



Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

Biodiversity; Practical measures to enhance wildlife

Thursday 19th March 2026

Mike Deegan
CONSULTING

*Helping Local Communities
& Organisations Grow*



Biodiversity; Measures & New Legislation

Part 1. Background

- Biodiversity locally and relevant national policies
- Complying with recent *Biodiversity Duty*
- Possible steps to take
- Role of principal authorities and agencies

Part 2. Opportunities for Local Councils;

- Accessible advice, support and funding
- Liaising and working in partnership
- Community action case studies
- Engaging/bringing your communities with you

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& Organisations Grow



Biodiversity

Biodiversity

- Bio - Life
- Diversity - Variety

Biodiversity describes the variety of biological organisms in a given habitat, area, or ecosystem.

3 TYPES OF BIODIVERSITY

Diversity of Species

variety of species in a given area



Diversity of Ecosystem

variety of habitats, ecosystems, and communities



Diversity of Genes

variety of genetic makeup within a species



Why is Biodiversity So Important?

Because it contributes to...

Healthy Environments



Cleaner air and water

Nature-based solutions to climate change

Resilience to storms and flooding

Healthy Humans



Food security and nutrition

Natural medicine & pharmaceuticals

Mental health support

Healthy Economies



Resistance to shocks (e.g. disease)

Recreation and tourism

Livelihoods and job creation



Summary of the many benefits humans get from nature, from: WWF



Doom

Gloom

Threats; UK Biodiversity



UK Wildlife



State of Nature

David Attenborough Warns Of 'Serious Trouble' After Report Shows Britain's Biodiversity Decline Is Among World's Worst

'The natural world needs our help as never before.'



State of Nature report
2023: UK wildlife continues
to decline

Published: 27 September 2023

STATE OF NATURE

2023 | state of nature
PARTNERSHIP

Chris O'Reilly (republic-images.com)

Oxfordshire

Oxford Mail

Nightingales, adders and turtle doves are all disappearing: the first ever State of Nature report, led by Wild Oxfordshire

23rd March 2017

WILDLIFE in Oxfordshire has suffered 'serious decline' over the past two decades and urgent action is needed to save it before some species disappear completely.

More than 60 wildlife experts and 40 environmental organisations contributed data on species and habitats dating back more than 20 years for the inaugural Oxfordshire State of Nature Report.



Wild 
Oxfordshire



Full Report

STATE OF NATURE

IN OXFORDSHIRE 2017

Oxfordshire's State of Nature

vital info



146

UK legally protected species

260 species recognised as conservation priorities

3 Important Plant Areas:

- The Chilterns
- The Cotswolds
- Oxford Meadows



146 nationally listed plant species: **2** European Protected; **138** listed as Endangered

3% OF OXON'S 1700 NATIVE AND LONG-ESTABLISHED PLANTS HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND SINCE 2000



Agriculture accounts for **74%** of Oxfordshire's land use

26% of Oxfordshire is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): **CHILTERN, NORTH WESSEX DOWNS, COTSWOLDS**

environment groups:

222



7 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs - European)

111 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs - national)

362 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs - local)

Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) covering **20%** of Oxfordshire and **95%** of its SSSI area



66 The importance of the natural environment must be recognised at a local level to encourage effective policymaking and collaborative conservation **99**

Environment Act

 GOV.UK

[Blog](#)

Natural England

Organisations: [Natural England](#)

 UK
Parliament

Environment Act 2021



The Environment Act 2021 – a turning point for Nature

[Tony Juniper](#), 23 November 2021 - [Biodiversity](#), [Environment Act](#), [Natural Capital](#), [Nature Recovery Network](#)

Biodiversity Duty

BIODIVERSITY DUTY ON
PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

Biodiversity Duty

13 October 2023



NALC have issued guidance on Biodiversity Duty. The Environment Act 2021 made changes to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 in respect of biodiversity. Section 40 of the 2006 Act, in force 1 January 2023, places a duty on all local authorities, including parish councils, to from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective. The general biodiversity objective is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England so all parish councils must take biodiversity into account in all their decisions and actions. The government has issued [guidance](#) on complying with the duty.

Section 40A of the 2006 Act places a duty on principal authorities (but not parish councils) to produce biodiversity reports.

GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Wildlife, animals, biodiversity and ecosystems](#) > [Biodiversity and ecosystems](#)

Guidance

Complying with the biodiversity duty

As a public authority, understand what the biodiversity duty is and how to comply with it.

