicators, in particular channel modification which was degrading leading to the distribution of debris along the watercourse. Some banks were steep and undercut in the main channel with fast associated flows, whilst others were grass-dominated with frequent Himalayan balsam. The diversity of bank structure was a positive feature of this stretch of watercourse, in addition to the presence of water crowfoot species which can be a good indicator of water quality. Overall, this length of river was assessed to be in moderate condition.
- 3.4.7 Parcel 2: Multiple, connected channels were recorded at Parcel 2 including a slow-flowing modified channel bounding the eastern side of Field 2.3 and three branched channels separating Fields 2.1 – 2.3.
- 3.4.8 The condition of the watercourse bounding the east of Field 2.3 was assessed as moderate but limited by heavy siltation, waste disposal (e.g. builders/industrial waste), informal jetties and small weirs. Himalayan balsam was also recorded along this stretch. Some bankside vegetation improved the habitat condition, such as the presence of willows and bankside marginal vegetation, in addition to some variation in flow type throughout the channel although this was restricted overall.
- 3.4.9 Throughout the central stretches of the branched river, the watercourse reached moderate conditions and was generally naturalised but with negative indicators including brick reinforcement, poaching from pedestrian footfall and the presence of non-native invasive Himalayan balsam. Siltation was also frequent. Positive features included the diversity of bankside tree features, riparian vegetation and retention of natural bank profiles and the species richness of aquatic macrophytes.
- 3.4.10 To the west, the channels were more naturalised with less modifications and reinforcements affecting the banks and channel bed, but remained in moderate condition. Where reinforcements were present, these could be good candidates for removal. The presence of aquatic macrophytes (including water crowsfoot) and gravel pebble islands and sidebars increased channel diversity with more pools and riffles recorded compared with other channels. Variable bank structure, flow types and bed materials were also a positive feature of this watercourse, with steep banks reducing pedestrian access to the benefit of the watercourse. The presence of Himalayan balsam remained a negative indicator however.

⁷ Environment Agency (2023) *Get flood risk information for planning in England* [online] <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/> [Accessed 20 October 2023]



- 3.4.11 Parcel 3: Rivers bounded the west and south of Parcel 3. The watercourse bounding the east was assessed to be in moderate condition and a continuation of the central channels described above within Location 2. Along the north-west (adjacent to a railway), a steeply banked and wooded stream formed the boundary and was considered to be in moderate condition. High flows are suspected at certain times of year, given the steepness of the riverbanks. The presence of natural channel features, including riffles and pools, were positive indicators, but with siltation and frequent Himalayan balsam restricting the condition of these sections of the watercourse.
- 3.4.12 Channel modifications resulting from bank reinforcement were also recorded, albeit failing in places leading to the creation of pools where flow bypassed or undercut such features and creating backchannels. Frequent outflows and ditches entered the watercourse and may have been contributing factors to reduced water quality. In contrast, positive features included: moderate diversity and extent of emergent, aquatic vegetation (with the exception of frequent occurrence of Himalayan balsam); retained natural features such as meanders and pools; variable bank profiles; and bankside vegetation and tree diversity.
- 3.4.13 Parcel 4: This watercourse can be split into two for BNG purposes, with the section to the north of the weir/pedestrian crossing (southern boundary of Field 4.3) separate from the section to the south.
- 3.4.14 The southern section was reported to be in fairly poor condition due to heavily modified, artificial reinforcement affecting both the bank and channel. Developed land in close proximity to the bank top also limited this feature. Heavy shading and silt within the channel also undermined the potential value of this habitat. Furthermore, Himalayan balsam was also recorded but not extensive at the time of survey. To the north, less bankside trees and shrub was present resulting in more aquatic and emergent vegetation, combined with less artificial reinforcement resulting in this length of watercourse being assessed as of moderate condition, despite prevalent Himalayan balsam which compromised the score.
- 3.4.15 Parcel 6: This was assessed to be in moderate condition. This length of watercourse is in close proximity to the nearby railway and between unmanaged pasture and residential gardens, but with little human access noted. Detrimental features affecting the river included gabion and reinforcements along some riverbanks (although variable flow type and river characteristics, such as pools and riffles were recorded); high levels of siltation within these areas constrained the potential condition of this watercourse; and frequent Himalayan balsam was also a limiting factor. In contrast, variable channel width, flow types and channel bed materials were all positive features of the water course. In particular, the presence of indicators of reasonable water quality, including both water crow's-foot and larger fish, were recorded.

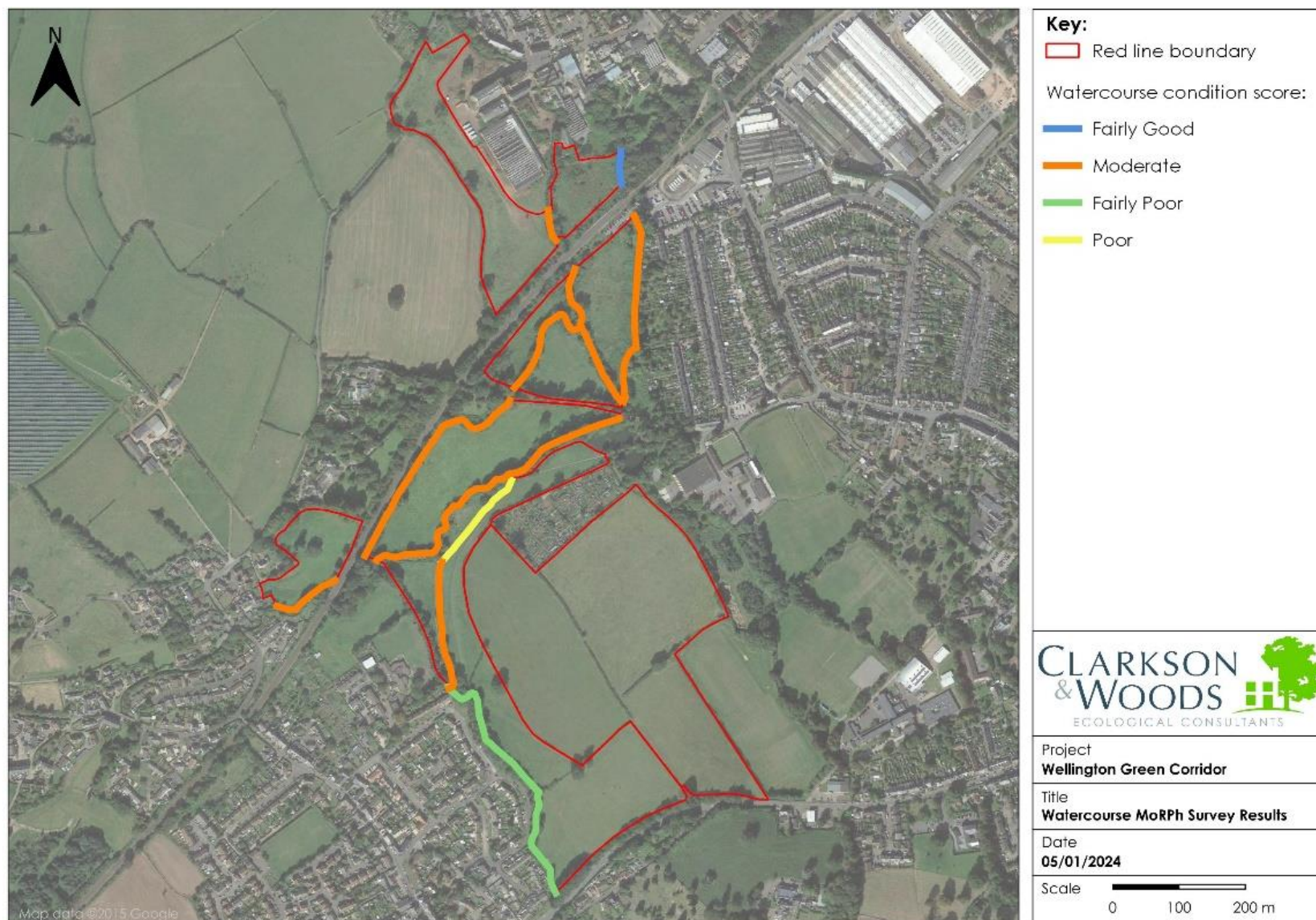


Figure 3. Watercourse MoRPh Survey Results



4 PROPOSED DESIGN

- 4.1.1 The proposed design has been shaped by Wellington Town Council's commitment⁸, following purchase of the area of land by Wellington Town Council in 2022⁹, to improve Wellington's "Green Corridor" for the benefit of biodiversity on balance with ensuring that future management will also support local communities' recreational, cultural, arts, and food growing aspirations. The results of the biodiversity assessment can be used to inform future revisions of the proposed Wellington Green Corridor Management Plan⁸.
- 4.1.2 The proposed changes have been informed through the results of the baseline habitat surveys, and ongoing consultation with the Green Corridor Advisory Board (GCAB) members. Consideration has also been given to how community interests and aspirations can be balanced with improving the condition and resilience of recorded habitats and the local biodiversity network.
- 4.1.3 Changes include: enhancements of grassland habitats with an aim of increasing species-richness and resources for wildlife; hedgerow creation and enhancement through the addition of standard trees; scrub and woodland planting to strengthen the riparian habitats and habitat connectivity throughout the Green Corridor; increased habitat structural diversity through rotational management of scrub and ruderals; enhancement of floodplain mosaic habitat, including creation of wetland features within appropriate parcels (Parcel 2) to improve riparian lateral connectivity and habitat heterogeneity; orchard creation; scattered parkland tree planting; targeted tree removal to increase light ingress into some watercourses; the replacement of non-native trees with native species; and the extension of local food growing areas.
- 4.1.4 Table 10, below, summaries the quantified biodiversity gains that would result from the above proposed habitat changes.
- 4.1.5 The proposed habitat types within the Site and their associated targeted condition assessments are described below and detailed within Appendix A. Proposed Habitat Plans for each parcel, prepared on GIS and translating proposed habitat to the UK Habitat Classification (to allow comparison with the baseline situation), have been provided as Appendix C.
- 4.1.6 The proposed opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement may be subject to revision following feedback from relevant stakeholders.
- 4.1.7 It has been necessary to make some assumptions about the condition and distinctiveness of created and/or enhanced habitats to complete the Metric. This is to ensure that habitat creation and enhancement in the Metric is based on a realistic and achievable scenario, resulting in some target conditions being set at moderate (rather than good).

⁸ Wellington Town Council (2023) Draft Green Corridor Land Management Plan January 2023 – December 2027 [online]. Available at: <https://www.wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Final-Approved-Green-Corridor-Land-Management-Plan-January-2023-Dec-2027-updated-Jan-23-waterways-removed.pdf> [Accessed 23 October 2023]

⁹ Wellington Town Council (2023) *The Green Corridor* [online] Available at: <https://www.wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk/greencorridor/> [Accessed 02 October 2023]



4.2 Habitat Units

Habitat Retention

Woodland

Other Broadleaved Woodland

- 4.2.1 The area of woodland at Parcel 2 has been retained at poor condition due to the time taken for a mature woodland, with diverse tree age classes, to fully establish. A lack of species diversity also restricts the habitat condition of the woodland, as well as the presence of Himalayan balsam, which would require a coordinated, landscape scale effort to achieve adequate control.
- 4.2.2 Should additional opportunities be pursued, additional planting of native, diverse woodland species could be used to increase the footprint of the woodland. This has not been allowed for within the BNG Metric, and species typical of wet woodland habitats would be most appropriate, as recent flooding was noted during the initial field survey.

Grassland

Modified Grassland

- 4.2.3 It has not been proposed for all Modified Grassland within Field 1.1 or Field 4.1 to be enhanced, as the fields are an important community asset with mixed use (i.e. walking, dogs, forest garden, community use) therefore retaining public access is important. To restrict the extent of recreational impacts upon the grassland (and surrounding habitats) however, defined routes should be retained around the area of proposed enhancements in Field 1.1 and to maintain a clear thoroughfare within Field 4.1. This will help to contain impacts of footfall and further enrichment from dog waste away from proposed enhanced habitats.
- 4.2.4 These factors have therefore led to Field 1.1 being retained as Modified Grassland in poor condition. Similarly, there is limited potential for habitats within the main pedestrian thoroughfare of Field 4.1 to be improved. Therefore, these have also been retained as Modified Grassland in poor condition.

Heathland and Scrub

Bramble Scrub

- 4.2.5 Some bramble Scrub will be lost to enable enhancement of grasslands and floodplain wetland mosaic habitats. Neither Condition Assessments nor enhancements are applicable for Bramble Scrub. Nevertheless, scrub is highly valuable to wildlife and creates diversity within the overall fabric of habitats present across Site. Whilst partial removal of bramble scrub is recommended, retention within Parcel 1, 2 and 4 and maintenance in its current condition is recommended.
- 4.2.6 Rotational cutting (with cuts targeting approx. 1/5th of the scrub cover approx. once every 3-5 years) should take place to prevent further encroachment of bramble across these Parcels, otherwise it will continue to spread and reduce the condition of other habitat types¹⁰. Such cuts can include removal of scrub patches and/or cutting back/through scrub to create scalloped edges and ride to increase the structural diversity of bramble scrub and maximise edge habitat suitable for a range of species.

Mixed Scrub

- 4.2.7 Mixed Scrub present within Parcel 2 and Parcel 4 achieved poor and moderate condition respectively. At Parcel 2 it is considered that continued establishment of less abundant species could eventually result in reaching Criterion A. However, this positive change cannot be accounted for within the BNG metric as it would occur as a natural process. Also, although rotational mgmt. (as per bramble scrub above) will achieve Criterion E through the creation of sheltered edges and clearings, only two criteria would pass and, as such, Parcel 2 will remain at its baseline condition (poor).

¹⁰ Natural England (2023) *The Scrub Management Handbook: Guidance on the management of scrub on nature conservation sites (IN124)* [online]. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/72031> [Accessed 19 October 2023]



4.2.8 At Parcel 4, the habitat condition has remained at moderate, because complete absence of non-native invasive species (such as Himalayan balsam) would be required to achieve good condition.

4.2.9 See also 'Habitat Creation' below.

Individual Trees

Rural Trees

4.2.10 The majority of Rural Trees on Site achieved good condition therefore retention and continued maintenance to ensure their longevity and biodiversity value should be continued.

4.2.11 Groups of trees recorded at Parcel 1 and Parcel 4 (G1.1 and G4.1) achieved moderate condition, which is considered likely to increase as these trees mature further. This change has not been included as an enhancement due to the time necessary to achieve this and natural succession (rather than an enhancement per se).

4.2.12 Details of the enhancement to Group 4.2 of rural trees is included within 'Habitat Creation' below.

Urban

Allotment

4.2.13 The allotments achieved good condition and continued use is considered to maintain them in this condition. It would nevertheless be prudent to monitor for non-native species at Parcel 1, as it lies close to areas at risk of flooding (and introduction of floating Himalayan balsam seeds).

4.2.14 See also 'Habitat Creation'.

Lakes

Non-priority Habitats

4.2.15 The temporary pond within Parcel 2 (Field 2.2) is a valuable feature, positively enhancing the biodiversity value across the Site. To achieve good habitat condition, pond water quality would need to improve (Criterion A) and coverage of emergent, submerged or floating plants be increased. Although vegetation was recorded within the pond, the addition of appropriate aquatic macrophyte plants has the potential to pass these criteria, but also risks introducing invasive species.

4.2.16 Therefore, given the challenges of balancing ecological and recreational interests, additional planting is not recommended. However, consideration should be given to ensuring that pedestrian access does not result in deterioration of the pond condition. Although potentially useful for reducing accessibility, the introduction of scrub surrounding pond margins is likely to reduce its value longer term, due to increased shading and additional nutrients (e.g. leaf litter) and should be avoided. Appropriate signage may be useful in this instance, and continued consultation and engagement with the local community to disseminate the importance to restricted access into the ponds and their value to local biodiversity and people.

4.2.17 Continued monitoring should take place to ensure that Himalayan balsam (or other non-native invasive species) do not become introduced or established within or surrounding ponds.

4.2.18 See also 'Habitat Creation' below.



Habitat Enhancement

- 4.2.19 Habitats recorded on Site were suitable for a range of protected species, such as hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius*, reptiles, nesting birds and water voles *Arvicola amphibius*. Further notable species have also been confirmed as present such as harvest mice *Micromys minutus* and hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus* are also likely to be present. Therefore, the implementation and timing of management recommendations should have consideration for these species to avoid detrimental impacts, mortality or reckless damage to their habitats. Full details of these requirements have not been included within this report, but can be expanded upon within future landscape management plans.

Wetland

Floodplain Wetland Mosaic

- 4.2.20 Floodplain Wetland Mosaic habitat recorded in Field 1.2 will be retained with potential for enhancement to moderate habitat condition. This could be achieved through scrub clearance to achieve less than 10% coverage across this habitat, therefore passing Criterion D.
- 4.2.21 Management of an area of ruderals situated within the southwest corner of Field 1.2 would also support an increase of the overall Floodplain Wetland Mosaic area. No more than approx. 60% of ruderals should be cleared at one time, however, to retain a valuable invertebrate resource and habitat heterogeneity within this field.
- 4.2.22 With targeted and continued effort to remove Himalayan balsam, there may be potential to also achieve Criterion F. However, the likelihood is considered limited due to continued in-flow of seed sources from up-stream. Measures should nevertheless be taken to remove Himalayan balsam before May/June of any given year through hand pulling or repeat cutting before flowers and seeds set. This would reduce seedbanks and prevent further spread. It is understood that efforts have already improved the extent of cover, but further funding may help establish a concerted effort for better control beyond site (seed sources) or help from specialist contractors.

Grassland

Other Neutral Grassland

- 4.2.23 Enhancement measures for Other Neutral Grassland recorded on Site include change of management and/or enhancements measures taken with an aim of increasing species-richness across fields, as follows:
- Oversowing and appropriate management with a specific aim of increasing species-richness and representative habitat characteristics within Field 5.1, Field 3 and Field 6;
 - Revision of grassland management across remaining areas of Other Neutral Grassland in attempt to recover characteristics representative of specific Other Neutral Grasslands.
- 4.2.24 For Field 3, 5.1 and 6 to achieve good status, Criterion F (i.e. more than 10 vascular plant species/m² but excluding suboptimal species¹¹) would need to be achieved which could, in turn, support recovery of habitat characteristics representative of specific grassland habitat types (essential Criterion A).
- 4.2.25 To facilitate the above, soil testing should first take place to determine nutrient levels and the most suitable seed mixes and management approach. Then appropriate ground preparation to enable seed application, ideally in autumn so that seeds can overwinter to initiate germination (e.g. yellow rattle) or alternatively spring, to support the establishment of new seeding.
- 4.2.26 Appropriate ground preparation would aim to increase bare ground cover and the likelihood of seed/soil contact. Scarifying, chain harrowing or raking can be used, but ploughing should be avoided where possible to retain current soil structure. Repeated vegetation cutting (and removal of arisings) may also facilitate the removal of dense vegetation. This is of particular relevance at Parcel 3 where cover of bare ground would

¹¹ Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type (taken from Natural England's BNG condition assessment sheet, Other Neutral Grassland) include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.



also need to increase (between 0 to 1-5% to pass Criterion C). Instead of mechanical cutting, the lush sward would ideally be grazed in addition to an annual summer haycut. It is understood that public access may challenge the introduction of livestock at this location (due to livestock worrying), however the relative isolation of the Site (beyond a watercourse and lacking PRoW) may increase feasibility to pursue this option. Where grazing is not considered to be suitable, an additional cut/s would take place shortly after the spring flush but no later than late April/early May to increase likelihood of broadleaved herbs to establish within the sward.

- 4.2.27 Following seed application mechanically or by hand, the fields should be rolled or treaded over to ensure good soil/seed contact. A flush of annual weeds is likely to occur the following year and can be retained, unless injurious or extensive cover, as these plants will provide shelter for establishing seeds. A late summer cut and repeated cutting or grazing until the following spring will create a sward suitable for the second growing season and establishment of perennials. At this stage, the fields should be left uncut/ungrazed from late March/April until late July/August to allow flowering species to flower and set seed.
- 4.2.28 The timing of cutting year-to-year can be used in response to how the sward establishes (refer also below). Problem weeds can also be targeted by selective scything or topping. Use of rotational or successional cutting is recommended within Field 5.1, as some species may have been repeatedly removed from the sward where cuts have taken place repeatedly at the same time of year.
- 4.2.29 Thereafter, annual monitoring should take place by appropriately experienced individuals to ensure the sward develops and is maintained to increase overall species diversity and reach target status.
- 4.2.30 Managing fields as smaller parcels within Parcel 5 in succession also has the potential to support variable sward diversity and allow flowering plants to flourish at different times of the season (Criterion B).
- 4.2.31 Ideally, Parcel 3 would be cattle grazed in early spring and autumn into winter (where ground conditions allow) to reduce the density of grasses and lush vegetation, increasing opportunities for broadleaved species to grow. Use of cattle would also help sward heterogeneity through creating foot holes and some bare ground (Criteria B and C).
- 4.2.32 Elsewhere across the Site, the primary focus is to review grassland management to prevent deterioration of species-richness through neglect and to develop vegetation swards more representative of the characteristics described within UK Habitat descriptions with measures summarised below.
- 4.2.33 At Parcel 2, scrub management can take place to reduce overall cover (Criterion D) to $\leq 5\%$ within the extent of the grassland. Some scrub patches will be retained in-field and around field boundaries to protect the watercourses from frequent dog/pedestrian access and retain a mosaic of habitats. The introduction of wetland features (refer to Habitat Creation below) has the potential to increase the consistency of wetland plants recorded throughout the grassland.
- 4.2.34 Despite management changes as described above, in some areas frequently accessed by dogs (such as parts of Parcel 2), soil conditions are likely to have increased nutrient levels, which may remain a challenge to grassland recovery. Appropriate signage and well-defined routes (established through use of cutting and/or signage) could potentially be used to restrict the extent of these impacts by encouraging use of the main footpaths. Monitoring of poaching across the entire Site should take place to ensure measures are taken where needed to prevent excessive damage (Criterion C).
- 4.2.35 Regular monitoring of botanical species should take place to record change and ensure that records are representative of habitats throughout the year. Monitoring will also be required as part of BNG trading.
- 4.2.36 Continued Himalayan balsam control would also be necessary to avoid an automatic failure of Criterion E. This could be done with input from a specialist contractor.
- 4.2.37 Both Field 4.2, Field 4.4 and the other areas of Other Neutral Grassland within Field 4.1 had relatively low botanical species counts likely attributable to infrequent management and presence of ruderals. Whilst such habitats are valuable, rotational management (approx. once every 3 – 5 years) should be used to continue to control scrub and ruderal encroachment within these areas, increasing structural heterogeneity and species diversity within these fields (Criterion B). Only part of these areas (approx. 1/3 or dense swards of injurious weeds) would be cut at any one time however to retain structural diversity across the site. The target condition is to increase these habitats into 'moderate' condition by improving the characteristics of grassland (and therefore achieving essential Criterion A). Regular monitoring and adaptive management may be required however to reach this target.



Modified Grassland

- 4.2.38 At Parcel 1, Modified Grassland can be enhanced to a higher condition within the area of proposed wildflower planting (Field 1.1). The same principles as set out for Other Neutral Grassland above will be implemented to support the establishment of a species-rich 'wildflower' area through increasing species-diversity, whilst retaining the sward structural diversity as recorded during the baseline.
- 4.2.39 To increase the likelihood of increasing species-richness to achieve target habitat condition, it is proposed that a footpath (retained as modified grassland in poor condition – refer above) to allow continued access through/around the site will limit issues associated with increased nutrients and footfall. Appropriate signage and community engagement could be used to further support this.
- 4.2.40 Refer to 'Habitat Retention' above regarding Modified Grasslands within Fields 4.1.

Orchard

Traditional Orchard

- 4.2.41 Field 5.2 will be created as a traditional orchard with a broad mix of locally appropriate fruit and nut tree varieties. As the broad habitat type remains the same, within the BNG metric, traditional orchard is included as habitat enhancement rather than habitat creation. Trees will be appropriately protected to prevent browsing from wildlife (or livestock) and the management of surrounding habitats.
- 4.2.42 No fertiliser or organic matter should be necessary to enable establishment. Regular annual formative pruning will be required in years following planting to encourage good form with maintenance pruning needing to be continued thereafter.
- 4.2.43 Trees will be planted approx. 8-10m apart but adjusted accordingly dependent on ground conditions and tree type. Trees will be planted using notch-planting where soil conditions are good, whilst small (e.g. maiden) or larger trees would be planted into a hole or where soil structure needs work to accommodate roots without bending them. Application of a thick mulch at least 1 metre around the base of the tree (but not against the trunk to prevent rot) will aid limiting competitive dense weed and grass growth. Regular watering within the first month and during any dry periods will be required¹².
- 4.2.44 The surrounding grassland, although 'lost', can be improved with management recommendation as described for Other Neutral Grassland above. Where implemented as set out above, the orchard will be established in 'moderate' condition.

Sparsely Vegetated Land

Ruderal / Ephemeral

- 4.2.45 At Parcel 4, some areas of ruderals will be lost to habitat creation (see below), but with a belt of ruderals and scrub retained and enhanced adjacent to field boundaries, notably the northern boundary of Hedgerow 4_H1. Field 4.1. These areas will be subject to rotational management, as detailed within subsection 'Mixed Scrub' within 'Habitat Creation' below, with a target condition of moderate, providing that non-native species remain absent.
- 4.2.46 Within Parcel 1 and 2, ruderals will be lost through the overall improvement of (surrounding) grassland habitat conditions. Nevertheless, small patches of ruderal cover will inevitably remain within the grassland communities, but should be managed without their presence compromising the overall habitat diversity for a range of wildlife. In terms of the enhancement of ruderal patches, complete absence of non-native invasives is essential (Criterion C) and would rely upon sustained removal of Himalayan balsam from within Site and surrounding areas (likely seed sources). This change of ruderal extent has not been accounted for within the BNG Metric, with the exception of Parcel 4, as remaining areas are likely to be scattered and below the minimum mappable area.

¹² Natural England (2023) *Traditional orchards: a summary (TIN012)*. [online]. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/97004>. [Accessed: 23 October 2023]



Habitat Creation

Woodland

Scattered Trees

- 4.2.47 Across Field 4.1, occasional native, standard trees will be planted as scattered trees to create parkland habitat. However, it should be noted that the proposed tree planting has been included within the BNG Metric as individual tree planting, but this section because it is understood that the intention of this tree planting includes the creation of areas with the feel of wood pasture and parkland, something which will gradually be achieved over time.
- 4.2.48 Trees will be planted as a density of approx. 10 trees per hectare in order to retain a sense of openness within the field, rather than dense woodland. Planting will be contained within locations that are most appropriate from a landscape and visibility aspect. Newly planted scattered trees will be at moderate condition until mature (decades and dependent on species), but with good care will achieve good condition in the future.
- 4.2.49 A diverse mix of native tree species appropriate for local Landscape Characteristic Assessment will be used with appropriate tree guards and/or fencing to avoid damage by herbivores, users of the Green Corridor or machinery used for grassland maintenance.

Heathland and Mixed Scrub

Mixed Scrub

- 4.2.50 Within Parcel 3, Field 4.3 and Field 5.3, a diverse mix of broadleaved, native scrub planting will be created with an aim of recovering habitat connectivity throughout the green corridor, in particular adjacent to the riparian corridor, which will also improve habitat diversity across the Site.
- 4.2.51 A diverse mix of native scrub species appropriate for local Landscape Characteristic Assessment will be used with appropriate guards, as required, to avoid damage by herbivores, users of the Green Corridor or machinery used for grassland maintenance. The specific species mix is to be confirmed but should have consideration of ensuring successional wildlife resources throughout the season. Although some scrub species will self-seed from the surrounding habitats, supplementary planting will accelerate the rate of change with suitable species including: field maple *Acer campestre*, hazel, hawthorn, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, oak *Quercus robur*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and wayfaring *Viburnum lantana*. Within the scrub, larger species could be planted with the aim of future succession into a woodland habitat. This could include alder and willow to reflect the species currently present within the riparian woodland.
- 4.2.52 Over time, it is possible that increase scrub cover will further reduce light ingress into the riparian corridor. Therefore, to prevent further degradation of these habitats and to enhance the ecological value of the watercourses, targeted sympathetic management through coppicing should take place to introduce light and enable growth of marginal plants (for the benefit of aquatic species and protected species, such as water vole). However, the location of such interventions should only take place where public access is restricted or difficult (e.g. Parcel 3, Field 2.1) to avoid the risk of increasing poaching risks where dogs and people access the rivers. Targeted coppicing can be used to enable this change with felled material potentially being used to prevent access into the rivers.

Rural Trees

Individual Trees

- 4.2.53 Group 4.2 achieved poor condition only due to both immature trees and a species mix including non-native species at this location. Following appropriate consultation with interested parties, non-native species should be removed and replaced with appropriate native species. Replacements should be selected with consideration of their wildlife value and provision of resources year-round. Silver birch, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, aspen *Populus tremuloides* and hazel could be used to enhance the area and achieve moderate habitat condition.
- 4.2.54 Refer to 'Scattered Trees' above regarding the proposed planted at Parcel 4.



Urban

Allotment

- 4.2.55 It is proposed that the current allotments will be extended to support local food production and local communities. With careful design, these can include features that will ensure good habitat condition is achieved whilst supporting local biodiversity, which in turn will support sustainable food production.

Lakes

Non-priority Ponds

- 4.2.56 It is proposed that wetland features in the form of non-priority ponds/temporary pools and/or scrapes will be created within Parcel 2 to increase habitat heterogeneity and improve lateral connectivity of aquatic habitats. Further desk and field studies would be required to inform appropriate locations for the ponds, including topography and hydrology.
- 4.2.57 The proposed maps (Appendix C refers) illustrate indicative locations for these features, with a minimum of six features or at least approx. 800m². The target habitat condition for this habitat is moderate only, as the condition relies heavily upon appropriate engagement with local communities to avoid negative impacts such as recreation within the pond area, dog swimming and associated disturbance.
- 4.2.58 Given that the local soils increase sediment rates within the watercourse, ideally a network of waterbodies would be created to allow some siltation of some ponds (with a view of occasional sedimentation removal) and outflows into others targeted for better water quality.
- 4.2.59 The ponds should allow for the widest variety of habitats possible, with shallow margins (some wide and some narrow) and a deeper area of at least 1.5m. They would be designed to provide shallower pools of water, as well as a larger, deeper area. Broad principles for the construction of the water features include:
- No planting should be introduced, but to allow early successional stages of ponds to establish;
 - Create ponds with connectivity to others nearby, including a mix of deeper ponds, shallow ponds and scrapes;
 - Pond slopes should be shallow, less than 1:5 (12°), but preferably 1:20 (3°);
- 4.2.60 Spoil from pond excavations can be used to create south-facing bunds along the northern aspect, or spread onto adjacent land – both would be seeded with a suitable native, diverse seed mix. Specific management measures necessary to achieve target condition have been included within Appendix A, Table A14.
- 4.2.61 Some management will be required on rotation (once every 5 to 10 years) to maintain the ecological value of wetland features, but full information can be expanded further once wetland feature types have been confirmed for the Site.



4.3 Hedgerow Units

Hedgerow Retention

Hedgerows

- 4.3.1 All hedgerows will be retained across the entire Green Corridor.
- 4.3.2 Hedgerows recorded on Site included species-rich and species-poor hedgerows, some with frequent standard trees and/or associated with a bank or ditch. The majority reached good condition excluding hedgerows 4_H3 and 4_H4 and 6_H2.
- 4.3.3 Removal of Himalayan balsam and measures to prevent nutrient enrichment, such as appropriate siting of compost bins etc., have some potential for hedgerow 6_H2 to pass C2 (nutrient enrichment) and D1 (invasive species), but with limited scope given the proximity of the hedgerow to residential development. Therefore, the condition of this hedgerow has not been enhanced but retained the same.

Line of Trees

- 4.3.4 The potential for any line of trees to be uplifted to good condition is restricted at this site given the recreational use as green infrastructure and associated access routes. Consideration should nevertheless be given to the future condition of lines of trees by ensuring that root protection zones are adequately protected or replacement trees planted where frequent access or safety considerations require tree removal.
- 4.3.5 For the purposes of the biodiversity net gain assessment, no specific enhancements have been proposed or associated gains made.

Habitat Enhancements

- 4.3.6 Although 4_H3 could be enhanced through the planting of standard trees to increase species-richness, proposed scrub planting adjacent to this feature negates the need for infill hedgerow planting, as it will ultimately become part of adjacent proposed scrub network over time. Nevertheless, reduced cutting to increase hedgerow height (>1.5m) and width (>1.5m) would increase overall hedgerow condition to good.
- 4.3.7 The short sections of hedgerow 4_H4 will be enhanced with infill planting used to create a contiguous species-rich hedgerow with trees along this field boundary, including the introduction of new hedgerow (refer to 'Hedgerow Creation' below) to connect the two isolated lengths and increase to good condition. Hedgerow specifications would match those described within 'Hedgerow Creation' below.
- 4.3.8 Although already in good condition, two additional hedgerows (i.e. 5_H2 and 5_H4) will also have standard trees planted every 30-50m to increase overall hedgerow species-richness and structural diversity.
- 4.3.9 Hedgerow cutting enables hedgerows to be maintained as dense, stock-proof features and a lack of management will lead to hedgerows gradually developing into line of trees in time. Therefore, regular hedgerow management should be continued, however revising management with an aim of creating more structural diversity across Site is recommended.
- 4.3.10 Hedgerows would only be cut on one side in any one year or alternatively cut on rotation to enhance structural diversity across the hedgerow network.
- 4.3.11 Although already achieving good condition, hedgerow 5_H4 should be monitored to prevent further deterioration resulting from damaging activities with potential to impact protected species.

Hedgerow Creation

Native Species Rich Hedgerow With Trees

- 4.3.12 Species-rich native hedgerows with trees are recommended for creation at Parcel 1 and 4, creating 490m of new native hedgerow. This includes the eastern boundary of Field 1.1 at Parcel 1 (parallel to the former factory) and to connect two lengths of hedgerow (4_H4) present between Field 4.1 and Field 5.1.
- 4.3.13 All newly created hedgerows will have a 'good' target condition (Table A20, Appendix A refers).



- 4.3.14 Any new planting would be a minimum width of 2m comprised of a double-staggered species-rich native planting typical of the local landscape character. Appropriate species could include: blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, hawthorn hazel, holly, field maple, field rose *Rosa arvensis*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, purging buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, but with a low ratio of hawthorn which tends to have limited side branches above ground level, leading to a gappy hedge base.
- 4.3.15 Appropriate guards should be used and the hedgerow regularly watered during the first summer. Bark mulch could be used to restrict weeds, ruderal growth and retain soil moisture when spread along the length of the hedge immediately after planting.
- 4.3.16 Newly created hedgerows should be trimmed in at least the first two years to encourage bushy growth, allowing the hedge to become taller and wider at each cut. Thereafter, the hedgerow would be subject to occasional mechanical cutting every 2-3 years on rotation (either by rotating hedgerow cut each year or cutting a single each side of the hedgerow on rotation). Hedgerows would be maintained to an optimum height of 2.5-3m and width 2-3m.
- 4.3.17 Cutting should take place outside the bird nesting season, and ideally in January/February where the ground is dry enough to allow machinery access. This would help to ensure an important food source, such as nuts and berries, remain for bird species over the winter.

Habitat Losses

- 4.3.18 The creation of a series of temporary ponds and wetland features within Parcel 2 will result in the loss of other neutral grassland, as will the scrub creation at Parcel 3, 4 and 5. Other Neutral Grassland will also be altered by the creation of orchard within Field 5.2 and scattered trees at Field 4.4. However, with appropriate management the grassland within the orchard has potential to be enhanced, whereas the grassland amongst the scattered trees will remain valuable for biodiversity even if botanical species diversity remains low where managed as a tussocky grassland.
- 4.3.19 A small group of trees (Parcel 4_GR4.2) will be lost from Field 4.2, but these will be replacement with the same quantity of locally appropriate native broadleaved species.



4.4 River Units

River Retention

Ditch

- 4.4.1 The ditch running through Parcel 4 has limited potential for improvements, due to the shared use of this parcel. Targeted scrub removal would enhance this habitat type where subsequent light ingress supports the growth of marginal plants, however these gains would only be experienced where this does not lead to increased dog/human footfall onto the ditch banks or channel. Therefore, this habitat has been retained as poor condition, but with opportunity for further discussions to target some sections for beneficial enhancements.

River Enhancement

- 4.4.2 Rivers are complex and dynamic features but potential for change may be curtailed by former modifications, especially within this urbanised setting.
- 4.4.3 As mentioned above, baseline River Units only were included within the Biodiversity Metric calculator, on the understanding that shared interests (i.e. recreational, flood strategies) will prohibit change. Nevertheless, low risk habitat enhancements have been suggested above (Item 4.2.52 refers) and summarised below, should future opportunities arise.

Terrestrial habitat management opportunities:

- Targeted coppicing of bankside trees to reduce shading and increase light ingress with an aim of encouraging growth of marginal plants and aquatic plant, but precautionary to avoid areas that would increase access dog and people;
- Removal of Himalayan balsam and monitoring for other non-native invasive species;
- Monitoring and removal of dumped waste (e.g. household, industrial); and
- Consideration of surrounding land management practices to reduce inflow of sedimentation and siltation into rivers

River restoration and enhancement opportunities:

- Increased habitat connectivity, in particular lateral habitat connectivity, as detailed in proposed wetland/pond creation at Parcel 2;
- Channel modification to naturalise river channels, including the removal of hard substrate and associated mobile debris, improved flow rates and lateral connectivity (e.g. with backwaters and side channels);
- Removal of non-native invasive species, especially where their presence increases risk of bank erosion;
- Monitoring and removal of dumped waste (e.g. household, industrial); and
- Monitoring and reporting of sewage overflow instances.



5 SUMMARY

Table 10: Summary Table of Baseline Habitats And Opportunities For Biodiversity Gains

Habitat	Parcel	Area (Ha)/ Length (km)	Baseline Units	Proposed Units	Unit Change	Headline aspects of Habitat Creation/ Management
			(HU or HeU)			
Habitat Units – Ha						
Habitat Retention						
Woodland – retention of broadleaved other woodland – ‘poor’	Parcel 2, Field 2.1	0.09	0.38	N/A	N/A	Habitat retention to allow natural establishment over time
Grassland – retention of modified grassland to retain access in frequently used areas – ‘poor’	Parcel 1 and 4 Field 1.1 and 4.1	2.46	5.41	N/A	N/A	Habitat retention and sympathetic management (mgmt..) to facilitate access across site and limit impacts on surrounding habitats
Heathland and Scrub – retention of bramble scrub – ‘N/A’	Parcel 1, 2 and 4	0.5	2.2	N/A	N/A	Retention of some bramble scrub to maintain mosaic of habitats and deter access into some areas
Heathland and Scrub – retention of mixed scrub at baseline conditions	Parcel 2 (poor)	4.12	2.2	N/A	N/A	Same as ‘Bramble scrub’ above
	Parcel 4 (moderate)	0.04				
Individual trees – retention individual trees in baseline conditions, with exception Group 4.2	Parcel 1, 3, 4 and 6 (good)	0.87	13.48	N/A	N/A	Retention and appropriate mgmt.. to ensure habitat condition and natural succession
	Parcel 1 and 4 (moderate)	0.22				
Urban – allotments retention – ‘good’	Parcel 1 and 5	1.85	12.19	N/A	N/A	Monitor for presence non-natives and appropriate control
Lakes – Ponds: non-priority habitats – retained at ‘moderate’	Parcel 2, Field 2.2	0.01	0.06	N/A	N/A	Access mgmt.. to ensure limited access continues Monitoring of species present to ensure no invasive plants establish and to consider if revising access supports species recovery
Habitat Enhancement						
Wetland – retention Floodplain Wetland Mosaic enhanced to ‘moderate’	Parcel 1, Field 1.2	0.79	5.43	7.98	2.55	Scrub clearance



Habitat	Parcel	Area (Ha)/ Length (km)	Baseline Units	Proposed Units	Unit Change	Headline aspects of Habitat Creation/ Management
			(HU or HeU)			
Grasslands – Other Neutral Grassland – enhancement to species-rich grassland – 'good'	Fields 3, 5.1 and 6	6.37	28.03	60.84	+32.81	Soil testing to inform seeding and, where possible, identification of donor seed site Oversowing and appropriate mgmt.. Annual cutting, successional where possible to allow flowering plants to set seed Additional cuts in autumn or spring where needed, and ideally grazing Location 3
Grasslands – Other Neutral Grassland – enhancement through mgmt.. revision – 'moderate'	Parcels 2 and 4 and 5 Fields 2.1 – 2.3; Field 4.2 and 4.4; and Field 5.3	8.04	35.38	60.12	+24.74	As above with the exception of oversowing
Grasslands – enhancement modified grassland to increase species-richness – 'good'	Parcel 1 Field 1.1	1.15	2.53	5.5	+2.97	Refer to other neutral grassland with target condition 'good'
Grassland – creation traditional orchard with diverse mix local varieties – 'moderate'	Parcel 5, Field 5.2	0.23	N/A	1.57	+1.34	Orchard creation for community use Grassland mgmt.. as per other neutral grassland to support development of a species-rich sward
Sparsely vegetated land – enhancement of ruderals through rotational vegetation mgmt...	Parcel 4	0.11	0.24	0.5	+0.2	Rotational vegetation mgmt..
Habitat Creation						
Wetland – Floodplain Wetland Mosaic lost ruderals – 'Moderate'	Parcel 1 Field 1.2	0.16	0.35	0.52	+0.17	Loss of ruderals through mgmt. recommended within 'Grassland' above
Grassland – Other Neutral Grassland creation – 'Moderate'	Parcel 4 Field 4.1	0.17	0.37	1.23	+0.86	Loss of ruderals through mgmt. recommended within 'Grassland' above
Grassland – Other Neutral Grassland creation – 'Good'	Parcel 6 Field 6	0.23	0.51	2.14	+1.63	Loss of ruderals through mgmt. recommended within 'Grassland' above
Grassland – Modified Grassland creation – 'Poor'	Parcel 1 Field 1.1	0.03	0.07	0.07	N/A	Loss of ruderals through mgmt. recommended within 'Grassland' above



Habitat	Parcel	Area (Ha)/ Length (km)	Baseline Units	Proposed Units	Unit Change	Headline aspects of Habitat Creation/ Management
			(HU or HeU)			
Grassland – Modified Grassland creation– 'Good'	Parcel 1 Field 1.1	0.02	0.04	0.1	+0.06	Loss of ruderals through mgmt. recommended within 'Grassland' above
Heathland and scrub – mixed scrub creation – 'moderate'	Parcel 3, 4, 5 and 6 Field 3, Field 4.1, Field 4.3, Field 5.3 and Field 6	2.74	9.92	20.16	+10.24	Diverse, mixed native scrub planting to be created with an aim of strengthening the riparian corridor and habitat diversity across site
Urban – Allotment creation – 'good'	Parcel 5 Field 5.1	0.8	11.2	5.09	-6.11	Allotment extension proposed to increase the area available for the local community
Lakes – ponds (non-priority) – 'moderate'	Parcel 2 All fields	0.08	0.36	0.67	+0.31	Creation wetland features (ponds) within all fields to increase lateral riparian connectivity and wetland heterogeneity
Rural trees – replacement of Group 4.2 non-native species with locally appropriate native species and introduction of scattered trees – 'moderate'	Parcel 4	0.04	0.16	0.14	-0.02	Replacement with introduced species with native species appropriate to the landscape and valuable for wildlife. Scattered tree planting across Field 4.1
Woodland – scattered 'parkland' native tree planting - 'moderate'	Parcel 4. Field 4.1	0.37	N/A	1.23	+1.23	Diverse mix of native species planted across the eastern ridge to increase tree abundance, and sense of parkland across Field 4.1
Linear Units - Km						
Habitat Retention						
Line of trees – retained and maintained in 'moderate' condition	All	3.7	16.32	N/A	N/A	Sympathetic mgmt.. where required and replacement of trees where subject to disease or old age to retain well-connected boundaries
Hedgerows – all hedgerows (with the exception of those included with 'Hedgerow Enhancements' below) to be retained and managed to retain – 'good' condition	all parcels, excluding Parcel 2	1.55	27.75	N/A	N/A	Sympathetic, rotational gmt... to provide valuable wildlife resource and mosaic of hedgerow types



Habitat	Parcel	Area (Ha)/ Length (km)	Baseline Units	Proposed Units	Unit Change	Headline aspects of Habitat Creation/ Management
			(HU or HeU)			
Hedgerows – retention of Hedgerow 6_H2, ensuring no reduction in condition – 'moderate' condition	Parcel 6	0.12	1.1	N/A	N/A	Continued gmt... as previously, but with additional monitoring to prevent future enrichment of hedgerow flora and control of invasive non-natives, including Himalayan balsam
Ditches – retention ditch and continued monitoring and mgmt.. to ensure no deterioration from current condition	Parcel 4	0.163	0.61	N/A	N/A	Access into ditches monitored to prevent further deterioration. Some targeted scrub mgmt.. would improve the provision of marginal vegetation for protected species, such as water voles, but must not increase human or dog access to the watercourse
Rivers – all rivers retained at baseline	All	2.33	27.31	N/A	N/A	For reference of baseline habitats only
Habitat Enhancement						
Hedgerows – enhancement Hedgerow 4_H3 to 'good'	4_H3, Parcel 4	0.081	0.56	1.34	+0.78	Revision hedgerow mgmt.. to allow to increase width and height
Hedgerows – enhancement Hedgerow 4_H4 to 'good'	Parcel 4	0.108	0.5	1.95	+1.45	Infill planting and appropriate mgmt.. in conjunction with hedgerow creation to improve habitat connectivity
Hedgerows – enhancement Hedgerow 5_H2 and 5_H4 to 'good'	Parcel 5	0.465	4.61	8.31	+3.7	Infill planting with at least one standard trees every 30-50m to improve structural diversity and hedgerow value
Habitat Creation						
Hedgerows – hedgerow creation and planting to connect lengths remnant Hedgerow 4_H4 – 'good' condition	Parcel 4	0.13	N/A	1.32	+1.15	Creation 130m of species-rich, double staggered hedgerow to improve landscape connectivity and amenity value
Hedgerows – hedgerow creation along eastern boundary Field 1.1 – 'good' condition	Parcel 1	0.359	N/A	3.64	+3.17	Creation 259m of species-rich, double staggered hedgerow to improve amenity value and habitat connectivity



6 BNG METRIC

6.1 Headline Results

- 6.1.1 The information provided in the Metric are directly related to the Habitat Baseline Plan (Appendix B) and the Proposed Habitats Plan (Appendix C). The completed Metric spreadsheet can be issued separately.
- 6.1.2 Headline results from the proposed enhancements and ambitions of the Green Corridor are set out within Figure 4 below and will result in a net gain of both areas (HU) and linear (HeU) biodiversity units. River units will not change from baseline without further interventions.

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	82.99
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.91
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	64.97%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	21.93%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Figure 4: Headline Results (taken from Biodiversity Metric 4.0)

- 6.1.3 The proposals will result in a total net change of **82.99 HU**, representing an increase of **64.97%**. The majority of HU will be delivered by the creation and enhancement of Other Neutral Grassland within the Site, which will be managed to maximise biodiversity value.
- 6.1.4 The proposals will result in a total net change of **10.91 HeU**, representing an increase of **21.93 %**. The net gain in HeU will be provided as a result of hedgerow creation and enhancement of existing hedgerows. River Units will remain the same, due to no proposed enhancements and the retention and maintenance of the recorded ditch habitat as poor condition.

6.2 Conclusion

- 6.2.1 The proposals deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity and are in line with the draft Somerset BNG Guidance Note, which states in the Somerset BNG Principles¹³:

"Enable more people to have access to good quality green and blue spaces close to home, particularly in more deprived areas or where existing opportunities to connect with nature locally are lower..."

Design spaces for people to come into contact with nature as appropriate as part of their daily routines to benefit people's wellbeing and mental health. Habitat creations such as traditional orchards and food forests can benefit wildlife, provide food for people and support historic landscape regeneration"

- 6.2.2 Further development of these proposals will need to be supported by a detailed landscape management plan, potentially supported by Natural England's template (Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan), especially if the Natural England trading services are to be pursued. Appropriate monitoring measure would also need to be allowed for to ensure delivery of BNG aspirations. Some baseline surveys may need to be repeated to fully inform the BNG proposals, such as repeat botanical surveys within areas cut ahead of these baseline surveys (e.g. Field 5.2), in addition to further scoping surveys, such as soil nutrient surveys, to determine suitable seed mixes.