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#)

Published 17 May 2023

Minimum Requirements

- **Have Biodiversity as meeting agenda item**
- **Note local biodiversity actions taking place**
- **Agree what further steps to take**
- **Address biodiversity when commenting on planning applications**



GOV.UK

Possible Steps to Take

- **Review Nature Recovery Plans**
- **Make contact with conservation NGO's**
- **Carry out Biodiversity Audit of council landholdings and/or whole council area**
- **Gather expert Advice on possible Biodiversity Actions**
- **Draft an Action Plan; for council and in support other local bodies**



Local Nature Recovery





**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust



Wild Oxford



Sutton Courtenay Environmental
Education Centre



Wild Parishes

HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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[PLANNING](#)

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Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

4 MAY, 2023 BY CLERK

Upcoming events at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

Make Links





**WYCHWOOD
FOREST TRUST**

FORMERLY THE WYCHWOOD PROJECT

OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT BOARD



The Voice for Oxfordshire's Natural Environment

Oxfordshire Environment Board (OxEB) was founded in 2018 as an alliance of environmental organisations. We're working in partnership to ensure a strong and united voice exists for Oxfordshire's natural environment.

Wild Oxfordshire

together for nature

Wild Oxfordshire

About ▾ Oxfordshire's Nature ▾ Our Work ▾ Guidance ▾ News ▾ Support Us ▾ Contact Us ▾

Guidance

General guidance that applies to us all and guidance tailored to your specific situation

We all need to work together if we're going to achieve nature's recovery in Oxfordshire. Whether you're an individual, community group, council, farmer, or business, use our guidance to inspire you, and ensure you're taking the most effective action for nature. You can also explore our resources for all which contains a set of guidance that can be applied across all groups.

- Helping Nature on your patch
- Advice tailored to you
- Community map and advice
- Group Directory



- Collaborating
- Engaging
- Inspiring
- Informing

Learn more about our team and the work we do

- Our Team
- Our Work
- Guidance
- News & Events

COMMUNITY TOWN AND PARISH GUIDE TO NATURE RECOVERY

Wild Oxfordshire

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

River Catchment Trusts & Projects



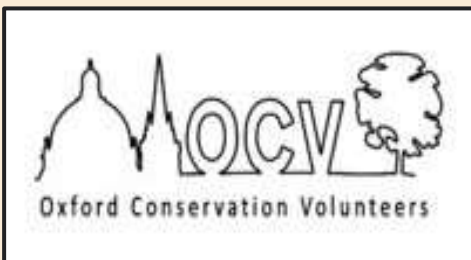
Statutory Organisations



- Access and rights of way
- Land management
- Landscape
- Parks, trails and nature reserves
- Protected sites and species
- Recreation
- Wildlife and habitat conservation



Local Groups



Specialist Groups



The Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire

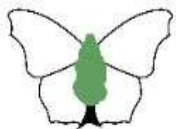
FSO

Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire

Abingdon Naturalists Society




Oxfordshire
Mammal
Group



Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Upper Thames Branch

Principal Authorities

<p> OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>Search for services and topics</p> <p>Home > Environment and planning > Climate action > Biodiversity</p> <h2>Biodiversity Action</h2> <p>What we are doing to conserve and enhance biodiversity</p> <h3>In this section</h3>
<h3>Biodiversity and planning</h3> <p>Guidance and information required for planning applications.</p>
<h3>Green infrastructure</h3> <p>Information to inform development of county-wide environmental agenda.</p>
<h3>Taking action</h3> <p>Information on nature conservation and how to improve wildlife and habitats in the county.</p>

 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Search for services and topics

Services ▾ Bu

[Home](#) > [Environment and planning](#) > [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#) > [Statement of biodiversity priorities](#)

Statement of biodiversity priorities

Detailed biodiversity priorities and actions to deliver nature recovery across Oxfordshire.



Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Final version November 2025

 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



South Oxfordshire
District Council

Search

You are here: [Homepage](#) / [Planning and development](#) / [Trees, landscape and wildlife](#) / [Wildlife](#) / What is 'biodiversity'



What is 'biodiversity'?



Vale of White Horse
District Council

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What is 'biodiversity'?

West Oxfordshire District Council

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Wildlife and biodiversity



Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Wildlife conservation in Cherwell

[Home](#) > [Leisure and wellbeing](#) > [Wildlife conservation in Cherwell](#)



Biodiversity
Annual Monitoring
Report 2023
Vale of White Horse Council



Biodiversity
Annual Monitoring
Report 2023
South Oxfordshire Council



Vale of White Horse
District Council

You are here: [Homepage](#) / [Action on climate and nature](#) / [What we're doing to help tackle climate change](#)



Enhancing biodiversity on our land



Vale of White Horse
District Council

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Nature recovery



South Oxfordshire
District Council

Search

You are here: [Homepage](#) / [Action on climate and nature](#) / [Nature recovery](#) / [Where to get support for your community nature project?](#)



Where to get support for your
community nature project?

More than 100 groups across Oxfordshire are involved in nature's recovery, and as a district council, we offer [funding](#) and guidance to help groups and town and parish councils look after their local green spaces.

Planning & Development



Vale of White Horse
District Council

You are here: [Homepage](#) / [Action on climate and nature](#) / [Nature recovery](#)

Biodiversity and planning

Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

What we do Get involved Explore

Responding to planning applications and consultations



EYNSHAM
PARISH
COUNCIL

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Home > Eynsham Parish Council > Planning



EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - PLANNING

eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Parish-Council

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The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Planning advice

Biodiversity and Planning in Oxfordshire



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Version 2, March 2014

Community and Parish Guide to Biodiversity



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Biodiversity Net Gain

Guidance

Understanding biodiversity net gain

Guidance on what biodiversity net gain is and how it affects land managers, developers, and local planning authorities.