¹³ Somerset Council (2023) *Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance Note (Draft)* [online]. Available at: https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/bng-guidance-note/supporting_documents/Draft%20Somerset%20BNG%20Guidance%20Note%20Public%20Consultation.pdf [Accessed 02 Jan 2024]



APPENDIX A: BASELINE & PROPOSED HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Biodiversity Metric 4.0 uses habitat condition as one of the measures of habitat quality. The process of assessing habitat condition considers key physical characteristics and a habitat's ability to support typical flora and fauna.

The appendices included below cover all habitat types found in within the Site and their relevant condition sheet. On completion of condition assessments, all habitat parcels have been assigned one of three condition categories: Good, Moderate or Poor. The Metric tool does allow for intermediate categories (Fairly Good and Fairly Poor) if it is not possible to distinguish between two main condition categories.

This method of assessing habitat condition has been used to:

- a) Assess the condition of pre-intervention or baseline habitats to inform baseline biodiversity unit calculations.
- b) Assess the condition of post-intervention habitats as part of ongoing monitoring requirements.
- c) Inform habitat creation and enhancement interventions by defining what each condition state would look like for the habitat in question.



Appendix A: Habitat Condition Assessments

Table A1 – Woodland and forest: Other woodland; broadleaved – BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment					W2.1
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	
1	Age Distribution	3 age classes present	2 age classes present	1 age class present	1
2	Herbivore Damage	No significant browsing damage evident	Evidence of significant browsing pressure in 40% or less of whole woodland	Evidence of significant browsing pressure in 40% or more of whole woodland	3
3	Invasive Species	No invasive plant species	Rhododendron & laurel not present, other invasive species cover <10%	Rhododendron or laurel present, or other invasive species cover >10%	1 (Himalayan balsam)
4	No. of Native Tree Species	5 or more native tree/shrub species present	3-4 native tree/shrub species present	0-2 native tree or shrub species present	1 (uniform)
5	Cover of Native Species	>80% of canopy & understory shrubs are native	50-80% of canopy & understory shrubs are native	<50% canopy & understory shrubs are native	1
6	Open Space	0-20% woodland has temporary areas of open space	21-40% woodland has temporary areas of open space	>40% woodland has temporary areas of open space	1
7	Regeneration	All 3 classes present	1 or 2 classes present	No classes or coppice regrowth present	1
8	Tree Health	Tree mortality <10%	11-25% tree mortality	>25% tree mortality and any high risk pest/disease	3
9	Vegetation & Ground Flora	Ancient woodland indicators present	Recognisable NVC community present	No recognisable NVC community	1
10	Vertical Structure	3 or more storeys across all survey plots	2 storeys across all survey plots	1 or less storeys across all survey plots	1
11	Veteran Trees	2 or more veteran trees/ha	1 veteran tree/ha	No veteran trees present	1
12	Deadwood	50% survey plots have deadwood	25-50% survey plots have deadwood	<25% survey plots have deadwood	1
13	Disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground	<20% damaged ground and/or <1ha nutrient enrichment	>20% damaged ground and/or >1ha nutrient enrichment	1
Woodland Condition					Poor (17/39)

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)



Table A2 – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM – BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment – Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		1_FWM1
A	The water table is at, or near the surface throughout the year – this could be open water or saturation of soil at the surface. There is no artificial drainage, unless specifically to maintain water levels as specified above. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition	Y
B	The parcel is a good representation of the wetland habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHabs description – as in, the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific habitat type. Indicator species for the specific wetland habitat type ¹ listed by UKHab are consistently present	N
C	The water supplies (groundwater, surface water and or rainwater) to the wetland are of good quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution	Y
D	Cover of scrub and scattered trees are less than 10%	N
E	Cover of bare ground is less than 5%	Y
F	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁴ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	N
J (Essential)	All ditches recorded within the habitat achieve Good Condition as assessed using the Ditch condition sheet. Note – do not record ditches which are part of the Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM habitat within the watercourse module	N/A
Essential criterion achieved (required for good condition) Yes or No:		N
Condition assessment result:		3
Number of criteria passed		Poor

Condition Assessment Result (those requiring assessment of 7 criteria – core criteria and additional criterion specified for habitat type (all habitat types except Depression on peat soils (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)):	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 or 6 criteria including criterion A; AND Passes additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type)	Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria OR Passes 6 of 7 criteria but fails criterion A or additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type)	Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)

Footnotes (Table A2 and Table A3)

Footnote 1 – For fens, specify what fen type is present using base-status and trophic status – alkaline, neutral, or acidic; eutrophic, mesotrophic or oligotrophic

Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels according, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Footnote 4 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle, spear thistle, common nettle, docks and common ragwort. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.



Table A3 – Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM – TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment – Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		1_FWM1
A	The water table is at, or near the surface throughout the year – this could be open water or saturation of soil at the surface. There is no artificial drainage, unless specifically to maintain water levels as specified above. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition	Y – situated within areas subject to river flooding and connectivity with river to be maintained (no addition of drainage etc)
B	The parcel is a good representation of the wetland habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHabs description – as in, the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific habitat type. Indicator species for the specific wetland habitat type ¹ listed by UKHab are consistently present	N – but over time this Criterion may be achieved, as the habitat develops
C	The water supplies (groundwater, surface water and or rainwater) to the wetland are of good quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution	Y – but to be monitored given proximity to residential and industrial areas
D	Cover of scrub and scattered trees are less than 10%	Y – with rotational clearance (i.e. different areas cleared once every 3-5 years) to reduce coverage to ≤10%
E	Cover of bare ground is less than 5%	Y – complex habitat structure and occasional flooding likely to maintain some bare ground cover, but monitor that recreational access does not increase overall extent
F	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁴ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	N – achieving complete removal will be challenging, but reducing seedbank through control should still be pursued
J	All ditches recorded within the habitat achieve Good Condition as assessed using the Ditch condition sheet. Note – do not record ditches which are part of the Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM habitat within the watercourse module	N/A
Essential criterion achieved (required for good condition) Yes or No:		N
Condition assessment result:		4
Number of criteria passed		Moderate

Condition Assessment Result (those requiring assessment of 7 criteria – core criteria and additional criterion specified for habitat type (all habitat types except Depression on peat soils (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)):	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 or 6 criteria including criterion A; AND Passes additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type)	Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria OR Passes 6 of 7 criteria but fails criterion A or additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type)	Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



Table A4: Grassland – Medium, High and Very High Distinctiveness – BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment – Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		F2 (all)	F3	F4.1	F4.2 (wet)	F4.4	F5.1 – 5.3	F6
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ¹ .	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition ² and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
ADDITIONAL CRITERION – MUST BE ASSESSED FOR ALL NON-ACID GRASSLAND TYPES								
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 14 and 15 cannot contribute towards this count). Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Number of criteria passed		2/6	2/6	2/6	2/6	2/6	3/6	2/6
Condition		Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Acid Grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)
Passes 3 – 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)
"Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F."	Poor (1)

¹⁴ Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

¹⁵ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).



Table A5 (1/3): Botanical Quadrat Results (Grassland – Medium, High and Very High Distinctiveness)

Grassland Ref./Habitat Type		F1, FWM					F2, ONG					F3, ONG				
Quadrats		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Common Name	Latin Name															
GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES																
Cocks-foot	<i>Galium aparine</i>	10	5	5		-	55	70	65	65	45	70	70	50		10
Common Couch Grass	<i>Elymus repens</i>					-	5									
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>		10		5	-	30	10	20	10	40	15				10
Crested Dog's-Tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	10		5		-										
False Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>					-	20					5	20	5		60
Fescue spp.	<i>Festuca</i> spp.										10					
Perennial Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>					-	10	5					5	20	10	10
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.			30	20	-										
Rough meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>		10			-										
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>					-							5			
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	5				-				5		5				
Unidentified grass	Unknown		5			-										
Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>													20	20	20
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	50	70	30	50	-		15	15	5			5	5		10
OTHER SPECIES																
Bird's-Foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus Corniculatus</i>	10			20	-	5		5		10					
Bramble sp.	<i>Rubus</i> sp.						5									
Broad-Leaved Dock	<i>Rumex Obtusifolius</i>					-			5	5						
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus Repens</i>	30	30		5	-										
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium Arvense</i>		2	5	2	-										
Cut-Leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium Dissectum</i>					-						5	10			
Common mouseear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>														2	
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>					-					15					
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>					-		5								
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>					-	5									
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>					-								5	5	
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>				1	-										
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum Officinale</i> Sp			2		-									2	10
Dovesfoot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>													5		
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>				5	-				15						
Greater birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>		2		2	-										
Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>						5									
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>						5									
Hawksbeard spp.	<i>Crepis</i> spp.												5			
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>				10	-			5							2
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>									15						
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago Lanceolata</i>					-	5			10		20	15		10	50
Sheep's Sorrel	<i>Rumex Acetosella</i>					-	5	5	5	10	15					
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla Anserina</i>			50		-										
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia Cracca</i>					-			10							
White dead nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>					-	5									
Willowherb sp.	<i>Epilobium</i> spp.		5		5	-										
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	5	5	5		-										
Bare Ground		5	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avr. Sward height (cm)		10	50	80	10	-	20	25	30	70	40	20	20	35	15	20
Total no. of species.		9	10	8	11	-	13	6	8	9	6	6	8	7	6	9
Average no. species/per location		9 sp/m²					8.4 sp./m²					7.2 sp./m²				



Table A5 continued (2/3)

Grassland Ref./Habitat Type		F4.1, ONG					F4.2, ONG (wet area)					Field 4.4				
Quadrats		1	2	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	-
Common Name	Latin Name															
GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES																
Cocks-foot	<i>Galium aparine</i>	50	20							60		80	40	50	20	
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>								5			30	30	5	30	
Common Couch Grass	<i>Elymus repens</i>	5					10	40	30	30	40					
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>										20					
False Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	5	60				80			5						
Marsh foxtail	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>								5							
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>											5	10	10		
Perennial Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>						10			10			10		10	
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	10						10		30	10					
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>														20	
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	5					5					10	20		5	
Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>							20		30	10					
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	10								5	30	5	10	10		
OTHER SPECIES																
Bramble sp.	<i>Rubus</i> sp.							5		10	20					
Cleavers	<i>Galium Aparine</i>							5	5							
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus Repens</i>		50											2	5	
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium Arvense</i>						20	5		20	20					
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>		10						10				5			
Cut-leaved cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>												20	50	5	
Lesser stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>														20	
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>								40							
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla Anserina</i>	50														
Bare Ground		0	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Avr. Sward height (cm)		60	120	-	-	-	100	50	60	70	40	70	30	40	20	-
Total no. of species.		7	4	-	-	-	5	6	6	9	7	5	8	6	8	-
Average no. species/per location		5.5 sp./m ²					6.6 sp./m ²					Avr. 6.75 sp./m ²				



Table A5 continued (3/3)

Grassland Ref./Habitat Type		F5.2, ONG					F5.3 ONG					F6, Linden House				
Quadrats		1	2	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Common Name	Latin Name															
GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES																
Cocks-foot	<i>Galium aparine</i>											10	10		20	
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	50	60				5	80	60	20	60					
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>													5	20	40
Creeping softgrass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>	10														
False Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>											20	30	70	30	30
Perennial Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>						60		10			5	2			
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.														10	10
Rough meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>											20				5
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	50	30				20	10	20	70						
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		10				10	10	50	20	30	10	5	2		5
OTHER SPECIES																
Broad-Leaved Dock	<i>Rumex Obtusifolius</i>								5							
Common Cat's Ear	<i>Hypochaeris Radicata</i>							30	5	10	5					
Common mouseear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>							2		2	2					
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus Repens</i>						20	2	2	10	10					
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium Arvense</i>												10	10		5
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	5									10	5	30	10	5	20
Cut-leaved cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>												10	2	5	10
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum Officinale</i> Sp						5	10	10	60	20	2				
Hawksbeard spp.	<i>Crepis</i> spp.											2				
Hedgerow cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>											5	2	2		
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>														5	
Ground ivy												5				
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>									5	2					
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago Lanceolata</i>						2			5						
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>		5				50	10		10	10					
Bare Ground		0	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avr. Sward height (cm)		30	30	-	-	-	30	40	40	40	50	20	15	15	12	15
Total no. of species.		4	4	-	-	-	8	8	8	10	9	10	8	7	7	8
Average no. species/per location		4 sp./m²					8.6 sp./m²					8 sp./m²				



Table A6 – Other Neutral Grassland (Medium, High & Very High Distinctiveness) – TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment		Overview	Management Prescriptions	
			Target Conditions	Challenges
A	<p>The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.</p> <p>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</p>	<p>Limited management and recreational activities are the main factors compromising composition of habitats and associated characteristics.</p> <p>Altering grassland management and some oversowing will be used to increase species richness and create habitats representative of other neutral grassland habitat types</p>	<p>Good – Y: Refer to Habitat Enhancements: Grassland within main body of the report</p> <p>Moderate – Y: Although may be challenged – refer to Habitat Enhancements: Grassland within the main body of the report above</p>	<p>Areas frequently accessed by dog walkers will likely continue to receive increased nutrients.</p> <p>Areas subject to infrequent management will likely remain in poor condition but develop valuable tussocky grassland/ ruderals.</p>
B	<p>Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.</p>	<p>Variable sward height in fields with some rabbit grazing or limited pedestrian access.</p> <p>Sward height uniform where recently cut and where largely unmanaged (e.g. Location 4.1, 4.4)</p>	<p>Moderate and Good – Y: Continue annual haycut where appropriate or rotational cuts (with arisings removed) to increase sward structural diversity</p> <p>Cutting haycut fields and/or areas within these fields in succession would increase structural diversity and flowering plants to flourish at differing times.</p>	<p>Maintain well-defined access routes (through cutting/signage) in attempt to contain activity within these areas and allow surrounding vegetation to grow taller.</p>
C	<p>Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens¹.</p>	<p>Some bare ground increases habitat heterogeneity, but with excessive footfall or livestock poaching with potential to increase bare ground cover and reduce grassland condition</p>	<p>Moderate and Good – Y: Monitor pedestrian access levels and manage as necessary to encourage footfall within discrete areas.</p> <p>Occasional flooding has potential to create areas of bare ground.</p> <p>Rotational cuts as described above may create areas of bare ground.</p> <p>Additional cuts or grazing at Location 3 will prevent loss of bare ground due to lush swards.</p>	<p>Limited management of areas targeted as tussocky grasslands, such as Field 4.4, need some rotational management to remove bare patches entirely</p>
D	<p>Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.</p>	<p>Scrub clearance to ≤5% within grassland fields to recover/retain valuable grassland habitats</p>	<p>Moderate and Good – Y: Scrub reduction across all three fields at Location 2 retaining some patches in-field (but no more than 5% coverage) to recover extent of other neutral grassland and increase habitat heterogeneity.</p> <p>Elsewhere, continue grassland management and maintenance with scrub coverage <5%.</p>	<p>Criteria D should be achievable across all parcels</p>
E	<p>Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition² and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5%</p>	<p>Suboptimal species may persist where nutrient levels are high and frequent access result in physical damage, however restricted to areas with target condition moderate</p>	<p>Moderate (N) and Good (Y): Monitor species composition regularly throughout site.</p> <p>If possible, cattle graze Parcel 3 to reduce competitive species</p>	<p>Use by dogs has the potential to increase nutrient levels within the soil, increasing enrichment species such as common nettle.</p>



BNG Condition Assessment		Overview	Management Prescriptions	
			Target Conditions	Challenges
	of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.		Himalayan control by manual control (cutting/hand-pulling) throughout all parcels. All, especially target good areas or areas without dogs: Monitor swards for suboptimal species and arrange soil testing to determine nutrient status where these persist.	Himalayan balsam management.. will control abundance, but any presence fails automatically
ADDITIONAL CRITERION – MUST BE ASSESSED FOR ALL NON-ACID GRASSLAND TYPES				
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 16 and 17 cannot contribute towards this count). Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	A target of good condition has been set for areas without public access and therefore more control around future management, however even where the grasslands are enhanced with addition seed mixes soil conditions may present a limiting factor and result in the failure of this criteria. However, over time this criteria should be achievable but to be would be monitored through sufficient botanical surveys	Good (Y): Oversowing the species-rich seeds, ideally from a local suitable donor site, but potentially prepared seeds. Continued annual haycut, in addition to grazing and/or additional cuts after the spring flush at Location 3 where possible. Moderate (N): Periodic and rotational cutting and removal of arisings to improve habitat characteristics and species-richness.	High soil fertility has potential to support continued growth of more competitive species than wildflowers and other broadleaved species.
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)			Y	N
Number of criteria passed			6/6	4/6
Condition			Good	Moderate

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Acid Grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)
Passes 3 – 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)
"Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F."	Poor (1)

¹⁶ Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

¹⁷ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).



Table A7 – BNG Condition Assessments (Low Distinctiveness Grassland) – BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment		F1 (MG1, MG2)	F4.1
1	There must be 6-8 species per m ² . If a grassland has 9 or more species per m ² it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB- this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate condition.	N	N
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note- patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	Y
4	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion cause by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	N
5	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	N
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%	Y	Y
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	N
Condition		Poor (6/7, exc. Essential Criterion 1)	Poor (3/7 exc. Essential Criterion 1)

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion 1	Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria; OR Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion 1	Moderate (3)
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 criteria but failing criterion 1	Poor (1)



Table A8 – Botanical Quadrat Results (Grassland – Low Distinctiveness/Modified Grassland)

Grassland Ref./Habitat Type		F1, modified grassland					F4.1, modified grassland									
Quadrats		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Common Name	Latin Name															
GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES																
Cocks-Foot Grass	<i>Galium aparine</i>	10	80	5	10	40	5		2	80						
Common Couch Grass	<i>Elymus repens</i>							20	40							
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	10	20				70	20	60	20						
False Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>		10	80		20										
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>		5													
Perennial Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	5							5	10	10					
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.					10										
Rough meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	60			50	5										
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>					5										
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>								2	2						
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	3				5	5	5								
Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>						5									
Bistort	<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>						20	80								
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus Repens</i>										80					
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>		20													
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>			5						20						
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	5		10	5						10					
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	10								5						
Common mouseear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>									2						
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum Officinale</i> Sp				2						5					
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>										2					
Yarrow	<i>Achillea Millefolium</i>					15										
Bare Ground		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10					
Avr. Sward height (cm)		10	50	80	10	40	50	40	40	50	10					
Total no. species		7	5	4	4	7	5	4	5	7	5					
Average no. species/ location		Avr. 5.4sp/m²					Avr. 5.2 sp/m²									



Table A9 – BNG Condition Assessments (Low Distinctiveness Grassland) – TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment		F1 (enhanced)	F4.1 (retained)
1	<p>There must be 6-8 species per m². If a grassland has 9 or more species per m² it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat type.</p> <p>NB- this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate condition.</p>	<p>Y – oversowing with the additional green ha where feasible or a locally sourced diverse, native species wildflower mix (as higher ratio of wildflower:grass seeds as possible) on suitably prepared ground.</p> <p>Soil testing prior to oversowing to ensure species mix appropriate.</p> <p>Periodic cutting (avoiding late April/May – July/August) and removal arisings to support improvement of habitat characteristics and species-richness</p>	<p>N – as the area most frequently accessed by dog walkers, nutrient levels and repeated management are likely to limit sward complexity and species-richness – well-defined access routes (through cutting/signage) may help to restrict this extent</p>
2	<p>Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.</p>	<p>Y – sympathetic management, which can include cutting areas on rotation to retain wildlife resources throughout the year and ensure a variable sward across this habitat</p>	<p>Y – current management allows for a varied sward across the fields, which should be continued to create mosaic of structural habitats (refer also to 'Scrub')</p>
3	<p>Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.</p> <p><i>NOTE- patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.</i></p>	<p>Y – patches of scrub recorded during the baseline surveys, but management measures and annual cutting will ensure that scrub cover remains below 20% within the grassland</p>	<p>Y – also successional scrub will be allowed to grow adjacent to boundaries, this is will be managed on rotation to prevent increased cover as described opposite</p>
4	<p>Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion cause by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.</p>	<p>Y – although used as a community space, a defined area will be enhanced as wildflower meadow and footpath surrounding this area retained to reduce likelihood of frequent access across this area. Signage and community awareness and engagement events may also assist</p>	<p>N – frequent access is likely to continue increasing areas of poached ground/repeated damage and therefore continues to fail. Nevertheless, well-defined access routes (through cutting/signage) may help to limit the full extent</p>
5	<p>Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).</p>	<p>Y – refer to Criteria 4 and to monitored.</p>	<p>N – refer to Criterion 4</p>
6	<p>Cover of bracken less than 20%</p>	<p>Y – same as Criteria 3 above.</p>	<p>Y – refer to Criterion 3</p>
7	<p>There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).</p>	<p>Y – as part of Field 1.2 lies within areas prone to flooding, an absence of Himalayan balsam should be monitored and measures taken to remove plants on-site as well as potential off-site sources</p>	<p>N – continuous management on-site and targeting sources off-site will be necessary prevent encroachment of Himalayan balsam as present within the floodplain</p>
Condition		Good (7/7, inc. essential Criterion 1)	Poor (3/7, exc. Essential Criterion 1)



Table A10 – BNG Condition Assessments – Orchard – TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment – Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		Field 5.2
A	<p>"Presence of ancient¹ and or veteran¹ trees.</p> <p>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition."</p>	N – the orchard will be newly planted and take decades to contain ancient and veteran trees
B	<p>"Presence of deadwood in or on trees, or on the ground: at least 20% of mature trees have deadwood associated with them.</p> <p>Some examples of deadwood are: standing, attached and fallen trees or limbs; dead stems; branches and branch stubs greater than 10 cm diameter; and internal cavities. The types and distribution of deadwood provide a range of habitats suitable to support a wide assemblage of saproxylic invertebrates.</p> <p>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition."</p>	N – as above
C	Less than 5% of fruit trees are smothered by scrub. Small patches of dense scrub and or scattered scrub growing between trees can be beneficial to biodiversity, however these occupy less than 10% of ground cover.	Y – appropriate grassland mgmt.. will ensure scrub limited
D	There is evidence of formative and or restorative pruning to maintain longevity of trees.	Y – management plans will be prepared and experienced individuals approached to assist with establishment of trees
E	At least 95% of the trees are free from damage caused by humans or animals, for example browsing, bark stripping or rubbing on non-adjusted ties.	Y – as above, but this will require continuous maintenance
F	Grassland is not overgrazed, poaching is not evident around the trees, with no more than 10% of trees poached under the canopy.	Y – appropriate grassland mgmt.. will ensure this criteria is met and livestock grazing unlikely due to potential dog worrying incidents
G	Species richness of the grassland is equivalent to a medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland.	Y – Field 5.2 was categorised as other neutral grassland on the baseline survey
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁴ make up less than 10% of ground cover.	Y – none recorded on baseline, but to be monitored as Himalayan balsam known to be present within wider site
Essential criteria achieved (required for Good Condition) – Yes or No		No
Number of criteria passed		6
Condition		Moderate

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 6- 8 criteria, including essential criteria A and B.	Good (3)
"Passes 4 or 5 criteria; OR Passes 6 or 7 criteria but fails an essential criterion."	Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)

Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)



and:

Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site."



Table A11 - BNG Condition Assessments – Scrub Habitat Types - BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		Location 2 – mixed scrub	Location 4 – mixed scrub
A	The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species ¹ , with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	N	Y
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ²) shrubs are all present.	N	Y
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁵ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	N	N
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Y	Y
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	N
Number of criteria passed		1	3
Condition		Poor	Moderate

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



Table A12 - BNG Condition Assessments – Scrub Habitat Types - TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		Location 2 – mixed scrub	Location 4	Mixed scrub CREATION
A	<p>The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type.</p> <p>At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species¹, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover).</p>	<p>N – because although less abundant species will naturally become more established the scrub, this cannot be recognised as an enhancement.</p> <p>Some targeted mgmt. may still be useful to facilitate varied species</p>	Y	<p>Y</p> <p>Within proposed areas (Location 3 -5) areas will be allowed to regenerate through natural regeneration or, where this is considered insufficient or more rapid results required, a diverse mix of native woody species (chosen to create a provision of resources in sequence) bare root stocks and/or seeds will be randomly planted at a density of approx. 25 trees/ha.</p>
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ²) shrubs are all present.	N – this will be achievable longer-term, but fails in the interim	Y	N – in the short-term this Criterion will continue to fail, but once some trees are mature (>15-20yrs+) to may pass
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁵ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	N – Himalayan balsam was less prevalent in places but will require continued control (on-and off-site) and as such continues to fail	N – Himalayan balsam was less prevalent but will require continued control (on-and off-site) and as such continues to fail	Y – most target areas did not have Himalayan balsam recorded and control measures across the Green Corridor are likely to support a pass
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Y – rotational mgmt. as mentioned above will enhance this further	Y	Y – this is generated naturally with each target area changing from grassland to scrub
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Y – with mgmt. and age it is considered that this Criterion can be achieved	Y – with mgmt. and age it is considered that this Criterion can be achieved	Y – with mgmt. and age it is considered that this Criterion can be achieved
Number of criteria passed		2	4	4
Condition		Poor	Moderate	Moderate

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



Table A13 - BNG Condition Assessments – Pond Habitat Types - BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		Location 2
Core criteria – applicable to all ponds (woodland and non-woodland)		
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	N
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	Y
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Y
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Y
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Y
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Y
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y
Additional criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds		
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	N
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Y
Number of criteria passed		7
Condition		Moderate

Results for non-woodland ponds which require 9 criteria	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



Table A14 - BNG Condition Assessments – Pond Habitat Types - TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		Location 2
Core criteria – applicable to all ponds (woodland and non-woodland)		
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	Y – appropriate planting may be considered, but with caution to avoid introduction of non-native species. Controlled access by dog/humans also essential and has potential to increase pond water quality
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	N – surrounding grassland to be enhanced as other neutral grassland, however potential for access routes may undermine this. Consideration should be given to ensure that new access routes are at suitable distance from the pond to prevent disturbance
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Y – a diverse range of plants and temporary nature of the pond will also support this
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Y – unlikely to be proposed
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Y – retain lateral connectivity with the nearby watercourse
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Y – providing that Himalayan balsam does not encroach into the field, however future monitoring necessary to ensure this continues
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y – but monitor as within an urban area where fish may be released
Additional criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds		
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Y – with appropriate mgmt., this should be achievable
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Y – caution to be taken around introducing scrub planting as a deterrent for access into the pond
Number of criteria passed		8
Condition		Moderate

Results for non-woodland ponds which require 9 criteria	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



Table A15 - BNG Condition Assessments (Urban Habitat Types – inc. ruderals) - BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment		F1 (Ruderals)	F2 (Ruderals)	F4 (Ruderals)	F6 (Ruderals)	F1 (Allotment)	F5 (Allotment)
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		1	0	1	1	3	3
Condition		Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good

Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):	Condition Assessment Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. 	Good (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. 	Moderate (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria. 	Poor (1)



Table A16 - BNG Condition Assessments (Urban Habitat Types – inc. ruderals) – TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment		F4 (Ruderals)	F1 (Allotment)	F5 (Allotment)
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	Y – achieved through rotational ruderal and scrub mgmt..	Y	Y
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Y – as above	Y	Y
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	N	Y	Y
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		2	3	3
Condition		Moderate	Good	Good



Table A17 - BNG Condition Assessments (Individual Trees) - BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		G1.1	G1.2	TR3.1	G3.1	TR4.1	TR4.2	G4.1	G4.2	TR4.3	TR4.4	TR6.1	TR6.2
Tree species		1x maple sp., 1x hawthorn	1x oak, 2x cedars	1x veteran oak	1x hornbeam, alder, sycamore, willow spp., conifer spp.	1x veteran oak	1x oak	1x ash, 3x alder	Wayfaring, dogwood, hawthorn, rowan, horse chestnut, white poplar, maple spp., curled willow, cherry laurel	1x veteran oak	1x veteran oak	1x Holm oak	1x Wellingtonia
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% of trees within the block are native species).	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		3	6	6	6	6	6	4	2	6	6	5	5
Condition		Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good



Table A18 - BNG Condition Assessments (Individual Trees) - TARGET

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		G4.2	Scattered trees, Field 4.4
Tree species		Wayfaring, dogwood, hawthorn, rowan, horse chestnut, white poplar, maple spp., curled willow, cherry laurel	Diverse, species-rich mix but species to be confirmed
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% of trees within the block are native species).	Y – removal of unfavourable trees (maple pp., curled willow and cherry laurel) and replacement with native species chosen for their wildlife value. The same number of trees should replace lost trees and suitable species inc.: alder buckthorn <i>Frangula alnus</i> , aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i> , silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> and hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Y – native locally appropriate species only
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	N – however this will establish as trees mature	Y – as planted as low density, these will pass automatically as individual trees
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)	N – this will likely pass as trees mature	N – this will likely pass as trees mature
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y – continue to manage the area to prevent ease of access into the wetter area of Field 4.2.	Y – appropriate protection will be ensured at the time of planting
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N – but this will likely pass however as trees mature	N – this will likely pass as trees mature
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y – standards will be selected based on stature and likely to have far reaching canopies
Number of criteria passed		3	4
Condition		Moderate	Moderate

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



Table A19: Habitat Composition, Hedgerows (Light Green) and Line of Trees (Dark Green)

	1_H1	1_LT1	2_LT1	2_LT2	2_LT3	2_LT4	2_LT5	2_LT6	3_LT1	3_LT2	4_LT1	4_H1	4_H2	4_LT2	4_LT3	4_LT4	4_H3	4_H4	4_LT5	4_LT6	5_H1	5_H2	5_H3	5_LT1	5_H4	5_H5	5_LT2	6_H1	6_LT1	6_H2
Alder		Y	x	x	X	X				X	X			X	X	X												X	x	
Ash			x			X	x			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	x	X	X		X	X		X		X		
Beech					X			X	X		X																			
Birch										x																				
Blackthorn	Y									X		X		X		x				X	X			X			X			
Dogwood	Y				X									X			X												X	
Dog rose												x																		
Cherry laurel																														x
Elder			x	x					X		X	X	X	X					x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
English elm												X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X		X	X			x
Field maple																X							X	X						
Hawthorn	Y		x	x	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	x	X		X	X					X	X	X		x	x
Hazel	Y					X		X	X			X		X						X	X		X				X			x
Holm oak								X																						
Hornbeam								x																						
Norway maple								x																						
Oak, English			x			X	x									X				X							X			x



	1_H1	1_LT1	2_LT1	2_LT2	2_LT3	2_LT4	2_LT5	2_LT6	3_LT1	3_LT2	4_LT1	4_H1	4_H2	4_LT2	4_LT3	4_LT4	4_H3	4_H4	4_LT5	4_LT6	5_H1	5_H2	5_H3	5_LT1	5_H4	5_H5	5_LT2	6_H1	6_LT1	6_H2
Oak, pedunculate												X						X			X									
Prunus sp.																							X							
Rowan																				X										
Scots pine								X			X																			
Small leaved lime								X	X															X				X		
Spruce																														X
Sycamore	Y			x	x	x		x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
Sweet chestnut																				x										
Wild cherry																				x					X	X	X			
Willow sp.	Y	Y		x			x			X		X	x																	



A20 - BNG Condition Assessments – Line of Trees -BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		1_LT1	2_LT1	2_LT2	2_LT3	2_LT4	2_LT5	2_LT6	3_LT1	3_LT2	4_LT1	4_LT2	4_LT3	4_LT4	4_LT5	4_LT6	5_LT1	5_LT2	6_LT1
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3
Condition		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



A21 - BNG Condition Assessments – Hedgerows - BASELINE

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types	1_H1	4_H1	4_H2	4_H3	4_H4	5_H1	5_H2	5_H3	5_H4	5_H5	6_H1	6_H2
Core groups, applicable to all hedgerow types															
A1	Height	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.</p> <p>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p> <p>A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).</p>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A2	Width	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.</p> <p>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height.</p> <p>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	<p>This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.</p> <p>Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).</p>	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	<p>This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).</p> <p>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).</p>	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y



Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types	1_H1	4_H1	4_H2	4_H3	4_H4	5_H1	5_H2	5_H3	5_H4	5_H5	6_H1	6_H2
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
D2	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Additional group – applicable to hedgerows with trees only															
E1	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N



Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types	1_H1	4_H1	4_H2	4_H3	4_H4	5_H1	5_H2	5_H3	5_H4	5_H5	6_H1	6_H2
		present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.													
E2	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
				Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate

Condition Categories for Hedgerows without Trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1



A22 - BNG Condition Assessments – Hedgerows - TARGET

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types	4_H3	4_H4	Created h/row
Core groups, applicable to all hedgerow types						
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.</p> <p>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p> <p>A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).</p>	Y – allow to grow up and increase in width with reduced cutting (limited to the northern face only)	Y – a range of species will be used and hedgerow managed to achieve target height 2.5-3m	
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.</p> <p>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height.</p> <p>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p>	Y – same as A1	Y – infill planting and appropriately managed to a width >1.5m	Y – hedgerow created as double staggered hedgerow and managed to a width >1.5m
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	<p>This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.</p> <p>Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).</p>	Y	Y – infill planting will create a contiguous habitat	Y – new hedgerow planting will create a contiguous habitat
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	<p>This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).</p> <p>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).</p>	Y	Y – as above	Y – as above
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	<p>>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least). 	<p>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.</p> <p>Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.</p> <p>This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.</p>	Y	N – this will be limited due to the proximity of the public access route to the south	N – see 4_H4



C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	Y – although to be monitored, as dog waste will increase nutrients	Y – see _H4
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Y	Y – but to monitor	Y – but to monitor
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	Y – but to monitor	Y – but to monitor
Additional group applicable to hedgerows with trees only						
E1	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	Y	N – although this will establish over the lifetime of the hedgerow	Y – the central sections have established semi-mature oak and ash
E2	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	N	Y	Y
				Good	Good	Good

Condition Categories for Hedgerows without Trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1



A23 - BNG Condition Assessments – Ditches - BASELINE

BNG Condition Assessment - Criterion Achieved (Y/N)		D4.1
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	N
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.	N
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed Lemna spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Y
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Y
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Y
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.	N
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	Y
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species ¹ .	Y
Condition assessment result:		5
Number of criteria passed		Poor

Condition Assessment Result (those requiring assessment of 7 criteria – core criteria and additional criterion specified for habitat type (all habitat types except Depression on peat soils (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1):	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)



APPENDIX B: HABITAT BASELINE PLAN

The following section includes baseline habitat plans for all Parcels recorded on Site (each individual map legend refers)



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Allotments
- Bramble scrub
- Floodplain wetland mosaic
- Modified grassland
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Line of trees
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- River or stream
- Existing large rural tree



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Baseline Habitat Map - Parcel 1

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 50 100 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Bramble scrub
- Other neutral grassland
- Line of trees
- River or stream
- Existing large rural tree
- Existing medium rural tree

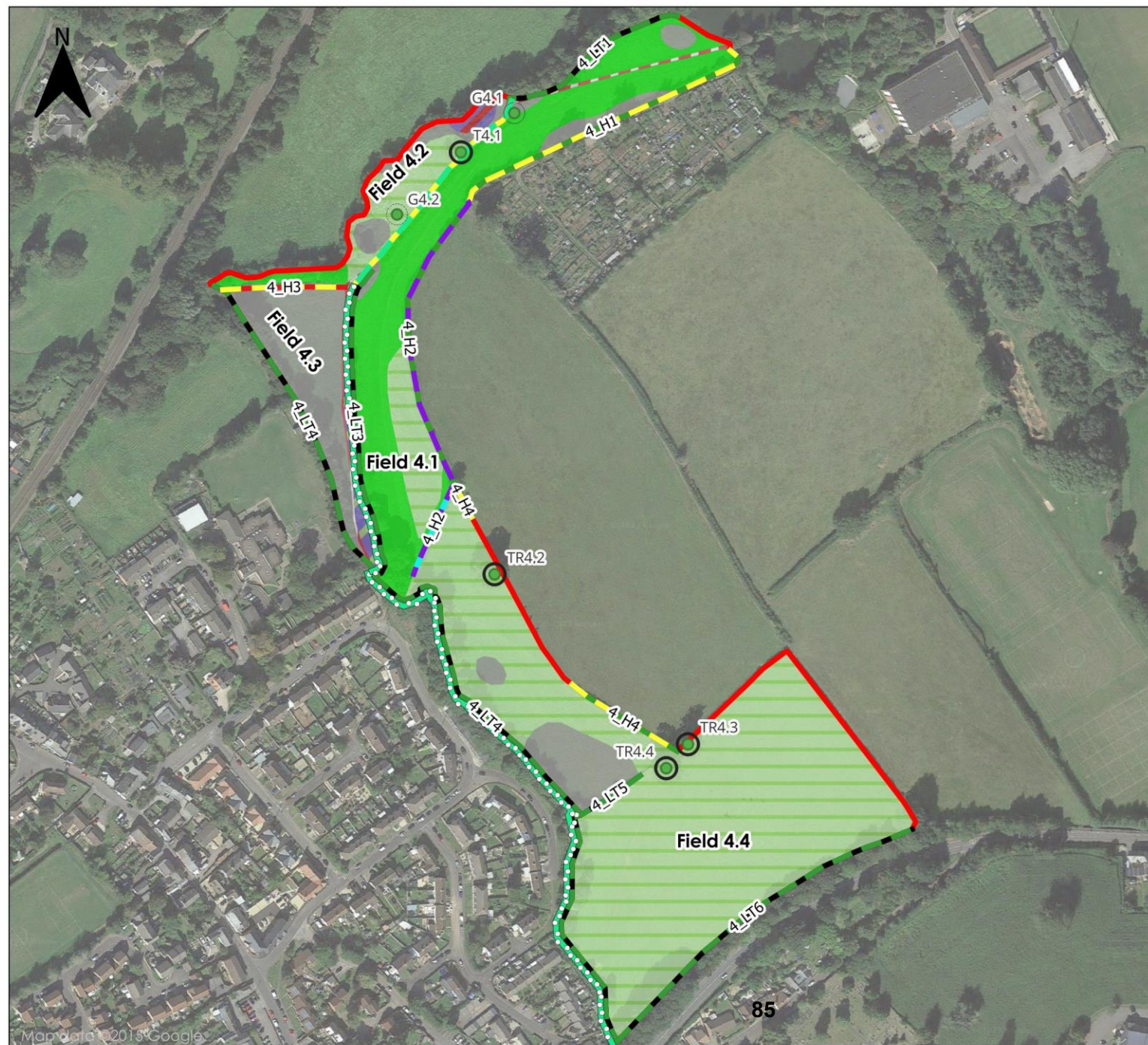


Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Baseline Habitat Map - Parcel 3

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 25 50 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Bramble scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Mixed scrub
- Modified grassland
- Other neutral grassland
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Line of trees
- Native hedgerow with trees
- Native hedgerow with trees - associated with ditch
- Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with ditch
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Ditch
- River or stream
- Existing large rural tree
- Existing medium rural tree
- Existing small rural tree



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Baseline Habitat Map - Parcel 4

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 50 100 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Allotments
- Other neutral grassland
- Line of trees
- Native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow with trees
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Target note



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Baseline Habitat Map - Parcel 5

Date
05/01/2024

Scale 0100 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Other neutral grassland
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Line of trees - associated with bank
- Native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow with trees
- River or stream
- Existing large rural tree
- Target note



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Baseline Habitat Map - Parcel 6

Date
05/01/2024

Scale 02040 m

APPENDIX C: PROPOSED HABITATS PLAN

The following section includes proposed habitat plans for all Parcels recorded on Site (each individual map legend refers)



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Allotments
- Bramble scrub
- Floodplain wetland mosaic
- Modified grassland
- Line of trees
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- River or stream
- Retained large rural tree



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Proposed Habitat Map - Parcel 1

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 50 100 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Bramble scrub
- Mixed scrub
- Other neutral grassland
- Other woodland; broadleaved
- Ponds (non-priority habitat)
- Watercourse footprint
- Line of trees
- River or stream

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Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Proposed Habitat Map - Parcel 1

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 25 50 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Mixed scrub
- Other neutral grassland
- Line of trees
- River or stream
- Retained large rural tree
- Retained medium rural tree

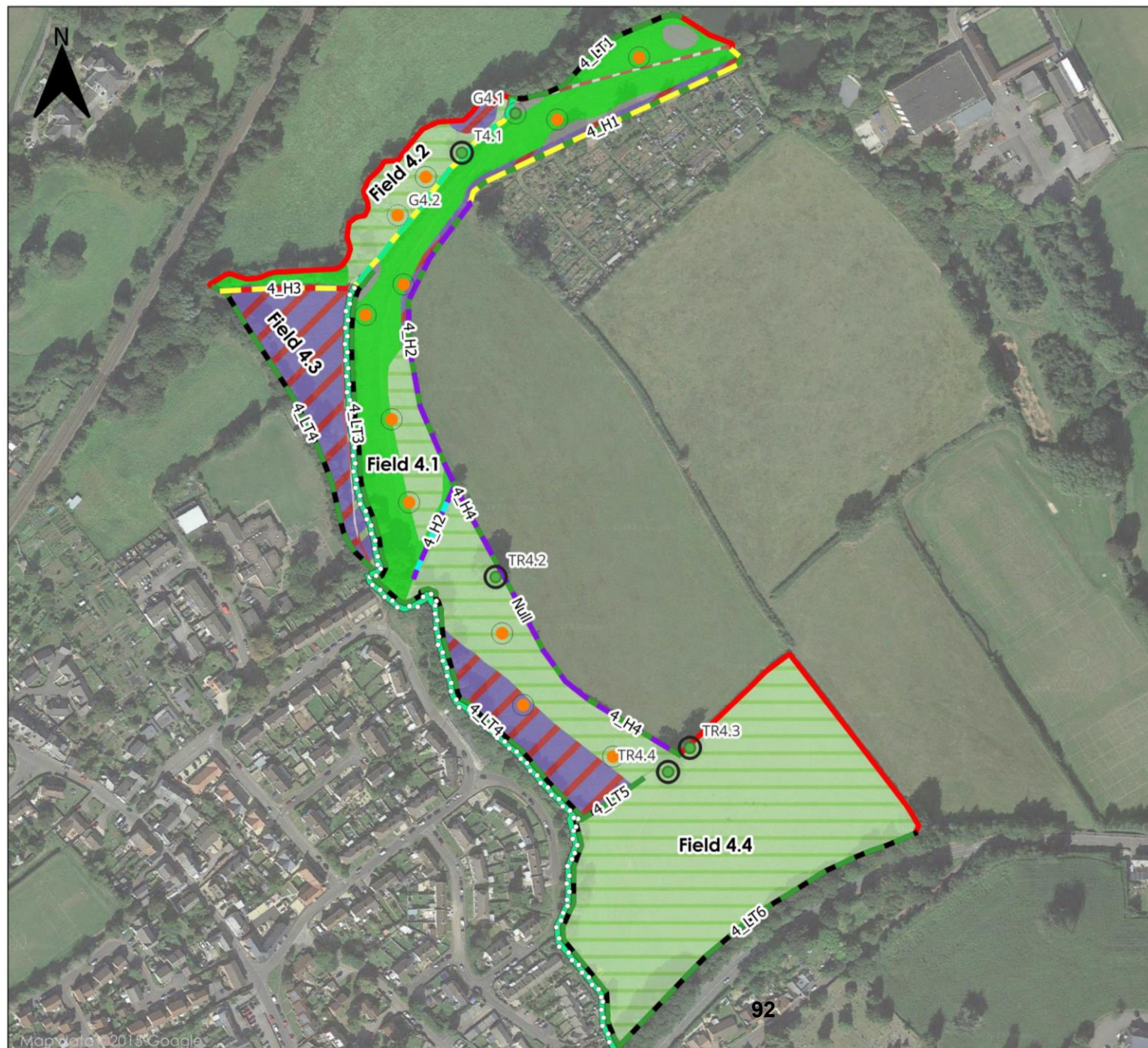
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& WOODS
ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Proposed Habitat Map - Parcel 3

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 25 50 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Bramble scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Mixed scrub
- Modified grassland
- Other neutral grassland
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Line of trees
- Native hedgerow with trees
- Native hedgerow with trees - associated with ditch
- Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with ditch
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Ditch
- River or stream
- Retained large rural tree
- Retained medium rural tree
- Newly planted medium rural tree
- New Small Rural Tree

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ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Proposed Habitat Map - Parcel 4

Date
05/01/2024

Scale
0 50 100 m



Key:

-  Red line boundary
-  Allotments
-  Mixed scrub
-  Other neutral grassland
-  Traditional orchards
-  Line of trees
-  Native hedgerow with trees
-  Species-rich native hedgerow with trees



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Proposed Habitat Map - Parcel 5

Date
05/01/2024

Scale 
0 50 100 m



Key:

- Red line boundary
- Mixed scrub
- Other neutral grassland
- Line of trees - associated with bank
- Native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow with trees
- River or stream
- Retained large rural tree



Project
Wellington Green Corridor

Title
Proposed Habitat Map - Parcel 6

Date
05/01/2024

Scale 0 20 40 m

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Wellington Park and Recreational Ground, Wellington

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

December 2024

Client: Wellington Town Council
Report Ref: SET_856.01
Issue Number: 1
Date of Issue: 27th March 2025
Authors: Richard Lawrence
Reviewed: Hannah Maben MCIEEM
www.seasonsecology.co.uk



Non-Technical Summary

Site name and location	Wellington Park and Recreational Ground, 3 Courtland Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8ND (OS grid ref ST 13360 20606); approximately 4.1ha
Survey date and scope	19th December 2024; Preliminary Ecological Appraisal comprising desk study, habitat and protected species scoping survey and preliminary bat roost assessment
Assessment and survey methods	Habitat classification as described in the UK Habitat Classification User Manual (UKHab Ltd, 2023), Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition (CIEEM, 2017)
Surveyors	Hannah Maben and Richard Lawrence
Purpose of works	The survey was undertaken to inform Wellington Town Council of the existing features and conditions of the park and recreational ground, and to provide advice on potential enhancements that could be made
Summary of assessment and survey	<p><i>Wellington Park</i></p> <p>The park comprises modified grassland, trees, scrub, introduced shrub, line of trees, hedgerow, buildings, sealed surface, a pond and fountain. The habitats are common in the local area and well connected to similar habitats. The trees and pond provide elements of naturalness, diversity and permanence. Rarity and fragility are likely absent on-site.</p> <p>The park as a whole is provisionally assessed as being of Site ecological importance. The lines of trees, individual trees and area of scrub are of ecological importance at a Local level and the modified grassland and ornamental shrubs are of ecological importance at a Site level. The urban habitats on-site are of Local importance. The habitats are well connected to further habitats in the wider landscape.</p> <p><i>Wellington Recreational Ground</i></p> <p>The recreational ground comprises a large expanse of modified grassland associated with sports pitches, bare ground, trees, scrub, introduced shrub, line of trees and hedgerow, a single building and small areas of sealed surface. The habitats are common in the local area and well connected to similar habitats. The trees and scrub provide elements of naturalness, diversity and permanence. Rarity and fragility are likely absent on-site.</p> <p>The recreational ground as a whole is assessed as being of Local ecological importance. The line of trees and areas of scrub are of ecological importance at a Local level and the modified grassland is of ecological importance at a Site level. The urban habitats on-site are of Site importance. The habitats are well connected to further habitats in the wider landscape</p> <p>The site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of nearby Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), including Langford Heathfield SSSI, Blackdown and Sampford Commons SSSI and Maiden Down SSSI</p>



	<p>Both the park and the recreational ground provide some opportunities for notable flora (such as bluebell), roosting, foraging and commuting bats, badger, dormice, other mammals, foraging and nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Any species using either area are likely use both areas in combination and alongside other habitats in the local area.</p> <p>Non-native invasive species, including at least one listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), were recorded in both the park and the recreational ground.</p>
Considerations and Recommendations	<p>The following biodiversity enhancement opportunities should be considered alongside other aims and objectives for these two areas:</p> <p><i>Wellington Park</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of single flowering perennials on formal beds • Wildflower meadow islands • Appropriate management of existing trees • Management of the pond including creation of a bog garden and introduction of native species (with consideration to great crested newt) • Appropriate management of buildings, with consideration given to protected species (bats and breeding birds) • Area should remain unlit • Installation of manmade habitats to include bat boxes, bird boxes, bug houses and bee bricks • General site management including removing pesticide use (if present), litter and dog foul removal <p><i>Wellington Recreational Ground</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of wildflower swathes at field boundaries • Increasing structure, resilience and biodiversity of boundary tree lines with planting of native tree and woody shrub species • Additional fruit tree planting to create an orchard block, with improved protection • Appropriate management of buildings, with consideration given to protected species • Removal of Montbretia located on north-western boundary • Recreational Area to remain unlit • Installation of manmade habitats to include bat boxes, bird boxes, bug houses and bee bricks • Educational signage



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Figure 1a: Habitat map, Wellington Park



Figure 1b: Habitat map, Wellington Recreational Ground

Figure 2a: Enhancement opportunities, Wellington Park

Figure 2b: Enhancement opportunities, Recreational Ground

8. Annexes

Annex 1: Legislation and Planning Policy

Annex 2: Species List - Flora

Annex 3: Site Photographs



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Seasons Ecology was instructed by Wellington Town Council to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) comprising a desk study and habitat survey of Wellington Park and Recreational Ground, 3 Courtland Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8ND (OS grid ref ST 13360 20606) known as ‘the site’ from hereon.
- 1.1.2 Wellington Town Council has recently taken on the management of these green spaces and are exploring opportunities for biodiversity enhancement whilst maintaining their amenity, heritage and recreational function.

1.2 Scope and Objectives of Report

- 1.2.1 This report provides a description of the site’s current ecological conditions and considers the ecological context of the site. For the purposes of this report, the site has been split into two distinct areas, “The Park” and “The Recreational Ground”. Recommendations of potential enhancements for biodiversity are made, as appropriate, that could be considered within the two areas.
- 1.2.2 This report is based on the findings of a desktop study, habitat and protected species scoping survey undertaken on 19th December 2024.
- 1.2.3 The report is supported by the following:
- Figure 1: Baseline habitat map;
 - Figure 2: Ecological Enhancement Opportunities;
 - Annex 1: Legislation and Planning Policy;
 - Annex 2: Species List; and,
 - Annex 3: Site Photographs

2. Legislation and Planning Policy

- 2.1.1 This report has been compiled with reference to relevant legislation and national planning policies which protect wildlife. Annex 1 provides a brief summary of this legislation and policy.

3. Methods

3.1 Desktop Study

- 3.1.1 A web-based desk study was undertaken in January 2025. The following sources were used to obtain existing information on designated sites of nature conservation interest and priority habitats within 1km of the site, and assess the ecological context of the site:
- MAGIC website¹;

¹ <http://www.magic.gov.uk>



- Ordnance Survey (OS) maps²; and
- Google Earth³;
- Natural England GCN Risk Zones (Somerset)⁴; and,
- Somerset Council⁵

3.2 Habitat Survey and Species Assessment

- 3.2.1 An ecological walkover of the site was undertaken by Hannah Maben and Richard Lawrence on 19th December 2024 in suitable weather conditions. The site is shown on Figure 1, and species recorded in Annex 2.
- 3.2.2 The habitats present within the site were classified in accordance with the UKHab classification⁶ and their suitability for protected, priority or rare species undertaken with reference to standard methodology published in the Chartered Institute of Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Guidelines for PEA⁷. Target notes were used to record features of interest. An indicative list was compiled of plant species (using the nomenclature of Stace, 2010⁸) for each habitat; both the common and Latin names of species recorded on-site are used in the first instance only. Both the common names and Scientific names of species recorded on-site are provided within Annex 2.

3.3 Surveyors

- 3.3.1 Hannah is an experienced surveyor and full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and has worked as a professional ecological consultant for over 20 years. Richard Lawrence is an experienced surveyor and ecological consultant.

3.4 Limitations of Survey

- 3.4.1 The survey does not necessarily record plants or animals that may appear on the site at other times of the year and were therefore not evident at the time of the survey. However, there were no constraints to the habitat mapping and assessment for the purpose of informing enhancement opportunities.

3.5 Evaluation

- 3.5.1 Ecological features, including habitats and species populations, if known, within the site boundary (or zone of influence) are considered in terms of a number of characteristics, including naturalness, rarity (either internationally, nationally or locally), diversity,

² <http://explore.osmaps.com/>

³ <http://maps.google.co.uk/>

⁴ <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/gcn-risk-zones-somerset/explore>

⁵ <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/locations/wellington-park/>

⁶ UKHab Ltd (2023) *UK Habitat Classification*, Version 2.0. Available at: <https://ukhab.org/>

⁷ CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

⁸ Stace, C. (2010) *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press.



connectivity and declining status, to assess whether they are important and therefore potentially affected by the proposal. Identified important ecological features are then considered within a defined geographical context using the following frame of reference (CIEEM, 2018⁹):

- International and European;
- National;
- Regional;
- Metropolitan, County, vice-county or other local authority-wide area; and
- Local

3.5.2 Site importance (within the site boundary only) and negligible importance are also assigned to ecological features, where identified as lower than Local importance.

4. Results

4.1 Desk Study

Statutory Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

4.1.1 A search on MAGIC identified two statutory sites of nature conservation interest within 1km of the site;

- Wellington Basins Local Nature Reserve (LNR) lies approximately 130m west of the site and is designated for its pond habitats and assemblage of birds; and,
- Swains Lane LNR lies approximately 750m south of the site and is designated for its meadow and pond habitats, including the presence of great crested newt, palmate newt and common toad

4.1.2 The site lies within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of nearby SSSIs, including Langford Heathfield SSSI, located approximately 3km north-west of the site and designated for its variety of semi-natural habitats and assemblage of resident breeding butterflies, Blackdown and Sampford Commons SSSI, located approximately 3.6km south of the site and designated for its heathland, carr woodland and marshy grassland habitats, and Maiden Down SSSI located approximately 6km south-west of the site, designated for its for its lowland heath plant and animal communities.

4.1.3 An area designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone lies approximately 1km south-west of the site.

Habitats and Ecological Context

4.1.4 Aerial photographs and OS maps show the site is approximately 4.1ha in size and is located along the western edge of the town of Wellington. The site comprises 'The Park' (approximately 1.8ha) to the north-east, and 'The Recreational Ground' (approximately 2.3ha) to the south-west.

⁹ CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*, Version 1.2 – Updated April 2023. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester



- 4.1.5 Wellington Park is a grade II listed formal Edwardian Park, approximately 1.8ha in size, forming the north-eastern block of the site. This site was sensitively restored in 2000, following receipt of Heritage Lottery Funding. Based on aerial photographs, The Park comprises an area of formal gardens, detailing scattered structures, footpaths, grassland, a pond and fountain and areas of trees and shrub. The Recreational Ground comprises a large treelined recreational field, detailing two football pitches (one full size and one half size) and a children's play park, to the south-west of the site. The site is accessible from Beech Grove to the north and Courtland Road to the east.
- 4.1.6 A search on MAGIC identifies four areas of priority habitat within 1km of the site:
- Two sites designated as Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat lie 620m north-west and 670m west of the site;
 - A site designated as Traditional Orchard Priority Habitat lies 730m north of the site; and,
 - A site designated for both Woodpasture and Parkland Priority Habitat and Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat lies approximately 750m north-east of the site
- 4.1.7 Surrounding habitats predominately comprise developed and urban environments associated with Wellington town, to the north and east. Wellington AFC, and the associated sports pitches, is located immediately to the east. Further recreational grounds, associated with Court Fields School to the south and Wellington Rugby Football Club to the west, followed by agricultural fields, hedgerows and treelines, extend beyond the site's boundary to the southern through to western aspects.
- 4.1.8 OS maps show four waterbodies within 500m of the site, all are between approximately 115m and 335m north-west of the site.

Species

- 4.1.9 A search on MAGIC has identified seven European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) that have been issued within 1km of the site. These licenses relate to species including bats, the closest of which is an EPSL relating to four species of bat (common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, lesser horseshoe and brown long-eared), located approximately 530m east of the site, great crested newt, the closest of which is located approximately 700m north-east of the site and hazel dormouse, the closest of which is located approximately 855m north of the site.
- 4.1.10 Great crested newt are present in Somerset, with the site being located in an Amber Zone on the Somerset Great Crested Newt risk zones map¹⁰. With reference to MAGIC, three great crested newt class survey licence returns or great crested newt survey results (2017-2019) have been submitted within 1km of the site.

¹⁰ <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/gcn-risk-zones-somerset> (2025)



4.2 Field Survey

4.3 The Park

4.3.1 Wellington Park (plates 1 and 2, Annex 3) is an urban park and comprises formal planting of trees, shrubs and flowerbeds, a pond, a fountain, with asphalt sealed surface footpaths weaving around and through the park. Pedestrian only access gates, are located at the north-western, north-eastern and south-western corners. These pedestrian gates are accessed from Beech Grove and Courtland Road. Four buildings are present within the park. Hedgerow and lines of trees are present along the north-eastern boundary and line of trees with an introduced shrub understorey are present along the south-eastern boundary. Scattered individual trees followed by a ha-ha are present along the park's south-western boundary, which borders the recreational ground, with an approximately 1.5m drop from the park down to the recreational ground. Introduced shrub and individual trees are located along the north-western boundary. No lighting was recorded within The Park.

4.3.2 The habitats within the site are described below and shown on Figure 1. An indicative species list for the site is provided in Annex 2 and photographs are provided in Annex 3.

Habitat Descriptions

Modified grassland (g4)

4.3.3 Modified grassland forms the majority of the park's habitat, surrounding the areas of planting, pond, fountain and buildings. The grassland is of a level design and is managed with a short sward (Plate 3, Annex 3). Minor areas of bare ground are present, due to recreational pressures given the purpose of the area.

4.3.4 The sward is species-poor with grass species dominated by perennial rye-grass and cock's-foot. Broad-leaved herb species noted within the sward include common daisy, yarrow and clover.

Line of Trees (w 33)

4.3.5 Established lines of trees are present along the north-eastern and south-western boundaries of the site. The north-eastern boundary details a line of 22 mature, previously pollarded, London plane (Plate 4, Annex 3). All appear in a generally good condition, with crevices and small cavities throughout. No understorey is present beneath these trees with the canopies largely oversailing sealed pathway.

4.3.6 The site's south-eastern boundary also comprises a line of trees, with introduced shrub creating an understorey. Species include oak, cedar, yew, pine, larch, silver birch.

Urban scattered trees (u 32)

4.3.7 Individual urban scattered trees are present throughout the park (Plate 5, Annex 3). Trees are generally isolated, although canopy cover can be considered continuous in places, namely around the bandstand on the park's eastern aspect, with introduced shrub creating an understorey. Where individual trees form part of a formal bed, understorey is present in the form of introduced shrub. Trees found centrally within the park, and on the south-western boundary are isolated, largely with no understorey present. Modified grassland is present beneath the canopy in these places. Tree species include willow, hawthorn, cypress, oak, beech, sweet chestnut, pine, cedar, larch and a number of ornamental species.



Introduced shrub (u1 847)

- 4.3.8 Introduced shrubs are present throughout the park, both at the park boundaries (excluding the north-eastern boundary) and centrally forming structure as part of managed beds. Shrubs at the boundary have been densely planted, and allowed to grow in a less managed state, forming dense understorey beneath the scattered and lines of trees. The introduced shrubs found centrally within the park in the planted beds are also densely planted but are generally managed to between approximately 1-2m high (Plate 6, Annex 3). Shrub species include a range of non-native and ornamental, including magnolia, Darwin's barberry, rhododendron species, cotoneaster species and others. Further formal beds planted with flowering annuals are located periodically within the areas of modified grassland. Montbretia was also recorded in the beds adjacent to the toilet block on the parks north-eastern aspect.

Buildings (u1b5)

- 4.3.9 There are four buildings located within the park; a bandstand, toilet block, historic residential building and covered seating area.
- *Pedestrian Access Gates:* Pedestrian access gates, each detailing arched cement rendered gated structures, roofed in clay, single roman roof tiles (Plate 7, Annex 3), are located at the parks three access points
 - *Bandstand:* The bandstand (Plate 8, Annex 3) is an open fronted, right-angled building, located in the western corner of the park. The roof is single apex with four pitched aspects, with a lead valley creating a join at the internal angle on the front of the structure. Timber cladding is present on each gable and a boarded ceiling at bottom of roof height suggests an inaccessible internal void is present;
 - *Toilet Block:* The toilet block (Plate 9, Annex 3), located on the north-western boundary of the park, details a cement rendered structure, with a single apex, double pitched roof, which is hipped at each gable. The building is tiled in clay single roman roof tiles and clay ridge tiles with timber fascia and barge boards present;
 - *Historic Residential Structure:* A historic residential structure (Plate 10, Annex 3), "The caretaker's lodge", is located at the northern corner of the park. It is a rendered, predominantly single-storey structure, with a central cylindrical two-storey turret on its front aspect. The connected roofs of the turret and main property both detail clay, single roman roof tiles and clay ridge tiles. Fascia and barge boards are absent, but soffit boxes are present at the roof bases;
 - *Seating Area:* A covered seating area (Plate 11, Annex 3) is located at the south-east corner of the park. The structure is open sided and details a multi pitched roof with clay single roman roof tiles and clay ridge tiles. Internally the ceilings are vaulted

Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)

- 4.3.10 A narrow asphalt pedestrian footpath, edged in clay brick and subject to regular use, circumnavigates the park and weaves centrally around the parks features.
- 4.3.11 A slightly larger expanse of asphalt is located either side and in front of the bandstand, in the south-west corner of the park.



Pond (r1)

- 4.3.12 According to OS maps, two ponds lie within Wellington Park. One is in fact a high sided ornamental fountain that is currently drained of water (Plate 12, Annex 3), located centrally on the parks north-eastern aspect. This feature is believed to be in use seasonally.
- 4.3.13 A concrete lined pond of approximately 345 square metres, is located in the park's eastern aspect (Plate 13, Annex 3). The pond has been densely colonised by yellow iris at its margins (Plate 14, Annex 3) and an abundance of hornwort is present. Duckweed covers the majority of the ponds surface, and a large amount of leaf litter is present. A large mature willow species tree is located immediately adjacent to the pond on its southern bank, with several mature cypress species trees located on the ponds northern and eastern aspects, which will partially limit sunlight to the pond. A small bridge is present on the pond's eastern aspect, providing pedestrian access across this narrower section of pond. Large natural rocks and boulders have been installed in this area, creating a rocky shrubbed environment.

Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (h2b)

- 4.3.14 Ornamental hedgerow is present along the full length of the north-eastern boundary (Plate 15, Annex 1), extending between the line of London plane trees and Beech Grove. The hedge is tightly managed to approximately one and a half metres in height, with direct connectivity to the introduced shrub along the north-western and south-eastern boundaries inhibited by the presence of the pedestrian gates. Species noted include holly, bay and yew.

Dense scrub (h3)

- 4.3.15 A small area of scrub is present behind the bandstand on the park's eastern aspect (Plate 16, Annex 3). This area includes bramble, ivy and honeysuckle with deadwood logs and mulch also noted.

Built linear structures (u1e)

- 4.3.16 Low, chain link fencing, which has been colonised by ivy, frames the area of modified grassland adjacent to the fountain on the parks north-western aspect.
- 4.3.17 Metal rail fencing is found at points marking the boundary of the park, namely on the parks south-eastern, and at points on north-western, boundaries.
- 4.3.18 A stone wall is present between the road and ornamental hedge on the parks north-eastern aspect.

Adjacent habitats

- 4.3.19 The landscape to the north through to south-east is a predominantly developed and urbanised environment associated with Wellington town, with roads, including associated streetlighting, a small car park, buildings and dispersed areas of associated green spaces. To the west the park is bordered by a large expanse of modified grassland associated with Wellington Rugby Football Club. Wellington Recreational Ground is present on the parks south-western aspect.

4.4 The Recreational Ground

- 4.4.1 Wellington Recreational Ground comprises a large expanse of modified grassland, the majority of which is used as a full-sized football pitch and smaller approximately half sized football pitch. An area of approximately 0.2ha is sectioned off, bordered by both fencing and hedging, to create a children's play park (Plate 13, Annex 3). The recreational ground is bordered by lines of trees on its south-eastern, south-western and north-western aspects, with Wellington Park spanning the length of the Recreational Ground's north-eastern boundary. Pedestrian access is located at the eastern and western corners of the recreational ground, with steps providing



access up the ha-ha to Wellington Park on the Recreational Ground's northern aspect. Occasional scattered individual trees are present, and right-angled line of newly planted fruit trees is noted adjacent to the children's play park.

- 4.4.2 The habitats within the site are described below and shown on Figure 1. An indicative species list for the site is provided in Annex 2 and photographs are provided in Annex 3.

Habitat Descriptions

Modified grassland (g4)

- 4.4.3 Modified grassland forms the majority of the recreational grounds habitat. The grassland is of a level design, managed with a generally short sward to enable use as sports pitches, with longer areas recorded at the boundaries. Minor areas of bare ground are present, although these may increase in late winter and spring through disturbance following prolonged use as a football pitch.
- 4.4.4 The sward is species-poor with grass species dominated by perennial rye-grass and cock's-foot. Broad-leaved herb species noted within the sward include creeping buttercup, daisy and clover. Tall ruderals became prevalent at the treelined areas along the recreational ground boundaries, on the south-western and north-western aspects.

Line of Trees (w 33)

- 4.4.5 Established lines of trees are present along the south-eastern (Plate 14, Annex 3), south-western (Plate 15, Annex 3) and north-western (Plate 16, Annex 3) boundaries of the Recreational Ground.
- 4.4.6 The line of trees present on the south-eastern boundary is located within the children's play park, with seven mature trees forming a linear feature following the corner of the park. The tree line details two species, alternating between copper beech and oak species. The canopy cover is continuous, and all appear in a good condition with some crevice features noted. No understorey is present, with largely bare due to disturbance earth noted beneath these trees.
- 4.4.7 A newly planted, right-angled line of five young trees is present adjacent to the play park area (Plate 17, Annex 3), on the recreational grounds southern aspect. The trees, believed pear *Pyrus* species, have no guards or mulching and have been subject to vandalism/damage with broken branches and damage visible throughout.
- 4.4.8 The sites south-western and north-western boundaries also comprises line of trees. Species include willow, sycamore, lime, oak, cherry, ash, elder, hawthorn, alder and yew. Ground flora comprises tall ruderals including common nettle, bramble, dock, ivy and cow parsley. Montbretia was also noted along the north-western boundary. Trees are of varying age, with a range of both mature and immature trees present. A greater structural diversity is noted within the south-western boundary. Crevices providing potential bat roosting and/or bird nesting features were noted in places. A shrub and scrub layer creating an understorey, again following the linear features, was noted. This is generally more prevalent on the south-western boundary, with the north-western boundary being of a narrower design. Species recorded include bramble, blackthorn and ivy. Aged stock fencing was also noted within the treeline of the north-western boundary.

Urban scattered trees (u 32)

- 4.4.9 Individual urban scattered trees are present in the Recreational Ground. A mature oak tree is present centrally on the areas south-western boundary (Plate 18, Annex 3), adjacent to the line of trees on this boundary, but with a canopy that virtually adjoins this treeline. The oak



tree appears in good condition, although a cavity is noted towards the base of the trunk. Short, modified grassland is present beneath this tree canopy.

- 4.4.10 Beyond this oak, also adjacent to the south-western boundary, is a newly planted young oak tree estimated to be of approximately five years of age. No stake or guard is present; however, the tree appears in a generally good, healthy condition. Short, modified grassland is present beneath this tree.
- 4.4.11 A third tree, believed London plane, is located on the Recreational Ground's north-eastern aspect. Although located within the Recreational Ground, the canopy of this tree joins the lines of trees present in the parks south-eastern corner. The tree appears in a good, healthy condition. Short, modified grassland is present beneath this tree.

Buildings (u1b5)

- 4.4.12 There is one building located within the recreational ground, a covered seating area with store/changing room on the ground's eastern aspect (Plate 19, Annex 3).
- *Covered Seating Area with store/changing rooms:* The building is largely constructed of stone with areas of rendered concrete block. The roof is of single apex double pitch design, which is hipped at either end and details manmade clay tiles, which are missing in places. The left-hand side of the building is of open fronted design, providing a covered seating area

Scattered scrub (g 10)

- 4.4.13 A small area of scrub is located on the recreational grounds northern corner (Plate 20, Annex 3), which connects to the area of scrub behind the bandstand on the park's eastern aspect. This area includes dense bramble, ivy and honeysuckle.

Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)

- 4.4.14 A narrow asphalt pedestrian footpath, edged in concrete edging, is located around the changing rooms.
- 4.4.15 A small area of asphalt is present on the recreational grounds southern aspect (Plate 21, Annex 3), associated with a freestanding basketball hoop.

Native hedgerow (h2a)

- 4.4.16 Native hedgerow is present along a section of the children's play park boundary, extending from the access gate to the tree line (Plate 22, Annex 3). The hedge is species poor, largely comprising likely maple species with occasional holly, tightly managed to approximately 1.5m in height, with direct connectivity to the tree line along the south-eastern boundary. The hedgerow margin within the children's play area is largely bare ground due to disturbance, with short sward modified grassland recorded in the margins on the western aspect of the hedge. Additional species noted included ivy.

Built linear structures (u1e)

- 4.4.17 Fencing is present around all boundaries of the recreational ground, excluding the areas north-western boundary, which is marked by the stone wall forming the ha-ha associated with Wellington Park.
- 4.4.18 The stock fencing located within the tree line on the areas north-western boundary is aged and in poor condition throughout.



Adjacent habitats

- 4.4.19 The landscape to the south-east is a predominantly developed and urbanised environment associated with Wellington town, with a school, church and further buildings with dispersed areas of associated green spaces. To the south-west the Recreational Ground is bordered by a large expanse of modified grassland, the floodlit sports pitches associated with Court Fields School. To the north-west the area is bordered by a large expanse of modified grassland associated with Wellington Rugby Football Club. Wellington Park is present on the recreational grounds north-eastern aspect.

4.5 Consideration to other protected/notable species

Flora

- 4.5.1 No Schedule 8 species of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were noted associated with the ground flora of the site, although the boundary line of trees surrounding the site have the potential to support notable species such as bluebell. No other protected flora or species of conservation interest were noted on-site at the time of the survey and the largely modified grassland habitat is unlikely to support such species.
- 4.5.2 Montbretia was recorded both in the park and in the recreational ground on their north-western boundaries, which is an invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 4.5.3 A large array of non-native shrubs and trees, including but not limited to Rhododendron and cotoneaster species, are established within the park. General precautions should be applied with regard to invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) during management arisings associated with these species.

Mammals

- 4.5.4 *Bats* – No evidence of bats were recorded on the site. However, bat roosting opportunities are present, with potential roost features recorded throughout the site, including mature trees, buildings, pedestrian gateways at the park entrances and a timber bat box located on a mature tree in the northern corner of the park. The planting and pond within the park provide suitable foraging habitat for bats, and the line of trees surrounding the recreational ground provides good commuting and foraging habitat, with no external lighting believed in use on the site. Light spill may be experienced in places from neighbouring roads and premises.
- 4.5.5 *Badger* – No badger setts, or evidence of badger (latrines, prints or hairs), were recorded on site. The modified grassland is regularly managed through mowing providing a relatively small extent of optimal foraging opportunities for badger. The line of trees and areas of shrub and scrub provide some sett building habitat and seasonal foraging opportunities, however, the site itself is unlikely to be of significance to this species given the lack evidence, size and context of the site.
- 4.5.6 *Dormice* – No evidence of dormice was noted on-site, however, the lines of trees bordering the two areas, and areas of introduced shrub and scrub provides some nesting and foraging habitat for dormice. Good connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider landscape is noted. However, suitable habitat within the park and recreational ground is fairly limited in extent and is only likely to be used in combination with further opportunities in the wider landscape, if at all.
- 4.5.7 *Other mammals* – No evidence of other mammals was noted on-site. The site itself provides foraging and refuge opportunities for other small mammals, such as hedgehog. Given the extent of the tree, shrub and scrub habitat on-site, and managed nature of the grassland, it is



likely that any such species would use the site in combination with other suitable habitats in the local landscape.

Birds

- 4.5.8 No evidence of nesting bird was recorded associated with the site. The trees, hedgerows, scrub and areas of planting and introduced shrub within Wellington Park, as well as the buildings and structures found on site, offer suitable nesting and foraging habitat for a range of bird species. Given the size and location of the site, surrounded by urbanised or heavily managed habitats, the site it is likely to be of some significance to birds, however, further opportunities are present in the local area. The site is unlikely to be of importance to assemblages of wintering birds associated with nearby SSSIs given the generally disturbed nature of the site.

Reptiles and amphibians

- 4.5.9 No reptiles or amphibians were recorded on-site during the survey. The shrubs, trees, scrub and hedgerows in both areas offer some suitable refuge opportunities for reptiles and amphibians. The modified grassland is regularly managed and, although longer areas were noted in places within the recreational ground, is generally lacking notable structural and species diversity providing sub-optimal refuge and foraging opportunities for reptiles and amphibians. The habitats on-site also provide sub-optimal basking opportunities for reptiles. Adjacent habitats are either modified grassland or urban, however the line of trees bordering the site provides connectivity to some suitable habitat in the wider landscape, notably the treelines providing connectivity to the Wellington Basins LNR, which is known to provide good reptile and amphibian habitat. Widespread reptile species, if present, are only likely to use the site in combination with adjacent habitats.
- 4.5.10 No evidence of great crested newt or other amphibians was recorded on-site during the survey,. The pond within Wellington Park provides breeding opportunities and surrounding terrestrial habitats provide some sheltering and foraging opportunities as for amphibians. There are no other ponds present within 250m of the site. However, there is one pond located approximately 300m to the west, with some connectivity provided between the two ponds.

Invertebrates

- 4.5.11 The habitats within the site are likely to support a number of common and widespread invertebrate species in combination with habitats within the local area. It is unlikely that the site supports any important assemblages of invertebrates given the location of the site and levels of disturbance. Any invertebrates using the site are likely to do so in combination with other habitats in the local area.

5. Evaluation

5.1 The Park

- 5.1.1 Wellington Park is around 1.8ha and comprises formal areas of modified grassland, introduced shrubs and trees with four associated buildings. The trees, shrubs, hedgerows and scrub provide some elements of naturalness, diversity and permanence. Rarity and fragility are likely absent on-site. The majority of the site is regularly disturbed and may be subject to light spill at the boundaries. Lines of trees offer connectivity to habitats to the south and west of the site.
- 5.1.2 The site provides opportunities for notable flora (such as bluebell), roosting, foraging and commuting bats, badger, dormice, other mammals, foraging and nesting birds, reptiles,



amphibians and invertebrates. There is no other conclusive evidence of any other protected or notable species on-site, and opportunities are considered limited in extent given the managed and disturbed nature of the site. Non-native invasive species, including at least one listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), were recorded along the site's western boundary and within the planted formal beds.

- 5.1.3 The park as a whole is provisionally assessed as being of Site ecological importance. Given the site's moderate size, any species using the habitats on-site are likely to do so in combination with habitats in the local area. The lines of trees, individual trees and area of scrub are of ecological importance at a Local level and the modified grassland and ornamental shrubs are of ecological importance at a Site level. The urban habitats on-site are of Local importance, likely providing roosting opportunities for bats and birds. The habitats are well connected to further habitats in the wider landscape.

5.2 The Recreational Ground

- 5.2.1 Wellington Recreational Ground is around 2.3ha and comprises an expanse of modified grassland with lines of trees and a single building. The trees, scrub and hedgerows provide elements of naturalness, diversity and permanence. Rarity and fragility are likely absent on-site. The majority of the site is regularly disturbed and may be subject to light spill at the south-eastern boundary. Lines of trees offer connectivity to habitats to the south and west of the site.
- 5.2.2 The site provides opportunities for notable flora (such as bluebell), roosting, foraging and commuting bats, badger, dormice, other mammals, foraging and nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. There is no other conclusive evidence of any other protected or notable species on-site, and opportunities are considered limited in extent given the managed and disturbed nature of the site. Non-native invasive species, including at least one listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), were recorded along the site's western boundary.
- 5.2.3 The recreational ground as a whole is assessed as being of Local ecological importance. Given the site's small size, any species using the habitats on-site are likely to do so in combination with habitats in the local area. The line of trees and areas of scrub are of ecological importance at a Local level and the modified grassland is of ecological importance at a Site level. The urban habitats on-site are of Site importance, likely providing roosting opportunities for bats and birds. The habitats are well connected to further habitats in the wider landscape.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1.1 The following tables outlines the considerations and recommendations for the key habitats and species in respect to enhancement proposals. These should be considered alongside other objectives for the park, such as ongoing amenity and recreational purposes, with reference given to the Somerset Council Wildlife and Biodiversity Guidance (2024)¹¹, including the Somerset Pollinator Action Plan.

¹¹ [Wildlife and biodiversity](#) Somerset Council (2024)



6.2 The Park

6.2.1 Given the parks listed classification, the habitats on-site should be retained and protected to ensure key characteristics of this designation remains remain. Table 1 below and Figure 2a identify enhancement opportunities that could be considered alongside other on-going uses, aims and objectives for the park.

Table 1: The Park - Considerations and Recommendations

6.2.2

Identified Receptor	Considerations and Recommendations
Formal Beds	Planting schemes could be designed to maximise value to wildlife, namely including an abundance of single-flowering species (as opposed to double-flowering species) that are of benefit to pollinators and as such, foraging birds and bats. The use of perennial species as an alternative to annual species could be considered, as well as the introduction of flowering species to attract night flying insects. Reference may be given to current guidance including the Bat Conservation Trust 2013 ¹² and Hedgehog Street, 2019 ¹³ . Management should also consider, where possible, leaving stems and seed heads to stand through winter which provides habitat for invertebrates and birds
Modified Grassland	New management provides scope to enhance areas of grassland habitats by creating areas of wildflower meadow. For example, native wildflower islands could be created at the bases of individual trees within the park. Appropriate management, including initial scarifying of areas to inhibit grass species, followed by seeding, less frequent cutting and removal of arisings, could aim to create a varied and species-rich sward of added benefit to a range of species
Individual and Lines of Trees	Any works to trees should be completed at appropriate times of year, with consideration to protected species such as bats and breeding birds. Any timber produced as a byproduct of management could be stacked to create habitat piles in discrete areas of the park. Where safe to do so, standing deadwood, fungal fruiting and acceptance of ivy cover would enhance biodiversity in the area. An arboriculture assessment of the line of London plane trees on the parks north-eastern boundary may be beneficial. Guidance on management strategies to promote the longevity of the trees, or future proofing the feature with adjacent planting of new trees could be considered.
Pond	Beneficial species, including yellow iris and hornwort, are already present within the pond. Sensitive management could include the partial clearance of both species, to maintain areas of open water within the pond. Removal

¹² Bat Conservation Trust (2013) Encouraging bats: A guide for bat-friendly gardening and living. Bat Conservation Trust

¹³ Hedgehog Street (2019) *Hedgehogs and Development*. British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species.



	<p>of leaf litter will help improve water quality. The introduction of further native plant species could be considered, if not already present. These could include a water lily, <i>Nymphaea alba</i> being a native example, as well as further marginal species such as water-forget-me-not <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> and lesser spearwort <i>Ranunculus flammula</i>. Consideration could also be given to the creation of a bog garden area immediately adjacent to the pond, to include further native species such as marsh marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>, Pillwort <i>Trollius europaeus</i> (a native fern species in decline across the UK) and Brooklime <i>Veronica beccabunga</i>. Care should be taken to monitor and not introduce invasive species to the pond area. The introduction of a shallow, beached edge, using pebble mounds, would provide an escape route for fauna, given the relatively steep sides of the concrete lined pond.</p> <p>If any significant pond management or maintenance is required or impacts on surrounding terrestrial habitats within 500m of the pond, consideration should be given to potential impacts on great crested newts. eDNA testing of the pond to identify presence or likely absence of great crested newt may be recommended, given the site's location in an Amber risk zone and local records of this species.</p>
Buildings	All buildings within the park, provide potential to support roosting bat species. The buildings should remain unlit, and consideration should be given to these species should maintenance be required.
Invasive Species	Consideration should be given to the careful management and disposal of any introduced shrubs, including montbretia, rhododendron and cotoneaster species, to prevent unlawful spread of species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and other non-native species. Unless confirmed otherwise, the ornamental cotoneaster and rhododendron species should be treated as invasive. It is recommended that care is taken to avoid accidental spread and, if ever required, to remove it from site following the recommended government guidance – How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK (2014) ¹⁴
Lighting	The park should remain unlit to ensure that roosting, nesting, foraging and commuting resources (habitats) remain suitable for bats and other nocturnal species such as hedgehog.
Bird Boxes	Consideration should be given to provision of bird nesting opportunities such as Schwegler woodcrete and/or wooden nest boxes, in a variety of designs. Such features would be best placed facing between north and east, in discrete locations, at least 3m off the ground, on trees and/or buildings within the park. Incorporation of these features provides opportunities for enhancing biodiversity as part of the management of the area.
Bat Boxes	Management proposals also provide scope for the provision of further bat roosting opportunities in the form of woodcrete or wooden bat boxes, on trees (such as Schwegler 2FN boxes) and buildings (such as Beaumaris bat boxes), within the park. Such features would be of greatest value high off the

¹⁴ [How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK](#) (2014)



	ground, facing between south-west and south-east, near to tree lines and away from artificial light
Bug houses/bee bricks	As per the Somerset Pollinator Plan, bug houses and bee bricks provide nesting and hibernation opportunities for many beneficial insects, as well as providing a visual representation to members of the public of the themes and aims for the area
Pesticides/ Herbicides	Pesticides and herbicides can kill non-target species, including pollinators, and can accumulate in animals that eat affected insects and molluscs such as hedgehog. As such, the reduction/complete removal of such products from the area (if currently used) is recommended
General	Beneficial site management such as directing members of the public to remain on paved areas, litter picking and encouragement of proper removal of dog fouling

6.3 Recreational Ground

6.3.1 The recreational ground, and notably the boundary habitats, provide habitat for a range of species and connectivity to the wider landscape, with opportunities available to enhance these areas. Table 2 below and Figure 2b identify enhancement opportunities that could be considered alongside other on-going uses, aims and objectives for the recreational ground.

Table 2: The Recreational Ground - Considerations and Recommendations

Identified Receptor	Considerations and Recommendations
Modified Grassland	New management provides scope to enhance grassland habitats by creating areas of wildflower meadow. For example, swathes of native wildflower meadow, to include resilient species such as yellow rattle <i>Rhinanthus minor</i> , ox-eye daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> and Greater knapweed <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i> , could be seeded and appropriately managed along the fringes of the recreational ground, including at the base of the lines of trees bordering the recreational ground on its south-western and north-western boundaries. Appropriate management would create a varied and species-rich sward
Individual and Lines of Trees	Any works to trees should be completed at appropriate times of year, with consideration to protected species such as bats and breeding birds. Any timber produced as a byproduct of management could be stacked to create habitat piles in discrete areas of the recreational ground. The line of trees in the parks western aspect has an increased depth of habitat recorded in comparison to the more single rows of trees observed elsewhere in recreational ground. The boundary tree lines as a whole, but particularly on the sites north-western aspect, could be increased in depth, structure and resilience via further planting of additional native tree species, such as rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> and bird cherry <i>Prunus padus</i> . These native species are recommended due to their flowering and fruiting life stages that provide pollen for invertebrates and foraging opportunities for bird and mammal species. The further planting of native woody shrub species both under and immediately adjacent to the existing treelines, such as hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> , spindle <i>Euonymus</i>



	<p><i>europaeus</i> and dog-rose <i>Rosa canina</i> would add further structure, resilience and create/support an understorey. Through this planting, and including the addition of meadow habitats, the treelines bordering the recreational ground would be increased in depth, structure and species diversity as well as being softened with a gradually increasing gradient, improving the areas for a variety of species and enforcing connectivity through wildlife corridors with the wider landscape, including to areas of Wellington Green Corridor. Fencing may discourage members of the public accessing the area, and as such reducing damage and disturbance.</p> <p>The right-angled line of fruit trees adjacent to the children's play park in the south-eastern corner of the park could be increased in size to create a small orchard block. The area would benefit from improved protection, such as the installation of stock fencing tree guards and signage, to allow the planted species to become established with a reduced risk of vandalism</p>
Buildings	The building within the recreational ground provides potential to support roosting bat species. The building should remain unlit and consideration should be given to these species should maintenance be required
Invasive Species	Consideration must be given to careful and legal management and disposal of any invasive, including montbretia, to prevent unlawful spread of species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and other non-native species. It is recommended that the Montbretia found on the sites north-western boundary care is appropriately removed through on-site treatment or disposal off site to an appropriate licensed landfill with reference to best practice How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading - GOV.UK
Lighting	The Recreational Ground should remain unlit to ensure that roosting, nesting, foraging and commuting resources (habitats) remain suitable for bats and other nocturnal species such as hedgehog
Bird Boxes	Consideration should be given to provision of additional bird nesting opportunities such as Schwegler woodcrete and wooden nest boxes, in a variety of designs. Such features would be best placed facing between north and east at least 2m off the ground, on trees and/or the building within the recreational ground. Incorporation of these features provides opportunities for enhancing biodiversity as part of the management of the area
Bat Boxes	Management proposals also provide scope for the provision of further bat roosting opportunities in the form of woodcrete (such as Schwegler 2FN boxes), and wooden bat boxes, on trees within the recreational ground. Such features would be of greatest value high off the ground, facing between south-west and south-east, with clear access, near to tree lines and away from artificial light
Habitat Creation	Further habitat creation, such as the installation of rock piles and areas of dead wood log piles at the Recreational Ground's boundaries, would increase opportunities for species, such as hedgehog, utilising the area. Other features, such as large Bug Hotels, can be constructed by volunteers,



	supporting community engagement and encouraging people to have a vested interest in the site
Pesticides/ Herbicides	Pesticides and herbicides can kill non-target species, including pollinators, and can accumulate in animals that eat affected insects and molluscs, such as hedgehog. As such, the reduction/complete removal of such products from the area (if currently used) is recommended
Education	Education in the form of signs and notice boards would assist in the communication of management strategies to members of the public, and creates a visual representation of a particular feature, such as why a pile of dead wood logs has been created. A “Wildlife Trail” around the recreational ground would support the theme of conservation in the area, and again would reinforce community engagement in the project



7. Figures

Figure 1a: Habitat map, Wellington Park

Figure 1b: Habitat map, Wellington Recreational Ground

Figure 2a: Enhancement opportunities, Wellington Park

Figure 2b: Enhancement opportunities, Recreational Ground

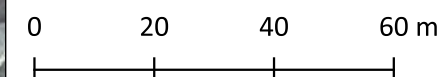




- Key**
- Wellington Park
 - Modified grassland
 - Introduced shrubs
 - Ponds
 - Buildings
 - Developed land, sealed surface
 - Scrub
 - Line of trees
 - Asphalt pedestrian walkways
 - Fencing
 - Ornamental hedgerow
 - Scattered trees

Seasons
ECOLOGY

Site	Wellington Park
Title	Habitat map
Report ref	SET_856.01
Figure ref	1a
Date	January 2025
Scale	1:2,000 @ A4

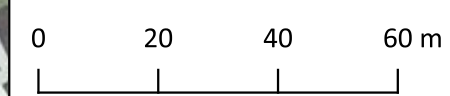




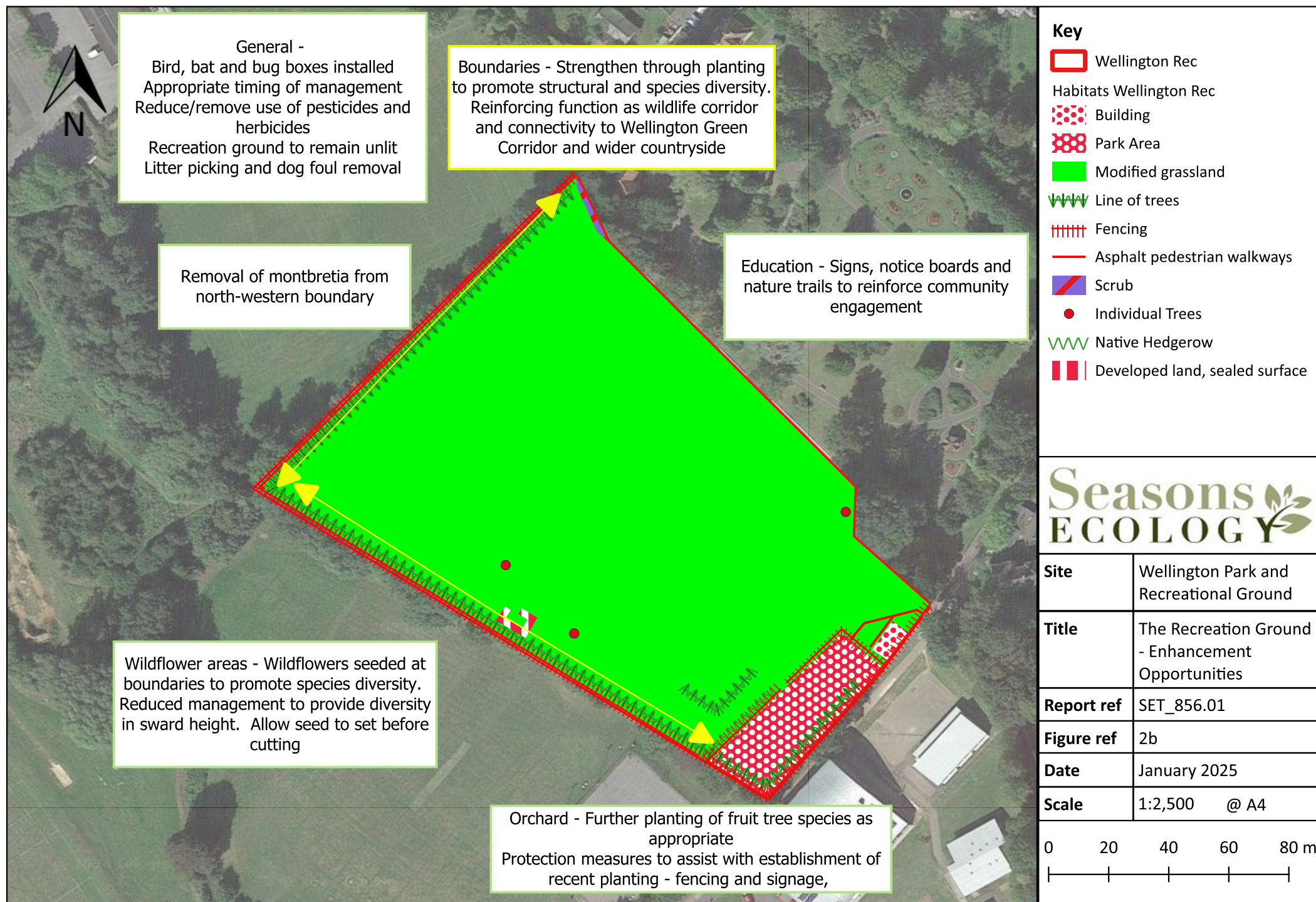
Key	
Wellington Recreation Ground	
Habitats Wellington Rec	
Building	
Park Area	
Modified Grassland	
Developed land, sealed surface	
Scrub	
Line of trees	
Individual trees	
Asphalt pedestrian walkway	
Fencing	
Hedgerow	



Site	Wellington Recreation Ground
Title	Habitat map
Report ref	SET_856.01
Figure ref	1b
Date	January 2025
Scale	1:2,000 @ A4







8. Annexes

Annex 1: Legislation and Planning Policy

A summary of relevant legislation and national policy is provided below. For each individual case, it is advised to consult the relevant documents in full and obtain legal advice, where appropriate.

There are several UK legislation tools, which are listed below. European legislation has not been included as it is incorporated in UK legislation by domestic provisions.

Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹⁵

In 1992, the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)¹⁶ came into force. This provides for the creation of a network of protected wildlife sites across the European Union, known as 'Natura 2000'. This network consists of designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC)¹⁷. These sites form part of a series of measures aimed at conserving important and threatened habitats and species.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 commonly known as 'the Habitat Regulations' transpose the Habitats Directive into national law and set out the provisions for the protection and management of species and habitats of European importance, including Natura 2000 sites. The Regulations have been amended in England in relation to candidate SACs and SPAs. These are sites submitted by the Government for consideration as part of the Natura 2000 network and are also now defined as European Sites. All European Sites are of national importance and have been notified as SSSIs.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as Amended in Quinquennial Review and by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000¹⁸

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981¹⁹ provides the foundation for much of the statutory wildlife protection in the UK. Part I deals with the protection of plants, birds and other animals and Part II deals with the designation of SSSIs.

The following broad areas are covered by the Act:

Nature Conservation - Protecting those sites which are National Nature Reserves (NNR) and SSSIs.

¹⁵ Secretary of State, 2019. The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 www.legislation.gov.uk

¹⁶ European Commission (1992). Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. European Commission, Brussels.

¹⁷ European Commission (1979). Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, European Commission, Brussels.

¹⁸ Secretary of State, 2000. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

¹⁹ Secretary of State, 1981. Wildlife and Countryside Act. Her Majesty's Stationery Office.



Wildlife - Listing endangered or rare species in need of protection and creating offences for killing, disturbing or injuring such species. The disturbance of any nesting bird during the breeding season is also noted as an offence.

The Act also makes it an offence to cause to grow in the wild certain plant species or to release certain fauna into the wild. The Act is enforced by local authorities.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides a new statutory right of access to the countryside and improves upon the rights of way system, providing stronger protection for both wildlife and countryside.

Part III of the Act - Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection: A number of measures to promote and enhance wildlife conservation are detailed, including improving protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and increasing penalties for deliberate damage to SSSIs. The Act affords statutory protection to Ramsar Sites which are wetlands designated under the International Convention on Wetlands.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006) to make provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities; to make provision in connection with wildlife, SSSIs, National Parks and the Broads; to amend the law relating to rights of way; to make provision as to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council; to provide for flexible administrative arrangements in connection with functions relating to the environment and rural affairs and certain other functions. The act created Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities, and, amongst other measures, it extended the biodiversity duty set out in the CROW Act 2000 to public bodies and statutory undertakers to ensure due regard to the conservation of biodiversity. One of the key provisions of the NERC Act 2006 is the identification and conservation of species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. These species are known as "Section 41 species" or previously "UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority species."

The Environment Act, 2021

The Environment Act 2021²⁰ aims to protect and enhance the natural environment. Its main scope includes setting legally binding targets for air and water quality, reducing plastic pollution, improving waste management, and increasing biodiversity. One of the Act's significant provisions is the introduction of "biodiversity net gain," which requires developers to leave habitats in a better condition than before development took place. This will help to improve the UK's biodiversity and ensure that new development does not harm the environment. Additionally, the Act seeks to address climate change by introducing measures to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency in buildings.

National Planning Policy Framework, 2023 (as amended)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)²¹ was published in March 2012 and most recently replaced by a revised version in September 2023. The NPPF supersedes all existing Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). It sets out the Government's requirements

²⁰ The Environment Act 2021, c.30. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk>

²¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023). *The National Planning Policy Framework*. Available at: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework)



for the planning system and how these are expected to be addressed. The NPPF is a material consideration for the purposes of planning decision-making.

The NPPF places a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF states that the presence of a legally protected species is a material consideration for a local authority dealing with planning applications for any development that would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat. Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and geological conservation²², prepared in support of the former PPS9, is still relevant and provides more guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation.

Biodiversity Action Plans

In 1994, the Government produced the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)²³, a national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity. Regional and District/Borough BAPs apply the UK BAP at a local level. The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' succeeded the UK BAP in July 2012²⁴. The UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats remain, however, important and valuable reference sources. Notably, they have been used to help draw up statutory lists of priorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In England there are 56 habitats of principal importance and 943 species of principal importance.

Species/species group	Legal protection and policy
Flora	<p>A number of plant species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. It is an offence to deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy these wild plants. It is also an offence for any purpose to possess, sell or exchange such a plant.</p> <p>In addition, a number of plant species are species of principal importance in England (formerly referred to as UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species), LBAP priority species and/or notable species that are a material consideration in planning</p>
Bats	<p>Bat species in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which bats use for shelter or protection; and

²² ODPM Circular 06/2005 Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Importance within the Planning System.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf

²³ Department of the Environment (1994). *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan*. London. Available at:

<https://www.gov.uk>

²⁴ JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group) (2012). UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. July 2012. Available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Seven of the 18 species of bats occurring in the UK are species of principal importance in England and many are also included in LBAPs</p>
Badgers	Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under this legislation it is illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett in any way
Otters	<p>Otters in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberately capture, injure or kill an otter; Intentionally or recklessly disturb otter; Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which an otter uses for shelter or protection; and Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Otter is a species of principal importance in England</p>
Water voles	<p>Water voles in England and Wales are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberately capture, injure or kill a water vole; Intentionally disturb water vole in their breeding or resting places; and Deliberately damage, destroy or obstruct of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Water vole is a species of principal importance in England</p>
Dormice	<p>Dormice in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberately capture, injure or kill a dormouse; Intentionally or recklessly disturb dormice; Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a dormouse uses for shelter or protection; and Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Dormouse is a species of principal importance in England</p>
Other mammals	Several other species of mammals, whilst not afforded specific legal protection, are of note and consideration to such species is necessary in



	<p>respect to planning in accordance with national and often local policy. Such species are typically identified as species of principal importance in England and/or LBAPs.</p> <p>Species of principal importance in England include brown hare and hedgehog.</p>
Birds	<p>All wild birds in England and Wales are granted legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kill, injure or take any wild bird; • Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and, • Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. <p>Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act are afforded further protection and it is illegal to disturb such species while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.</p> <p>A number of bird species are also included as species of principal importance in England and LBAPs</p>
Reptiles	<p>Smooth snakes and sand lizards in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a smooth snake or sand lizard; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a smooth snake or sand lizard; • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a smooth snake or sand lizard use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Widespread species of reptile (slow worm, common lizard, grass snake and adder) are protected against killing, injury and sale.</p> <p>Reptile species are also species of principal importance in England</p>
Amphibians	<p>Great crested newts and natterjack toads in England and Wales are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt or natterjack toad; • Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt or natterjack toad;



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a great crested newt or natterjack toad use for shelter or protection; and • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place. <p>Great crested newt, pool frog, natterjack toad and common toad are species of principal importance in England. These and other amphibian species are also often included in LBAPs</p>
Invertebrates	<p>45 species of invertebrate are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional kill, injure or take such species; • Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place used by such species; and, • Disturb such species when occupying such a structure or place. <p>A further 24 species are only afforded partial protection (typically only against sale). Stag beetle for instance is only protected against sale.</p> <p>Eight species and their habitats are also afforded further protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p> <p>398 species of invertebrate are included as species of principal importance in England and such species are often also included within LBAPs</p>



Annex 2: Species List - Flora

Common name	Scientific name
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis species</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Cedar	<i>Cedrus</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Clover	<i>Trifolium</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster species</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Cypress	<i>Cupressus</i>
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>
Dock species	<i>Rumex species</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Leyland cypress	<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>
Lime	<i>Tilia</i>
London Plane	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia</i>



Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmifolia</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus species</i>
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron species</i>
Scot's pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus species</i>
Willow	<i>Salix species</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus species</i>



Annex 3: Site Photographs

Plate 1: Wellington Park (view from eastern corner)



Plate 2: Wellington Park, view from southern corner



Plate 3: Area of modified grassland



Plate 4: Line of pollarded London Plane trees, north-eastern boundary



Plate 5: Scattered individual trees



Plate 6: Introduced shrub



Plate 7: Pedestrian access gates



Plate 8: Bandstand, Wellington Park (view from north-east)



Plate 9: Toilet block, Wellington Park (view from east)



Plate 10: Historic residential structure (view from west)



Plate 11: Covered seating area, Wellington Park (view from north)



Plate 12: Drained Fountain, north-east aspect



Plate 13: Pond from south-western aspect



Plate 14: Yellow Iris



Plate 15: Ornamental Hedge, north-eastern boundary



Plate 16: Area of scrub, eastern aspect



Plate 13: Children's play park, southern aspect



Plate 14: Line of trees, south-eastern aspect



Plate 15: Line of trees, south-western boundary



Plate 16: Line of trees, north-western boundary



Plate 17: Line of trees, southern aspect



Plate 18: Mature oak, south-western boundary



Plate 19: Covered seating area with changing rooms, eastern aspect



Plate 20: Area of scrub, northern aspect

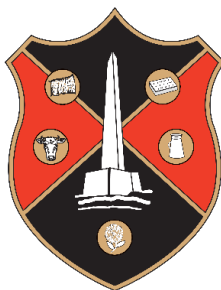


Plate 21: Asphalt sealed surface



Plate 22: Hedgerow adjacent to children's play park, southern aspect





Wellington Urban Tree Plan

Climate Project Officer Stephen Tate & Open Spaces Manager Darren Hill

The Vision

Wellington Tree Plan aims

1. To enhance urban areas of town, with tree species chosen for their attractive appearance through the seasons
2. To build climate resilience in community by providing canopy to mitigate extreme heat events.
3. To encourage residents to Adopt a Tree
4. To complement the tree-planting programme scheduled for the Green Corridor

The proposal is to divide the plan into three stages to spread the cost over a two or three-year period.

Stage One relates to the current financial year – 2024/2025 - and is in five parts. Parts 1, 3, 4 & 5 required permission from relevant landowners.

1. To plant a Tiny Forest using free tree packs from the Woodland at six sites including two schools
2. To plant 2 standard-sized trees and 10 fruit trees on two sites owned by Wellington Town Council
3. To plant 10 standard-sized trees on six sites owned by Somerset Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
4. To plant saplings in six town centre planters (possibly five others – see below) as part of an innovative Lift & Shift plan to bring on saplings to plant elsewhere in the town.
5. To replant two Wellingtonia planted in Linden Field to commemorate the work of two long-serving members of Wellington In Bloom

Total estimated cost - £5,668 ex VAT

Stage Two relates to the financial year 2025/206 and is divided into two parts. Both parts require permission from landowners.

1. To plant 28 standard-sized trees and fruit trees on 13 sites owned by Somerset Council Highways
2. To plant two standard-sized trees on two sites owned by Live West Housing Association

Stage Three relates to either the financial year 2025/26 or 2026/2027 and is divided into two parts. Both parts require permission from landowners.

1. To plant 26 standard-sized trees and fruit trees on six sites owned by housing developers Persimmon and Bloor Homes
2. To plant multiple trees at multiple sites on the Cades Farm Estate owned by Persimmon

Utility Checks

The proposed sites would require surveys to check what utility infrastructure may be running beneath the surface.

CAT scanners are capable of detecting utility infrastructure relating to Wessex Water, Wales & West (Gas) and National Grid (Electricity) but not BT Fibre Optic Cable.

Somerset Council charges for these surveys to be undertaken. Companies such as Dial a Dig also offer this service and could be cheaper.

The cheapest option however is to approach the four utility companies and request maps of the proposed tree sites, which they send out. This could be done in house at a cheaper cost.

Adopt a Tree

One of the aims of the tree plan is to encourage residents living near the proposed sites for standard trees to Adopt-a-Tree and keep it well-watered during the hotter months using the tree irrigation ring system pictured above.

Wellington Urban Tree Strategy

Stage One – 2024/25

Part 1 - Tiny Forests – Woodland Trust Tree Packs

Proposed Tiny Forest sites

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers - Proposal

1. Priory Play Area – *///audio.shielding.comments* - HRA, Somerset Council – 105 trees (tennis court size) – Planting trees on the mounded section of the Play Area, with a bark mulch footpath winding through.
2. Howard's Road – *///contents.universal.adults* - HRA, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court) - 105 trees (tennis court) – Planting trees in an L-shape in the section
3. Oakfield Park – *///obtain.bravery.cases* - HRA, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court) - 105 trees (tennis court size)
4. Burrough Way – *///petrified.mainly.kilt* - HRA, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court) - 105 trees (tennis court)
5. Courtfields Secondary School – *///results.hoped.quaking* – Education, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court size)
6. Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School – *///silently.outlooks.original* – Education, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court size)

Wellington Town Council was eligible to apply for free tree and hedge packs from the Woodland Trust.

The council's application applied for six Wild Wood tree packs each containing 105 trees (with a mixture of holly, hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn and goat willow) and 15 hedge packs, each containing 30 plants (with a mixture of dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple and dogwood).

If the application is successful, the tree packs will compensate for Somerset Council's Tiny Forest bid, which collapsed earlier in the year.

At the time, we identified six sites for a Tiny Forest: Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School, Court Fields Secondary School and four sites owned by Somerset Council's HRA.

The proposal is to use the tree packs to create a small wood at the same sites, which are listed below.

On Tuesday 10th September 2024, Open Spaces manager Darren Hill and Climate Project Officer Stephen Tate met Somerset Council's HRA Tree Surgeon Supervisor Daniel Mancini.

After visiting the HRA sites, Daniel considered our proposals feasible on the grounds that the mix of trees applied for would not grow sufficiently high to present future problems with height, or lack of light.

He was satisfied with the proposals and would green light the four sites to HRA chief Simon Lewis subject to the following two conditions being met:

1. That Wellington Town Council makes a legally-binding pledge to Somerset Council's HRA to maintain the trees during their lifespan and fell those where required.
2. That Wellington Town Council consults nearby tenants about the tree plan. With this mind, the town council suggests knocking on doors with laminates of the proposed trees to give tenants a visual idea of what the trees will look like when mature.

The town council approached Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School and Court Fields Secondary School about creating a Tiny Forest in the school grounds. Both were enthusiastic about the idea, seeing it as an opportunity to teach schoolchildren the rudiments of horticulture in a practical and meaningful way.

The only cost to the town council in Part 1 would be the purchase of lanolin tree guards, organic feed such as chicken manure pellets and well-rotted bark mulch to hold moisture and nutrients in to assist the development of a healthy root system.

Agreed Action

Wellington Town Council's Environment Committee purchase materials and feed at an estimated cost of £684 ex VAT, subject to a successful application to the Woodland Trust to plant 630 trees at six locations in Wellington, namely Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School, Court Fields Secondary School and four sites owned by HRA, Somerset Council.

Part 2 – Proposed sites on land owned by Wellington Town Council

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers - Proposal

7. Chestnut Close Play Area, Chestnut Close - ///recap.scoop.jogged – Wellington Council – 10 trees – Fruit trees, including fig, medlar, greengage, walnut, apple, pear, quince, plum - Victoria and two pleached apricots against the wall
8. Monmouth Gardens, North Street - ///stump.vehicle.replenish – Wellington Town Council – 2 trees - Wedding tree - *Cornus controversa* & Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed)

The proposal is to plant fruit trees in Chestnut Close Play Area, filling a current gap in the spread of fruit trees in the town available to the public to harvest.

The second proposal would plant two low-growing specimen trees to further enhance Monmouth Gardens.

These two sites only require the permission of town councillors to proceed.

Agreed Action

The town council environment committee purchase two standard trees and 10 fruit trees, 4-5 years old, to be planted at the locations owned by Wellington Town Council and using the species recommended above, at an estimated cost of £222 ex VAT per standard tree and £122 ex VAT per fruit tree which includes cost of materials to protect, feed and water the tree.

Part 3 – Proposed sites on land owned by HRA, Somerset Council

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal

9. Popham Sheltered Housing, Victoria Street – ///bulbs.downturn.stadium – HRA, Somerset Council – 3 trees – *Amelanchier lamarckii* 'Snowy mespilus' (multi-stem), *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed) & *Ginkgo biloba*
10. Parking area, Gay Close - ///sheep.gearbox.vies – HRA, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Robinia pseudoacacia*

11. Grass verge by No. 37, Gay Close - ///friends.saturate.crops – HRA, Somerset Council – 1 tree - *Sorbus* 'Copper Kettle
12. Open space in front of flats, Gay Close - ///deflated.wipes.orbit – HRA, Somerset Council – 2 trees – *Liriodendron tuliperfera* (Tulip Tree) & *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed)
13. Corner of Gay Close & turning into car park serving Flats 1-11 - ///chart.kiosk.engulfing – 1 tree - *Liquidamber styraciflua*
14. Habitat strip behind Flats 36-39 on Priory Play Area - ///weedy.vegans.tradition – 2 trees – *Sorbus* & *Betula*

On Tuesday 10th September 2024, Open Spaces manager Darren Hill and Climate Project Officer Stephen Tate met Somerset Council's HRA Tree Surgeon Supervisor Daniel Mancini.

After visiting the HRA sites, Daniel considered our proposals feasible on the grounds that the specimen trees proposed for each site when mature would not affect light to existing buildings or compromise boundary walls.

He was satisfied with the proposals and would green light the six sites to HRA chief Simon Lewis subject to the following two conditions being met:

1. That Wellington Town Council makes a legally-binding pledge to Somerset Council's HRA to maintain the trees during their lifespan and fell those where required.
2. That Wellington Town Council consults nearby tenants about the tree plan. With this mind, the town council suggests knocking on doors with laminates of the proposed trees to give tenants a visual idea of what the trees will look like when mature.

Agreed action

The town council environment committee purchase 10 standard trees, 4-5 years old, to be planted at the locations owned by HRA, Somerset Council, and using the species recommended above, at an estimated cost of £222 ex VAT per standard tree, which includes materials to protect, feed and water the tree.

Part 4 – Planters in Town Centre – Lift & Shift

Open Spaces manager Darren Hill proposes an overhaul of the planters using a regenerative method called Lift and Shift, whereby trees are planted as saplings for several years to provide interest on the high street while they establish a healthy root system.

At the end of years two or three, the trees would be replanted elsewhere in the town at previously agreed locations and new saplings of the same or a different species planted in their place for another two to three years.

When to lift and shift the trees depends on the amount of growth in the growing season for years one and two. If growing conditions in both years lead to strong, they would be lifted and shifted after year two. If however conditions in the first or second year see less than expected growth, it would be best practice to leave the trees in for a third year, or a maximum of four years.

The important consideration is to be able to lift and shift the trees with relative ease. If their root system becomes pot-bound in the planter, shifting the tree becomes harder, puts it under stress and reduces the chances it will survive the replant.

The benefit of this nursery system is threefold; first saplings costs less than adolescent trees, second the saplings would be included in the watering schedule for the town's hanging baskets and planters, and third they would add visual interest to the town centre.

Currently, there are six planters in the town centre, seven if you clude the planter near H. T. Perry & Son & Granddaughter. Darren is confident he can source four more unused planters from Somerset Council. It would be for town councillors to decide whether the town centre has room for more planters and where they would be located.

Agreed Action



The town council's environment committee purchase 11 saplings of *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* 'Doorenbos' (RHS Garden Merit – see above) at an estimated cost of £100 ex VAT per tree.

Part 5 – Moving Wellingtonia from Linden Field



Background

The above photo shows a Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in Linden Field surrounded by saplings.

Vivien Stock-Williams and Sue Adams planted this Wellingtonia along with another in the same field to commemorate the combined work of members of the now disbanded Wellington in Bloom.

A conversation with Vivien on Monday 16 September established that two sites were chosen near the railway so that train passengers could see the trees and that the saplings around the tree were planted at a later date

For the saplings to reach maturity the Wellingtonia would have to be moved. It would eventually dwarf the other trees and wick moisture from the soil across a wide area.

The other Wellingtonia stands on its own on a slight slope and is in a good position to become a mature specimen.

Vivien agreed to speak to Sue and other former members of Wellington in Bloom to gauge their reaction to moving the Wellingtonia by the saplings while keeping the other one in its present position.

Agreed Action

The Wellingtonia by the saplings in Linden Field be moved to The Basins. The other Wellingtonia in Linden Field would remain in its current position.

Stage Two – 2025/26

Part 1 – Proposed sites on land owned by Highways, Somerset Council

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers - Proposal

1. Verge at entrance to Laburnum Road - ///talking.harmless.approves - Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Pinus pinea* (Italian stone pine)
2. Small open space, Beech Hill & Chesnutt Close - ///date.jumbled.validated – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Paulownia tormentosa* (Foxglove Tree)
3. Verge, Pyles Thorne Road - ///tornado.waltzes.receiving – Highways, Somerset Council – 3 trees – *Acer davidii* Viper (Snake bark maple)
4. Lefthand verge, Blackmoor Road jnc. with Elms Road - ///broadcast.printer.light – Highways, Somerset Council – 6 fruit trees - Laxton's Fortune apple (dessert, September), Onward pear (eater), Catillac pear (stewing), Victoria plum (golden-yellow), Opal plum (reddish-purple) and Jefferson gage (golden-yellow).
5. Righthand verge, Blackmoor Road jnc. with Elm Road - ///burns.value.punctuate – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree - *Acer griseum* (Paperbark maple)
6. Verge, righthand bend, Oakfield Park - ///toenail.prowl.indirect – Highways, Somerset Council – 3 trees – Amelachier arborea 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed) & Rowan x 2 (Sorbus 'Copper Kettle & *Sorbus vilmorinii* 'Pink Charm')
7. Verge at jnc of Champford Lane & Walker's Gate – ///glance.cases.optimally – Highways, Somerset Council – 16723500? – 1 tree – *Ginkgo biloba*
8. Verge at jnc. of Barn Meads Road & Monument Close - ///inhabited.share.plan – Highways, Somerset Council – 16746173? – 3 fruit trees – Opal plum (reddish-purple), Onward pear (eater) & Ashmead Kernel apple (dessert, October)
9. Verge at jnc. of Swains Lane & Barn Meads Road - ///observe.sprinter.cutlets – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Catalpa bignonioides* (India Bean Tree)

10. Verge in front of bungalows near Villa Verde, Rockwell Green
 ///refilled.animal.rewrites – Highways, Somerset Council – 16699190 – 3 trees – Trio of maples for autumn colour: *Acer rubrum* ‘October Glory’ x 3
11. Verges on either side of jnc of Swains Lane & Elworthy Drive -
 ///outfitter.fuse.legroom - Highways, Somerset Council – 2 trees – *Sorbus* ‘Copper Kettle
12. Verge on corner of Wardleworth Way & Milverton Road –
 ///dialects.graceful.legend – Highways, Somerset Council – 16706616 – 2 trees – *Liquidamber styraciflua* & *Robinia pseudoacacia*
13. Verge on Wardleworth Way - ///headlines.ignore.float – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree - *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Part 2 – Proposed sites on land owned by Live West Housing Association

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal

14. Penny Close/Howard Road – ///irritate.worlds.clocks - Housing Association LiveWest – 16726897 – 1 tree - *Sorbus* ‘Copper Kettle

Part 3 – Proposed sites on land owned by HRA

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal

15. Flats, Howard Road – ///cornfield.arriving.vacancies - Housing Association LiveWest – 16726897 – 1 tree – *Acer rubrum* ‘October Glory’

Stage Three – 2025/26 or 2026/27

Part 1 – Proposed sites on land owned by housing developers

Key to listings below

Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal

16. Smiths Farm Track, Brendon Road – ///cuddling.dots.pebble – Bloor Homes? – 58140885 – 10 trees – Native species (hawthorn, hazel, rowan, oak, holly)
17. Brendon Road/Lillebonne Way - ///rags.wake.sprays – Bloor Homes management company – 58140885 – 3 trees – *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory', *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple), *Acer Davidii* (Snakebark Maple)
18. Verge, Thomas Fox Road - ///museum.strutted.bonnet – Developer? – 61228229 - 2 trees (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' & *Robinia pseudoacacia*) & 6 native hedge packs (Woodland Trust bid)
19. Verge, Thomas Fox Road - ///head.novels.coast – Developer? – 61228229 – 5 trees – *Populus balsamifera* (Balsam Tree), *Ginkgo biloba*, *Acer griseum* & *Sorbus* 'Copper Kettle'
20. Verge, Thomas Fox Road facing Milverton Road - ///haven.clogging.frost – Developer? – 16689771 – 1 tree – *Ginkgo biloba*
21. Green space behind Parklands Road near Isambard Kingdon Brunel Primary School – ///mentioned.broom.looms – Bloor Homes – 57555644 – 5 fruit trees & 9 hedge packs for medicinal hedge (part of Woodland Trust bid)

Part 2 – Proposed multiple sites on Cades Farm Estate

22. Open space in Cades Farm Estate - ///dash.however.activates – Persimmon – 54413948 – Multiple trees, including *Paulownia tomentosa* (Foxglove Tree) & *Tilia* spp. (Lime/Linden Tree), subject to discussion with developer
23. Multiple sites in Bramley Close, Cades Farm estate - ///revived.upstairs.available – Persimmon – 17666115 – Number of trees subject to discussion with developer



Fox's Field Bioblitz

2025

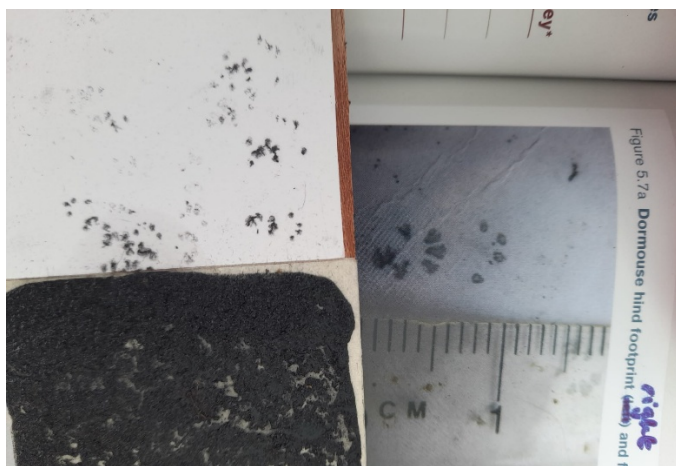
Transition Town Wellington hosted a fabulous bioblitz at Fox's Field on 28th/29th June 2025. It was well advertised through the town and brilliantly organized by local ecologist, Hannah Montag, with leading ecological experts running walks and talks and more than 50 people from the local community attending.

The idea of a bioblitz is to collect as many records of species as possible within a given area over a 24hr period. This amassing of biological data is hugely important as it provides a picture of the wildlife that we have around us and also provides records for the Somerset Environmental Record Centre which can be used to look at trends in species and distribution.

The event included specialists in butterflies, plants, crickets/grasshoppers, general invertebrates, aquatic species, mammals, moths, bats, birds and reptiles. And the methods used to record the species varied with some really exciting survey techniques to try out. This included paddling in the river with nets, putting baited tubes into trees and on the ground with ink pads to record hedgehog and dormouse footprints, setting out small mammal traps which were checked early the next morning, a pheromone attractor for day-flying moths, an LED light for night-flying moths and using ultrasonic bat detectors.

A total of **362** records of species were made by the experts present and also the participants using the iNaturalist app. These records will be sent to the Local Record Centre to add to the data they currently hold of the local area.

A grand total of **271** different species were recorded during the event. This included some rare and protected species which we didn't know were present in the area before the bioblitz. For a complete list of species recorded, please see attached Excel sheet.



Dormouse footprints

The footprint surveys were a great success. The tubes, which were hung in the trees, revealed dormouse footprints (a European Protected Species and sadly in decline) and the ground tunnels revealed hedgehog footprints (also another mammal in decline). This was particularly exciting as the tunnels were only left out for a night and it usually takes several nights to get results.



Bird footprints



Tube in tree



Hedgehog tube



Analysing and identifying footprints

River dipping was both fun and also yielded freshwater shrimp and caddisfly larvae – both important indicators of good water quality.



Woodmouse

The small mammal trapping was also a success, with a touch of excitement when a weasel burst out of one of the traps!

Also recorded were woodmice and pygmy shrew.

The long grass in Fox Cub Field and in the margins of Fox's Field provides perfect habitat for small mammals and harvest mice have also been recorded in the past.



Moth trapping

The moth trap uses light to attract the moths in overnight and the moths then hide away under old egg cartons. These were carefully removed in the morning and the moth species identified by our moth expert.



Hornet moth (picture by Helen Gillingham)

A pheromone trap was used in the day to attract day-flying moths – this mimics the pheromones that females produce to attract males. The star of the show was a large hornet moth which is a mimic of the true hornet and is almost indistinguishable apart from the lack of the loud buzz that hornets make.



Many insects were recorded in the long grass, and in amongst the plants of the forest garden. These included grasshoppers, burnet moths and several types of butterfly including ringlets. We spotted wool carder bees buzzing away in the forest garden and – excitingly – a Roesels Bush cricket, once very restricted but now has a spreading range.

Reptile highlights for us were a young female slow worm and then lizards the following day.



In the evening, the chair of the Somerset Bat Group, Paul Kennedy, led a walk along the river using bat detectors that were handed out to the group. Around 30 people attended, including children, and a good range of bats were heard including Daubentons bats feeding over the waterways.

At 5.30am on Sunday morning, a group of enthusiastic birders turned out for a dawn chorus walk led by Trevor Phelps. One of the birding highlights was recording the call of a small-eared owl using the Merlin App.

Many of the early-birders stayed for the exciting reveal of the moths trapped overnight of which there were over 30 different species.



It is hoped that this will become an annual event, helping to track the increase (we hope) of biodiversity in the area, and be used to encourage people to stay involved with the whole Green Corridor project.

Report compiled by Hannah Montag,
July 2025

APPENDIX A

Ecologists & experts

Butterflies

Ian Loudon (Langford Heathfield volunteer ranger and Butterfly Conservation Trust recorder)

Plant recording

Liz Biron (Lead Ecologist, Natural England, retired)
Stephen Parker (Chair, Somerset Rare Plants Group and Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland County Recorder)

Invertebrates

Anne Halpin (Monitoring Officer, Somerset Wildlife Trust)
Mark Biron (Ecologist)

River dipping

James Maben (Environmental Project Manager and River Condition Assessment surveyor)

Small mammals

Hannah Maben (Director, Seasons Ecology)

Bats

Paul Kennedy (Chair, Somerset Bat Group)

Moths

Rob Grimmond (Somerset Moth Group)

Birds

Trevor Phelps (Milverton Conservation Volunteer Group and British Trust for Ornithology recorder)

Small mammals

Hannah Maben (Director, Seasons Ecology)

Reptiles

Hannah Montag (Associate Director, Clarkson & Woods)

APPENDIX B

Bioblitz poster

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

TTW WILDLIFE GROUP

24 HR BIO-BLITZ ON FOX'S FIELD

Saturday 28th-Sunday 29th June 2025



EXPLORE
this beautiful, biodiverse area next to Tonedale Mill.
What3Words location: ///having.fewer.lifted

RECORD
your sightings using iNaturalist and Merlin apps.

HELP
us build a baseline picture of what species are here so that we can record and boost biodiversity in the future.

Saturday from 2pm
plants, butterflies, grasshoppers & other invertebrates, river-dipping & reptiles

Saturday from 9pm
bat walk using bat detectors

Sunday from 5.30am
dawn chorus and small mammals followed by moths



For more information contact:
hannah.montag@posteo.net

With thanks to  **WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

Common Name	Latin Name	Date	Number	Species notes
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	2025-06-28		
Dagger Moths	<i>Acronicta</i>	29/06/2025		
The Miller	<i>Acronicta leporina</i>	28/06/2025	4	
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	28/06/2025	1	Aggregate
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	29/06/2025		
Ground-elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	2025-06-28		
Southern Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>	29/06/2025		
Garden Straw	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	28/06/2025	2	
Common Yellow Conch	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	29/06/2025		
Alder Leaf Beetle	<i>Agelastica alni</i>	28/06/2025		
TortoisesHELLS	<i>Aglais</i>	28/06/2025		
European Peacock Butterf	<i>Aglais io</i>	28/06/2025		
European Peacock Butterf	<i>Aglais io</i>	29/06/2025		
Common Grass-veneer	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	29/06/2025		
corn cockle	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	29/06/2025		
colonial bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	29/06/2025		
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	2025-06-28		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	29/06/2025		
Kingfishers	<i>Alcedinidae</i>	29/06/2025		
Round-headed Leek	<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	29/06/2025		
wild garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>	29/06/2025		
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	29/06/2025		
Small Magpie	<i>Anania hortulata</i>	28/06/2025	2	
Common Slowworm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	29/06/2025		
Common Slowworm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	29/06/2025		
Common Slowworm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	29/06/2025		
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	2025-06-28		
	<i>Anisoptera</i>	28/06/2025		
Bees	<i>Anthophila</i>	28/06/2025		
sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	28/06/2025		
sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	29/06/2025		
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	28/06/2025	4	
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	29/06/2025		
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	29/06/2025		
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	29/06/2025		
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	29/06/2025		
European Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	29/06/2025		
European Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	29/06/2025		
European Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	29/06/2025		
European Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	29/06/2025		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	29/06/2025		
Cucumber Spiders	<i>Araniella</i>	28/06/2025		
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus s.s.</i>	2025-06-28		
common silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	29/06/2025		
common silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	29/06/2025		
common silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	29/06/2025		
tall oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	28/06/2025		

tall oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	29/06/2025	
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	2025-06-28	
common mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	29/06/2025	
Voles, Lemmings, and Mus	Arvicolinae	29/06/2025	
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	28/06/2025	2
The Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>	28/06/2025	4
The Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>	29/06/2025	
Small Mayflies	Baetidae	28/06/2025	
Darwin's Barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	29/06/2025	
common hedge-nettle	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	29/06/2025	
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	2025-06-28	
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	2025-06-28	
Common Carder Bumble B	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	28/06/2025	
Common Carder Bumble B	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	28/06/2025	
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	28/06/2025	
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	29/06/2025	
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	29/06/2025	
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	2025-06-28	
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	28/06/2025	
Ground Beetles	Carabidae	29/06/2025	
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	28/06/2025	1
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	29/06/2025	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	29/06/2025	
hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	28/06/2025	
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	29/06/2025	
Roman Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	29/06/2025	
Blacklets	<i>Cheilosia</i>	28/06/2025	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	29/06/2025	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	29/06/2025	
The V-Pug	<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	28/06/2025	1
V-Pug	<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	29/06/2025	
Broad Centurion Fly	<i>Chloromyia formosa</i>	29/06/2025	
Garden Grass-moth	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	28/06/2025	300
Garden Grass-veneer	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	28/06/2025	
Garden Grass-veneer	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	28/06/2025	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	29/06/2025	
Plume Thistles	<i>Cirsium</i>	28/06/2025	
creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	28/06/2025	
creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	29/06/2025	
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	29/06/2025	
Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	29/06/2025	
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	28/06/2025	
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	28/06/2025	
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	28/06/2025	
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	28/06/2025	
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	28/06/2025	
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	29/06/2025	

Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	29/06/2025	
Dock Bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	29/06/2025	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	29/06/2025	
common hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	29/06/2025	
European Bullhead	<i>Cottus gobio</i>	28/06/2025	
Chabot Bullhead	<i>Cottus perifretum</i>	28/06/2025	
Chabot Bullhead	<i>Cottus perifretum</i>	28/06/2025	
Grass-Veneers	<i>Crambini</i>	28/06/2025	
Satin Grass-moth	<i>Crambus perlella</i>	28/06/2025	1
Medlar	<i>Crataegus germanica</i>	28/06/2025	
common hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	28/06/2025	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	28/06/2025	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	29/06/2025	
Quince	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	29/06/2025	
orchard grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	29/06/2025	
Elephant Hawk-Moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	28/06/2025	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	29/06/2025	
	<i>Deraeocoris</i>	29/06/2025	
red-spotted plant bug	<i>Deraeocoris ruber</i>	28/06/2025	
	<i>Ecdyonurus</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	28/06/2025	2
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	29/06/2025	
Quack Grass	<i>Elymus repens</i>	29/06/2025	
Green Drakes	<i>Ephemera</i>	28/06/2025	
willowherbs	<i>Epilobium</i>	28/06/2025	
Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	29/06/2025	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	29/06/2025	
Smooth Tare	<i>Ervum tetraspermum</i>	2025-06-28	
Tawny Grey	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	28/06/2025	2
Hemp-agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	2025-06-28	
Buckwheat	<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	2025-06-28	
Red Fescues	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	2025-06-28	
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	29/06/2025	
	<i>Gammarus</i>	28/06/2025	
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	2025-06-28	
Cut-leaved crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	29/06/2025	
Dove's-foot crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	29/06/2025	
Hedgerow Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	2025-06-28	
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	2025-06-28	
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	28/06/2025	

Corn Marigold	Glebionis segetum	29/06/2025	
Ground-ivy	Glechoma hederacea	2025-06-28	
Buff Arches	Habrosyne pyritoides	28/06/2025	5
Buff Arches	Habrosyne pyritoides	29/06/2025	
Asian Lady Beetle	Harmonia axyridis	28/06/2025	
Asian Lady Beetle	Harmonia axyridis	29/06/2025	
Asian Lady Beetle	Harmonia axyridis	29/06/2025	
hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	28/06/2025	
hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	28/06/2025	
Flathorn Plant Bugs	Heterotoma	29/06/2025	
Yorkshire fog	Holcus lanatus	28/06/2025	
Yorkshire fog	Holcus lanatus	29/06/2025	
Creeping Soft-grass	Holcus mollis	2025-06-28	
The Uncertain	Hoplodrina octogenaria	29/06/2025	
Hops	Humulus	28/06/2025	
common hops	Humulus lupulus	29/06/2025	
Small Yellow Wave	Hydrelia flammeolaria	28/06/2025	1
Small Yellow Wave	Hydrelia flammeolaria	29/06/2025	
	Hydropsyche	28/06/2025	
Common St. John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum	29/06/2025	
Perforate St John's-wort	Hypericum perforatum sens	2025-06-28	
Ichneumonid Wasps	Ichneumonidae	28/06/2025	
Riband Wave	Idaea aversata	28/06/2025	5
Riband Wave	Idaea aversata	29/06/2025	
Himalayan Balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	2025-06-28	
	Inula	28/06/2025	
Elecampane	Inula helenium	29/06/2025	
Common Ragwort	Jacobaea vulgaris	2025-06-28	
ragwort	Jacobaea vulgaris	29/06/2025	
Soft-rush	Juncus effusus	2025-06-28	
Hard Rush	Juncus inflexus	28/06/2025	
Bright-line Brown-eye	Lacanobia oleracea	29/06/2025	
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	29/06/2025	
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	29/06/2025	
meadow pea	Lathyrus pratensis	28/06/2025	
common motherwort	Leonurus cardiaca	28/06/2025	
Oxeye Daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	2025-06-28	
Northern Caddisflies	Limnephilidae	28/06/2025	
Eurasian Linnet	Linaria cannabina	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Linnet	Linaria cannabina	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Linnet	Linaria cannabina	29/06/2025	
common toadflax	Linaria vulgaris	29/06/2025	
Thistle Marble	Lobesia abscisana	28/06/2025	1
Perennial Ryegrass	Lolium perenne	29/06/2025	
Common Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum	29/06/2025	
greater bird's-foot-trefoil	Lotus pedunculatus	29/06/2025	
Dotted Loosestrife	Lysimachia punctata	29/06/2025	
apple	Malus domestica	29/06/2025	

Mallows	Malva	28/06/2025	
Common Mallow	Malva sylvestris	29/06/2025	
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	28/06/2025	
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	28/06/2025	
Black Medick	Medicago lupulina	2025-06-28	
lemon balm	Melissa officinalis	29/06/2025	
mints	Mentha	28/06/2025	
Apple Mint	Mentha Ã— villosa	29/06/2025	
watermint	Mentha aquatica	29/06/2025	
Spear Mint	Mentha spicata	2025-06-28	
Common Rustic	Mesapamea secalis	28/06/2025	4 Aggregate
Cloaked Minor	Mesoligia furuncula	28/06/2025	1
Cloaked Minor	Mesoligia furuncula	29/06/2025	
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	28/06/2025	
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	29/06/2025	
Daubenton's bat	Myotis daubentonii	29/06/2025	
	Mystacides azureus	29/06/2025	
The Clay	Mythimna ferrago	28/06/2025	1
The Clay	Mythimna ferrago	29/06/2025	
Smoky Wainscot	Mythimna impura	28/06/2025	1
Smoky Wainscot	Mythimna impura	29/06/2025	
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba	28/06/2025	4
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba	29/06/2025	
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba	29/06/2025	
Bramble Shoot Moth	Notocelia uddmanniana	28/06/2025	1
Bramble Shoot Moth	Notocelia uddmanniana	29/06/2025	
Common Noctule	Nyctalus noctula	29/06/2025	
Large Skipper	Ochlodes sylvanus	28/06/2025	
Large Skipper	Ochlodes sylvanus	29/06/2025	
Flame Shoulder	Ochropleura plecta	28/06/2025	4
Flame Shoulder Moth	Ochropleura plecta	29/06/2025	
common evening-primrose	Oenothera biennis	29/06/2025	
Marbled Minor	Oligia strigilis	28/06/2025	2
Common Green Grasshopper	Omocestus viridulus	28/06/2025	
Brimstone Moth	Opisthograptis luteolata	28/06/2025	1
Brimstone Moth	Opisthograptis luteolata	29/06/2025	
Oregano	Origanum vulgare	29/06/2025	
Red Mason Bee	Osmia bicornis	28/06/2025	
European Corn-borer	Ostrinia nubilalis	28/06/2025	1
European Corn Borer Moth	Ostrinia nubilalis	29/06/2025	
Swallow-tailed Moth	Ourapteryx sambucaria	28/06/2025	2
Swallow-tailed Moth	Ourapteryx sambucaria	29/06/2025	
Great Tit	Parus major	29/06/2025	
Great Tit	Parus major	29/06/2025	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	29/06/2025	
Mother of Pearl	Patania ruralis	28/06/2025	3
Mother of Pearl	Patania ruralis	29/06/2025	
Willow Beauty	Peribatodes rhomboidaria	28/06/2025	3

Willow Beauty	Peribatodes rhomboidaria	29/06/2025	
Willow Beauty	Peribatodes rhomboidaria	29/06/2025	
Lacy phacelia	Phacelia tanacetifolia	28/06/2025	
Lacy phacelia	Phacelia tanacetifolia	29/06/2025	
Timothies	Phleum	29/06/2025	
Smaller Cat's-tail	Phleum bertolonii	2025-06-28	
Timothy grass	Phleum pratense	29/06/2025	
Timothy grass	Phleum pratense	29/06/2025	
Dark Bush-cricket	Pholidoptera griseoptera	28/06/2025	
Ruby Tiger	Phragmatobia fuliginosa	28/06/2025	4
Ruby Tiger Moth	Phragmatobia fuliginosa	29/06/2025	
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	29/06/2025	
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	29/06/2025	
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	29/06/2025	
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	29/06/2025	
Nursery Web Spiders	Pisauridae	29/06/2025	
greater plantain	Plantago major	29/06/2025	
Diamondback Moth	Plutella xylostella	29/06/2025	
Knotgrass	Polygonum aviculare agg.	2025-06-28	
	Potamophylax	28/06/2025	
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	29/06/2025	
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	29/06/2025	
Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris	2025-06-28	
Cherry-plum	Prunus cerasifera	29/06/2025	
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	29/06/2025	
Meadow Grasshopper	Pseudochorthippus parallelus	28/06/2025	
Meadow Grasshopper	Pseudochorthippus parallelus	28/06/2025	
Meadow Grasshopper	Pseudochorthippus parallelus	28/06/2025	
Meadow Grasshopper	Pseudochorthippus parallelus	28/06/2025	
Common Fleabane	Pulicaria dysenterica	2025-06-28	
Common Fleabane	Pulicaria dysenterica	28/06/2025	
English oak	Quercus robur	28/06/2025	
European Common Frog	Rana temporaria	29/06/2025	
Garden Radish	Raphanus sativus	2025-06-28	
Brown Rat	Rattus norvegicus	29/06/2025	
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	29/06/2025	
	Rhagio	29/06/2025	
Common Red Soldier Beet	Rhagonycha fulva	28/06/2025	
Common Red Soldier Beet	Rhagonycha fulva	28/06/2025	
Common Red Soldier Beet	Rhagonycha fulva	28/06/2025	
Common Red Soldier Beet	Rhagonycha fulva	28/06/2025	
Common Red Soldier Beet	Rhagonycha fulva	28/06/2025	
	Rhyacophila	28/06/2025	
Sandfly Caddisfly	Rhyacophila dorsalis	28/06/2025	
Red Currant	Ribes rubrum	29/06/2025	
Roesel's Bush-cricket	Roeseliana roeselii	28/06/2025	
roses	Rosa	28/06/2025	
Field Rose	Rosa arvensis	28/06/2025	

Dog roses	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	2025-06-28	
rugosa rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	28/06/2025	
brambles	<i>Rubus</i>	28/06/2025	
Giant Blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	2025-06-28	
red raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	29/06/2025	
elmleaf blackberry	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	28/06/2025	
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	28/06/2025	
French Sorrel	<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	29/06/2025	
white willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	29/06/2025	
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	2025-06-28	
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	29/06/2025	
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i> subsp. <i>cinerea</i>	2025-06-28	
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	29/06/2025	
garden sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	29/06/2025	
European black elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	29/06/2025	
Winter Savory	<i>Satureja montana</i>	29/06/2025	
Tall Fescue	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	2025-06-28	
Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	28/06/2025	1
Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	29/06/2025	
	<i>Serratella</i>	28/06/2025	
Lunar Hornet Moth	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	29/06/2025	1
Lunar Hornet Moth	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	29/06/2025	
Lunar Hornet Moth	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	29/06/2025	
Lunar Hornet Moth	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Globetail	<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	28/06/2025	
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	28/06/2025	3
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	29/06/2025	
hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	29/06/2025	
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	29/06/2025	
Common Flower Flies	<i>Syrphus</i>	28/06/2025	
Common Flower Flies	<i>Syrphus</i>	28/06/2025	
Common Flower Flies	<i>Syrphus</i>	28/06/2025	
Common Flower Flies	<i>Syrphus</i>	28/06/2025	
Moles and Desmans	<i>Talpidae</i>	29/06/2025	
Dandelions	<i>Taraxacum</i>	2025-06-28	
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	28/06/2025	
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	28/06/2025	
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	29/06/2025	
common thyme	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	29/06/2025	
Southern Salsify	<i>Tragopogon eriospermus</i>	29/06/2025	
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	2025-06-28	
Rustic Wolf Spider	<i>Trochosa ruricola</i>	28/06/2025	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	29/06/2025	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	29/06/2025	

Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	29/06/2025
Eurasian Blackbird	Turdus merula	29/06/2025
Eurasian Blackbird	Turdus merula	29/06/2025
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	29/06/2025
Cinnabar moth	Tyria jacobaeae	28/06/2025
Cinnabar moth	Tyria jacobaeae	29/06/2025
Cinnabar moth	Tyria jacobaeae	29/06/2025
Cinnabar moth	Tyria jacobaeae	29/06/2025
common valerian	Valeriana officinalis	29/06/2025
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	28/06/2025
guelder-rose	Viburnum opulus	29/06/2025
Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium	2025-06-28
Six-spot Burnet	Zygaena filipendulae	29/06/2025
Six-spot Burnet	Zygaena filipendulae	29/06/2025
Damselflies	Zygoptera	28/06/2025

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Wool carder bee
Devils Coach Horse
Common Red Soldier Beetlr
Red Tailed Bumblebee
16-Spot Ladybird
Meadow Grasshopper
Long-Winged Conehead
Sphaerophoria Hoverfly
Dark Bush Cricket
Banded Snail sp.
Field Grasshopper
Common Yellow Faced Bee
Mint Moth

nymphs
colony

Green Bottle sp.
Thick Thighed Flower Beetle
Cinnabar Moth
Small Picture Winged Fly (canopid)
Ringleet Butterfly

caterpillars

Meadow Brown Butterfly
Marmalade Hoverfly Episurphus balteatus
Alder Beetle
Peacock Butterfly

larvae

6-Spot Burnet Moth
Buff/White Tailed Bumblebee Workers
Common Carder Bee
Small Skipper
Harlequin Ladybird
7-Spot Ladybird
Roesels Bush Cricket

Taxa	Location	Grid Ref	Latitude	Longitude
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1284721109		
Insecta			50.98298833	-3.244113333
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Aves			50.98345344	-3.24410364
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1266421348	50.982925	-3.244133333
Insecta			50.98291753	-3.244782575
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98454574	-3.245370752
Insecta			50.98316167	-3.242866667
Insecta			50.983075	-3.243333333
Insecta			50.98281333	-3.243136667
Insecta			50.9836719	-3.244775534
Insecta			50.98462149	-3.245320693
Plantae			50.982975	-3.244366667
Plantae			50.98311667	-3.244428333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1266821330		
Aves			50.98301884	-3.243223876
Aves			50.98465294	-3.245705254
Plantae			50.98310833	-3.244486667
Plantae			50.971625	-3.233936667
Plantae			50.98436667	-3.244861667
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Reptilia			50.98404	-3.245005868
Reptilia			50.98298833	-3.244086667
Reptilia			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1267921427		
Insecta			50.98345833	-3.244305
Insecta			50.98285	-3.243046667
Plantae			50.9828128	-3.243865259
Plantae			50.982525	-3.244505
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.982975	-3.244138333
Insecta			50.98298833	-3.244108333
Insecta			50.98277402	-3.244546746
Insecta			50.98350333	-3.244563333
Mammalia			50.98419071	-3.242127858
Mammalia			50.98273322	-3.244458627
Mammalia			50.98285827	-3.244471866
Mammalia			50.98331826	-3.244135135
Aves			50.98427112	-3.245311976
Arachnida			50.98381333	-3.245146667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1284621112		
Plantae			50.98279953	-3.244206275
Plantae			50.98294371	-3.24446251
Plantae			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98311368	-3.242813392

Plantae			50.983125	-3.244305
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1266321340		
Plantae			50.98360752	-3.244626001
Mammalia			50.98334167	-3.24265
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta			50.98332068	-3.242786005
Plantae			50.982845	-3.244496667
Plantae			50.98344167	-3.24468
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268821380		
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268421378		
Insecta			50.98325	-3.244638333
Insecta			50.98308833	-3.242855
Insecta			50.98275942	-3.244371317
Insecta			50.98437167	-3.246336667
Insecta			50.98328	-3.244546667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1274921202	50.98296333	-3.244078333
Insecta			50.98297833	-3.242821667
Insecta			50.982925	-3.24442
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Aves			50.98365	-3.24452
Aves			50.98297621	-3.243170232
Plantae			50.98304386	-3.243297128
Plantae			50.98274167	-3.244261667
Plantae			50.98294917	-3.244031548
Insecta			50.98357833	-3.242896667
Aves			50.98433333	-3.245045
Aves			50.98336859	-3.244391307
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98298833	-3.244063333
Insecta			50.98295939	-3.244100541
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.9833257	-3.2446006
Insecta			50.982855	-3.243045
Aves			50.98341313	-3.244225346
Plantae			50.98307	-3.24333
Plantae			50.98558833	-3.245433333
Plantae			50.98273333	-3.244528333
Plantae			50.98298418	-3.244003678
Plantae			50.98278616	-3.24448907
Insecta			50.98331333	-3.244553333
Insecta			50.98283333	-3.243121667
Insecta			50.98305354	-3.243270678
Insecta			50.98336167	-3.244611667
Insecta			50.98297167	-3.242845
Aves			50.98434443	-3.244787017
Aves			50.98299436	-3.243323788

Aves			50.982855	-3.244421667
Aves			50.98352	-3.244545
Aves			50.98445349	-3.245489001
Insecta			50.98273025	-3.244342002
Aves			50.98324005	-3.24397523
Plantae			50.98318833	-3.242761667
Actinopterygii			50.98296333	-3.244078333
Actinopterygii			50.98323	-3.243983333
Actinopterygii			50.98550816	-3.245300063
Insecta			50.98390178	-3.245287668
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Plantae			50.98285333	-3.242903333
Plantae			50.98307	-3.242813333
Aves			50.98341383	-3.24473639
Aves			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Aves			50.98447122	-3.245533593
Aves			50.98424622	-3.245327734
Plantae			50.98453285	-3.245146014
Plantae			50.98303833	-3.244391667
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Aves			50.98300333	-3.244096667
Insecta			50.983455	-3.244625
Insecta			50.98285	-3.243086667
Insecta			50.98452082	-3.24513562
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98300297	-3.244079
Plantae			50.98438833	-3.246378333
Insecta			50.98214667	-3.244158333
Plantae			50.983055	-3.243275
Mammalia			50.982205	-3.243925
Mammalia			50.9845509	-3.2452634
Mammalia			50.98411167	-3.245121667
Mammalia			50.98296667	-3.244146667
Aves			50.98320564	-3.243809938
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268621379		
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1267421324		
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1274221171	50.9828905	-3.243897865
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1269821387		
Plantae			50.98306667	-3.243813333
Aves			50.98294667	-3.244395
Animalia			50.983305	-3.244571667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268621379		
Plantae			50.984157	-3.245636
Plantae				
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268421378		
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1284421111		
Plantae			50.98336333	-3.244486667

Plantae			50.98297167	-3.244258333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1284421120		
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98298667	-3.244091667
Insecta			50.983345	-3.24462
Insecta			50.98274299	-3.244522927
Insecta			50.982468	-3.244525154
Plantae			50.9834646	-3.2428258
Plantae			50.9836	-3.242908333
Insecta				
Plantae			50.98328495	-3.244543606
Plantae			50.98318833	-3.244438333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1269021387		
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98338667	-3.242741667
Plantae			50.98343361	-3.244729477
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98300333	-3.244055
Insecta			50.98307837	-3.244062737
Plantae			50.98433333	-3.245045
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1270321394		
Insecta			50.98336167	-3.24238
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98298333	-3.24412
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1284721207	50.98314167	-3.244428333
Plantae			50.98378802	-3.244622644
Plantae			50.98336167	-3.242425
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1283821115		
Plantae			50.984355	-3.246316667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1266821334		
Plantae			50.98306205	-3.243289113
Insecta			50.9829	-3.244428333
Aves			50.98332131	-3.242936209
Aves			50.98317103	-3.243039139
Plantae			50.98318833	-3.243116667
Plantae			50.98384667	-3.245183333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1266721355		
Insecta			50.98307643	-3.243282794
Aves			50.98230008	-3.244439104
Aves			50.98297167	-3.244153333
Aves			50.98434204	-3.245418258
Plantae			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Plantae			50.9827154	-3.243795936
Plantae			50.98272167	-3.238278333
Plantae			50.98286615	-3.244081887
Plantae			50.98218311	-3.244060775
Plantae			50.98448599	-3.245179541

Plantae			50.98315203	-3.240998313
Plantae			50.98341333	-3.242538333
Insecta			50.98387064	-3.24533008
Insecta			50.98295333	-3.24283
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268721382		
Plantae			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98557299	-3.245384988
Plantae			50.98210786	-3.24413455
Plantae			50.98303333	-3.244196667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1270221394		
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98299667	-3.244095
Aves			50.98377237	-3.245205978
Aves			50.982995	-3.244095
Mammalia			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta			50.982995	-3.244095
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98299667	-3.244121667
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98299667	-3.244095
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.983055	-3.244063333
Insecta			50.98454087	-3.245322369
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.982975	-3.244125
Mammalia			50.9826	-3.244478333
Insecta			50.98289199	-3.243186136
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98344667	-3.242853333
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.982855	-3.243053333
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.983005	-3.24413
Plantae			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta			50.98379049	-3.245148454
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98298333	-3.24413
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98299667	-3.244113333
Aves			50.98296125	-3.244015927
Aves			50.98346547	-3.244336657
Aves			50.9840991	-3.245197311
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.982975	-3.244111667
Insecta	Foxs Field			

Insecta			50.983025	-3.244063333
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98276333	-3.242928333
Plantae			50.98355412	-3.242789023
Plantae			50.9840352	-3.244879
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1283221112		
Plantae			50.9845856	-3.2448888
Plantae			50.98314667	-3.244566667
Insecta			50.98310833	-3.242841667
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98298667	-3.244095
Aves			50.98387157	-3.245267719
Aves			50.98315119	-3.244204894
Mammalia			50.98221126	-3.243962894
Mammalia			50.98221167	-3.243896667
Arachnida			50.98330354	-3.243794803
Plantae			50.97250333	-3.233295
Insecta				
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1267921423		
Insecta			50.98312818	-3.244160637
Aves			50.98338	-3.242458333
Aves			50.98296776	-3.243073672
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1269821387		
Plantae			50.983425	-3.242488333
Plantae			50.98458696	-3.245264953
Insecta			50.98348819	-3.244316564
Insecta			50.98392487	-3.244975418
Insecta			50.98272	-3.244491667
Insecta			50.98283333	-3.243166667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1285421146		
Plantae			50.98300688	-3.243256141
Plantae			50.98331167	-3.242891667
Amphibia				
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1267921427		
Mammalia			50.98338	-3.24438
Aves			50.98231913	-3.244037591
Insecta				
Insecta			50.98323	-3.243983333
Insecta			50.98381599	-3.245177594
Insecta			50.98336333	-3.244488333
Insecta			50.98358708	-3.242893583
Insecta			50.98275333	-3.244263333
Insecta			50.98557833	-3.245396667
Insecta			50.9829646	-3.243294619
Plantae			50.98332167	-3.244538333
Insecta			50.982925	-3.244133333
Plantae			50.982845	-3.242916667
Plantae			50.98334289	-3.24269978

Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1283921115		
Plantae			50.98347122	-3.244621045
Plantae			50.98331333	-3.24255
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1276921176	50.98320333	-3.244425
Plantae			50.98391189	-3.244793639
Plantae			50.98335482	-3.24280235
Plantae			50.98281167	-3.244438333
Plantae			50.984495	-3.24605
Plantae			50.98298667	-3.244108333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268321383		
Plantae			50.98298833	-3.244133333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1268721383		
Actinopterygii			50.984345	-3.245786667
Plantae			50.98280833	-3.244403333
Plantae			50.9833	-3.242675
Plantae			50.98349667	-3.244563333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1273721222		
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta			50.98559429	-3.245168142
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98272629	-3.244615942
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Insecta			50.98302855	-3.243998364
Aves			50.98276745	-3.24328959
Mammalia			50.98401369	-3.245409845
Insecta			50.9833306	-3.245085329
Insecta	Foxs Field			
Insecta			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98302855	-3.243998364
Aves			50.98284167	-3.244388333
Aves			50.98298833	-3.24438
Aves			50.98381606	-3.244908303
Insecta			50.98336333	-3.244488333
Insecta			50.98310475	-3.244078022
Insecta			50.982975	-3.242836667
Insecta			50.98331974	-3.242674107
Mammalia			50.98325833	-3.242783333
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1284421110		
Insecta			50.98381667	-3.245178333
Insecta			50.98314167	-3.242775
Insecta			50.98348333	-3.244638333
Plantae			50.98397436	-3.245180883
Plantae			50.98316167	-3.244441667
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1270121394		
Arachnida			50.98304333	-3.244060054
Aves			50.9837367	-3.245196305
Aves			50.98405963	-3.244912997

Aves			50.98443766	-3.245491348
Aves			50.98291152	-3.244002804
Aves			50.98348848	-3.244359121
Aves			50.98264271	-3.244496249
Insecta			50.98394398	-3.245253637
Insecta			50.98322491	-3.24463181
Insecta			50.984425	-3.246428333
Insecta			50.98339167	-3.244613333
Plantae			50.98346333	-3.244671667
Insecta			50.98294444	-3.243098815
Plantae			50.98412203	-3.245124939
Plantae	Foxs Field	ST1266421351		
Insecta			50.98441667	-3.246413333
Insecta				
Insecta			50.98551598	-3.245089687
			50.98274633	-3.243780518
			50.98311167	-3.243933333
			50.98362006	-3.244947698
			50.98285333	-3.243046667
			50.98283	-3.243138333
			50.9835442	-3.2429175
			50.98311317	-3.242653487
			50.98302521	-3.243358907
			50.9830527	-3.2431399
			50.98331167	-3.244571667
			50.982845	-3.242988333

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species

Field Maple
 Dagger Moths
 The Miller
 Grey Dagger
 Long-tailed Tit
 Ground-elder
 Southern Migrant Hawker
 Garden Straw
 Common Yellow Conch
 Alder Leaf Beetle
 Tortoiseshells
 European Peacock Butterfly
 European Peacock Butterfly
 Common Grass-veneer
 corn cockle
 colonial bent
 Creeping Bent
 Eurasian Skylark
 Kingfishers
 Round-headed Leek
 wild garlic
 Meadow Foxtail
 Small Magpie
 Common Slowworm
 Common Slowworm
 Common Slowworm
 Barren Brome

Bees
 sweet vernal grass
 sweet vernal grass
 Dark Arches
 Dark Arches
 Dark Arches
 Ringlet
 Ringlet
 European Wood Mouse
 European Wood Mouse
 European Wood Mouse
 Common Swift
 Cucumber Spiders
 Lesser Burdock
 common silverweed
 common silverweed
 common silverweed
 tall oat grass
 tall oat grass

species (minus replicates)

Field Maple
 16-Spot Ladybird
 6-Spot Burnet Moth
 7-Spot Ladybird
 Alder Leaf Beetle
 apple
 Apple Mint
 Asian Lady Beetle
 Banded Snail sp.
 Barren Brome
 Beautiful Demoiselle
 Black Medick
 Blacklets
 Blackthorn
 Bramble Shoot Moth
 brambles
 Bright-line Brown-eye
 Brimstone Moth
 Broad Centurion Fly
 Brown Rat
 Brown Trout
 Buckwheat
 Buff Arches
 Buff Ermine
 Buff/White Tailed Bumblebee Workers
 Buff-tailed Bumble Bee
 Bush Vetch
 Butterfly-bush
 Carrion Crow
 Chabot Bullhead
 Cherry-plum
 Cinnabar moth
 Cloaked Minor
 colonial bent
 Common Carder Bee
 Common Chaffinch
 Common Chiffchaff
 common evening-primrose
 Common Fleabane
 Common Flower Flies
 Common Footman
 Common Globetail
 Common Grass-veneer
 Common Green Grasshopper
 common hawthorn
 common hazel
 Common Hedgehog

Mugwort	common hedge-nettle
common mugwort	Common Honeysuckle
Voles, Lemmings, and Muskrats	common hops
Silver Y	Common Mallow
The Flame	common motherwort
The Flame	common mugwort
Small Mayflies	Common Noctule
Darwin's Barberry	Common Pipistrelle
common hedge-nettle	Common Ragwort
Silver Birch	Common Red Soldier Beetle
Downy Birch	Common Red Soldier Beetlr
Common Carder Bumble Bee	Common Rustic
Common Carder Bumble Bee	common silverweed
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	Common Slowworm
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	Common St. John's Wort
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	Common Swift
Butterfly-bush	common thyme
Beautiful Demoiselle	common toadflax
Ground Beetles	common valerian
Mottled Rustic	Common Whitethroat
European Goldfinch	Common Wood-Pigeon
European Goldfinch	Common Yellow Conch
hairy sedge	Common Yellow Faced Bee
Cornflower	corn cockle
Roman Chamomile	Corn Marigold
Blacklets	Cornflower
European Greenfinch	Creeping Bent
European Greenfinch	Creeping Soft-grass
The V-Pug	creeping thistle
V-Pug	Cucumber Spiders
Broad Centurion Fly	Cut-leaved Crane's-s-bill
Garden Grass-moth	Dagger Moths
Garden Grass-veneer	Damselflies
Garden Grass-veneer	Dandelions
White-throated Dipper	Dark Arches
Plume Thistles	Dark Bush Cricket
creeping thistle	Dark Bush-cricket
creeping thistle	Darwin's Barberry
Marsh Thistle	Daubenton's bat
Old man's beard	Devils Coach Horse
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	Diamondback Moth
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	Dock Bug
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	Dog roses
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	Dotted Loosestrife
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	Dove's-foot crane's-bill
Eurasian Jackdaw	Downy Birch
Eurasian Jackdaw	Dunnock
Stock Dove	Early Thorn

Common Wood-Pigeon	Elecampane
Common Wood-Pigeon	Elephant Hawk-Moth
Dock Bug	elmleaf blackberry
Carrion Crow	English oak
common hazel	Eurasian Blackbird
European Bullhead	Eurasian Blackcap
Chabot Bullhead	Eurasian Blue Tit
Chabot Bullhead	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Grass-Veneers	Eurasian Jackdaw
Satin Grass-moth	Eurasian Linnet
Medlar	Eurasian Nuthatch
common hawthorn	Eurasian Pygmy Shrew
Common Whitethroat	Eurasian Skylark
Common Whitethroat	Eurasian Wren
Common Whitethroat	European black elderberry
Eurasian Blue Tit	European Bullhead
Quince	European Common Frog
orchard grass	European Corn Borer Moth
Elephant Hawk-Moth	European Corn-borer
Great Spotted Woodpecker	European Goldfinch
	European Greenfinch
red-spotted plant bug	European Herring Gull
	European Peacock Butterfly
Common Footman	European Robin
Common Footman	European Starling
Quack Grass	European Wood Mouse
Green Drakes	Field Grasshopper
willowherbs	Field Rose
Serotine Bat	Flame Shoulder
Common Hedgehog	Flame Shoulder Moth
Common Hedgehog	Flathorn Plant Bugs
Common Hedgehog	French Sorrel
European Robin	Garden Grass-moth
Smooth Tare	Garden Grass-veneer
Tawny Grey	Garden Radish
Hemp-agrimony	garden sage
Buckwheat	Garden Straw
Red Fescues	Giant Blackberry
Meadowsweet	Goat Willow
Common Chaffinch	Goldcrest
	Grass-Veneers
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	Great Spotted Woodpecker
Cut-leaved crane's-bill	Great Tit
Dove's-foot crane's-bill	greater bird's-foot-trefoil
Hedgerow Crane's-bill	greater plantain
Herb-Robert	Green Bottle sp.
Wood Avens	Green Drakes
Corn Marigold	Grey Dagger

Ground-ivy	Grey Willow
Buff Arches	Ground Beetles
Buff Arches	Ground-elder
Asian Lady Beetle	Ground-ivy
Asian Lady Beetle	guelder-rose
Asian Lady Beetle	hairy sedge
hogweed	Hard Rush
hogweed	Harlequin Ladybird
Flathorn Plant Bugs	hedge woundwort
Yorkshire fog	Hedgerow Crane's-bill
Yorkshire fog	Hemp-agrimony
Creeping Soft-grass	Herb-Robert
The Uncertain	Himalayan Balsam
Hops	hogweed
common hops	Hops
Small Yellow Wave	House Sparrow
Small Yellow Wave	Ichneumonid Wasps
	Kingfishers
Common St. John's Wort	Knotgrass
Perforate St John's-wort	Lacy phacelia
Ichneumonid Wasps	Large Skipper
Riband Wave	Large Yellow Underwing
Riband Wave	lemon balm
Himalayan Balsam	Lesser Burdock
	Lesser Trefoil
Elecampane	Long-tailed Tit
Common Ragwort	Long-Winged Conehead
ragwort	Lunar Hornet Moth
Soft-rush	Mallows
Hard Rush	Marbled Minor
Bright-line Brown-eye	Marmalade Hoverfly
European Herring Gull	Marsh Thistle
Yellow-legged Gull	Meadow Brown
meadow pea	Meadow Brown Butterfly
common motherwort	Meadow Foxtail
Oxeye Daisy	Meadow Grasshopper
Northern Caddisflies	meadow pea
Eurasian Linnet	Meadowsweet
Eurasian Linnet	Medlar
Eurasian Linnet	Mint Moth
common toadflax	mints
Thistle Marble	Moles and Desmans
Perennial Ryegrass	Mother of Pearl
Common Honeysuckle	Mottled Rustic
greater bird's-foot-trefoil	Mugwort
Dotted Loosestrife	Northern Caddisflies
apple	Nursery Web Spiders
Mallows	Old man's beard

Common Mallow	orchard grass
Meadow Brown	Oregano
Meadow Brown	Oxeye Daisy
Black Medick	Peacock Butterfly
lemon balm	Perennial Ryegrass
mints	Perforate St John's-wort
Apple Mint	Plume Thistles
watermint	Quack Grass
Spear Mint	Quince
Common Rustic	ragwort
Cloaked Minor	Red Admiral
Cloaked Minor	Red Currant
White Wagtail	Red Fescues
White Wagtail	Red Mason Bee
Daubenton's bat	red raspberry
	Red Tailed Bumblebee
The Clay	red-spotted plant bug
The Clay	Riband Wave
Smoky Wainscot	Ringlet
Smoky Wainscot	Ringlet Butterfly
Large Yellow Underwing	Roesels Bush Cricket
Large Yellow Underwing	Roman Chamomile
Large Yellow Underwing	roses
Bramble Shoot Moth	Round-headed Leek
Bramble Shoot Moth	Ruby Tiger
Common Noctule	rugosa rose
Large Skipper	Rustic Wolf Spider
Large Skipper	Sandfly Caddisfly
Flame Shoulder	Satin Grass-moth
Flame Shoulder Moth	Selfheal
common evening-primrose	Serotine Bat
Marbled Minor	Seven-spotted Lady Beetle
Common Green Grasshopper	Silver Birch
Brimstone Moth	Silver Y
Brimstone Moth	Six-spot Burnet
Oregano	Small Magpie
Red Mason Bee	Small Mayflies
European Corn-borer	Small Picture Winged Fly (canopid)
European Corn Borer Moth	Small Skipper
Swallow-tailed Moth	Small Yellow Wave
Swallow-tailed Moth	Smaller Cat's-tail
Great Tit	Smoky Wainscot
Great Tit	Smooth Tare
House Sparrow	Soft-rush
Mother of Pearl	Song Thrush
Mother of Pearl	Soprano Pipistrelle
Willow Beauty	Southern Migrant Hawker
Willow Beauty	Southern Salsify

Willow Beauty
Lacy phacelia
Lacy phacelia
Timothies
Smaller Cat's-tail
Timothy grass
Timothy grass
Dark Bush-cricket
Ruby Tiger
Ruby Tiger Moth
Common Chiffchaff
Common Chiffchaff
Common Pipistrelle
Soprano Pipistrelle
Nursery Web Spiders
greater plantain
Diamondback Moth
Knotgrass

Dunnock
Dunnock
Selfheal
Cherry-plum
Blackthorn
Meadow Grasshopper
Meadow Grasshopper
Meadow Grasshopper
Meadow Grasshopper
Common Fleabane
Common Fleabane
English oak
European Common Frog
Garden Radish
Brown Rat
Goldcrest

Common Red Soldier Beetle
Common Red Soldier Beetle
Common Red Soldier Beetle
Common Red Soldier Beetle
Common Red Soldier Beetle

Sandfly Caddisfly
Red Currant
Roesel's Bush-cricket
roses
Field Rose
Dog roses

Spear Mint
Sphaerophoria Hoverfly
Stock Dove
Swallow-tailed Moth
sweet vernal grass
Tall Fescue
tall oat grass
Tawny Grey
The Clay
The Flame
The Miller
The Uncertain
The V-Pug
Thick Thighed Flower Beetle
Thistle Marble
Timothies
Timothy grass
TortoisesHELLS
Voles, Lemmings, and Muskrats
V-Pug
watermint
White Wagtail
white willow
White-throated Dipper
wild garlic
Willow Beauty
willowherbs
Winter Savory
Wood Avens
Wood Dock
Wool carder bee
Yellow-legged Gull

rugosa rose
brambles
Giant Blackberry
red raspberry
elmleaf blackberry
Wood Dock
French Sorrel
white willow
Goat Willow
Grey Willow
Grey Willow
Brown Trout
garden sage
European black elderberry
Winter Savory
Tall Fescue
Early Thorn
Early Thorn

Lunar Hornet Moth
Lunar Hornet Moth
Lunar Hornet Moth
Lunar Hornet Moth
Eurasian Nuthatch
Eurasian Pygmy Shrew
Common Globetail
Buff Ermine
Buff Ermine
hedge woundwort
Eurasian Collared-Dove
European Starling
Eurasian Blackcap
Common Flower Flies
Common Flower Flies
Common Flower Flies
Common Flower Flies
Moles and Desmans
Dandelions
Small Skipper
Small Skipper
Small Skipper
common thyme
Southern Salsify
Lesser Trefoil
Rustic Wolf Spider
Eurasian Wren
Eurasian Wren
Eurasian Wren

Eurasian Blackbird
Eurasian Blackbird
Song Thrush
Cinnabar moth
Cinnabar moth
Cinnabar moth
Cinnabar moth
common valerian
Red Admiral
guelder-rose
Bush Vetch
Six-spot Burnet
Six-spot Burnet
Damselflies

Wool carder bee
Devils Coach Horse
Common Red Soldier Beetle
Red Tailed Bumblebee
16-Spot Ladybird
Meadow Grasshopper
Long-Winged Conehead
Sphaerophoria Hoverfly
Dark Bush Cricket
Banded Snail sp.
Field Grasshopper
Common Yellow Faced Bee
Mint Moth
Green Bottle sp.
Thick Thighed Flower Beetle
Cinnabar Moth
Small Picture Winged Fly (canopid)
Ringlet Butterfly
Meadow Brown Butterfly
Marmalade Hoverfly
Alder Beetle
Peacock Butterfly
6-Spot Burnet Moth

Buff/White Tailed Bumblebee Workers
Common Carder Bee
Small Skipper
Harlequin Ladybird
7-Spot Ladybird
Roesels Bush Cricket

This was published under the 2019 to 2022 Johnson Conservative government

Applies to England

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The Nature Recovery Network is a growing national network of wildlife-rich places, stretching from our cities to countryside, mountains to coast. It is supported by green and blue spaces that buffer and connect these wildlife-rich sites.

What growing the Nature Recovery Network seeks to achieve

The Nature Recovery Network is central to the [government's 'apex goal' of improving nature](#), taking us from protection to active restoration of the natural world. By creating more wildlife-rich places that are bigger, better and joined-up, Defra, Natural England and our partners seek to help address the 3 challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, and public health and well-being.

Growing the Nature Recovery Network includes action to:

- enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places
- create and restore wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones that help wildlife populations to recover, grow, move, thrive and adapt to a changing climate
- improve the natural and urban environment's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon emissions and manage flood risk

- sustain vital ecosystems that provide healthy soil, clean water and clean air
- protect the natural, geological, historical and cultural diversity of the natural environment
- provide more, better green spaces for us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play, improving our health and wellbeing

Legislation supporting nature recovery

The [Environment Act 2021](#) sets out [legally binding targets for the natural environment](#) and establishes important legal requirements and mechanisms to enable the government's goals for nature recovery. These include the:

- publication of an [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) that must be revised every 5 years. This provides an action plan to deliver the government's environmental ambitions
- introduction of a new, England-wide system of [local nature recovery strategies](#) that will agree priorities and work with partners and stakeholders to map actions for nature recovery where they will have the greatest environmental benefit
- creation of duties and incentives for land managers, developers and local planning authorities to take action for nature recovery, including [biodiversity net gain](#), [protected site strategies](#), [species conservation strategies](#) and [conservation covenants](#)
- strengthening of the [biodiversity duty on public bodies](#) in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act

Government targets that support the network

Collective work to grow the Nature Recovery Network is helping Defra and Natural England to meet Environment Act 2021 and Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 targets and commitments.

These include commitments to:

- protect and effectively manage 30% of England's land and sea for nature by 2030
- halt species decline by 2030
- increase species abundance by at least 10%, to exceed 2022 levels by 2042

- restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042
- restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels
- reduce the risk of species extinction in England by 2042, compared to 2022 levels
- restore 75% of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition by 2042
- ensure all sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) have an up-to-date condition assessment, with 50% of SSSIs on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028
- increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050
- increase tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.26% by 31 January 2028
- ensure that 70% of designated features in marine protected areas are in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition
- ensure that 48% of designated features in marine protected areas are in favourable condition by 31 January 2028
- help the UK reach net zero emissions by 2050
- launch another 13 Nature Recovery Projects across England by 2025, adding to the 12 already launched
- establish another 25 National Nature Reserves by 2027
- contribute to environmental, economic and social improvements such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, clean air, healthy soil, pollination and recreation
- improve access to nature, working across government to ensure that everyone lives within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space

The government has also set a cross-cutting target around private sector finance to support nature recovery. The aim is to reach £500 million a year by 2027 and over £1 billion a year by 2030. This ambition will build on existing public sector funding commitments and help to close the recognised finance gap for delivering our nature recovery ambitions.

Growing the network

Growing the network involves:

- prioritising and mapping actions – with local nature recovery strategies at the centre
- aligning policies, delivery levers and funding streams – to better achieve priorities, including planning policy and practice, biodiversity net gain, funding mechanisms and Natural England’s delivery on the ground
- collaborating – to develop supportive partnerships to use these tools and deliver action for nature

Defra and Natural England will be tracking progress, including at the local nature recovery strategy level, to monitor delivery of targets and broader people and climate objectives.

Prioritising and mapping actions

[Local nature recovery strategies](#) are central to targeting action for nature recovery. They are legislated for in the Environment Act 2021 and locally led by responsible authorities in collaboration with public, private and voluntary sectors. These sectoral groups work together to agree what should be done to recover nature and map proposed actions.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has appointed 48 responsible authorities to lead on preparing the local nature recovery strategy for their area. These cover the whole of England, with no gaps or overlaps.

[Access a map of local nature recovery strategies in England.](#)

Each local nature recovery strategy will propose actions in locations that, when implemented, will contribute to expanding and growing the Nature Recovery Network. These include improving, expanding or connecting existing areas of importance for nature.

This national system of locally led strategies is designed to encourage more coordinated and practical action for nature. Each strategy will provide a spatial planning framework to inform nature recovery, and target action and investment, aligning different delivery levers and funding sources.

Aligning policies, delivery levers and funding streams

The government is providing a range of funding streams, policies and delivery levers to support nature recovery, which local nature recovery strategies will be able to help target. These include:

- a requirement to ‘take account’ of local nature recovery strategies at all tiers of planning
- biodiversity net gain – a requirement to ensure that development makes a measurably positive impact (net gain) to biodiversity. [Major developments are required to deliver a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain from 12 February 2024](#). This requirement will extend to smaller sites from 2 April 2024
- schemes that reward [environmental land management](#), such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Countryside Stewardship, and Landscape Recovery
- the [Green Infrastructure Framework](#), including standards that aim to drive the greening of our towns and cities as part of the Nature Recovery Network
- the £640 million Nature for Climate Fund – to create, restore and manage woodland and peatland, triple afforestation rates across England, and restore 35,000 hectares of peatland by 2025
- funds to halt species decline, including Defra’s £25 million [Species Survival Fund](#)
- Natural England’s £18 million [Species Recovery Programme](#)
- initiatives to support the delivery of the government’s target for private sector investment into nature

Nature recovery leads to an increase in the value of our natural capital assets, such as our woodlands, peatlands and wetlands. These assets provide of a range of ‘ecosystem services’ that benefit people and the economy, such as clean air and water, fertile soil and pollination, climate mitigation and adaptation, and public wellbeing.

Private nature markets are developing for these services (particularly carbon sequestration, biodiversity, water quality and flood mitigation), which are generating new flows of finance into nature restoration.

Green Finance Strategy

Defra is committed to broadening the funding and finance base for nature recovery, as outlined in the government’s [Green Finance Strategy](#).

This strategy:

- seeks to encourage private investment to restore nature to help meet the government's climate and environmental objectives
- supports the government's ambition of raising at least £500 million a year of private finance for nature by 2027 and over £1 billion a year by 2030
- sets out how the government will encourage green finance for nature-based solutions such as tree planting and nature restoration
- supports farmers to access new private sector revenue streams while protecting our environment

The [Nature Markets Framework](#) seeks to establish a nature investment standards programme to guide and stimulate the development of high integrity markets for benefits provided by nature, such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity, nutrient neutrality and flood mitigation. This will support the scaling up of private investment into nature recovery and sustainable farming.

Nature markets enable farmers and land managers to sell carbon and other ecosystem services. Defra is supporting initiatives that help to build capacity, so that farmers, land managers and local authorities can engage with nature markets.

Defra initiatives to support green finance ambitions include:

- the [Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund](#) to support innovative projects to attract private finance
- 4 [Local Investment in Natural Capital \(LINC\)](#) programme pilots, testing what works in attracting private finance for local investment priorities
- working with the British Standards Institute (BSI) to develop a range of nature investment standards beyond existing initiatives such as the Woodland Carbon Code and the Peatland Code
- the Big Nature Impact Fund

Collaborating

To grow the Nature Recovery Network, Natural England is supporting and developing new and existing partnerships across a wide range of sectors, using all available tools and incentives. Locally this will be led by local nature recovery strategies. The Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership has been established to grow understanding, develop sectoral insight and help support join-up nationally.

Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership

Defra and Natural England have set up the cross-sectoral Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership to support collaborative action for nature recovery, helping to inform, expand and strengthen the network. Natural England is the lead partner, and the wider partnership includes government, landowners, land managers, businesses, local communities, conservation groups and individuals. Organisations in any sector that are willing to commit to nature's recovery can join this partnership. Everyone has a part to play in supporting the growth of the Nature Recovery Network through sharing skills, knowledge and resources, such as:

- land for nature recovery
- financial investment
- advice, time or expertise
- input into local nature recovery strategies in areas where partnership members have an interest or presence

Partners have access to Nature Recovery Network conferences, workshops and meetings.

Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership management group

The Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership is supported by the partnership management group. This is led by Natural England and supported by Defra, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. Comprising a wide range of sectoral representatives, it oversees the delivery partnership and provides strategic leadership.

The management group is made up of the following government organisations:

- Crown Estates
- Defra
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
- Department for Health and Social Care
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- Department for Transport
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission

- Forestry England
- Historic England
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Justice
- National Health Service Estates
- Natural England
- Rural Payments Agency

Sectoral representatives include:

- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- British Ecological Society
- Butterfly Conservation
- Canal and River Trust
- Care Quality Commission
- Confederation of Forest Industries
- Council for Sustainable Business
- Country Land and Business Association
- Friends of the Earth
- Geodiversity UK
- Green Finance Institute
- Home Builders Federation
- Local Government Association
- National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- National Farmers' Union
- National Grid
- National Parks England
- Network Rail
- Plantlife
- Rethink Nature
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Water UK

- Wild in the City
- Wildlife Trusts
- Woodland Trust

How to become a partner

If you are interested in driving nature recovery by becoming a Nature Recovery Network delivery partner,
email NDPNaturerecovery@naturalengland.org.uk.

Why we need a Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Somerset has some of the most spectacular habitats and wildlife in the UK, but our natural environment faces urgent and significant challenges. The recently published [Somerset State of Nature Report](#) demonstrates that we need to do much more to reverse the decline in nature and help Somerset's wildlife to thrive. Nature has its own value, and we have a responsibility to protect it. A healthy natural environment is also key to our own health and wellbeing. It is the foundation of a productive economy and provides us with food, water, carbon storage, flood control, attractive neighbourhoods, and great recreational and business opportunities.

The UK government has made ambitious pledges to protect at least 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030 (the '30 x 30' target) and we need to play our part in achieving this. All counties in England are required by law to develop a strategy to help nature's recovery.

The Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy will provide a framework for targeted, co-ordinated and collaborative action.



What will be included

The Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will provide a single vision for nature recovery and the use of [nature-based solutions](#). It will:

- Map the locations of our most precious habitats and wildlife.
- Find the locations most suitable for nature restoration and look for the places where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular

contribution to other environmental benefits. This could help with carbon sequestration, flood regulation and access to nature-rich spaces for health and wellbeing.

- Set out local priorities and actions for restoring and creating habitats.
- Build and strengthen local partnerships that will be important for implementing the strategy.

How Somerset's Local Natural Recovery Strategy be used

The Strategy will be used to:

- Guide investment into local priorities for protection and enhancement
- Help shape how future funding for farming and land management such as the Environment Land Management schemes will be used
- Map areas of opportunity for the use of 'nature-based solutions' to wider environmental problems like flooding, climate change mitigation and adaptation or poor water quality
- Guide mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) investments
- Provide a source of evidence for local planning authorities, helping to understand locations important for conserving and restoring biodiversity

Landowners are under no legal obligation to enact any of the recommendations on their land. But it will help direct funding streams, to help realise opportunities for nature recovery.

Farmers and land managers

The Somerset **LNRS** will be used to inform applications for funding from [Environmental Land Management Schemes](#) supporting Somerset's agricultural sector. It will also help steer opportunities for nature-based solutions such as flood risk management and sequestering carbon through new trees, woodlands and healthier soils.

[Information and common questions for farmers, landowners, and land managers.](#)
Developers and planning authorities

Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be used as a long-term decision-making tool to help guide mandatory [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) and other planning tools such as Green Infrastructure.

Somerset residents and communities

We are involving local communities in the development and implementation of the Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This is to foster a sense of local ownership, responsibility and appreciation for biodiversity.

Businesses and the local economy

Somerset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy will play an important role in bringing green investment into the county from national and international funding sources. It will also help create local opportunities for Somerset businesses to achieve their environment and social governance (ESG) objectives.



Who is responsible for Somerset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Each region has its own unique environment and faces different environmental challenges. Defra is funding this work and has appointed local authorities throughout England to create Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The **LNRS** in this region is being led by Somerset Council and we have chosen to do this collaboration with the [Somerset Local Nature Partnership](#).

We are taking a collaborative approach and involving a wide range of people and organisations in the development of the strategy. This includes landowners and managers, government organisations, environmental charities, businesses, local groups and communities.

Geographically, the Somerset **LNRS** will cover the Somerset Council authority area. The other areas of Somerset (North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset) will be included within the [West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#).

When the Strategy will be produced

We are in the process of finalising the draft strategy in which we will publish for consultation in spring 2025. Our aim is to publish the completed Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy in early summer 2025. [Read a more detailed update](#).

Keep up-to-date



We are publishing articles to help you delve deeper into the natural beauty of Somerset.

Read our latest article

[Walking in a winter wonderland](#)

[View previous articles](#)

- [Our lives are not separate from the natural world](#)
- [Exploring Somerset's nature](#)
- [Working together for Somerset's nature](#)

You can get regular progress updates in our monthly climate newsletter and on Somerset Council's social media platforms. [Sign up to Somerset Environmental and Ecological News.](#)

Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Dixie Darch, spoke to Steve Haigh at Radio Ninesprings. She inspired listeners to get involved with developing Somerset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and reminded us how we can all get closer and more in tune with nature. Listen in and find out more in the recording below.



Councillor Dixie Darch interview recording

Radio Ninesprings

MP3, 13.5MB

Last updated: **July 29, 2025**

Next review due: **January 29, 2026**

Green Corridor Development Plan **2025-2030**



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Wellington Town Council is lucky enough to lease the 66 acre area of land known as the Green Corridor. The Council acknowledges and respects the original custodians of the areas land and waters, the Fox Family and their unique ability to care for countryside and deep spiritual connection to it.

The cultural heritage of the Green Corridor and Basins area is intrinsically linked to the town's identity with residents having a unique connection to their history through this site. Many residents still remember Tonedale Mill and Toneworks in operation and families who have lived in the town for generations almost certainly have ancestors who were employed by Fox Brothers.

The Green Corridor land was farmed until early 2000's, used mainly for cattle grazing and hay production. Wellington Town Council is in a blessed position to help to shape this area and ensure it is well-kept and improved for future generations. This document works alongside the Wellington Town Council Nature Recovery Policy.

Goals & Aims

1. Executive Summary

This plan outlines the development of a Green Environmental Corridor to connect fragmented habitats, support biodiversity, promote sustainable land use, and enhance public engagement with natural spaces. The corridor spans from Fox's Field to Watermans Hill covering approximately 66 acres.

2. Goals and Objectives

- **Restore native habitats** and promote biodiversity
- **Increase meadow land**
- **Increase the woodland cover with support from the Woodland Trust**
- **Connect existing natural areas** to allow wildlife movement, this could also join up with other towns and parishes
- **Mitigate urban heat** and improve air and water quality
- **Provide recreational and educational opportunities**
- **Enhance climate resilience** and reduce flood risks
- **Improve accessibility for all to use the sites**
- **Install sensory information boards highlighting all the wildlife** (using what3words) as well as the history of the locations. QR Codes on posts on locations with relevant information to that location
- **Install signage throughout the Green Corridor which compliments its location**
- **Growth of the Community Farm and promotion within Wellington**
- **Create an Orchard in the Green Corridor near the farm**
- **Increase the foraging trail with Transition Town Wellington**

3. Site Selection and Mapping

- **Baseline Assessment:** Conduct ecological and environmental studies to identify priority conservation areas, water bodies, existing green spaces, and wildlife habitats.
 - **GIS Mapping/Parish Online.** Use geospatial tools to map potential corridors, land use types, and ecological barriers.
 - **Community Input:** Involve local stakeholders to align the corridor with community need
-

4. Design Framework

A. Ecological Features

- Native tree and shrub planting
- Wetlands and riparian buffers
- Wildlife crossings and tunnels
- Pollinator gardens and insect hotels
- Use of fallen trees for wildlife
- Following the nature Recovery plan through-out the green corridor
- Add in additional hedge rows where possible
- Improve the aquatic planting in the Basins

B. Connectivity & Zoning

- Core conservation zones
- Buffer zones with limited access
- Multi-use trails and eco-friendly transit paths

C. Sustainable Infrastructure

- Permeable pavements
- Solar lighting
- Rainwater harvesting systems
- Interpretive signage using recycled materials
- Possible additional paths made from recycle woodchip
- Use of fallen trees as benches

D. Infrastructure

- Permeable pavements
- Wider more accessible paths for Park Run and other events as well as better general access
- New bridges when they need replacing with better access
- New gates and points of access following desire line where possible
- Open areas for play such as football, rugby etc

- Add in water drinking points, if possible, throughout the Green Corridor
- Compostable toilets

5. Implementation Phases

Phase	Timeline	Activities
Phase 1	0–6 months	Feasibility study, stakeholder engagement, baseline data collection
Phase 2	6–18 months	Land acquisition, pilot restoration areas, community programs
Phase 3	24-36 months	Full-scale development, infrastructure installation, planting
Phase 4	36+ months	Monitoring, adaptive management, expansion

6. Stakeholder Engagement

- **Town Council:** Planning, zoning, regulatory compliance
 - **Community Groups:** Education, volunteering, stewardship of community farm
 - **Environment Agency** Incentives for conservation easements or habitat-friendly practices
 - **Use Seasons Ecology Report:** Use of reported create
 - **National Farmer Experts:** Technical guidance, monitoring, biodiversity surveys
-

7. Funding Sources

- Government grants (e.g. environmental or climate resilience funds)
 - Public-private partnerships
 - CSR contributions from local businesses
 - Government Stewardship working with local agent such as Stags
 - Green bonds and climate finance instruments
-

8. Monitoring & Evaluation

- **Ecological Indicators:** Species diversity, tree canopy cover, water quality
- **Social Indicators:** Visitor numbers, community participation, public awareness
- **Climate Indicators:** Temperature moderation, carbon sequestration, flood reduction

Regular reporting and adaptive management plans will ensure the corridor's long-term success.

9. Risk Assessment & Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Invasive species	Regular ecological monitoring and removal programs
Vandalism or misuse	Community watch, signage, BBQ's and dog waste
Funding shortfalls	Diversify funding streams and create an endowment fund

10. Conclusion

This Green Corridor will serve as a living infrastructure project, fostering environmental health, sustainable development, educational and community well-being. With careful planning and inclusive participation, each field will be maintained to the agreed plan of works and will also have its own improvement projects. This will be a legacy for Wellington Town Council, the people and the environment, this location will be accessible as much as possible. Improvements will be made in time to further allow access to locations throughout the Green Corridor. Closer working relationships with TTW, Somerset Wildlife Trust, The Basins Volunteer Group and The Woodland Trust with all the support of our wonderful volunteers will be essential to allow these areas to reach it potential.

The increased connectivity of habitats at a local level and protecting existing connectivity is paramount due to isolation leading to fragmented populations of plants /animals/reptiles/insects etc which will be less likely to thrive and vulnerable when attempting to move between isolated areas. This applies to many types of habitats, water, grassland, woodland etc. We will look to monitor this with partners such as Seasons Ecology, we there support we can demonstrate these actions are working and we are achieving our targets and goals.

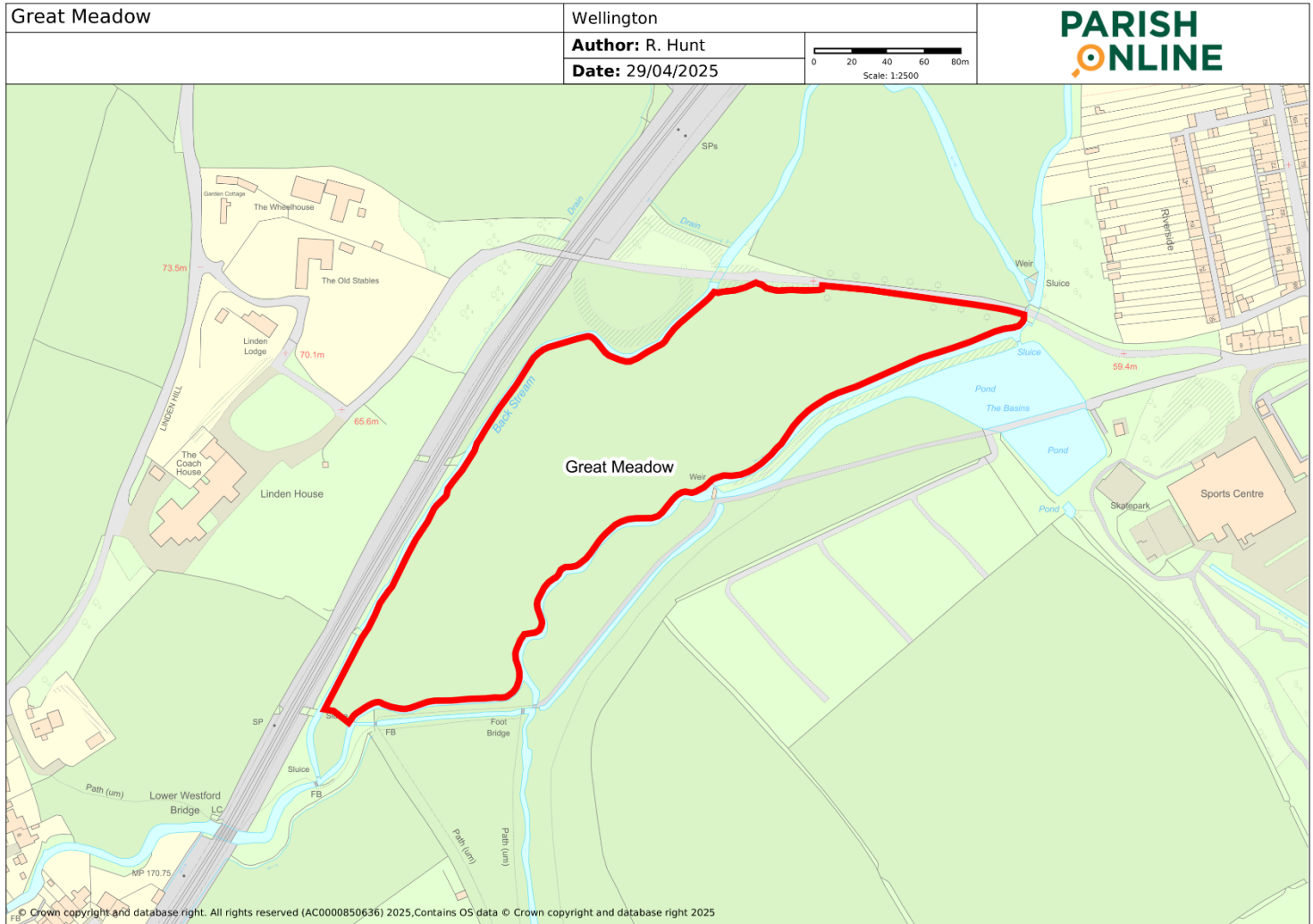


Fox Cub Field

- To add signage
- To improve the access for all to use

Plans for as follows:

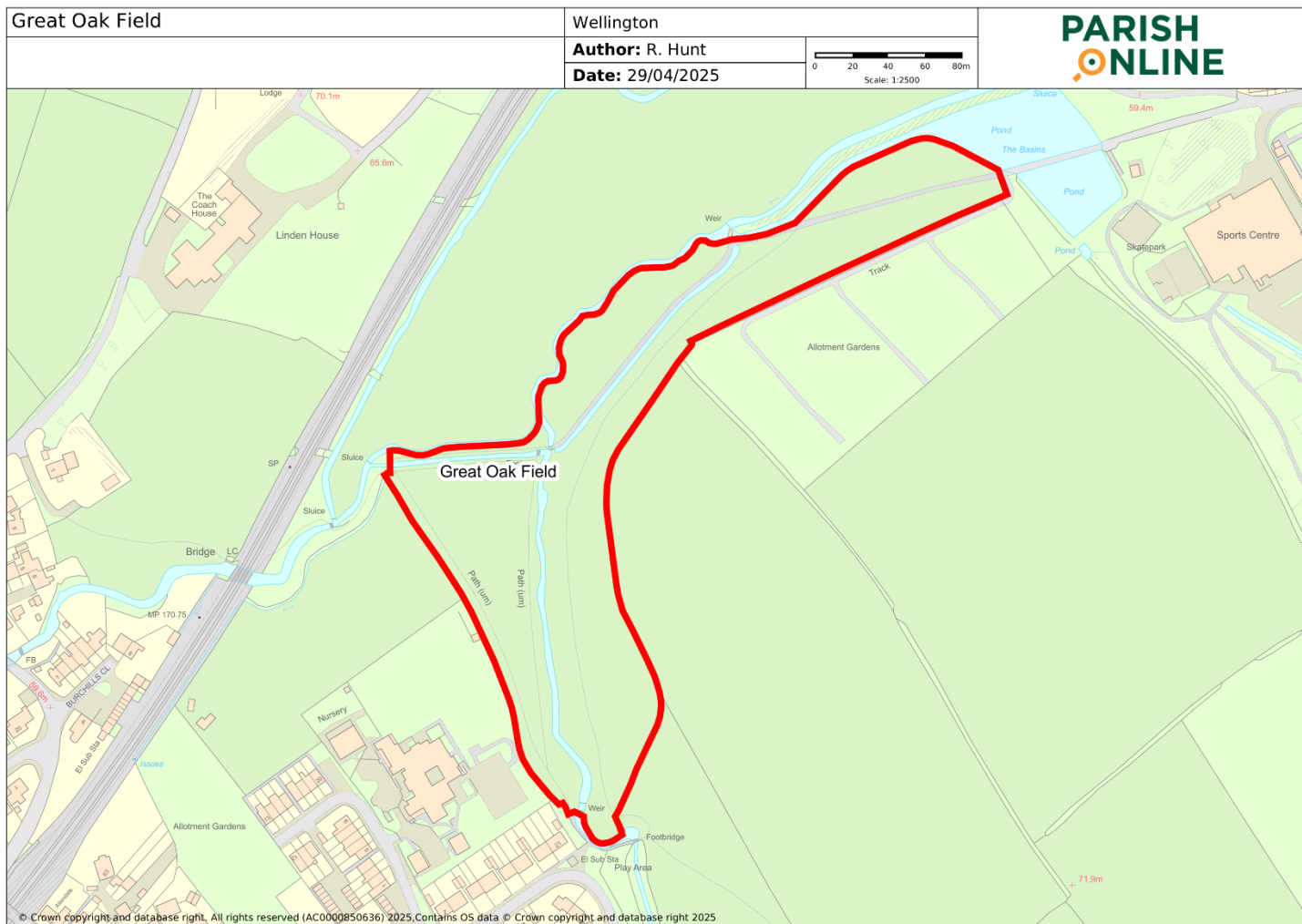
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found.
- Better access
- Accessible paths
- Increase biodiversity
- Minimal maintenance required



Great Meadow

Plans as follows:

- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found
- To improve access points
- Build a small bridge type construction to access all areas
- Improve the paths



Great Oak Field

Plans as follows:

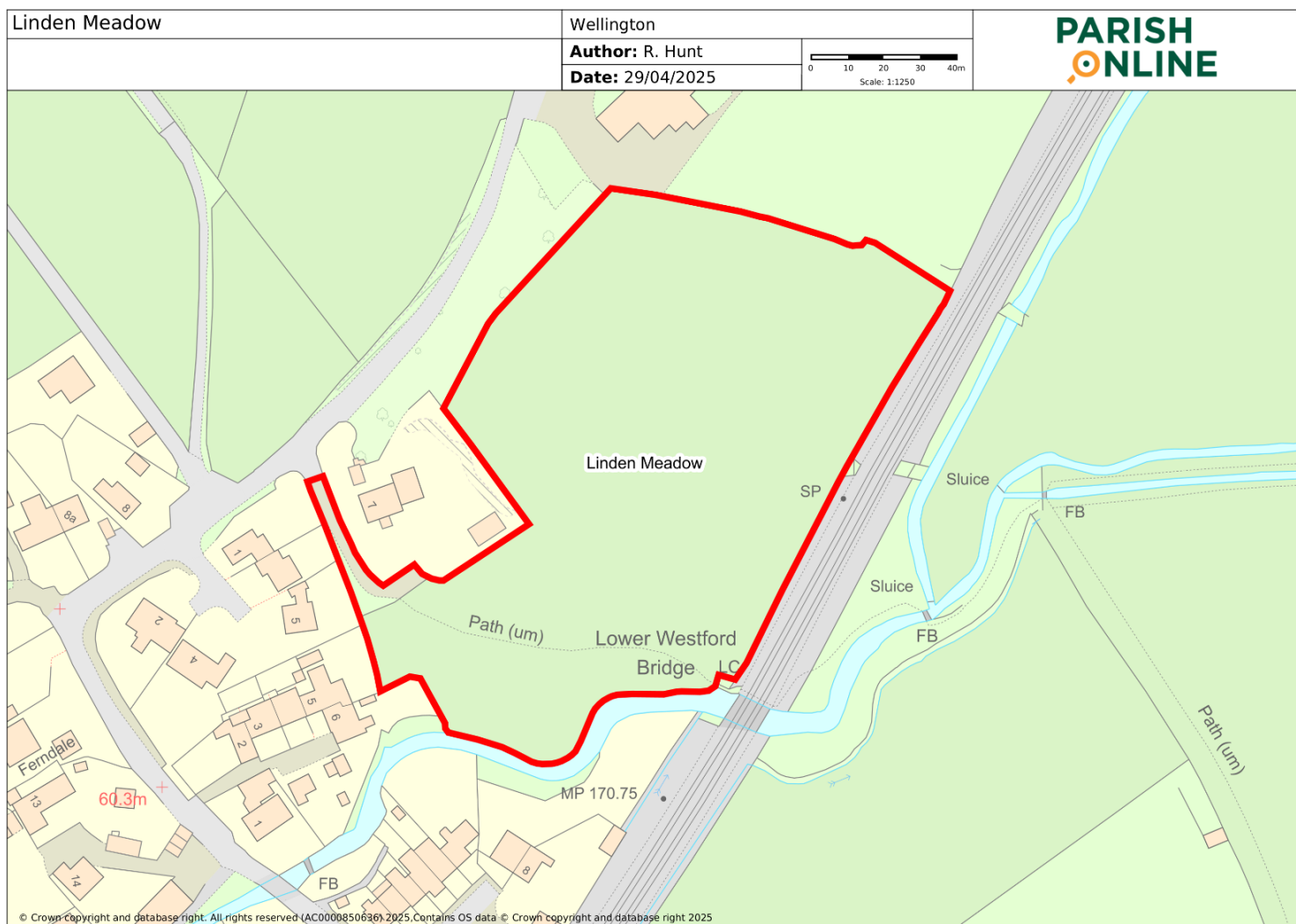
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found. Also, signage in this location will inform of no overnight camping/fishing, or BBQs
- Protect the oak tree “Old Friend”, working with tree specialist to help to protect it and improve its chances of survival.
- Take some of the saplings and plant up to ensure growth of trees directly linked to this tree elsewhere in the Green Corridor
- Keep area around “Old Friend” full of managed vegetation to minimise access and compaction of its roots
- Further care to improve the bridge structures within this area
- Clean out the water channels where possible up stream to help the water flow in this area
- Try to improve the water quality of the basins by adding solar powered fountains to allow aeration in the water
- Add aquatic planting to help oxygenate the water



Hilly Head

Plans as follows:

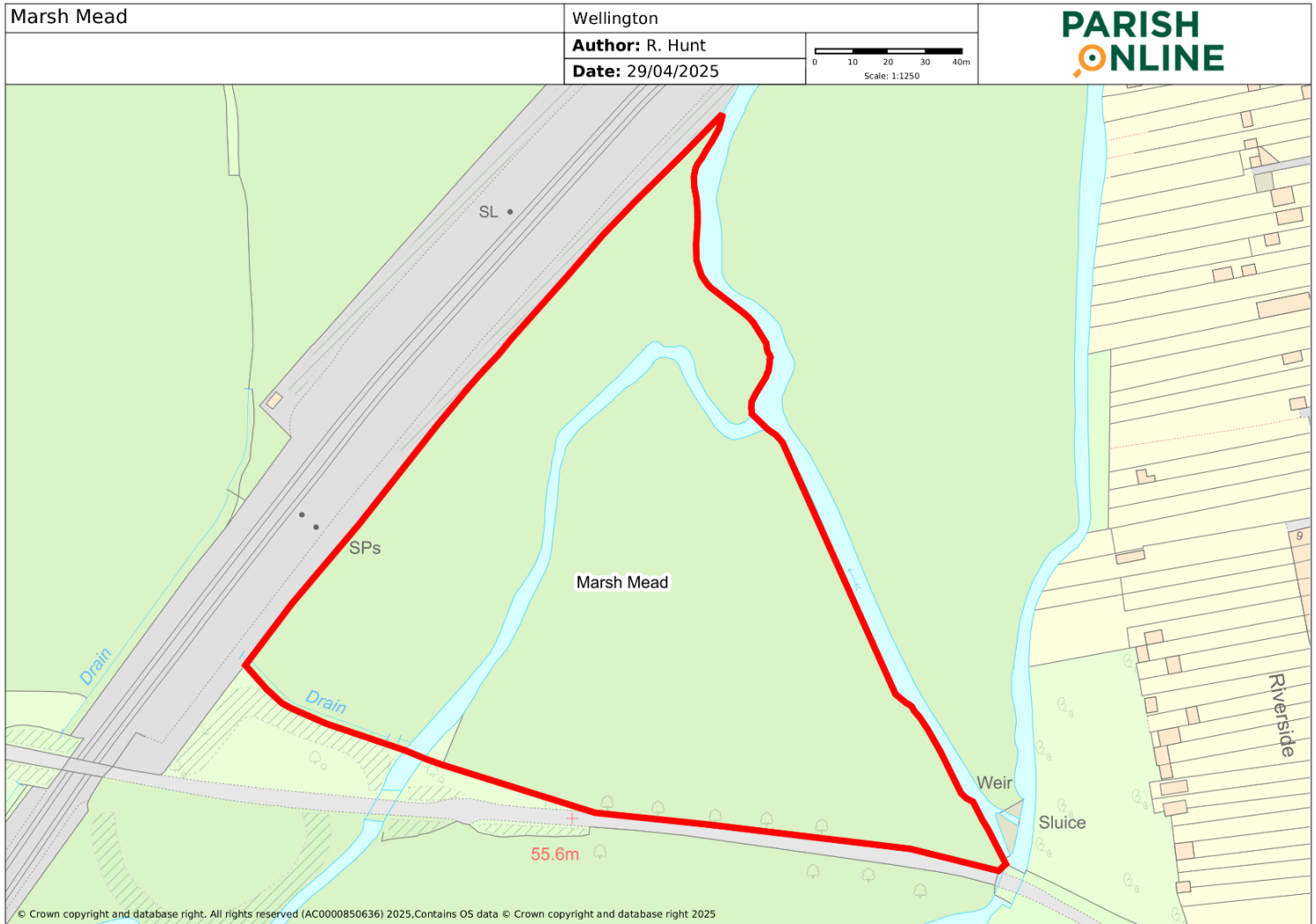
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found.
- Protection for the oak trees at the top of the hill
- Improve the ground conditions areas by the bridges
- Add a Topi scope in the top field with the help of the museum
- Improve the biodiversity by varying the height of the grass and timings
- Add additional hedgerows



Linden Meadow

Plans as follows:

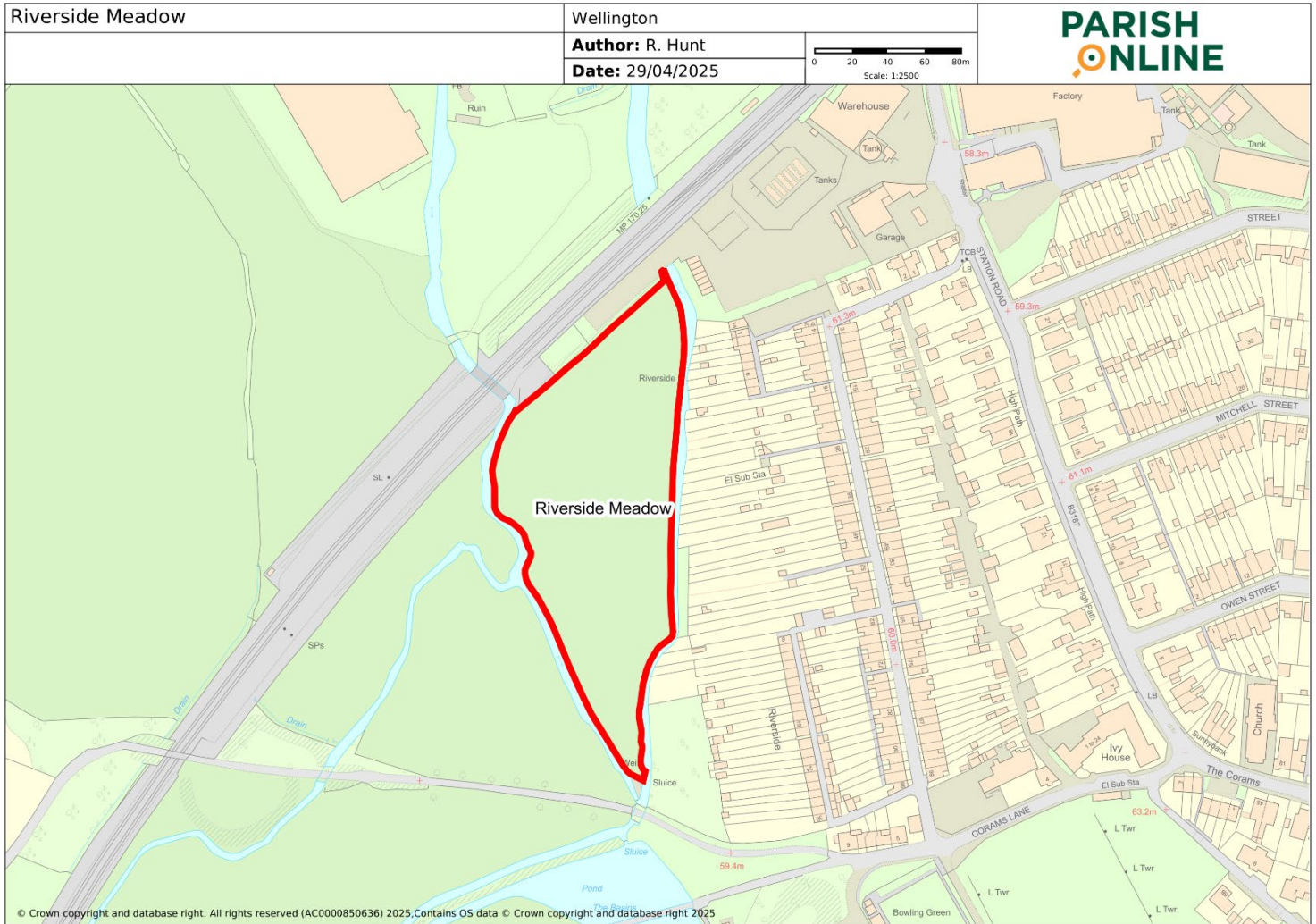
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found. Also, at this location will have the information to commemorate the first 100mph train
- Improve access across the field
- Improve biodiversity by varying the height of the grass and timings
- Monitor all the new trees planted in this location



Marsh Mead

Plans as follows:

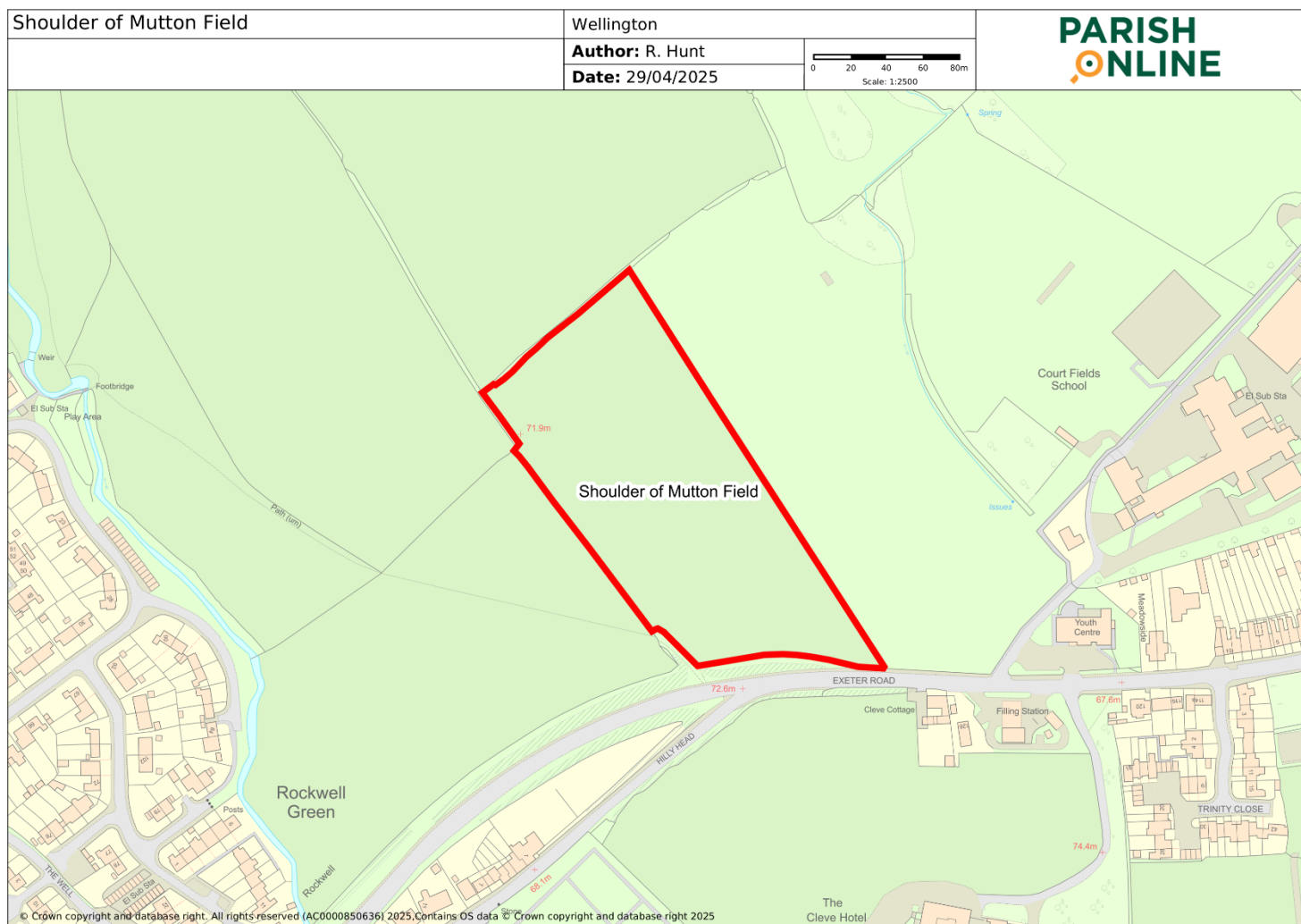
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found
- Create a small pond in an area that already has a natural pond and some points throughout the year
- Increase the water-life which lives there
- Manage all the new tree planting
- Improve the biodiversity by varying the high of the grass and timings
- Add additional hedge rows



Riverside Meadow

Plans as follows:

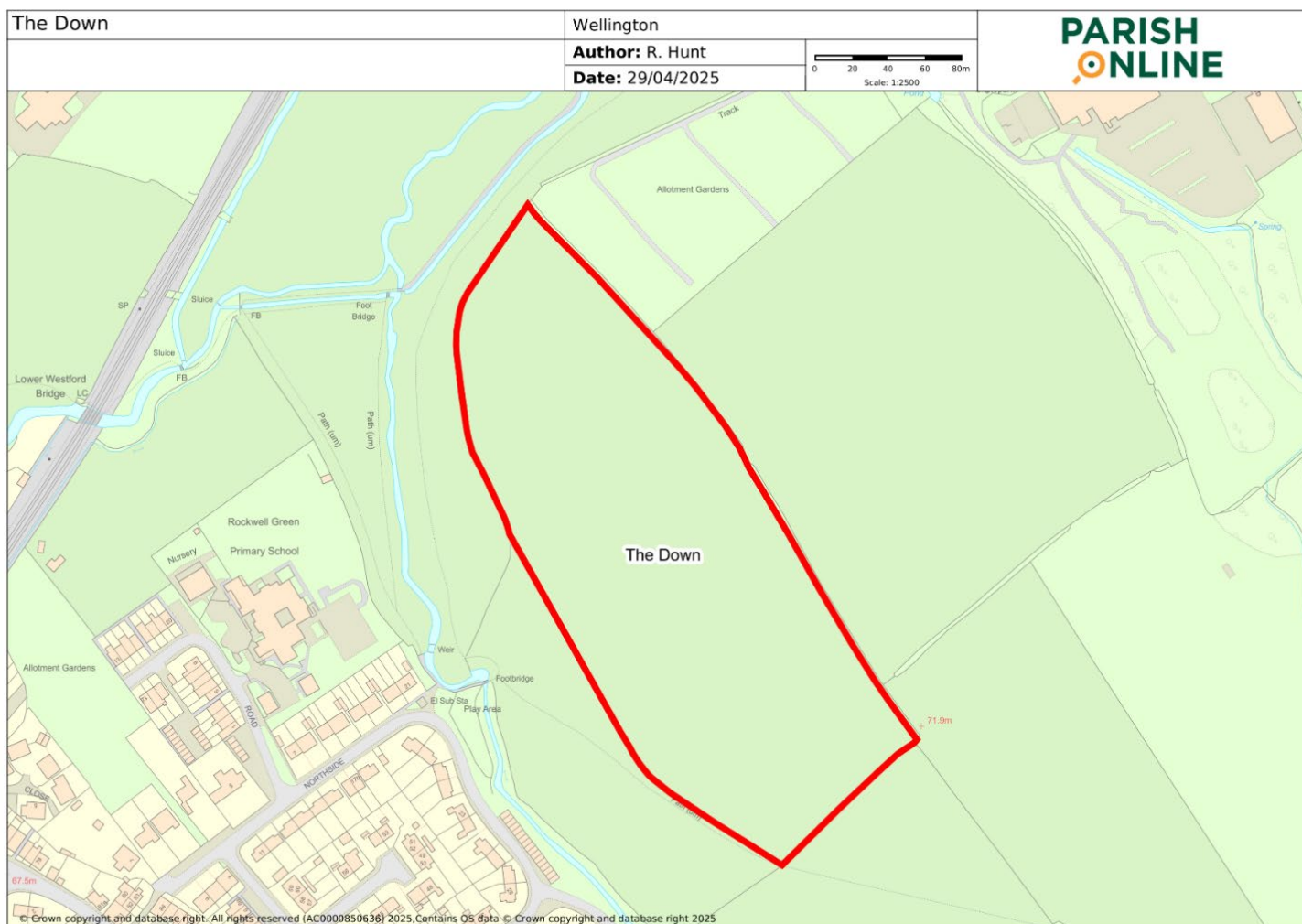
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found
- Improve the biodiversity by varying the height of the grass and timings
- Add additional hedgerows



Shoulder of Mutton Field

Plans as follows:

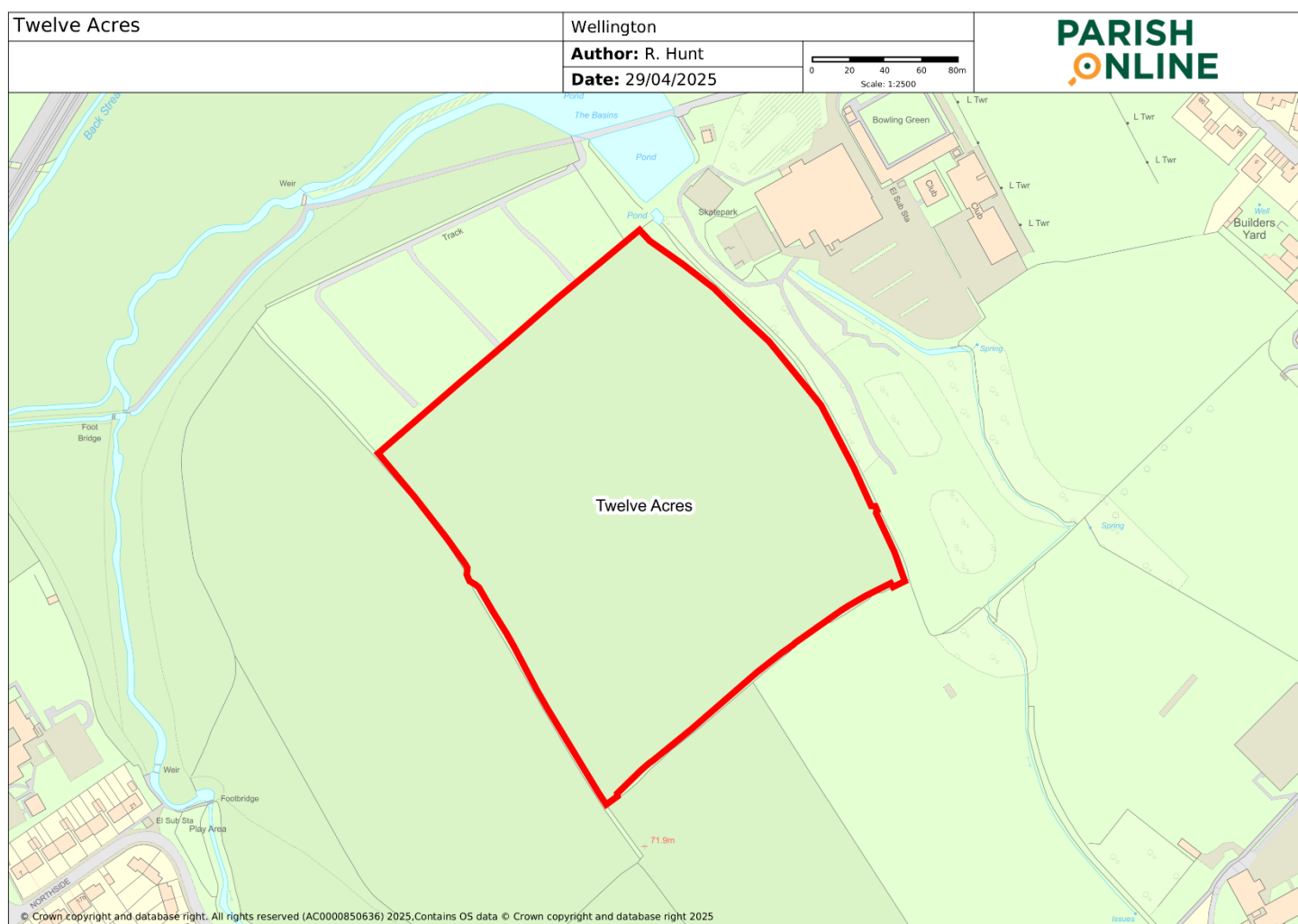
- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found
- Improve the biodiversity by varying the height of the grass and timings
- Add additional hedgerows



The Down

Plans as follows:

- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found
- Create an open area for play and recreational use



Twelve Acres

Plans as follows:

- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found



Watersman Hill

Plans as follows:

- Add signage, all signage to point out where you are within the Green Corridor areas of interest including wildlife which can be found
- Improve access gates at the top of the hill
- Hard surfaces in gateways
- Improve the biodiversity by varying the high of the grass and timings
- Add additional hedge rows

The Green Corridor Development Plan for 2025-2030 was written By Darren Hill, Open Spaces Manager for Wellington Town Council, with agreement from the Green Corridor Advisory Group, Wellington Town Council, Transition Town Wellington, The Environment Agency, The Woodland Trust and others, to be reviewed yearly and work with Wellington Town Council Nature Recovery Policy. As custodian of this precious pocket of 66 acres, we aim to leave it in as good an environmental condition as possible and for all to use and enjoy.



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

28 Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset

Grassland Management Strategy **Parks and Open spaces 2025**

Introduction

This document will consist of Wellington Town Council's strategy for Grassland Management. The information will provide details of plans to maintain, manage and create areas of grass and promote biodiversity. This document will have reference to the Somerset Wildlife Trust Grassland Management Strategy that has been agreed across the County. We have also instructed Seasons Ecology to create a report and improvement plan for Wellington Park and the Recreation Ground. This document will provide examples of grassland management of best practices and act as the baseline on how we, Wellington Town Council, manage our grassland areas.

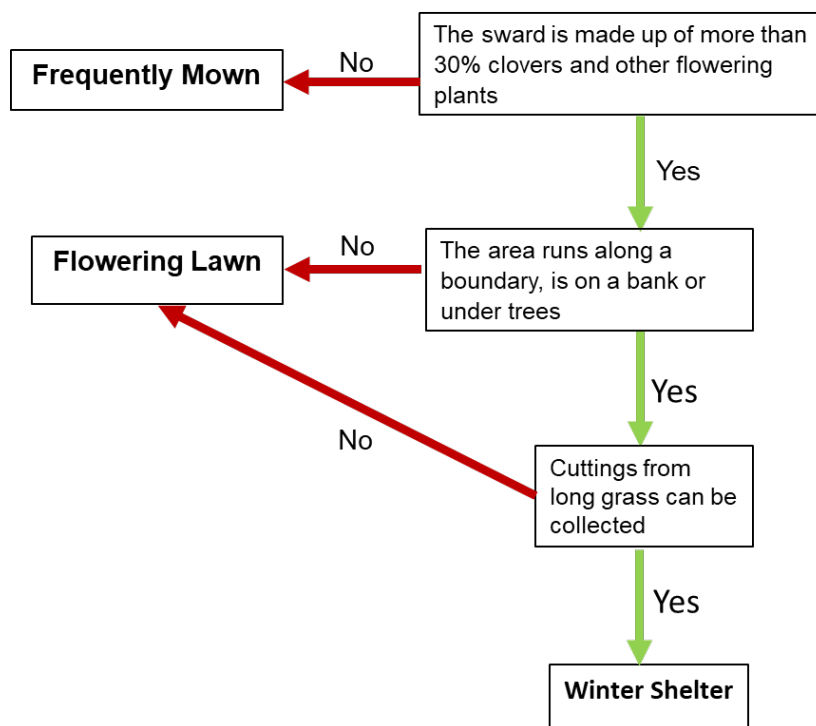
Furthermore, the document will review the current activity of grassland management and provide an outlook on further areas that will be identified as suitable candidates for rewilding and the frequency of cutting our grass areas.

Current Grassland Management Areas

In this section, we will highlight the existing areas across Wellington Town Council that are managed carefully. See Appendix 1 for a table of the existing areas of rewilding activity. This summarises areas that are cut regularly and areas that have been rewilded. Areas where rewilding has taken place or is monitored have been mapped using Parish Online mapping function. This can be found in the section *Mapping*.

Strategy

Somerset West and Taunton Council (Now Somerset Council) Declared a Climate emergency in 2020. To continue the efforts and contribution already carried out by these authorities, new areas will be highlighted to be rewilded or cut less frequently. Wellington Town Council has committed with The Woodland Trust to plant approximately 4000 trees. The decision process behind this is based on the Somerset Wildlife Trust as shown below. Ref Diagram Moderate use areas.



As some areas may be difficult to identify straight away, a suggestion of a phased approach to manage grass may be suitable. An example of this could be in areas where rewilding has already taken place along boundaries, this could be expanded to increase the surface area of biodiversity. Areas could be extended up to 2 metres per year (length or width) depending on the location of areas that are infrequently used. Areas will also be considered for reduced mowing schedules to allow for better growth and carbon capture for soil. Areas that are mown 3-4 times per year may be reduced to 1-2 times per year if this area is suitable.

Type of Areas to be Identified

As Wellington Town Council looks to increase areas of grassland management, certain types of areas may be more favourable than others. For example, flowering lawns to supply food for pollinators, infrequent use of areas, high use areas such as roundabouts, moderate use areas, and parks. A recent example of this can be found at Wellington Park where a small area of the park has effectively been given back to nature to increase biodiversity and enhance growth. This area will not be cut back unless necessary. Further areas may consist of banks and grass verges.

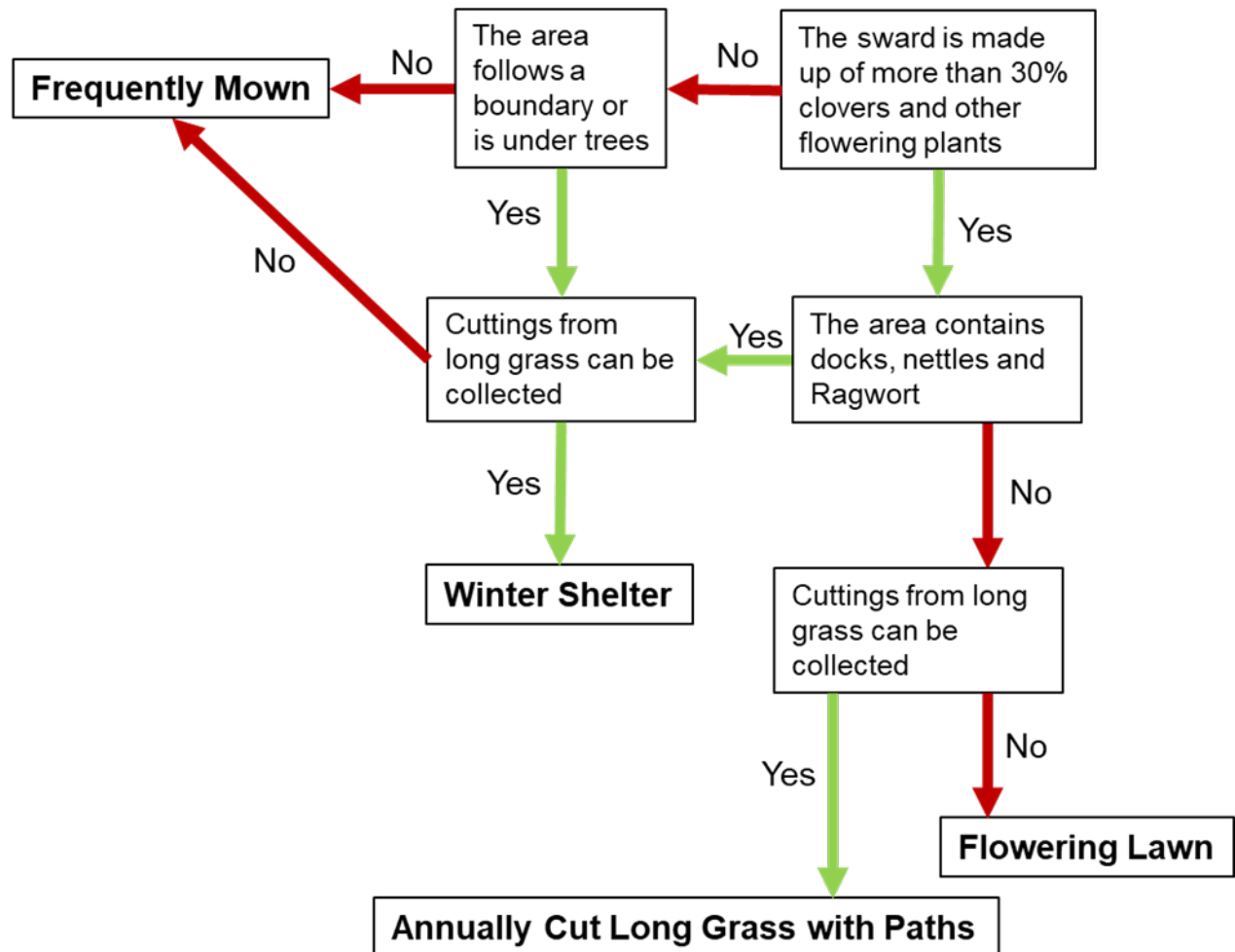
Operations – Cut and Collect

In areas where grass has been allowed to thrive with minimal maintenance, cut and collect teams will top off 100mm of debris which is removed thus providing no nutrients back into the soil, therefore no nitrogen. In the long-term wildflowers naturally increase around the Autumn season – Sept/Oct.

How Will Grasslands be Managed?

Areas identified for management will undergo the decision tree model provided by the Somerset Wildlife Trust and grassland management. Areas will be surveyed

using the 3 themes of high use areas, moderate use areas and infrequent use areas. During 2024 we have focused on infrequent use of areas within our open spaces to either change the cutting regime to one cut annually or creating winter shelters. Ref Diagram from somerset wildlife trust.



Autumnal Season

No strimming around trees allows winter habitat for invertebrates to hibernate in. Hard landscape features that almost lend themselves to not being maintained as much can also achieve this such as pylons.

Mapping

New areas to be left to re wild will be mapped accordingly using the Council's Parish Online mapping system. Identification of these places should be taken with careful consideration and reviewed in depth to ensure that it is feasible and suitable to be made an area for biodiversity to increase. Examples can be seen in Appendix 2.

Public Communication

Communication to a wider audience is vital. Areas previously mown frequently will see a change in growth of vegetation and biodiversity if selected for rewilding or management. For the public to understand this change it is possible to promote such activities in a technical way. An example of this would be through QR codes.

Members of the public would be able to identify information by scanning a QR code that would allow details of the location, species, and plans of the rewilded area. This is an interactive way that can engage the community and provide a positive message for the council. In addition to this, communication on social media as well as leaflet drops in main areas help to provide the public with information.

- Make residents aware – housing officers align/agreement (housing officer responsibility to gain feedback and provide information to residents.)

In line with grassland management, housing officers need to be informed on areas identified for rewilding. This would allow residents of local community within the council's control to understand and engage with this strategy. This may also reduce complaints regarding the grass not being cut regularly. Housing officers must provide information to residents and gain feedback for Wellington Town Council to carefully manage residential areas which will be identified for rewilding.

- Some residents may not want expansion – find the balance.

Some residents will still prefer the grass to be cut as this looks neat and tidy compared to leaving areas of grass grow wild. It is important that Wellington Town Council finds the right balance to maintain high density grass to avoid further complaints and avoid the blockage of any paths that may obstruct residents access to their homes, schools, or gateways to parks.

To combat rising complaints regarding grass areas, the Town Council will provide improved communications as mentioned in above sections (ref public communication). We will aim to carry out ecological surveys within areas that have already been rewilded thus giving us the statics to highlight the improvement within the areas due to cutting regimes used less frequently.

Public Safety

Junctions, roads, safety. In good conditions grass can grow very quickly, especially on verges that the council maintain. It is in the public's interest and safety that verges that approach road crossings, roundabouts, and junctions should be maintained to a certain height to avoid collisions and preserve clear lines of sight. Furthermore, street signs should be clearly visible and high grass should not act as an obstruction to these.

Footpaths

Where rewilding takes place, this can encroach onto footpaths which may make them narrow and, in some instances, not accessible. To prevent this, grass cutting teams will cut an approximately 1 metre width path either side of the footpath to restrict further into the footway. This will provide room for the public to use footpaths and provide safer access to these paths.

Engagement with Somerset Wildlife Trust (Wider Community Officer)

Working closely with the wider community officer, Wellington Town Council will actively communicate and participate in consultation for areas that could be rewilded

within our open spaces. An example of this is engagement with schools that exist near open spaces.

Lessons Learnt

In previous years, Somerset Council utilised wildflower seeds in areas which were selected for rewilding, this was evaluated throughout. The results showed that there was more diversity of flowers in rewilded areas compared with the wildflower meadows. Not only were the results improved but this was a cost-efficient solution to allow nature to do most of the work. Allowing rewilding areas to have less maintenance produced a greater variety of flowers compared to heavily maintained areas, Wellington Town Council will be continuing this process, locations are below:

Appendix 1

Area/Street Name	Activity description
Burrough Way	Some rewilding of boundaries
The Paddocks	Cut all and footpath
Chestnut Close	Cut all
Oakfield Park	Re-wild boundaries
Barrington Way	Leave banks
Richards Close	Wellington town council
Corner Close	Cut all
Walkers Close	Re-wild boundaries
Dobree Park	Re-wild boundaries
Wellington Sports Centre	Re-wild boundaries
Wellington Playing field\Rec	Leave banks Re-wild boundaries

Appendix 2

Fig 1. Wellington Park, Recreation Ground, and Playing Fields

This map shows three major open spaces and how they are intended to be maintained in 2025 and beyond. The different colours indicate the frequency that grass will be cut in the summer. The key is as follows:

Yellow – 7-10 days

Blue – 10-14 days

Green – Once yearly

Pink – Play Area (14-21 days)



Title	Waste Bins Review
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of meeting	17 September
Action Required	For Consideration
Report Author and email address	Dave Farrow townclerk@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Committee of the current positions of waste and dog bins around the town and to seek its views on whether it wishes to develop provision and if so where to inform budget setting for coming years.

2. Background

2.1 At the July meeting of the Committee, a request from a member of the public was considered for a new bin to be installed at Popes Lane/Andrew Allan Road

2.2 The Committee resolved that rather than deal with individual requests, a review should be carried out of bin locations in the town so that a more strategic approach to assessing the need for new bins could be taken.

2.3 The attached map shows the current location of all dog and waste bins in the town (for SWT in the key read SC). The turquoise circles are dog bins the rest are litter bins colour coded by ownership and frequency of emptying.

2.4 In carrying out the review the Committee may wish to also consider whether the current bin arrangements are appropriate or whether consideration should be given over time to combining dog and waste bins to reduce costs of emptying and replacing existing bins with more bins that separate waste for recycling.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.

Wellington Place Plan

- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging
- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of purchasing and having a bin installed by Somerset Council is in the region of £1,000 and the annual cost of emptying is again in the region of £1,000. The current annual cost of emptying all bins in the town is £32,000.

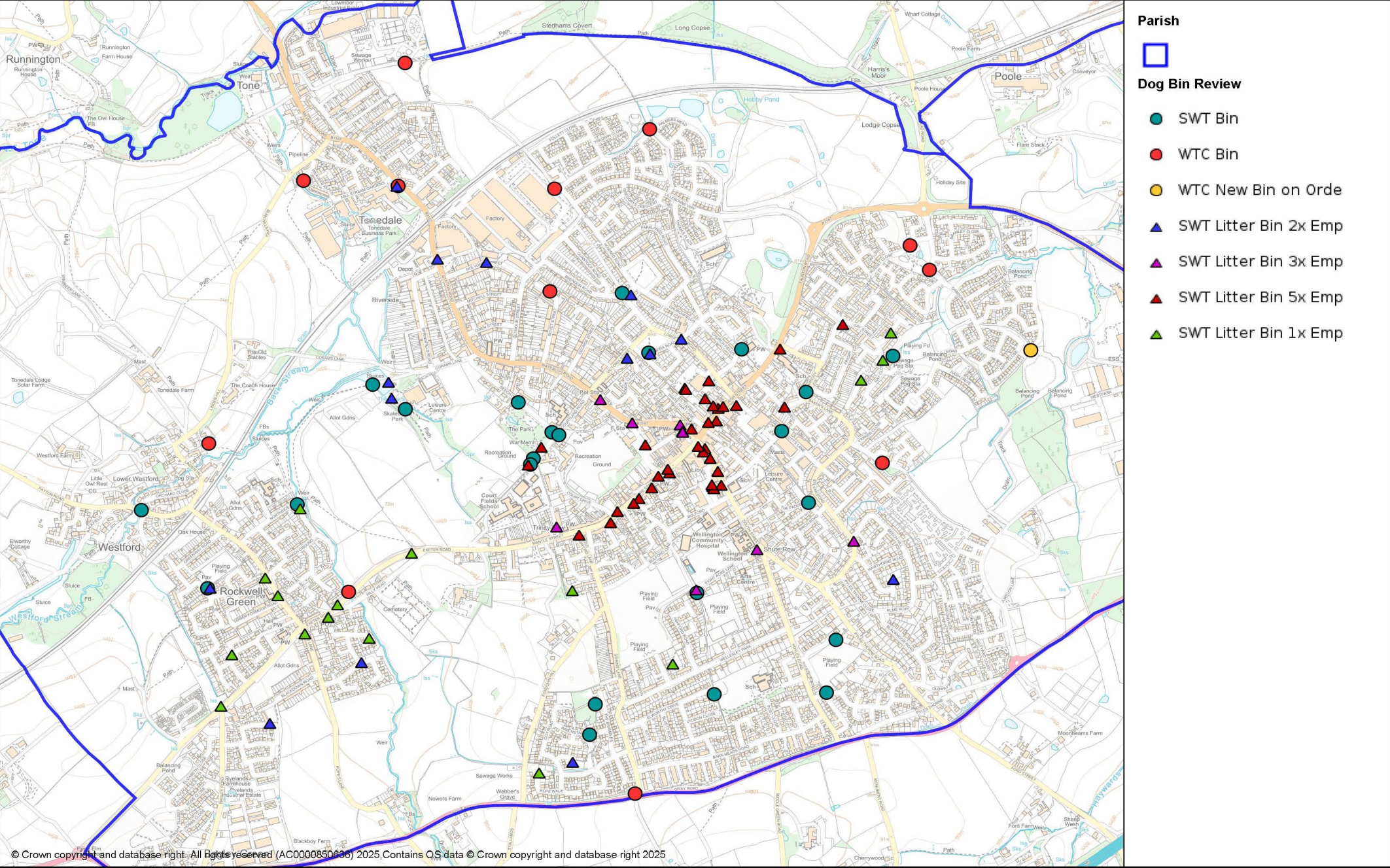
5. Risks

5.1 The risk of not having bins in the right places around the town is that litter will accumulate and be more costly to clear.

6. Considerations

6.1 The Committee is asked to consider how it wishes to progress the review.

APPENDIX





Title	Somerset Council Local Transport Plan
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of meeting	17 September 2025
Action Required	For Consideration
Report Author and email address	Dave Farrow townclerk@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek the Committee's views on how it should respond to the Somerset Council consultation on its draft Local Transport Plan.

2. Background

2.1 Somerset Council recently published its draft Local Transport Plan for consultation with a closing date of the 28 September for comments (Draft Plan attached).

2.2 Unfortunately, due to an oversight on my part this hasn't been on any agenda for discussion before this meeting. It has been circulated to councillors inviting them to either attend this meeting to comment or to email me comments directly.

2.3 I attended a briefing run by Somerset Council on the 9 September and this was also circulated to councillors in case anyone was able to attend.

2.4 The draft Plan is a high-level plan setting out structure and aspirations for the future. The intention is that once agreed there will then be more local discussions about the detailed application of the plan in an area.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- A town with a diverse, thriving, and resilient local economy
- A town with vibrant cultural, sporting, and social communities
- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.
- Connected with the Blackdown Hills National Landscape and surrounding communities

Wellington Place Plan

- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications

5. Risks

The only risk is that an important issue may be missed from the draft plan if not submitted

6. Considerations

The Committee is asked to consider what comments it wishes to make on the Draft Local Transport Plan.



Local Transport Plan 4

Draft for Consultation

June 2025



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DRAFT



Foreword

Councillor Richard Wilkins. **Lead Member for Transport and Waste Services**

As we look towards the future of Somerset's transport infrastructure, it is essential to reflect on the community priorities that have shaped our Local Transport Plan (LTP). Our vision is to create an integrated transport system that enhances connectivity, reduces carbon emissions, improves air quality, and ensures road safety for all residents and visitors. This plan is a testament to our commitment to balancing the needs of both rural and urban living while promoting tourism and economic growth.

Community priorities have been at the forefront of our decision-making process. We have engaged with stakeholders to understand their needs and aspirations. The feedback we received has been invaluable in shaping a transport plan that is not only efficient but also inclusive and sustainable. Our goal is to build a transport network that connects people to services, jobs, education, and opportunities, while also preserving the unique character of Somerset.

We aim to create a seamless, integrated network that combines various modes of transport, including buses, trains, cycling, and walking. By improving the integration of these modes, we can provide residents with more choices and better access to essential services. This approach will also help reduce congestion and reliance on private vehicles, contributing to our carbon reduction goals.

Connectivity is vital for the economic and social well-being of our communities. Our transport plan focuses on enhancing connectivity within Somerset and beyond. We are committed to improving road and rail links, ensuring that residents can easily travel to neighbouring regions and access national transport networks. By investing in infrastructure that supports connectivity, we can unlock new opportunities for growth and development.

Carbon reduction is at the heart of our transport strategy. We recognize the urgent need to address climate change and reduce our carbon footprint. Our LTP includes measures to promote the use of electric vehicles, enhance public transport, and encourage active travel. By prioritizing sustainable transport options, we can make significant strides towards achieving our carbon neutrality goals.

Improved air quality is a critical outcome of our transport plan. We understand the impact of air pollution on public health and the environment. Our plan supports initiatives to reduce emissions from transport, such as promoting cleaner vehicles and reducing traffic congestion. By improving air quality, we can create healthier communities and protect Somerset's natural beauty.

Road safety is a top priority in our LTP. We are committed to reducing the number of accidents and fatalities on our roads. Our plan includes measures to improve road infrastructure, enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and promote responsible driving behaviour. By prioritizing road safety, we can ensure that all residents and visitors feel safe and secure while traveling in Somerset.

Balancing rural and urban living is a unique challenge that our transport plan addresses.

Somerset is characterized by its diverse landscapes, from bustling urban centres to tranquil rural areas. Our LTP aims to create a transport network that caters to the needs of both urban and rural communities. We are committed to preserving the charm of our rural areas while ensuring that urban centres remain vibrant and accessible.

Tourism is a vital part of Somerset's economy, and our transport plan supports its growth. We aim to improve transport links to popular tourist destinations, making it easier for visitors to explore the beauty of Somerset. By enhancing connectivity and promoting sustainable travel options, we can boost tourism and support local businesses.

Somerset's Local Transport Plan is a comprehensive strategy that reflects the community's priorities and addresses the challenges of modern transport. It is a plan that promotes integrated transport, connectivity, carbon reduction, improved air quality, road safety, and the balance between rural and urban living. As we move forward, we are committed to working with our communities, stakeholders, and partners to deliver a transport system that meets the needs of all residents and visitors. Together, we can build a greener, safer, and more connected Somerset.

DRAFT

1 Somerset's Local Transport Plan

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a strategic document, required by the Government, that sets out our approach for all aspects of transport across Somerset and the strategies required for improving all of these.

The Department for Transport has required the LTP to deliver policies from a **Vision and Validate** approach. In conjunction with stakeholders and based on evidence and research, we have developed this plan focusing on how transport should operate and the future of delivering transport in Somerset. This has led to a LTP that seeks to use resources efficiently, unlock opportunities and balance need against impact. Following the adoption of the LTP, we will bring forward strategies for delivery. This is termed **Decide and Provide** where we decide what we will deliver and where, based on factors such as cost benefit ratios, impact on environment, scheduling, safety etc. Then provide the infrastructure, service or intervention.

VISION	VALIDATE	DECIDE	PROVIDE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The future of transport in Somerset.• Community requirements• Objectives• Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence collection• Predictions and forecasts• National and local policy• Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What intervention• Where to deliver• Cost vs Benefit• Impacts• Finance available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission work• Design and consult• Project manage delivery• Evaluate

Previously we would adopt a 'Predict and Provide' method of planning, whereby the future traffic volumes would be forecast and policies and infrastructure identified to accommodate these volumes. This was unsustainable for financial, environmental, community and equity reasons.

Transport as a service has changed over the past 15 years, developing from providing for routes to being an agent for local and societal improvements. Transport has a significant impact on people's lives:

- It plays a key role in connecting people to services and jobs.
- It can shape the quality of the places people live and visit.
- It enables businesses and the economy to grow and thrive.
- Some forms of transport can increase physical activity and improve health and wellbeing.
- Provides access to Somerset's great countryside, waterways and natural environment.
- There can also be negative impacts such as congestion, poor air quality, noise and people injured in road traffic collisions.
- Access to all forms of transport is not always equal due to socioeconomics, disability, age, ethnicity, and/or location.
- Individuals can feel unsafe on our network, especially women and girls and those that are gender marginalised.

Somerset's LTP will identify the Council's vision and actions in a people and place-based approach that puts our communities at the centre of our decisions. We will strive to build a transport system that unlocks growth, contributes to net zero, increases opportunity, improves safety and supports healthier living.

This LTP is a high-level umbrella document, with more strategies and policies that will be follow. However, the DfT has stipulated three documents are required, these are:

- [Somerset Electric Vehicle Strategy](#);
- [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#); and
- [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans](#).

LTPs must reflect both national and local priorities and have data and a solid evidence base to support its plans. Two of the biggest contributors to how policies and proposals were developed are in the following sections: Carbon and Climate, and People and Place.

For a diagram on how the LTP interacts with other policies and more details on the background behind the LTP see Appendix 1

Carbon and Climate

Transportation in Somerset is affected significantly by the climate; whether through heavy rain and flooding, snow and ice, or, high winds. The need to reduce carbon from our transport activities will be an important factor in how we decide what types of actions or strategies we will promote.

The Council has commissioned work to understand how Somerset's transport activities contribute to carbon, the key points are:



61% of transport emissions are generated in Somerset from trips either starting, ending, or being made entirely within Somerset.



64% of emissions are generated on roads owned and managed by Somerset.



65% of emissions are from cars; 35% from goods vehicles.



7% of emissions are from journeys less than 5 miles long.



58% of emissions in Somerset are from trips 5 to 10 miles long.



22% are from trips greater than 50 miles.

[For a more in-depth understanding of our climate and carbon response see Appendix 2](#)



People and Place

To deliver the right travel choices in the right place we need a good understanding of the types of people and places in Somerset. This LTP has looked at our resident population and the types of places there are in Somerset. It became clear that we could deliver a strategic approach that moved away from the 'one size fits all' to a more bespoke plan that adapts to and supports the needs of our communities.



People are living longer and moving to Somerset to retire, projections show that over a third of Somerset's population will be over 65 by 2040.



The population is expected to increase with longer lifetimes and migration into the area.



Social isolation is a key issue amongst elderly people, particularly in rural areas in Somerset.



Outside of our more urban areas there are few offerings of post-16 education making lengthy trips likely and independent travel less likely.



The majority of primary aged children are driven to school despite this age group having the strongest appetite for cycling or scooting to school.



Over 48% of the population live in rural areas.

We've identified a set of distinct place types across Somerset, each with a unique set of characteristics. The place types are:

- **Larger Urban Areas**, including Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Frome
- **Urban Areas**, including:
 - **Linked Towns** of Wells, Street, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet,
 - **Coastal Towns** of Minehead, Burnham on Sea and Highbridge,
 - **Mid-sized Towns** of Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington
- **Rural Areas**, including:
 - **Primary Service Centres**,
 - **Local Service Centres**, and
 - **Smaller Rural Settlements**

More detail on People and Place and in which category your settlement sits in can be found in Appendix 3



2 Our Network and Partnerships

The Highway Network

Somerset has over 4,000 miles of highway, the majority is managed and maintained by the Council, comprising of A, B and C roads, urban streets, rural lanes, and unclassified roads. Cycleways and footways are also a growing part of our network and along with 3,850 miles of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Our network serves and connects diverse communities and can help build a more prosperous and healthier Somerset.

A small proportion is managed by National Highways, called the Strategic Road Network (SRN), mainly the M5 and A303.



We will continue to lobby and influence central Government and National Highways to improve and fund appropriately roads in our control and the SRN

A reliable and resilient highway network is vital for safe, efficient and enjoyable travel. However, recent reductions in maintenance funding and the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, result in more damage. Some of Somerset's roads are significantly affected by seasonal tourism, as well as huge events such as Glastonbury Festival, increasing the volume of users and impacting everyone. To keep Somerset road users safe and on the move we have a statutory Network Management responsibility, supported by our [Transport Asset Management Plan](#).

The highway is not just about the roads, there are also significant assets that are often hidden in plain sight, such as streetlights, bridges, crossings, traffic signals, drainage, hedgerows, verges, signs and road lining. These also contribute to the safety and efficiency of our network and have climate and biodiversity considerations as well.

We continue to work with our contractors, suppliers and project managers to ensure everyone who operates on our highways understands and improves their role in reducing and eliminating (where possible) their negative environmental impacts. Going forward we want to be more innovative in our network operations, including trialling changes, investigating new approaches and using new technology.

Safety

Safety is integral to our delivery and we have adopted a Safe System approach. The vision for Safe Roads in Somerset is that no road user should be killed or seriously injured on the roads of Somerset. The key components of a safe system focus on four areas of approach:

- Safe road users
- Safe roads and roadsides
- Safe speed
- Safe vehicle, and
- Post crash care



Transport Modes

Somerset's transportation network is not just about roads, it must respond to the different types (modes) of transport. A priority for Somerset is Active Travel, but personal transport (motor bikes, cars, vans etc), rail, buses and freight must be balanced across the network. All modes should be supported in alignment with the Safe Systems approach identified above.

Active Travel

Active travel is not just walking and cycling, it covers horse riding, scooters, wheelchair users and mobility vehicles etc. In recent years the Government launched a major change in cycling and walking with new policy encouraging greater investment. Active Travel England (ATE), a government body, was set up to set out active travel standards, work with planning and provide funding. We have been successful in our bids, which have generated more income, but have often been challenged with delivery. We have also found the ATE funding and delivery model is heavily biased towards urban schemes and does not help to bring about a cohesive network in more rural areas. We will:



Work with internal and external partners to speed up delivery of active travel networks both on and off highway.



Deliver a balanced programme of activities that support both rural and urban active travel; for example, route selection, interventions to increase safety, behaviour change that encourages more people to use active travel.



Be more innovative in our approach to delivering active travel with local communities taking the lead, such as the Strawberry Line.



Engage with developers to deliver more infrastructure and provide funding to reduce car dependency for new developments.



Lobby ATE and Government to change funding away from annual competitive bidding to a longer-term funding stream that enables delivery; as well as bringing greater funding for rural schemes.



Support electrically assisted bicycles and improve secure and well-placed cycle parking.

Equestrian

Horses are ridden on some of Somerset's highways, rights of way and bridleways; they require consideration as set out by the Highway Code. Whilst horse riding is not considered a form of transport in the standard template of journey types, it is an important leisure activity in our rural areas, that has health, wellbeing and economic benefits, requiring cooperative management where it interacts with other transport modes and users.

The statistics on collisions between horses and vehicles, reported to the Police, are very low and the majority are not serious. Data shows that most are horses being spooked due to a motor vehicle. However, it is important to ensure all road users are educated on sharing the highway and be aware of the risks involved to help reduce incidents.

Therefore, where appropriate, the interaction between equestrian activities and other road users will be considered and accounted for when delivering both policy and infrastructure relating to transport in Somerset.

Rail

Somerset is served by a limited network of cross-county and branch railway lines that enable residents and visitors to travel within Somerset and to larger urban areas. We will work continually with our rail partners, both national and local, to enhance Somerset's rail offer, including or aims of:



More stations and improved accessibility at existing stations; for example, new stations at Wellington and Langport station, and improvements at Castle Cary station.



New and improved services, including improvements between Castle Cary and Yeovil, a new service from Taunton to Bishops Lydeard and on to Minehead, as well as protecting the heritage West Somerset Railway.



Improving rolling stock and introducing more electrification.

Buses

In Somerset most of the public transport journeys, especially locally, is by bus. The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is our document that fully addresses our bus aspirations for the Somerset. Working with operators and Government we will aim to:



Improve bus reliability, journey times and increase frequency.



Obtain funding and improve contracts to increase bus coverage and improve the quality of buses.



Improve safety and accessibility for our users through better shelters, kerbs, lighting and travel information.



Introduce more mobility hubs supporting our Demand Responsive Services (DRT) such as Slinky to connect more people in isolated locations.

Our full bus aspirations are covered in our Bus Service Improvement Plan, available here: [The National Bus Strategy – Bus Back Better](#)

Freight

We will continue to lobby Government and work with our regional partners, particularly Peninsula Transport (our sub regional Transport Body) to deliver safe, reliable and efficient delivery of goods that supports and grows our economy, unlocks potential, but also helps to reduce emissions. We will also work with all bodies to move more freight by rail and work with the industry to improve safety and reduce conflict with vulnerable road users. We will also look at how we can encourage cycle freight in areas where it is appropriate.

Car

Due to its dispersed nature Somerset is reliant on personal transport, such as the car, for most journeys. Unfortunately, these journeys are single occupancy or for very short distances, this is not sustainable travel – contributing much more to pollution and carbon, congestion and noise pollution than most other modes. Reliance on the car can reinforce isolation and deprivation as public transport use declines.

We recognise, however, that for many it is the only option, and we will continue to work with communities and businesses to develop more opportunities for more sustainable methods of travel. We will look at how we can improve car sharing and mobility hubs, work with public transport to improve services and build a more resilient and connected walking and wheeling network.

We recognise that the road network functions across many transport modes and it is essential to keep the condition of our network in good order. There are many issues that will affect our ability to address all maintenance; we rely on Central Government funding for highway maintenance and improvements, this has traditionally been limited. We are also facing increasing pressures due to climate events such as extreme temperatures, flooding and high winds.

Much of our road network are rural lanes and single carriageways, we will endeavour to maximise the road network to help all vehicles. We will also continue to work with National Highways on the routes they control to ensure disruption is managed efficiently.

Coaches and taxis

The coach service is a privately run business, whether for national or local trips. Coaches are a cheaper alternative to rail for longer distances and our local coach businesses provide school transport, transport for groups and social opportunities. We will continue to support the industry and the work they undertake.

In some of the tourist destinations where coach trips are significant, the pressure on providing space for parking coaches is sometimes problematic. This is compounded by the seasonal nature of the business. We will investigate ways to support the tourist economy and provide parking that is flexible.

Taxis and minicabs are regulated and licensed through the Council's licensing team. We will continue to work with, Local Community Networks and the industry to ensure taxi ranks are part of the highway network and help in the transition to low emission vehicles.



2.1 Partnerships

Peninsula Transport

Our network is not just within Somerset's borders; it is also affected by traffic that passes through the county from and to our neighbours. Our strategy will also affect them. Improvements and change can better be coordinated through a sub-regional approach. We are an active member of Peninsula Transport the Sub-regional transport (STB) body for Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay.

The body works to deliver transport improvements at a strategic level through their regional strategies such as the Regional Transport Strategy, EV Charging Strategy, Rural Mobility Strategy and Freight Strategy with overall objectives for easier journeys, moving to alternative fuels and connecting the network.

They also ensure strategic private sector and business groups can contribute through working groups. By working together regionally, we'll have a stronger voice when speaking to government, helping ensure the needs of Somerset and the wider regions are better understood.

Digital

Our lives have moved into a more digital and online world. This has significant benefits for transport: from more efficient engines, Digital Demand Responsive Transport, real time traffic information, route planning and working from home. Greater access to the online network has significant impacts on economic growth and for businesses to decentralise from major cities.

The benefits of a digital world can help reduce the number of vehicles on the road via home working, or improve scheduling and routing of buses and trains, or improved signalling for traffic lights reducing dwell times and smoothing traffic flow. All of these will improve our air quality and help build a more resilient network.

We will continue to support improved access to the internet, with faster speeds across the county. We will also support the improvement of our mobile network coverage in rural areas that will help both residents, businesses and transport providers. We will work in partnership with digital, telecom and transport service providers to facilitate these improvements.

Economic Development

The new Somerset Economic Growth Board provides the opportunity for Somerset businesses to collaborate with the Council, business representative organisations and other stakeholders to shape the economic future of Somerset based on local need. The Board will act as the 'business voice' into the Council providing invaluable business-led insights on the local economy helping us to build on our existing intelligence to shape current and future economic planning.

The Board will drive forward economic prosperity in Somerset by overseeing the development and implementation of a new Economic Prosperity Strategy for Somerset and will work with us to influence national policy and secure funding for Somerset, in line with the

Strategy's priorities. We will work with the Board to understand the transport needs for economic development and help provide advice and support, and where feasible delivery of schemes.

Devolution

The Government in its White Paper on 16th December 2024 outlined the case for devolution across the whole of England. This will include Somerset. This is the first step in the process of establishing regional authorities with greater power and control. The full process of this paper through Parliament and implementation will take a year or two.

We will work with Government, our neighbouring councils and internal colleagues to ensure transport is given the appropriate level of focus and priority in devolution discussions and agreements. We will champion transport in Somerset in all discussions and negotiations.

Local democracy

Across the County there are numerous locally based democratic bodies, parish and town councils. These are valuable to our transport plans as they have in depth local knowledge of both the local situation and need.

In addition, Somerset has set up Local Community Networks (LCN). They're about engagement and improving outcomes for residents through establishing strong connections between Somerset Council, our communities, businesses and our partners. There are 18 LCNs, covering every corner of the new local authority area.

We will continue to work closely with the parish and town councils and build on the existing connections we have made through LCNs to help deliver transport according to local need, whilst balancing this with resource and county-wide demands.

3 Somerset Council Vision

The starting point for our transport vision was the overarching vision set by our councillors and executive leadership when the authority was formed in 2023. This vision is set out below.

Vision: "Somerset Council will build a fairer, greener, resilient, more flourishing Somerset that cares for the most vulnerable and listens to you."

The **key priorities** for the new Council are:

- A Greener, More Sustainable Somerset
- A Healthy and Caring Somerset
- A Fairer, Ambitious Somerset
- A Flourishing and Resilient Somerset

The priorities are underpinned by a set of **core principles** that will guide all our work and daily interactions:

- A responsible council that acts with integrity
- A listening, empowering council
- A council with evidence-based and open decision-making
- A collaborative council
- An enterprising council

From this we undertook evidence collection, looked at current and predicted patterns and took a practical approach in understanding potential growth in the county.

4 Somerset's Transport Vision and Objectives

The vision for transport in Somerset is:

Somerset Council will build a fairer, greener, resilient, more flourishing and connected transport network. We will enable growth and investment, greater choice, improved reliability and safety to help deliver more pleasant, healthier and active places for our communities.

The LTP puts people and place at the centre of its vision. We are moving away from car dominated priorities and creating a more balanced approach that seeks to ensure growth and bring about change through setting out how we would like the future of Somerset to operate. We will develop and maintain our infrastructure across the county based on the principles identified in this Local Transport Plan.

The LTP will focus on sustainable options and demand management across our network, with existing streets, communities and new developments prioritising health, wellbeing, safety and the environment to create better places that reflect local people's needs.

The themes and objectives for this LTP incorporate the Department for Transport, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Peninsula Transport and Somerset Council's priorities as identified in the Council Plan and strategies being developed such as the Local Plan, Economic Growth Strategy and Climate Strategy. The themes and objectives for the LTP are:

Theme	Objectives
Sustainable First Choice	<p>Deliver a walking, wheeling and cycling county by growing the network of attractive routes and street designs that prioritise people.</p> <p>Provide everyone with a wider range of travel choices so that people have more flexibility and choice over how they travel, supported through better information and behaviour change activities.</p> <p>Improve the number and quality of bus and rail routes and schedules to increase sustainable travel.</p> <p>Prioritise sustainable new development that puts the principles of the LTP at its heart.</p>
A Great & Healthy Place to Live	<p>Safer streets for all, with a target of 50% reduction in those killed or seriously injured (KSIs) on Somerset's roads by 2030. (Implement road safety strategy)¹</p> <p>Provide safer access to schools so more children and young people can walk and wheel to school.</p> <p>Provide people with better opportunities to become healthy and active to improve people's physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Build on Somerset's ecology and heritage to improve access to green space, recreation and tourism.</p>
Reduce Environmental Impacts	<p>The LTP enables the transition towards Central Government's target of net zero transport by 2050.</p> <p>Enable cleaner air and deliver electric vehicle charging infrastructure to increase zero emission vehicles uptake.</p> <p>Work with partners to deliver Somerset Council's Climate and Ecology Visions and Local Nature Recovery Strategy to improve nature, encouraging biodiversity and embracing the county's rural character.</p>
Reliable & Resilient Network	<p>Provide a well-maintained network that respond well to weather events, enabling people to safely travel around the network.</p> <p>We will work with partners to protect and enhance strategic connectivity to and through the county and to implement changes that increase the reliability of public transport.</p> <p>We will work with partners to build greater economic and development opportunities through a better connected and more resilient transport network</p>

¹ Subject to review

Measuring Success

To monitor the progress of the LTP, we will create a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan. It is expected that this will be developed around a number of metrics and targets, including:

Theme	Objective	Metric(s)
Sustainable Choice	Deliver a walking and wheeling county	Amount of funding secured to deliver walking and cycling improvements Km of low traffic route delivered.
Sustainable Choice	Sustainable Development	Percentage of trips from new developments by non-car modes with bespoke place-based targets.
Sustainable Choice	More travel choice	Use of the census travel to work data to understand the mode split by place type with bespoke targets for each area.
A Great & Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit	Safer access to schools	Proportion of active travel trips to schools with bespoke place-based targets.
A Great & Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit	50% reduction in KSIs by 2030	Target to half the number of KSIs from - 168 in 2022 to - 84 by 2030 ²
A Great & Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit	Healthy and active residents	Increasing the number of - active adults from 70% in XXXX - active children from 50% in XX ³
Reduce Environmental Impacts	Net zero transport	Reducing carbon emissions from transport - from 1.5 MtCO2 in 2019, - to 0.91MtCO2 in 2030
Reduce Environmental Impacts	Increase zero emission vehicles	Number of zero emission vehicles registered across Somerset.
Reduce Environmental Impacts	Cleaner Air	Monitoring the annual NO2 and PM2.5 concentrations at key locations across Somerset
Reliable & Resilient Transport Network	Well-maintained network	DfT Road Conditions data
Reliable & Resilient Transport Network	Reliability of public transport	Improving public transport punctuality - from 80% in 2023 - to 90% in 2030.

In addition to the countywide metrics, we recognise that parts of the county function in different ways and so it is proposed that several place-based targets will also be identified.

² Subject to on-going review

³ Currently being evaluated

5 Developing our Strategies

Transport extends across many areas of Council business, we have discussed specific modes in earlier chapters, however the LTP needs to be responsive to the different needs across the communities it serves. Our strategies have been set out based on the transport vision's themes and objectives. The strategies fall into two categories:

- Strategies across Somerset. This is where interventions and activities are common to a wider area than a place type. It doesn't necessarily mean every place will receive these at the same time or at all, but the strategy covers an area larger than one location. There has also been an approach that seeks to differentiate between the needs of rural areas and urban areas.
- Place-based strategies. We have determined 7 distinct place types across Somerset. These have different needs and requirements, rather than a 'one size fits all' approach, we have tailored our interventions and activities to respond better to the communities in each place.

We have designed our strategies to help change the transport landscape across the county. They respond to specific issues or pressures that will affect priorities and our ability to deliver. These are:

- Strategic and local needs.
- Current and historic infrastructure - this is the structural realities that may prevent certain actions, such as drainage, cables, levels etc.
- Safety and equality.
- Climate, environmental and ecological intentions and pressures.
- Financial and resource constraints.
- National and regional priorities.

Some of our strategic interventions are based on different modes of transport: rail, bus, cycling etc., as detailed earlier. Others are interventions that are either processes, service-led or ways of delivering, these are explained below. The LTP does not identify specific infrastructure, this will be the next stage where we will implement the Decide and Provide process identified in the first chapter.

Shared Mobility Services

Shared mobility services, such as car, bike and e-bike clubs, scooters and mobility vehicles hire schemes are a great way for people to access alternative modes of transport without the commitment and initial outlay costs. For example, easy access to nearby hire-vehicles (car clubs) has the potential to replace a second household vehicle as well as providing access to newer and environmentally cleaner vehicles. Services such as shared bikes can help connect public transport services or create sustainable options to access a public transport

hub (known as first mile/last mile journeys). For these options to be successful a Somerset-wide strategy will be required, and work is already beginning in this area.

Mobility Hubs

Mobility hubs are places where people can access a variety of transport choices, such as rail, coach, bus, bikes, e-bikes, scooter, e-scooter and mobility vehicles etc. They can vary in size, facilities and transport choice offered but will be at key locations that allows easy transition between transport mode and services. To maximise the **connectivity** and potential of mobility hubs there will need to be a carefully considered network both within settlements, across Somerset and to enable longer distance travel outside of Somerset. Several hubs are currently in progress but how these hubs will operate and be maintained to ensure they deliver our LTP objectives is still in development.

Electric Vehicles

A large **shift** to electric vehicles (EV) is one of the biggest wins for reducing transport derived carbon and improving air quality within Somerset. This is especially true for many longer rural journeys where public transport is less frequent and active travel is not always a viable option. The transition to electric vehicles is well underway, but there are barriers to potential owners including expensive initial costs and difficulty in home charging where dwellings do not have off-road parking. We will ensure that our delivery of charging creates equity across different users, property types and locations.

Developments and incentives through the EV industry will deliver much of the transition to EV but where we can influence its uptake we will. Somerset's EV Strategy broadly outlines how we plan to do this and includes planning policies, working with regional partners such as Peninsula Transport and through bidding for funding to improve EV charging infrastructure. The EV Strategy will continue to be updated during the lifetime of this LTP to ensure it moves with the rapidly changing market.

Active Travel

Walking and wheeling will be a significant part of delivering our ambitions within this LTP, both in our urban and rural communities. Active travel journeys are hugely important, providing not only access to education, employment and services but also providing independence for those who don't have access to a car or those with limited mobility. We recognise more people want to undertake active travel but do not feel safe. We will work collaboratively across the council to ensure we build infrastructure and deliver better information to improve safety.

We recognise that the needs of active travel differ between urban and rural areas. Whilst the volume of users may be significantly greater in urban areas and the potential for modal shift is higher; active travel in rural areas will still deliver a huge benefit - improve connectivity, access to the countryside and improved health outcomes. We consider active travel in rural and urban settings as equally important and can deliver transformation change for all our communities.

We recognise that active travel routes and improvements can often be more successful through community delivery. We will support development of community led off-road routes, such as the Strawberry Line and Steam Coast Trail, that provide vital connections, leisure opportunities and experience for those new and returning to active travel.

We will work with our Local Community Networks (LCNs) to understand the specific needs of all local communities, assist in planning ways to improve active travel, support them with infrastructure and behaviour change initiatives to increase usage. These plans will be developed, in conjunction with other plans and policies such as the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP), in a connectivity plan that will be produced after the LTP has been adopted.

Parking

Parking is a divisive and sensitive topic, with large differences of opinion; but, it is an important transport planning tool that can support how a place functions and how a place can feel. Appropriate parking policy can help remove traffic, enable deliveries, support bus services and improve walking and wheeling journeys, while still enhancing economic viability. It can free up space to provide closer parking for those with greater need and for the provision of EV charging infrastructure and shared mobility options. Using evidence to understand parking need in specific locations and development opportunities can also create more efficient and pleasant places and better land use.

How parking is managed will be different in different locations to ensure it supports the needs of the people and place. Under the framework of this LTP and a future parking strategies, we will work with our local partners to ensure parking fulfils both its local and strategic needs, whilst ensuring we are able to deliver the change required to fulfil our air quality and carbon commitments.

Road Safety

The safety of our residents and visitors is extremely important to us and will always be a priority. We wish to continue the trend of reducing the number of people injured and killed on Somersets roads – a reduction of 25% over the last 10 years. We have taken and will continue to take a **Safe Systems** approach that seeks to prevent people being killed or seriously injured because of a road traffic collision. Our Road Safety Strategy is being updated to express how we aim to do this. The main areas of focus are:

- **Safe Road users**, continued work on behaviour change and education for drivers, riders and vulnerable road users to travel safely and within the law, including providing cycle training for children to encourage safe active travel.
- **Safe Speeds**, including appropriate speed limits on routes with identified collision histories, and in urban areas.
- **Safe Roads**, including targeted measures at locations with a collision history, to improve safety and reduce fatal and serious collisions.
- **Safe Vehicles**, including education, maintenance, fleet operational safety, support for safe vehicle selection, agricultural vehicle safety, and new technology.

- **Post Crash care**, working in partnership with the NHS and emergency services including sharing data to reduce casualties and the impact of collisions, and support the victims of road collisions.

Planning and Land Use

Spatial planning and working with Developers will be an important part of delivering the vision set out in the LTP going forward. Somerset Council is in the process of developing its first Local Plan as a unitary council and the LTP will significantly feed into this spatial planning process.

Since becoming unitary we have developed a series of guiding principles ([Transport Planning Policy Guiding Principles](#)) which set-out our overall approach to both transport planning and development planning where, how and when new development should come forward, recognising the strong links between transport, connectivity and creating great spaces.

These principles have been further developed within [Creating Places for People](#) which establishes a set of key placemaking principles. The idea is to steer new development in Somerset towards creating attractive and high-quality environments which will deliver the vision of this LTP and the developing Local Plan.

We have also produced a Decide and Provide policy that our Highways Development Management team will use to help respond to planning applications. This is complemented by the Travel Plan Guidance. These two documents are out for consultation alongside the LTP.

Digital

The use of digital technologies has the potential to both reduce the need to travel by accessing services or employment online and to unlock additional travel choices and providing information and education on range of travel options available, such as through Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) or accessing bus timetables and journey planners, such as Think Travel. As we continue to shift towards a digital future, all residents should have quality access to online services.

We'll work with partners to ensure Somerset has the best services possible as well as providing initiatives such as digital access training and ensuring our digital content is provided in accessible formats.

6 Strategies across Somerset

Our LTP shows the strategies we will seek to implement in the various areas of Somerset. They will relate directly to the four key themes identified in our vision:

- Sustainable first choice
- A great and health place to live, work and visit
- Reduce environmental impacts
- Reliable and resilient transport network.

We will then set out the deliverables that relate of these in the text below. As we progress through the place types, different policies or strategies will be prioritised. This will enable us to ensure we are more locally focussed and that we provide a transparency in what we will address for these communities.

Finally, the last section summarises the actions and interventions that we will aim to undertake during the life of this LTP.

We start with the strategies that affect the whole of Somerset.

Strategies across Somerset

Sustainable First Choice

- Develop a long-term maintenance investment strategy for active travel infrastructure.
- Align forward maintenance program to deliver active travel opportunities.
- Delivery of priority routes and schemes identified in place-based LCWIPs.
- Delivery of new and improving strategic multi-use trails for wheeling, walking and equestrians, such as the Strawberry Line, Steam Coast Trail and Stop Line Way.
- Empower communities to develop and deliver active travel links.
- Secure improvements to active travel and public transport services through the planning system.
- Provision of convenient and secure cycle parking in town centres and key destinations.
- Develop EV charge point infrastructure that responds to evidence of need and within the remit of government expectations.
- Invest, innovate and improve the scale and scope of public transport, in partnership with operators.
- Develop a network of shared services, such as car clubs, scooters and bicycles and bring forward mobility hubs across the county.
- Work with the rail sector to improve service, facilities and improve interchanges with sustainable transport.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Speed limit review.
- Implementation of road safety strategy to significantly reduce numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.
- 20mph settlements for communities that want it.
- Continued promotion of safe road use through education campaigns (such as the Fatal Five) and cycle training for children.
- Work with the police and other agencies to encourage safe speeds and behaviours.
- Somerset safer access to schools' strategy and delivery of school streets.
- Place-based parking strategies to manage demand, prioritise public transport, active transport and local priorities.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- Reduce carbon in the maintenance and construction of the highway network.
- Upgrade and enhance, or where appropriate remove, traffic signals.
- Work with partners to reduce noise and environmental impacts of the Strategic Road Network.

- Update of Streetlighting network to a more environmentally acceptable standard of type, location and operation.
- Support bus and rail operators in switching to lower emission alternatives.
- Explore opportunities to improve biodiversity and/or reduce maintenance costs through new approaches to delivery.
- Test and trial innovative new technologies where appropriate across the network and operations.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

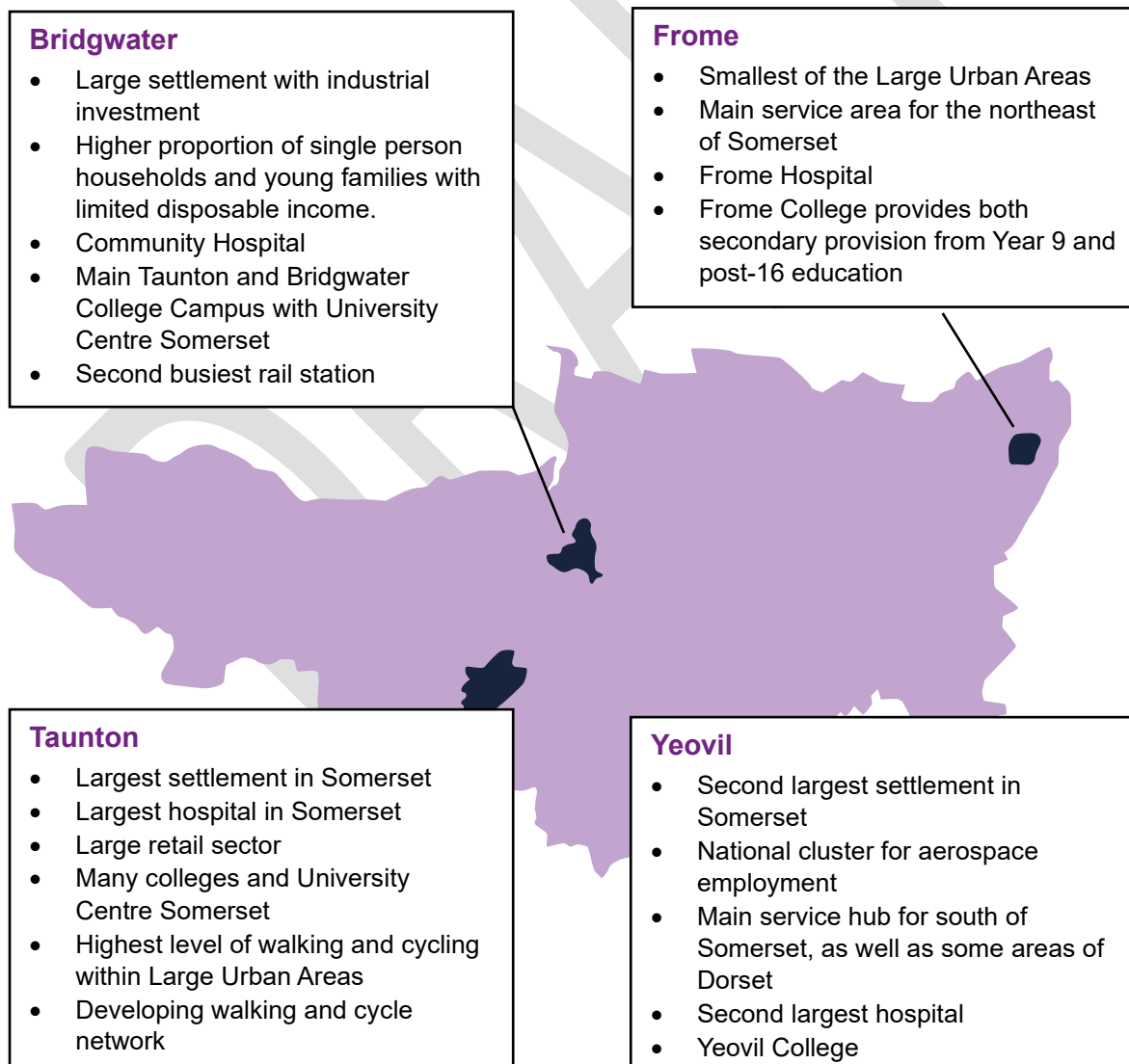
- Delivery of road safety improvements at target collision locations.
- Update of Highway Asset Management Plan.
- Prioritise maintenance of A, B and C classified routes.
- Develop a Resilient Network Plan for a range of highly disruptive events.
- Implement bus priority where appropriate to ensure reliable services.
- Review spending and priorities for on-street Parking Account.



7 Larger Urban Areas

Taunton, Bridgwater, Yeovil and Frome are the largest urban areas in Somerset and account for approximately a third of Somerset's population. The towns have a variety of facilities and are the primary service, employment and retail centres for those living locally and in the surrounding areas. They are all strategically and economically significant with important rail and road connections and major industries located and investing in the areas.

Each town has significant commuter catchment area, but also a high proportion of people living and working within the area. They have significant potential for increasing walking, cycling and public transport use and replacing short single vehicle journeys with more sustainable choices.



The **Strategy for Larger Urban Areas** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Bus priority corridors and improved bus journey times.
- Expansion of capped bus fare scheme.
- Improved bus services to hospitals, providing services for shift worker, that enables the catchment area of staff and users more choice.
- Explore opportunities for hourly rail services (between Frome and Bath, Yeovil and Taunton, and Taunton and Wellington) as well as supporting communities to bring forward infrastructure plans (e.g. Taunton to Bishops Lydeard)
- Roll out mobility hubs at key locations to improve travel choice and connectivity.
- Improved bus/rail/active travel interchange to enhance multimodal sustainable travel.
- Enhance and expand shared car network.
- Ensure zero and low carbon travel options to and from new strategic developments connecting town centre and significant destinations.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Reduce the dominance of motor vehicles and through traffic in town centres.
- Create space for public realm and people focused improvements.
- School street schemes and reduced traffic around schools.
- Delivery of LCWIP priority Active Travel routes.
- Road safety improvements, including 20mph speed limit expansion, route improvements and reducing vulnerable road user collisions.
- Delivery of High Street Improvement Schemes and supporting town centre regeneration plans

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- Learn the lessons from e-scooter schemes, and where possible provide for them.
- Develop shared bike and e-bike schemes.
- Developing EV charging infrastructure for residences with no off-street access.
- Seek to address air quality exceedances in Yeovil and Taunton.
- Transition to EV buses.
- Town centre freight strategies, to reduce impact of freight and loading activities.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Align forward maintenance program to deliver active travel improvements.
- Protect and enhance journey time and frequency of park and ride services.
- Car parking reviews to support sustainable transport, town centre economy and disabled parking.
- Connectivity plans to strategically link to and within the largest urban settlements.

8 Linked Towns

The linked settlements are **Wells**, **Glastonbury**, **Shepton Mallet** and **Street**. Collectively these account for 10% of Somerset's population. Each town is home for 8,000 to 12,000 residents and each offers a unique charm. The Mendip Quarries also make up an important part of the local economy.

We have linked these settlements as they make up one travel to work area, with over 50% of residents working in either the same area or another linked town, rising to over 65% in Street. Residents and visitors often travel between the towns to access their daily needs and some of these shorter trips could be walked, cycled and/or made by bus. Households have an average of 1.5 cars, which increases for households in the nearby rural areas.

Encouraging behaviour change with shared travel options could provide a new opportunity that is a cost-effective alternative to multiple car ownership.

There are higher than Somerset average serious injury collisions within these areas, but the historic layout and network of narrow streets mean there are more constraints on infrastructure changes. Measures such as reducing vehicle dominance, providing more pedestrian and cycle crossings, lowering speed limits and reducing HGVs could significantly improve both road safety general quality of life.

Glastonbury

- Strong cultural, tourism and heritage function with Glastonbury Tor and Abbey
- Glastonbury Festival hosted in nearby Pilton which transforms the area for one month a year.
- West Mendip Community Hospital

Shepton Mallet

- Strong agricultural function
- Home to Royal Bath and West Showground
- Glastonbury Festival hosted in nearby Pilton which transforms the area for one month a year.
- Shepton Mallet Community Hospital

Street

- Village with industrial heritage
- Largest population of the linked settlements
- Home to Clarks and Clarks Village
- Strode College offering a range of post-16, apprenticeship and high education opportunities.
- Increased bus Typically, younger population than other urban areas

Wells

- One of the smallest cities in the UK
- Strong heritage and tourism with the Cathedral and Bishops Palace
- Variety of cafes, restaurants and boutique shops
- Independent prep, secondary and sixth form school

The **Strategy for the Linked Settlements** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Deliver a strategic active travel network between the linked towns and surrounding area, focusing on the A39 and Strawberry Line.
- 15-minute bus frequency corridor, improved bus stop facilities (particularly along the A39 corridor) with real time information, cycle parking and Wi-Fi.
- Explore shared transport options and introduce Mobility Hub at key locations.
- Improve quality of the public realm in settlements centres, including crossing upgrades, wayfinding and cycle parking facilities.
- Work with local communities to identify and deliver local priorities for walking and wheeling.
- Introduction of safer speeds to improve road safety, including 20mph towns.
- Reduce the speed and volume of vehicles on the school run and around schools using School Street principals.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- Work with private sector to deliver EV charging at hubs at key locations, as well as EV charging infrastructure for people without off-street parking.
- Reduce dominance of vehicles and through traffic in town centres to improve safety and create cleaner air.
- Support regreening and enhance biodiversity in town centres.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Support the safeguarding of rail for freight movements, particularly on the mineral lines.
- Maintain active travel networks in and between the linked settlements, focusing on safety, vegetation clearance and explore feasibility of winter treatment.
- Journey time reliability enhancements to support bus services.

9 Coastal Towns

Somerset benefits from a large stretch of coast with three coastal towns,

- **Minehead**
- **Burnham-on-Sea** and
- **Highbridge.**

These towns are tourist hotspots, popular locations for retirement and often where new development is planned. Together these account for 7% of Somerset's population and have some specific climate related threats due to their coastal nature. The towns are also included in the National Trusts, King Charles III England Coastal Path.

Our attractive coastal towns are subject to seasonal variations in both population and economy. By working with partners and businesses, we hope to promote sustainable leisure travel and to deliver EV charging that meets the needs of locals and visitors.

Our coastal towns provide a vibrant economy based on tourism and holidays. We know that there is a thriving economy that uses the sea as a valuable resource for people visiting the area and local business that support fishing and pleasure boats. It is important that these areas continue to have access to the water and to enable deliveries and servicing.

There are high levels of walking and cycling to access work, services and leisure – Minehead has the highest levels of active travel in Somerset and Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge benefit from the NCN33 active travel route that joins them with an aspiration to extend the route to Bridgwater.

Careful seasonal demand management could provide more space for businesses and tourism activities, further increasing walking and wheeling while also boosting the economy. In addition, town wide approaches to improving road safety would help create a safer, more attractive environment for all users.

New development presents an opportunity to provide EV charging as well as further walking, cycling and public transport links to and through the towns. In Highbridge, the public transport offers to and through the towns could be further enhanced improved railway station access, interchange facilities and cycle connections.

Burnham-on-Sea

- Two large holiday parks with access to the seafront
- Direct access to M5 and railway – railway station without step free access
- Bridgwater main service centre outside of the town
- Part of the wider tourism network for Brean and Berrow
- High collision rate involving pedestrians, cycles or older road users

Highbridge

- Older demographic
- More of a residential function than tourist
- Large concentration of business around Isleport.
- Direct access to M5 and GWR mainline - railway station without step free access
- Bridgwater main service centre outside of the town



Minehead

- Largest and most remote coastal town
- Multiple holiday parks, hotels, and B&Bs
- Community Hospital
- Taunton main service centre outside of the town
- Main service area in western Somerset, serves much of Exmoor – including the only secondary school in western part of Somerset
- Reasonably frequent bus service to Taunton via A39/A358 but has a long journey time due to number of settlements along that route that it also serves
- Highest percentage of walking and cycling in the county
- Served by the West Somerset Railway heritage line.
- Many people live and work within the town / surrounding area

The **Strategy for the Coastal Towns** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Improve bus services to Larger Urban Areas.
- Improve access to nationally strategic cycle routes (NCN33).
- Work with communities to improve active travel routes and promoted trails (such as the Steam Coast Trial).
- Deliver secure cycle parking at key locations and bus stops.
- Introduce town wide road safety improvements, such as safer speeds and infrastructure supporting active travel (particularly walking).
- Provision of step free access at Highbridge and Burnham railway station.
- Work with Rail partners to improve rail provision.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Improve public realm and pedestrian/cycle crossings in town centres.
- Explore and test opportunities for seasonal road space reallocation and low traffic streets to reduce traffic in town centre/residential areas.
- Develop coast to Bridgwater and Taunton strategic walking and cycling route.
- Review all parking to ensure it meets local and visitor need.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- Implement EV charging hubs that caters for residential and visitor demand.
- Support digital access training for local communities.
- Work with organisations and stakeholders to promote sustainable leisure travel and tourism.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Safeguard and enhance safety and resilience at M5 junctions and strategic connections and junctions.
- Maintaining and improving the English Coast Path and links to it, for recreational uses.
- Upgrade of surfacing and lighting along NCN33 between Burnham & Highbridge, as well as junction and highway improvements for active travel.

10 Mid-sized Towns

The mid-sized towns of

- **Chard**
- **Crewkerne** and
- **Wellington**

are discrete towns in the southern part of the county, contain employment and education facilities, have significant new development potential, but also tend to face towards larger urban areas for many additional services and jobs.

Chard has the highest levels of self-containment with 50% of residents working in the town. Improvements to active travel facilities, especially crossings, footway along the main routes and access to the Stop Line Way (NCN33), would make walking an easier and more attractive way for more people to move about the town. There is no rail station and bus frequencies are relatively low and difficult to increase. Providing more convenient bus to rail interchange will be explored to improve access to rail for longer distance trips.

Crewkerne benefits from a railway station with services to Yeovil, Exeter and London Waterloo. However, the out-of-town stations in Crewkerne and Yeovil means that rail plays a limited role in local travel, but could be improved with active travel options, particularly e-bikes. Semi-regular bus services between Yeovil and Crewkerne provide a more attractive sustainable travel offer and enhancing access to these and other local facilities will be explored.

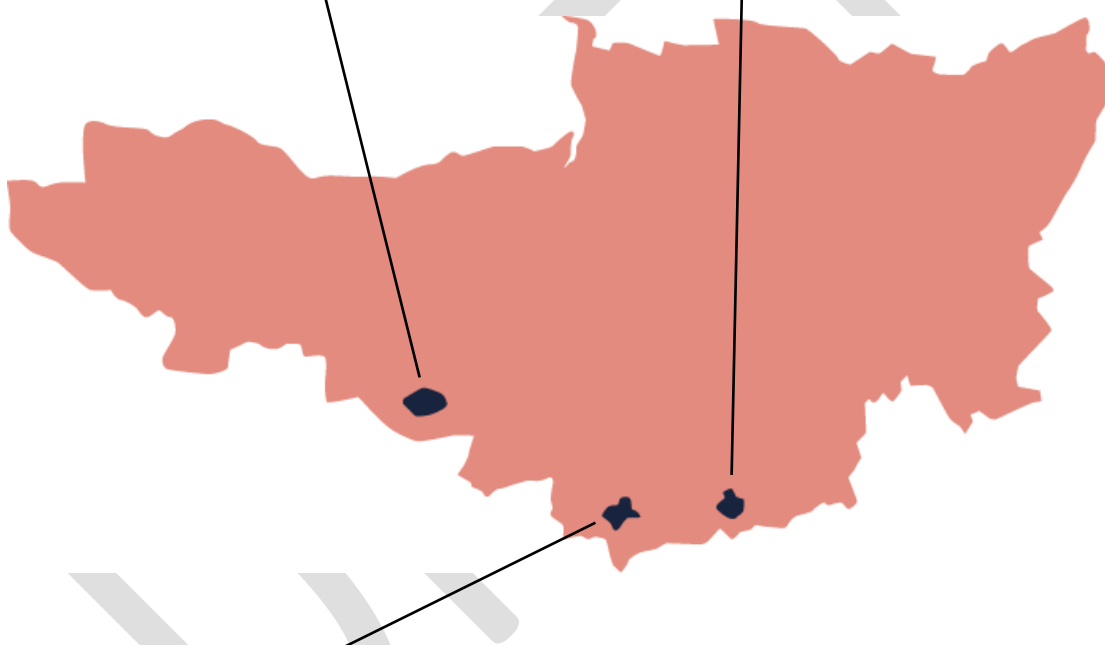
Wellington is a focus for growth and increasing population will help to support local shops and amenities. However, the town centre is centred around a crossroads that is susceptible to relatively high traffic and HGV flows as well as obstructive parking. The impact of the new train station and development opportunities will mean that there will be a chance to look at the wider transport network in and through the town that will provide new sustainable travel opportunities.

Wellington

- Faces towards Taunton for additional services
- New rail station
- Frequent bus service to Taunton
- 14,000 population.
- Strategic location with access to the M5 (M5 J26)
- Key site for new development
- Town centre constrained with high HGV flows

Crewkerne

- Faces towards Yeovil for additional services
- Smaller mid-sized town with population of 7,000
- 1/3 of residents work within the local area, 1/3 work in/around Yeovil
- 1 railway station located on the outer skirts of the town – offering services to Yeovil, Exeter and London
- Wadham 6th Form college



Chard

- Faces towards Yeovil for additional services
- Draw to Crewkerne, Ilminster and Axminster for employment
- 14,000 population
- Hospital A&E department for 12 hours a day
- Sixth form education available
- Highest amount of self-containment – 50% of residents live and work in the town
- Bus is the only form of public transport available – low frequency bus provision to Ilminster, Crewkerne and on to Taunton and Yeovil.



The **Strategy for Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Delivery of Wellington Railway Station
- Better frequency and high-quality bus stops to the Larger Urban Areas.
- Develop active travel links to/from new development and local amenities.
- Improve connections to strategic active travel network.
- Upgrade key junctions to cater for pedestrians and cycles encourage safer travel.
- Delivery of LCWIP identified routes.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Identify local priorities and quick wins for improving active travel facilities across Chard, Crewkerne and Wellington.
- Improve the quality and locations of pedestrian and cycling crossings and footway facilities.
- Reduce dominance of vehicles in town centres.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- Work with private sector to deliver EV charging infrastructure at local hubs and researching and assist in developing a network that meets government guidance.
- Promote the use of peer-to-peer charging networks.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Improve bus-rail integration as part of an integrated transport network.
- Protect and enhance safety and resilience at Strategic and Local Road Network and junctions.

11 Rural Somerset

Rural Somerset comprises the inland and coastal villages, hamlets and isolated homes across the county; it covers the largest geographical area in the county and is home to approximately 30% of the population. Rural Somerset has a more dispersed settlement pattern and challenging geography, from the hills of the Mendips and Blackdown to the lower lying areas of the Somerset Levels as well as coastal areas.

Data shows car travel typically accounts for three quarters of commuting trips, but 30% of trips start and end within the same area. A further 30% are from one rural area to another rural place. This highlights the interdependence of rural areas, creating a unique set of travel needs that are fundamentally different to urban areas.

Car ownership is high in Rural Somerset with on average 1.8 cars per household, this is unlikely to change significantly over the life of the LTP. Change will come from shared transport, electric vehicles and reducing travel demand.

Community and demand responsive transport services, such as the Slinky Service, are and will continue to be important for providing access for those in areas without public transport. We are aiming to introduce new vehicles and a more flexible digital booking process making it easier to use the service and improve integration with the existing public transport network.

Walking and wheeling are lower for day-to-day travel in the rural areas. There are a handful of high-quality traffic free routes and a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that provide attractive leisure routes for the locals and visitors. Expanding and improving the network of traffic free routes and lowering speed limits through rural settlements will help to make streets and routes safer and support healthy lifestyles. Streets and routes with schools and/or where injury collisions have taken place will be prioritised.

There are wide variety of places across Somerset's rural areas, both in terms of the natural environment and the services and function that these settlements provide. To reflect these differences, rural place subcategories were established, which are:

- Primary Service Centres
- Local Service Centres
- Smaller Rural Centres

The **South West Rural Mobility Strategy**, produced in partnership with Peninsula Transport, provides a framework for developing bundles of interventions to suit different rural areas. Building on that strategy a bespoke approach has been identified and will be further developed to reflect the unique and interconnected nature of rural place types for Somerset.



Varied employment with range of small and medium employers



Large range of employment sectors many interlinked to supporting sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture and water



Many places experience seasonal demand with significant economic, visitor and travel demand fluctuations.



Rural roads have a disproportional level of serious collisions.



One third of Somerset's primary schools are in rural areas and many children live within a reasonable distance to walk or cycle, however there is often an issue with traffic around schools and a perception of safety.



Limited secondary and post-16 education, students more reliant on public transport or the school bus transport, where eligible, or parents to travel.



Low population densities leading to dispersed local services and lack of viable public transport services, leading to isolation for the young, less affluent or mobility impaired.



Rural residents typically travel longer distances compared to those in our urban areas.



Residents on the edge of the county need to travel to adjacent counties to access services.



The **Strategy for Rural Somerset** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Improve access to, waiting and parking facilities at railway stations, particularly for active travel modes and higher frequency bus corridors.
- Develop proposals for new railway station at Langport and Somerton.
- Implement and expand Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) services.
- Work with tourism and leisure industry to promote sustainable travel.
- Continue to work with operators and share knowledge and skills to maintain and enhance the provision of community transport services across Somerset.
- Delivery of new active travel and/or bus stop facilities through the planning system.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Completion of a traffic free or low traffic Strawberry Line and development of other rural trails, such as Somerset Circle, Steam Coast Trail etc.
- Prioritise routes with high numbers of collisions and KSI statistics for improved safety interventions.
- Work with local communities to identify, pilot and implement new schemes for walking, cycling and equestrian use and/or safer speeds to improve safety.
- Enable and support local communities to undertake street closures for local events to support local rural economy.
- Improve parking facilities in primary and local service centres.
- 20mph speed limits in rural settlements where desirable or to improve road safety.
- Delivering a good quality, well maintained Public Rights of Way network, as well as delivering more community-led active travel schemes.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- EV charging through a mixture of on-street provision, council owned and publicly accessible car parks, such as village halls or employment sites, which could include charging for e-bikes.
- Support and promote Peer-to-peer charging.
- Increase availability and quality of mobile services to rural areas.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Explore opportunities to reduce traffic on rural lanes where a viable alternative exists and reduce maintenance demand.
- Promotion of real time public transport information in rural areas where feasible.

Primary Service Centres

The Primary Service Centres consist of:

- Bruton,
- Cannington,
- Castle Cary**,
- Cheddar**,
- Ilminster,
- Langport,
- Stoke Sub Hamdon,
- Wedmore,
- Wincanton, and
- Wiveliscombe.



(**Seasonal)

These settlements have been identified as a local hub providing a range of services, including primary and secondary schools, food shops and a doctor's surgery and supporting infrastructure, including some public transport. They play an important role in drawing residents in from surrounding areas and reducing the need to travel further afield. Some centres, identified with an asterix, respond to seasonal variations due to tourism.

The concentrated availability of services and higher population density means that some residents can walk or wheel to their local shops. In these location shared transport, Car Clubs and active travel routes are easier to deliver and where appropriate these measures will be considered.

These are also locations where public transport improvements can be most cost effective. Improvements to access, interchange and/or parking at railway stations, could help to provide new travel opportunities for residents travelling around Somerset and to neighbouring areas. Potential for a railway station serving Langport and Somerton will also be explored.

Primary Service Centres also have the potential to become hubs for public EV charge points for local and tourism use as well as locations for rural mobility hubs which are being explored with Peninsula Transport.

Focussed Strategy for Primary Service Centres includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Improve access, where appropriate, to waiting and parking facilities, particularly for active travel modes, at railway stations and at higher frequency bus corridors.
- Develop proposals for new branch-lines and railway stations (Somerton and Langport).
- Implement and expand Digital Demand Responsive Transport(DDRT) services.
- Work with tourism and leisure industry to promote sustainable travel choices.
- Continue to work with operators and share knowledge and skills to maintain and enhance the provision of community transport services across Somerset.
- Delivery of new active travel and/or bus stop facilities through the planning system.
- Delivering a good quality, well maintained Public Rights of Way network, as well as delivering more community-led active travel schemes.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Encourage shared service points, such as social and health services within libraries etc.
- Enable and support local communities to undertake street closures for local events to support local rural economy.
- Review parking facilities to support area as a service centre.
- 20mph speed limit reviews and interventions to reduce collisions and injuries.
- Work with LCNs to identify priority areas of concern.
- Work with community groups to deliver community led schemes.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- EV charging infrastructure through a mixture of on-street provision and in council owned car parks.
- Support and promote Peer-to-peer charging.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Promotion of real time public transport information in areas where feasible.

Local Service Centres

The Local Service Centres are:

- Axbridge,
- Bishops Lydeard,
- Chilcompton,
- Coleford,
- Cotford St Luke,
- Curry Rivel,
- Dulverton**,
- Evercreech**,
- Ilchester,
- Merriott,
- Milborne Port,
- Milverton,
- North Petherton**,
- Norton St Philip,
- Porlock**,
- Somerton,
- South Petherton,
- Tatworth,
- Templecombe,
- Watchet**,
- Williton, and
- Woolavington.



(**Seasonal)

Local Service Centres have been identified as providing some daily services, including a primary school and at least a food shop. Residents can typically access many of these by foot, but are likely to travel further afield, typically by car, to access other services, including secondary school and/or employment. Some Local Service Centres are closely linked to nearby urban area, such as Bishops Lydeard is to Taunton, while others are geographically more isolated, such as Dulverton.

Tourism and agriculture make up part of the local economy with many people working in seasonal jobs through the spring and summer months. This includes a variety of local businesses such as bed and breakfasts, cafes, and local tourist attractions.

Given the more remote nature of many Local Service Centres, these can be areas where leisure activities, such as walking, cycling and horse riding are more prevalent. Reducing vehicle speeds and piloting and implementing new approaches to improve the safety of rural roads will enhance these areas.

Similarly to the Primary Service Centres, these are areas that have a higher population density, making public charge point provision more suitable as well as potential locations for rural mobility hubs.

The **Strategy for Local Service Centres** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Improve access and waiting facilities on higher frequency bus corridors.
- Develop proposals for new railway station (Langport and Somerton).
- Increase branch line network, where feasible (Bishops Lydeard to Taunton).
- Implement and expand Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) services.
- Work with tourism and leisure industry to promote sustainable travel.
- Continue to work with operators and share knowledge and skills to maintain and enhance the provision of community transport services across Somerset and community car schemes.
- Development of rural mobility hubs

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Work with local communities to identify, pilot and implement new ideas for walking, cycling and equestrian use and/or safer speeds to improve safety.
- Enable and support local communities to undertake street closures for local events to support local rural economy.
- Improve parking facilities in primary and local service centres.
- 20mph speed limits in rural settlements.
- Interventions to improve road safety on rural routes.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- EV charging at key destinations, through a mixture of on-street provision and in council owned car parks.
- Support and promote Peer-to-peer charging.
- Increase availability and quality of mobile and internet services to reduce need to travel.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Explore opportunities to reduce traffic on interlinking rural lanes and reduce maintenance demand.
- Promotion of real time public transport information where feasible.
- Support local community transport groups.
- Work closely with LCNs to jointly deliver local transport needs.



Smaller Rural Centres

Smaller Rural Centres are identified as the mainly areas with a residential function but with limited services available. We have split these into the following subgroups:

- **Connected Settlements** located on transport links including A or B roads, railway stations or bus services. Some may also be seasonal hotspots.
- **Small settlements**, all other rural settlements with a population of over 250 people and which mostly provide a residential function only.
- **Small Sites and Isolated Dwellings**, with a population of less than 250 people, including standalone sites, isolated dwellings and farmhouses.

Given the low population density and limited-service provision within these areas, improving digital access, and transitioning to electric vehicles will be key in decarbonising travel. The sharing of charging facilities, known as peer-to-peer charging, will play an important role in supplementing access to charge points in more isolated rural areas.

Improving access and/or facilities at locations with more frequent public transport represents the most feasible way of supporting travel by public transport.



Connected Settlements

Ashcott	Cossington	Mark	Pitney
Barton St David	Coxley	Martock	Puriton
Barwick	Creech St Michael	Meare	Rode
Batcombe	Croscombe Draycott	Middlezoy	Ruishton
Beckington	Dunster	Montacute	Shapwick
Binegar	East Brent	Nether Stowey	Shipham
Brent Knoll	Easton	North Cadbury	Sparkford
Broadway	Faulkland	Norton Sub Hamdon	Stratton on the Fosse
Brushford	Henstridge	Nunney	Timberscombe
Carhampton	Horton	Oakhill	Wanstrow
Catcott	Iton	Othery	Washford
Charlton Horethorne	Keinton Mandeville	Pawlett	Westbury Sub Mendip
Chewton Mendip	Kingsdon	Pilton	Westonzoyland
Chilton Polden	Lymphsham	Pitcombe	Winsham

Small Settlements

Baltonsborough	Churchinford	Holcombe	Shepton Beauchamp
Butleigh	Combe St Nicholas	Kingsbury Episcopi	Stogursey
Charlton Adam	Combwich	Kingston St Mary	Stoke St Gregory
Charlton Mackrell	Ditchet	Mells	Stoke St Michael
Chedzoy	Hinton St George	North Curry	



The **Smaller Rural Settlements** includes the following:

Sustainable First Choice

- Improve access to higher frequency bus corridors.
- Improve rural bus stops with provision for secure cycle parking at key sites.
- Implement and expand Digital Demand Responsive Transport services.
- Continue to work with operators and partners to enhance the provision of community transport and local community car schemes.

A Great and Healthy Place to Live, Work and Visit

- Work with local communities to identify, pilot and implement new approaches for walking, cycling and equestrian use and/or safer speeds to improve safety.
- Enable and support local communities to undertake street closures for local events to support local rural economy.
- Implement road safety improvements on rural routes to reduce collisions and casualties.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

- Support and promote Peer-to-peer charging.
- Increase availability of mobile services to rural areas.

Reliable and Resilient Transport Network

- Explore opportunities to reduce traffic on rural lanes and reduce maintenance demand.

12 Action Plans: 2025-2030

The LTP not only sets out the transport vision for Somerset, it should also include the actions that we have either programmed or are planning. These actions must deliver the objectives set out in the LTP and we will need to deliver with our stakeholders and partners in order to bring about the vision to which we aspire. It must be noted that not all of these actions are currently funded and are made in the absence of national guidance. Our vision and actions must be challenging and push the County to deliver transport to ensure the people and places in Somerset get the best possible outcome. We will revisit these actions annually to ensure they reflect the Government's national policy, funding arrangements and the evidence that develops over time.

Place	Theme	Measure / Intervention
Our Network	Sustainable First Choice	Annual Programme for delivering cycle parking in town/city centres and key destinations
Our Network	Sustainable First Choice	New and/or enhanced bus services to serve new development across the county
Our Network	Sustainable First Choice	Build a programme of behaviour change that promotes sustainable and safe travel
Our Network	A Great & Healthy Place	Road Safety educational campaigns to promote safe road use
Our Network	A Great & Healthy Place	Review of speed limits across the county
Our Network	A Great & Healthy Place	Road safety engineering and enforcement campaigns to reduce road casualties
Our Network	A Great & Healthy Place	Develop 'Safer Access to Schools' Strategy
Our Network	A Great & Healthy Place	Delivery of School Streets
Our Network	A Great & Healthy Place	Bikeability training for school children and adults
Our Network	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Reduce carbon emissions from highway maintenance contract
Our Network	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Upgrade of lighting on the highway network
Our Network	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Rolling programme of traffic signals renewal and upgrade
Our Network	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Work with partners to reduce noise and environmental impact from the Strategic Road Network
Our Network	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Explore opportunities to improve biodiversity through new approaches to delivery and/or maintenance
Our Network	Reliable & Resilient Network	Update Highway Asset Management Plan

Our Network	Reliable & Resilient Network	Work with partners to secure enhancements to second strategic route railway into Somerset
Our Network	Reliable & Resilient Network	Resilient Network Plan to manage highly disruptive events
Our Network	Reliable & Resilient Network	Review spending and priorities for on-street Parking Account
Our Network	Reliable & Resilient Network	Collision reduction programme in collision hotspot areas

Place	Objective	Measure / Intervention
Larger Urban Areas	Sustainable First Choice	Develop and expand the Taunton e-scooter scheme
Larger Urban Areas	Sustainable First Choice	Taunton Bus Station Mobility Hub
Larger Urban Areas	Sustainable First Choice	Explore the opportunity for a Yeovil Bus Station Mobility Hub
Larger Urban Areas	Sustainable First Choice	Enhance and expand shared car network in Frome
Larger Urban Areas	Sustainable First Choice	Develop proposals with partners for hourly rail services between Frome- Bath and Yeovil - Taunton
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Taunton LCWIP: North South corridor
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Taunton LCWIP: East West Corridor
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Taunton LCWIP: Monkton Heathfield to Toneway cycle enhancements
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Bridgwater LCWIP: Celebration Mile
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Bridgwater LCWIP priority corridors: Durleigh Road
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Bridgwater LCWIP priority corridors: Town Centre - Bristol Road - Gravity
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Feasibility of onward active travel route from Gravity to Highbridge
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Yeovil East West Active Travel corridor
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Yeovil South West Terrace Crossing
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Frome school streets pilot
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Expand 20mph zone in Frome
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Bridgwater road safety plan and measures
Larger Urban Areas	A Great & Healthy Place	Frome Town Centre highway changes
Larger Urban Areas	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Delivery of on street Electric Vehicle Charge Points
Larger Urban Areas	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Roll out of cleaner and zero emission buses
Larger Urban Areas	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Taunton and Yeovil town centre freight strategies
Larger Urban Areas	Reliable & Resilient Network	Taunton Northern Corridor Bus Priority Improvements
Larger Urban Areas	Reliable & Resilient Network	Taunton Eastern Corridor Bus Priority Improvements
Larger Urban Areas	Reliable & Resilient Network	Taunton Western Corridor Bus Priority Improvements
Larger Urban Areas	Reliable & Resilient Network	Enhance bus corridor between Monkton Heathfield and the town centre

Place	Objective	Measure / Intervention
Linked Settlements	Sustainable First Choice	Deliver mobility hub at Commercial Road, Shepton Mallet
Linked Settlements	Sustainable First Choice	Shared vehicle scheme across the linked settlements
Linked Settlements	Sustainable First Choice	20mph zone across parts of Glastonbury and Street
Linked Settlements	Sustainable First Choice	Improved bus stop facilities and vehicles along A39 corridor
Linked Settlements	Sustainable First Choice	Additional evening services to serve Glastonbury community hospital
Linked Settlements	A Great & Healthy Place	Active travel signage strategy and cycle parking provision
Linked Settlements	A Great & Healthy Place	Glastonbury to Street – A39 and The Causeway
Linked Settlements	A Great & Healthy Place	Strawberry Line- Easton to Wells to Shepton Mallet
Linked Settlements	A Great & Healthy Place	Develop Strawberry line proposals from Easton to Cheddar
Linked Settlements	A Great & Healthy Place	Develop proposals for Glastonbury to Wells active travel route
Linked Settlements	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Work with private sector to deliver EV charging at West Mendip hospital and Mendip retail centres
Linked Settlements	Reliable & Resilient Network	A39 journey time reliability enhancements
Linked Settlements	Reliable & Resilient Network	Investigate feasibility of winter treatment of active travel routes
Coastal Towns	Sustainable First Choice	Improve bus services between Burnham- Highbridge and Bridgwater
Coastal Towns	Sustainable First Choice	Provision of step free access at Highbridge and Burnham station
Coastal Towns	Sustainable First Choice	Secure cycle parking at bus stops on A39 Minehead- Taunton route.
Coastal Towns	A Great & Healthy Place	Improve access to NCN 33 including reduce traffic on adjacent streets
Coastal Towns	A Great & Healthy Place	Upgrade route NCN 33 between Burnham & Highbridge for year-round use
Coastal Towns	A Great & Healthy Place	Improvement and maintenance of Highbridge to Alstone active travel link
Coastal Towns	A Great & Healthy Place	Minehead pedestrian realm and pedestrian/cycle crossing improvements
Coastal Towns	Reduce Environmental Impacts	EV charging hubs in council owned car parks
Coastal Towns	Reliable & Resilient Network	Burnham-on-Sea Road Safety plan and expand areas of 20mph speed limit
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	Sustainable First Choice	Wellington Railway Station
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	Sustainable First Choice	Chelston Roundabout safety and active travel improvements
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	Sustainable First Choice	Enhanced bus stop facilities between Crewkerne and Yeovil
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	Sustainable First Choice	Explore and identify potential for enhanced Chard to Axminster bus/rail integration
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	A Great & Healthy Place	Wellington town centre crossroads enhancement
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	A Great & Healthy Place	Chard improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	A Great & Healthy Place	Test and trial locally led proposals to create safer streets for walking and cycling
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	Reduce Environmental Impacts	EV charging facilities at local hubs, including town centres and transport nodes
Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington	Reliable & Resilient Network	A38 Wellington route treatments to improve road safety

Place	Objective	Measure / Intervention
Rural	Sustainable First Choice	Enhancement of bus stop facilities at stops on frequent services
Rural	Sustainable First Choice	Expansion of Slinky DRT services
Rural	Sustainable First Choice	Somerton Rural Mobility hub
Rural	Sustainable First Choice	Develop proposals for railway stations at Langport &/or Somerton
Rural	Sustainable First Choice	Develop rural mobility strategy
Rural	A Great & Healthy Place	Test and Trial local proposals to expand network of low traffic lanes
Rural	A Great & Healthy Place	Enhance vehicle and cycle parking in rural centres, public transport nodes and tourist hotspots
Rural	A Great & Healthy Place	Explore opportunities to introduce local mobile services
Rural	A Great & Healthy Place	Work with local community and partners to support community transport services
Rural	A Great & Healthy Place	Identify locations for, and subject to feasibility, launch rural mobility pilots
Rural	Reduce Environmental Impacts	EV charging facilities at rural centres
Rural	Reduce Environmental Impacts	Promotion of Peer to Peer Charging networks

Appendices

DRAFT



13 Appendix 1: Developing Somerset's LTP

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a strategic document that sets out our approach for all aspects of transport across Somerset and the strategies and actions for improving all of these.

Local Transport Plans (LTPs) are a statutory requirement - by law councils with transport responsibility like Somerset Council must have one. They are important as they are used by central government to assess the levels of transport funding locally. Crucially, they also give Council's the opportunity to set their own transport priorities to meet local needs.

We currently have an LTP, known as the [Future Transport Plan \(2011\)](#), but it's coming to the end of its 15-year life and we know Somerset and the world has changed considerably since then - so we need a new one to reflect how things are now.

Local councils can decide how their LTP will look and feel, but it must adhere to central government guidance or risk losing potential funding opportunities. Although, at the time of writing, promised new LTP guidance has not been published, we still know the key principles and outputs required.

The LTP is set as a high-level umbrella document, with more detailed strategies and policies sitting below it. Some of these include:

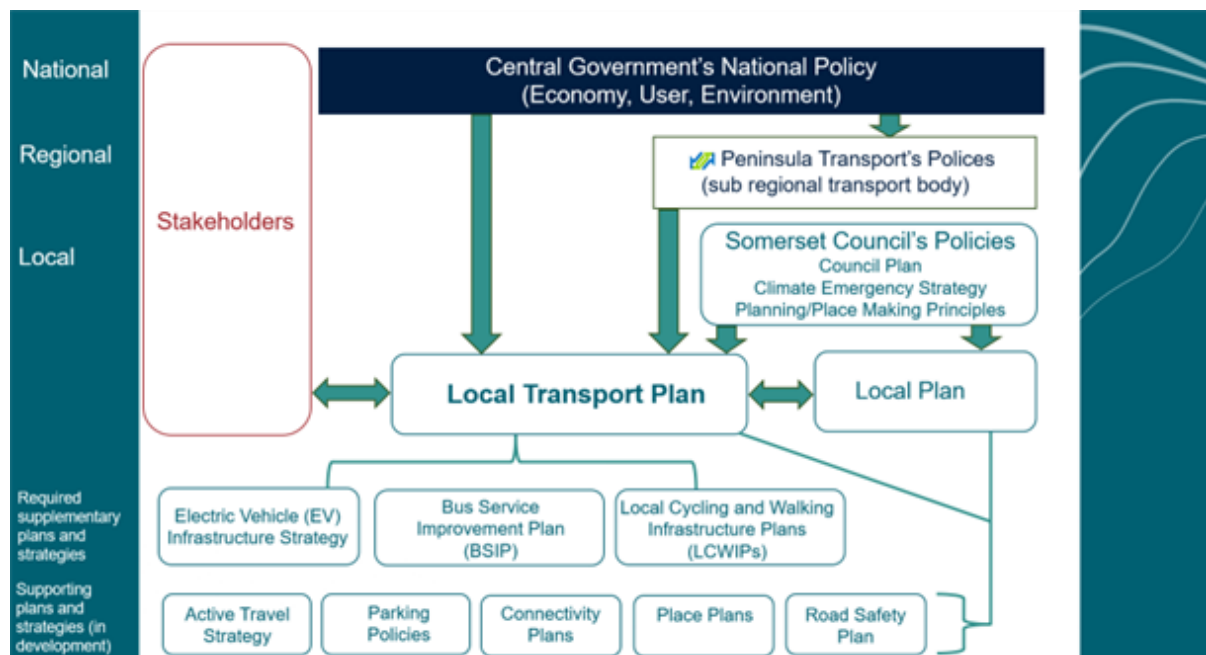
- [Somerset Electric Vehicle Strategy](#);
- [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#); and
- [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans](#).

Others will be developed to give more policy clarity after the LTP is adopted.

LTPs must reflect both national and local priorities and have data and a solid evidence base to support its plans.

New for this LTP is the requirement to set out how we will deliver ambitious transport decarbonisation. Sometimes known as Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) we have undertaken studies to show our current transport carbon baseline and identify where we need to focus to deliver transport carbon reduction. There is more on this in the next section.

Influences and Outputs of the LTP



What are we doing differently?

Historically the national approach has been to **predict** transport movements and where it might increase, and then **provide** new roads and junctions to accommodate the traffic. This was known as “predict and provide”.

For this LTP we are taking a “vision-led” approach. Work to understand travel patterns, emerging opportunities, and engagement with local and regional stakeholders has helped inform and set-out which interventions are best suited, and working together with communities and the council vision consider the transport choices and interventions that meet those aspirations for Somerset’s unique places.

In this LTP we will not be focussing on building new roads - although we will continue to invest in and **maintain** the roads and ensure the infrastructure is fit for purpose. Instead, the LTP sets out a plan for **increasing travel choices**, **improving journey experience**, and helping a fair transition to lower carbon options, while still supporting the economy. We know one size does not fit all, so we’re developing variety of strategies for **different places**, recognising the differences between our range of rural and urban areas.

We have high aspirations in our vision for Somerset, and we know our communities and partners do too. We know our plans are dependent on, and often frustrated by, funding mechanisms and **financial constraints**. Therefore, we’ll need to **deliver in a different way** with a greater mix of project types and more partnerships and collaborations. This includes working with our **Local Community Networks (LCNs)**, town and parish councils, developers, stakeholders and supporting community led schemes.

14 Appendix 2: Carbon and Climate

Our **climate is changing** and the need to reduce carbon emissions is well known. In the UK transport is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and this is even more the case in Somerset. Local journeys contribute for most of these emissions and the private car is the largest contributor.

For central government to reach its carbon reduction target of Net Zero by 2050, we need to deliver equally or more ambitious carbon reduction commitments locally. Through our declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2020 and our [Climate Emergency Strategy](#), Somerset has already set a highly ambitious goal of carbon neutrality for Somerset by 2030.

Communities in Somerset will also be vulnerable to more extreme weather events. Resilience of the transport network will become even more important in response to growing instances of extreme temperatures, rainfall and increased flooding. Along with a focus on reducing emissions, this will be a key consideration of how transport is planned and operated over the period of this LTP.

Quantifiable Carbon Reductions (QCR)

To help decision making and policy development, the Department of Transport (DfT) developed Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) – a tool that allows standardised evidence-led carbon emissions analysis. For this LTP we have undertaken QCR analysis providing us with a carbon baseline, identifying our main transport emission contributors and outlining what interventions we may need for reduction. *Link to QCR info here*

Somerset's Transport Emissions – Key points

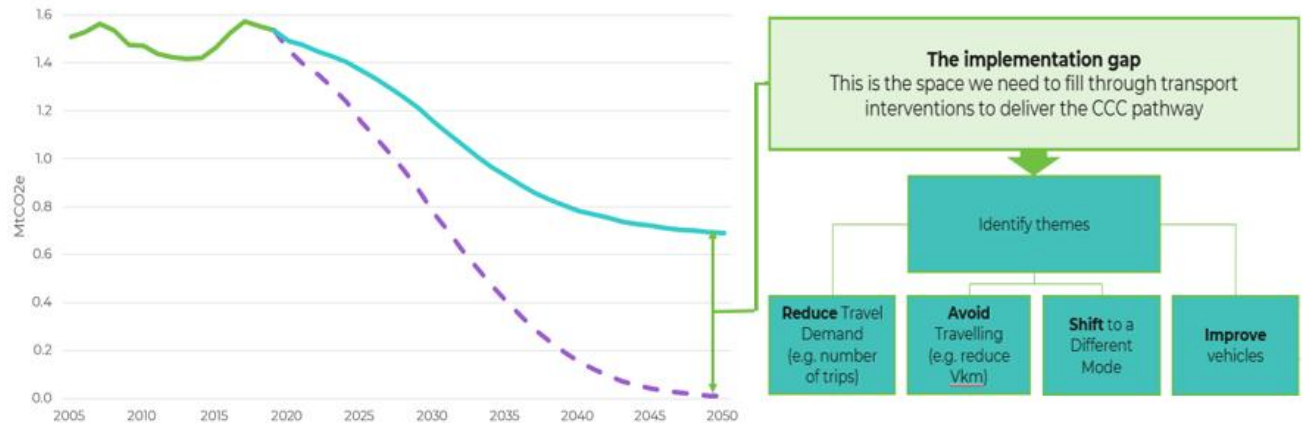
- 61% of transport emissions are generated in Somerset from trips either starting, ending, or being made entirely within Somerset.
- 64% of emissions are generated on roads owned and managed by Somerset.
- 65% of emissions are from cars; 35% from goods vehicles
- 7% of emissions are from journeys less than 5 miles long.
- 58% of emissions in Somerset are from trips 5 to 10 miles long.
- 22% are from trips greater than 50 miles.

This information helps identify the emissions that Somerset Council has some influence and ability to change. We need to focus our efforts in areas where we can have a real impact – **local journeys** and **personal transport**.

We will, of course, work with transport partners to influence where we can, but we have less influence on trips starting outside of Somerset or passing through on the strategic road network (such as the M5 motorway or A303) or that involve the delivery of goods.

In the following diagram, the green line to 2020 indicates transport emissions to date, the blue line shows what would happen if we did nothing but rely on market forces, whilst the pathway that needs to be achieved to get to net zero is shown by the purple line.

Historic Emissions and Carbon Reduction Pathways

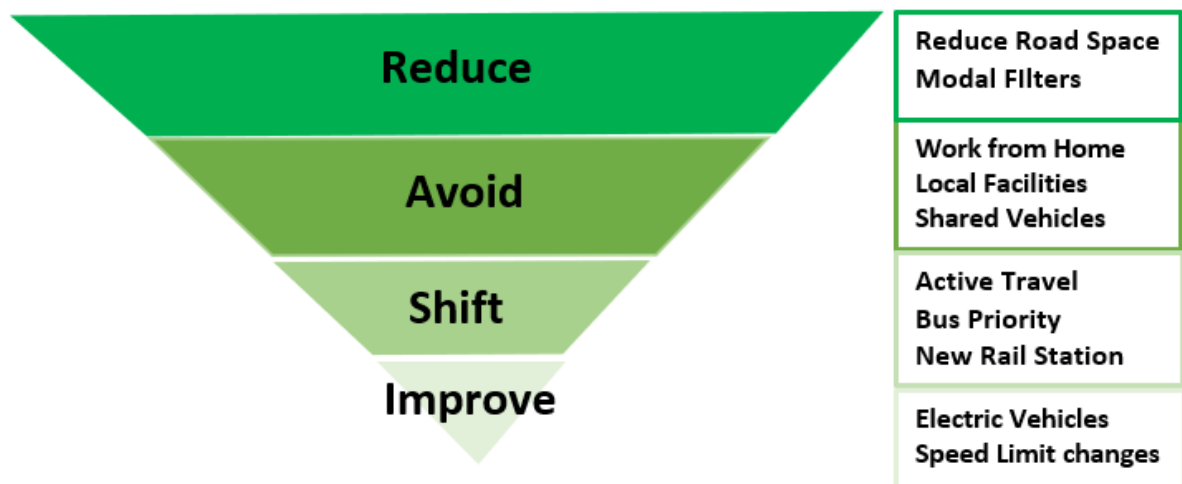


Reduce, Avoid, Shift, Improve

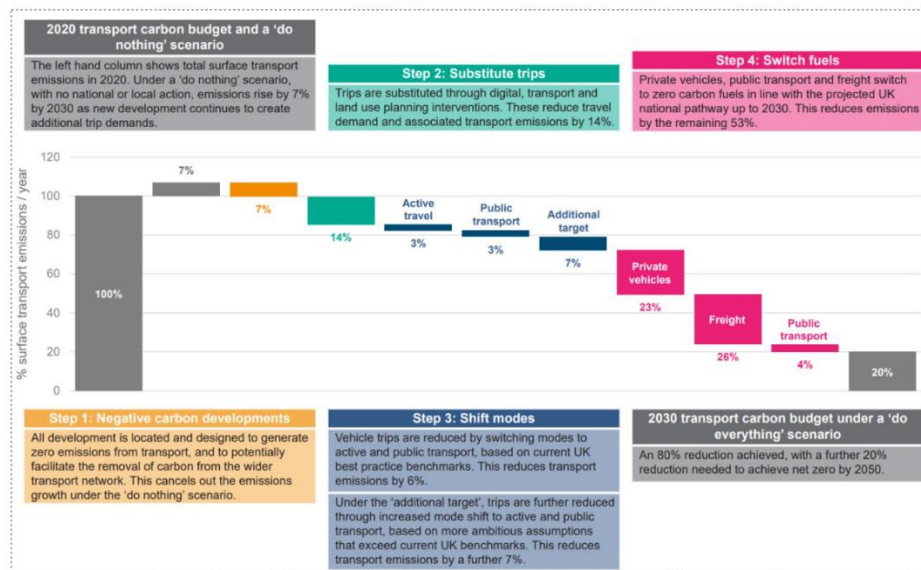
To reduce our carbon emissions, improve air quality and become more resilient to climate change the overall approach will be to tackle transport in Somerset using a **Reduce, Avoid, Shift, Improve** approach.

The diagram below shows some of the examples of the types of things we can do and to meet our carbon targets; all these and more must be considered.

Hierarchy of approach to reducing carbon – new infographic required



Indicative example of an **80%** carbon reduction pathway for transport to 2030



Pathway to net zero:

- All new development is planned and delivered in a way that achieves net zero carbon emissions; and
- Ideally to be 'negative carbon', demonstrating wider carbon reduction benefits by providing infrastructure that enables other places to decarbonise

Our approach to reducing carbon emissions

Electric vehicles will play an important role in reducing emissions, but **further changes** will also be required to meet net zero targets and carbon budgets. Achieving this will also require significant changes in travel behaviour and a substantial **reduction in private vehicle mileage**. Whilst the move to electric and cleaner fuelled vehicles will contribute to air quality, we will still need to do more to achieve the Government's net zero by 2050. There will be an existing stock of petrol and diesel cars still operating on our roads. Electric vehicles, whilst low emission still contribute to congestion and wear and tear on our road.

To support the reduction of carbon emissions, the LTP will focus on the following areas:

- Reduction of private vehicle mileage
- Expanding the network and use of shared vehicles (e.g. public transport and car clubs)
- Improving active travel options (walking and wheeling)
- Supporting sustainable development (localised services)
- Equitable transition to and enabling more electric vehicles
- Improving our highway maintenance and construction practices through better contract management.

Working with our local communities, evidence from studies on EV markets and government guidance, Somerset Council will look to deliver the **right changes** in the **right places**. With ongoing financial pressures and the impact of climate incidents (e.g. flooding) on local government difficult decisions will need to be made but made together with local

communities. We understand that travel choices are complex and personal, but we hope to enable real options that allow a sustainable first choice for more journeys.

DRAFT

15 Appendix 3 People and Places

Understanding Somerset's population

Transport plays a significant role in people's health, wellbeing and quality of life. It enables access to employment, education and services and allows people to undertake leisure activities and meet friends. However, air and noise pollution from motorised transport and poor road environments can impact negatively on quality of life. Transport is also a barrier to some, the affordability of a private car, the access to public transport, distance to local centres and time taken to travel can all impact the levels of inequality across the county.

Improvements to transport can help to address economic, social and health inequalities. For example, making active travel an easy and accessible choice will play an important role in improving social mobility and achieving a healthier Somerset by tackling rising adult and child inactivity. Residents of Somerset tend to be healthier than the national average but there are still areas where life expectancy and health outcomes are lower, and deprivation is higher.

Place Types in Somerset

To deliver the right travel choices in the right place we need a good understanding of the types of people and places in Somerset. For this LTP we have looked at where people are traveling (travel trends) and what services are available locally, but also at the demographic and lifestyle characteristics of our communities across Somerset using Experian MOSAIC data. From this framework we understand that approximately half of Somerset's population are more affluent.

Through this work we have identified a few key issues that are true across Somerset:

- People are living longer and moving to Somerset to retire, projections show that over a third of Somerset's population will be over 65 by 2040
- The population is expected to increase with longer lifetimes and migration into the area
- Social isolation is a key issue amongst elderly people, particularly in rural areas in Somerset
- Outside of our more urban areas there are few offerings of post-16 education making lengthy trips likely and independent travel less likely.
- The majority of primary aged children are driven to school despite this age group having the strongest appetite for cycling or scooting to school.
- Over 48% of the population live in rural areas

This has given us valuable insight into how people within different locations function.

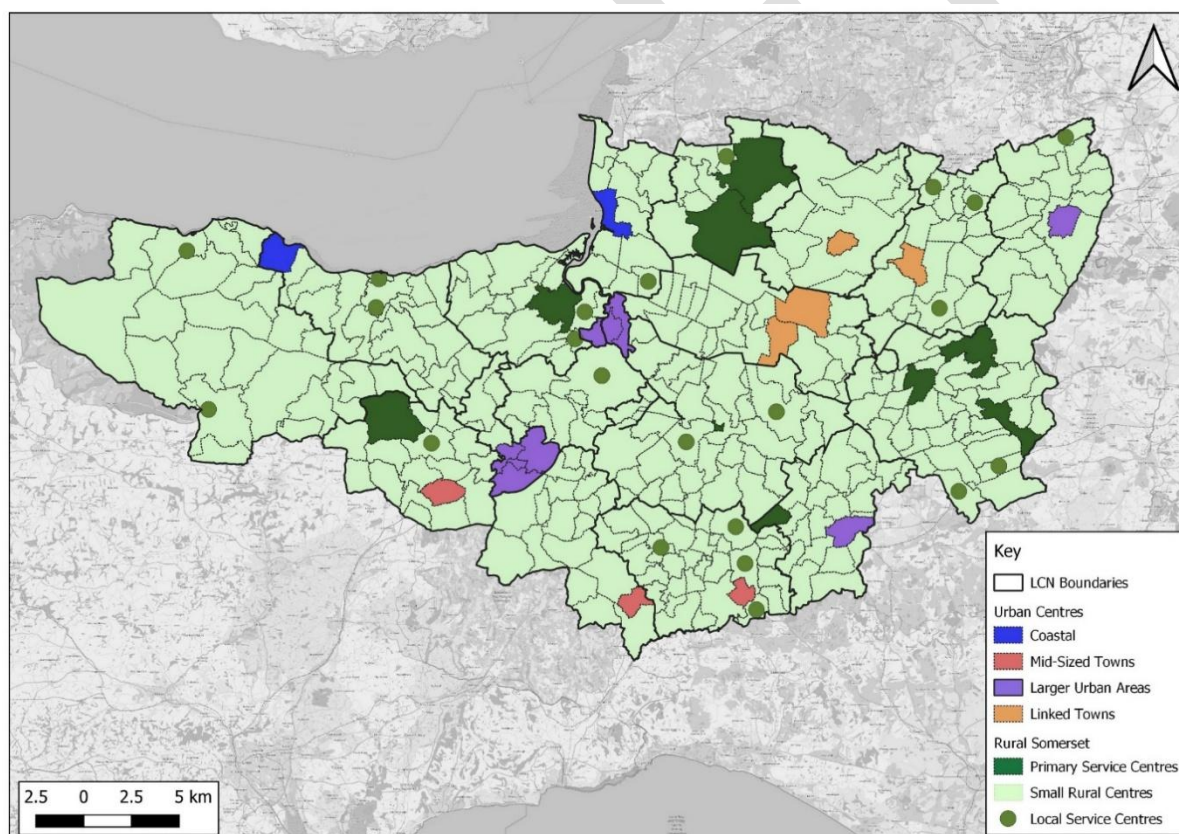
The LTP has a foundation of strong evidence that looks at the demographic in Somerset and a variety of typologies, settlement types and data from social and economic scores, all of which is available in reports published with the LTP. We have also worked closely with our

Local Plan and Local Community Network colleagues to ensure our outputs will work with them. We've identified a set of distinct place types across Somerset, each with a unique set of characteristics.

The place types are:

- **Larger Urban Areas**, including Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Frome
- Urban Areas, including:
 - **Linked Settlements** of Wells, Street, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet,
 - **Coastal Towns** of Minehead, Burnham on Sea and Highbridge,
 - **Mid-sized Towns** of Chard, Crewkerne & Wellington
- **Rural Areas** including
 - **Primary Service Centres**,
 - **Local Service Centres**, and
 - **Smaller Rural Settlements**.

The spread of these place types across Somerset is shown below.



Using these categorisations the LTP will provide a framework of transport interventions that can deliver better outcomes for people locally. It will help align transport strategy with emerging place-making principles and sets a framework of infrastructure that can help inform development proposals in the forthcoming Somerset Local Plan; which in turn will inform future iterations of the LTP.



Title	Street Cleansing Contract
Meeting	Environment Committee
Date of meeting	17 September 2025
Action Required	Recommendation to Council
Report Author and email address	Dave Farrow townclerk@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek the Committee's agreement to establish a Street Cleansing Contract Working Group to develop proposals for future years arrangements for when the current contract ends in January 2027.

2. Background

2.1 The current arrangements for Street Cleansing throughout the town including mechanical street sweeping, bin emptying and a barrow service are delivered by ID Verde through a contract with Somerset Council. This contract was automatically renewed in January 2024 for a three-year period.

2.2 We have held initial discussions with officers from Somerset Council in relation to what the arrangements might look like post January 2025 and we have been asked to develop proposals for how the Town Council would like the service delivered in the future.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.

Wellington Place Plan

- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging
- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no cost implications at this stage other than officer time.

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5. Risks

5.1 The risk of not establishing a working group is that officers may develop proposals which are not supported by councillors.

6. Considerations

6.1 The Committee is asked to consider recommending to Full Council that a Street Cleansing Contract Working Group is established consisting of no more than three councillors to develop proposals for street cleansing arrangements for post January 2027 for consideration by Full Council



Title	Wessex Water Watermark Status
Meeting	Environment Agenda
Date of meeting	17 September 2025
Action Required	For Decision
Report Author and email address	Laura Batcha laura@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval from the Environment Committee to begin discussions with Wessex Water and formally express Wellington's interest in joining the 2026 Water Mark Town cohort.

2. Background

2.1 Wessex Water's Water Mark Town initiative offers support and resources to towns across the region to raise awareness about water sustainability, climate resilience, and river health. The scheme runs annually and supports participating towns to co-design a local programme of activity informed by community priorities and capacity.

2.2 The initiative aligns with the Council's commitment to local climate action, community engagement, and ecological education. Outcomes could include river clean-up events, water-saving projects, rain garden awareness and school outreach.

<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/become-a-watermark-town>

2.3 What the Council would commit to if approved:

- Hosting an initial community workshop to gather ideas and identify community-led priorities.
- Co-designing and delivering a minimum of three activities related to water efficiency, river health, or behaviour change.
- Supporting promotion through Council communications channels.
- Reporting back to Wessex Water on delivery outcomes.

2.4 Examples of possible activities:

- Community river or stream clean-ups
- School visits or educational sessions
- Awareness campaigns (e.g. 'Stop the Block' or water-saving at home)
- Water-saving retrofits in council buildings
- Community rain garden design or planting
- Water Guardian volunteer recruitment and training

2.5 What Wessex Water would provide:

- Officer support and project coordination across the year
- Localised data and insights on water usage, drainage and pollution risks
- Marketing materials and ready-made campaign content
- Funding of up to £5,000 for local projects and events
- Free educational resources and school outreach sessions
- Reusable water-saving items (e.g. butts, bottles) as appropriate

2.6 Timescales

- Expression of interest submitted: September 2025
- Initial planning meeting with Wessex Water: Autumn 2025
- Community workshop: February/March 2026
- Delivery of activities: April–October 2026
- Status awarded: November 2026 (subject to completion)

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Wellington Place Plan (Adopted 2023):

The Water Mark initiative closely supports the Place Plan's thematic priorities, particularly "A High Bar for Sustainability" and "A Town Rooted in its Setting." It aligns with the following principles and objectives:

- Promoting sustainable water use and reducing pollution in Wellington's waterways
- Encouraging community stewardship of the River Tone and tributaries
- Enhancing habitat continuity, biodiversity and climate resilience through education and behavioural change
- Supporting local identity by connecting with the town's rural, water-rich setting and agricultural heritage
- Fulfilling action plan ambitions such as exploring the environmental and energy potential of local waterways, improving urban greening, and encouraging community-based sustainability

Wellington Community Development Plan (2025–2030):

The Water Mark Town programme also supports the emerging priorities of the Community Development Plan which is currently in production:

- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town – by encouraging intergenerational activities in nature, promoting climate literacy, and embedding water-saving and eco-awareness into daily life
- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging – by engaging residents in meaningful, visible local action that reinforces civic pride and environmental identity

- Inclusive Access and Connected Communities – through free community events and campaigns that include residents of all ages and backgrounds

4. Financial Implications

- No core costs to join the scheme
- Venue hire for the community workshop
- Wessex Water covers delivery costs for agreed projects up to £5,000
- Officer time will be required for facilitation and coordination (This could involve a combination of Open Spaces Manager, Community Development Officer and Project Assistant)

5. Risks

- Requires internal capacity to coordinate delivery in 2026
- Risk of low community engagement mitigated by early workshop and tailored programme
- Reputation risk if projects are not delivered, mitigated through clear scoping and co-design
- Scheme is time-limited and may not be available again after 2026

Considerations

1. That the Environment Committee supports entering discussions with Wessex Water to take part in the 2026 Water Mark Town scheme.
2. That the Community Development Officer is authorised to coordinate an initial expression of interest and begin preparing for a workshop in early 2026.
3. That a future report be brought back to the Committee in late 2025 with a proposed activity plan shaped by the Wessex Water engagement process.

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Review of Budgets

1. Introduction

- 1.1. As per the Terms of Reference of the Committee, it should review the budget lines delegated to it at each meeting. The relevant Cost Codes are detailed on the attached tables.
- 1.2. The tables detail the income and expenditure budgets as set for 2025/26 as well as the actual amounts recorded to date. For expenditure budgets, amounts are further detailed for items committed by Purchase Orders (PO) as well as expenditure committed by previous decisions by the Committee that have not yet been allocated to a supplier to raise a PO. The detail tables contain further details on the lines approved at previous meetings giving an update on the balances. Lines have been added to the detail tables assuming all items on the current agenda are approved at the most expensive quotations. The Net Position column details the amounts currently available for use.

2. Underspend Budgets

- 2.1. There are several budget lines with large net positions and no plans for expenditure before the year end. These are reproduced below.

Code	Title	Exp Budget	Net Position
52	Environmental Improvements	30,000.00	26,906.80
129	Additional Street Lighting	10,000.00	10,000.00
131	Green Corridor	15,000.00	10,593.85
242	PA Planned Maintenance	10,000.00	10,000.00
244	Wellington Park	20,000.00	9,826.55

- 2.2. Part of the budget setting process is to assess the forecasted spending against each budget line; forecasted underspending (surplus) will usually be used to offset the level of precept demand. This forecast must be completed by the RFO before the end of October in readiness for the November meeting of Policy & Finance where the first draft of the new budget is considered.
- 2.3. **Therefore, the Committee must consider projects or items of expenditure that it would like to use these budgets for before the October Committee meeting. After this, any spending under these budgets will be strictly limited to the forecasted amount of expenditure.** Councillors can contact either the RFO or Open Spaces Manager to discuss items they would like to present to the Committee.

3. Next year's budget (26-27) and beyond

- 3.1. As per the updated financial regulations, the next draft budget will contain three years of information. **The Committee must make recommendations for any items to be included at the October meeting in readiness for the consideration of the draft at November Policy & Finance.** Again, Councillors may discuss any items they would like to see included with the RFO and/or the Open Spaces Manager.

Alice Kendall
Democratic Services & Finance Manager (RFO)
September 2025

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Summary of Income & Expenditure 2025 - 2026

All Cost Centres and Codes Delegated to Economic Development Committee (Between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026)

Allotments		Income			Expenditure							Notes
Code	Title	Inc Budget	Inc Actual	Inc Variance	Exp Budget	Ex Actual	Ex Committed (POs)	Ex Committed by Committee	Ex Total	Ex Variance	Net Position	
43	Basins	3 040 00	325 00	-2 715 00	2 500 00	376 64		1 000 00	1 376 64	1 123 36	-1 591 64	£1,000 match funding committed to Community Plot project
92	Longforth	3 000 00		-3 000 00	2 500 00	425 00			425 00	2 075 00	-925 00	
148	Allotment Deposits		50 00	50 00	0 00	150 00			150 00	-150 00	-100 00	
190	Longforth Allotments CIL			0 00	0 00				0 00	0 00	0 00	
194	Management Software			0 00	500 00	432 00			432 00	68 00	68 00	
Total		6 040 00	375 00	-5 665 00	5 500 00	1 383 64	0 00	1 000 00		3 116 36	-2 548 64	

Environment		Income			Expenditure							Notes
Code	Title	Inc Budget	Inc Actual	Inc Variance	Exp Budget	Ex Actual	Ex Committed (POs)	Ex Committed by Committee	Ex Total	Ex Variance	Net Position	
46	Footpaths PRoW Maintenance			0 00	500 00	121 86			121 86	378 14	378 14	
52	Environmental Improvements			0 00	30 000 00	0 60		7 362 60	7 363 20	22 636 80	22 636 80	
113	Electricity for Street Light			0 00	1 500 00	450 17			450 17	1 049 83	1 049 83	
129	Additional Street Lighting			0 00	10 000 00				0 00	10 000 00	10 000 00	
130	Land at Westford			0 00	0 00				0 00	0 00	0 00	
168	Cycle Route Cont.			0 00	4 000 00				0 00	4 000 00	4 000 00	
Total		0 00	0 00	0 00	46 000 00	572 63	0 00	7 362 60		38 064 77	38 064 77	

Environmental Improvements Detail					
Code	Item	Budget	Of Which P	Of Which Actu	Balance
April	Compost & Mulch	500 00	107 40		392 60
April	H-rail & tree	200 00			200 00
April	Relocate Planters				-
Sept	Year 2 Tree Strategy	4 300 00			4 300 00
Sept	North St CP	2 470 00			2 470 00
Total		7 470 00	107 40	-	7 362 60

Done FOC - amount released back into available budget (£400)

OS Projects		Income			Expenditure								
Code	Title	Inc Budget	Inc Actual	Inc Variance	Exp Budget	Ex Actual	Ex Committed (POs)	Ex Committed by Committee	Ex Total	Ex Variance	Net Position	Notes	
50	Provision of Benches & Litter/Dog Bins			0 00	2 500 00				0 00	2 500 00	2 500 00		
77	Playing Pitch Strategy			0 00					0 00	0 00	0 00		
131	Green Corridor		610 00	610 00	15 000 00	2 443 70	785 00	1 787 45	5 016 15	9 983 85	10 593 85		
172	Play Area Reserve			0 00					0 00	0 00	0 00		
241	Signage			0 00	2 000 00	1 943 30			1 943 30	56 70	56 70	Line delegated to OSM	
242	PA Planned Maintenance			0 00	10 000 00				0 00	10 000 00	10 000 00		
243	Weed Management			0 00	5 000 00	1 600 00	2 000 00		3 600 00	1 400 00	1 400 00		
244	Wellington Park			0 00	20 000 00	10 173 45		0 00	10 173 45	9 826 55	9 826 55		
Total		0 00	610 00	610 00	54 500 00	16 160 45	2 785 00	1 787 45		33 767 10	34 377 10		

Green Corridor Detail					
Code	Item	Budget	Of Which P	Of Which Actu	Balance
April	Posts & Rails & Gates	1 550 00	785 00	527 55	237 45
June	Bales	3 400 00		1 850 00	1 550 00
Total		4 950 00	785 00	2 377 55	1 787 45

Wellington Park Detail						
Code	Item	Budget	Of Which PO	Of Which Actual	Balance	Notes
April	Fountain Pump	900 00		883 30		Complete. Surplus released back into available budget (£16.70)
April	Lockable Posts (rec)	450 00		481 21		Complete
April	Heritage Bins	2 500 00		2 019 00		Complete. Surplus released back into available budget (£481)
April	Shelter Repairs	700 00		713 37		Complete
April	Graffiti Removal	120 00		112 44		Complete
April	Perennial plants	1 500 00		1 500 00		Complete
June	Toilets Repairs	6 780 00		4 260 00		Complete. Surplus released back into available budget (£2,520)
Total		12 950 00	0 00	9 969 32		0 00