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#)

Published 21 February 2023

Last updated 14 December 2023 — [See all updates](#)

Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership

Advocating for 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Developing an evidence base for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) targets of greater than 10%.



South Oxfordshire District Council

You are here: [Homepage](#) / [Planning and development](#) / [Trees, landscape and wildlife](#)

Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

BNG is an approach to development and land management that leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before, after first avoiding and minimising harm. The government has published a collection of BNG guidance [here](#).

Mandatory BNG will require development proposals to deliver a 10% uplift in biodiversity value when compared to the value of onsite habitats before development takes place. This uplift in value is calculated using the [Statutory Biodiversity Metric](#).

Mandatory BNG will apply to different types of development at different stages:

- From **12 February 2024** onwards, applications for planning permission of **major** development (unless exempt) will be subject to mandatory BNG.
- From **2 April 2024**, all other types of development (unless exempt) will be subject to mandatory BNG.

Biodiversity Audit

West Bletchley
Biodiversity / Habitat Survey

Parish
Biodiversity
Audit 2022

Hatherleigh



Prepared for
West Bletchley Parish Council
March 2021



Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)



Thames Valley
Environmental Records Centre



Thames Valley Environmental
Records Centre
Newsletter
2021-2022



TVERC training

TVERC can provide training for habitat and species surveys, biological recording and identification and in the use of GIS.

As well as an annual **training programme of courses** we can also offer **bespoke training**.

TVERC Training Course Programme

TVERC training courses are open to all who would like to improve their identification and recording skills. These introductory training courses are run by expert ecologists and aimed at beginners. The courses will generally involve both indoor and outdoor sessions.

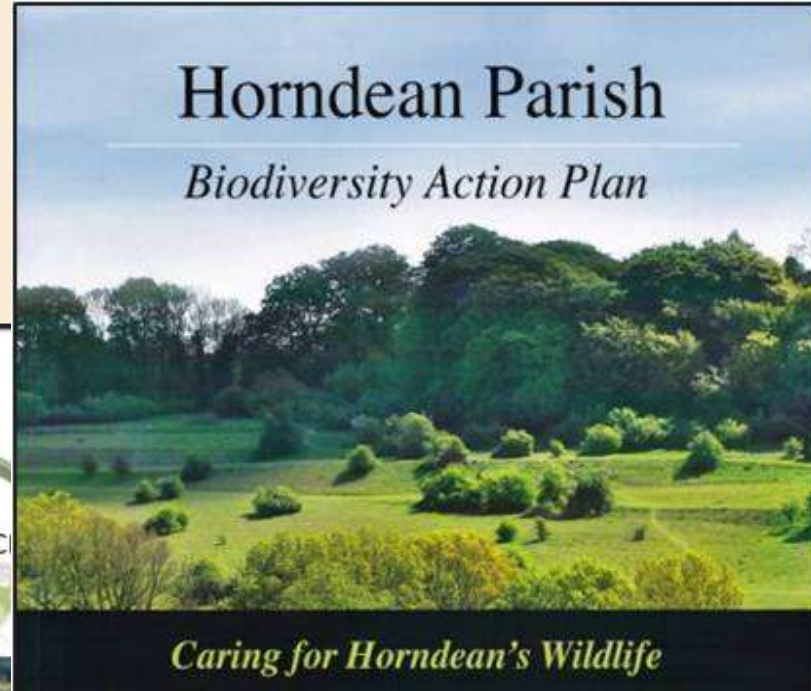


Action Plan



Local Nature Action Plans:

guidance for town and parish councils



What else can your Council do?

- **Manage for Wildlife**
- **Bio Management Plan**
- **Planning & Development**
- **Engage and Inform**
- **Be Innovative**
- **Make Links – Don't act alone**
- **Celebrate your Wild Places**
- **Funding Opportunities**



Biodiversity Policy

Launton Parish Council

BIODIVERSITY POLICY



Wilton Town Council Biodiversity Policy

Adopted by Wilton Town Council on 27th January 2024
Minute reference: 000/23 (x)
Review date: May 2024



Cantley with Branton Parish Council

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy



Churchdown Parish Council Biodiversity Policy 2024



BECKLEY AND STOWOOD PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Biodiversity Group

Sunningwell

Parish Council



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[Neighbourhood Plan](#) ▾

Working Group – Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Wildlife



Charlbury Town Council

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Land and Nature Team



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Climate, Biodiversity & Planning
Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council**

Tackley Parish Council

Nature Spaces Subcommittee

Manage for Wildlife

Horspath Parish Council Wildlife Conservation Area



Adderbury
Parish Council



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL



LAKE & COUNTRY PARK

Witney Lake and Meadows is a 37 hectare Country Park that offers


Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council

Hutchcomb's Copse and Fen

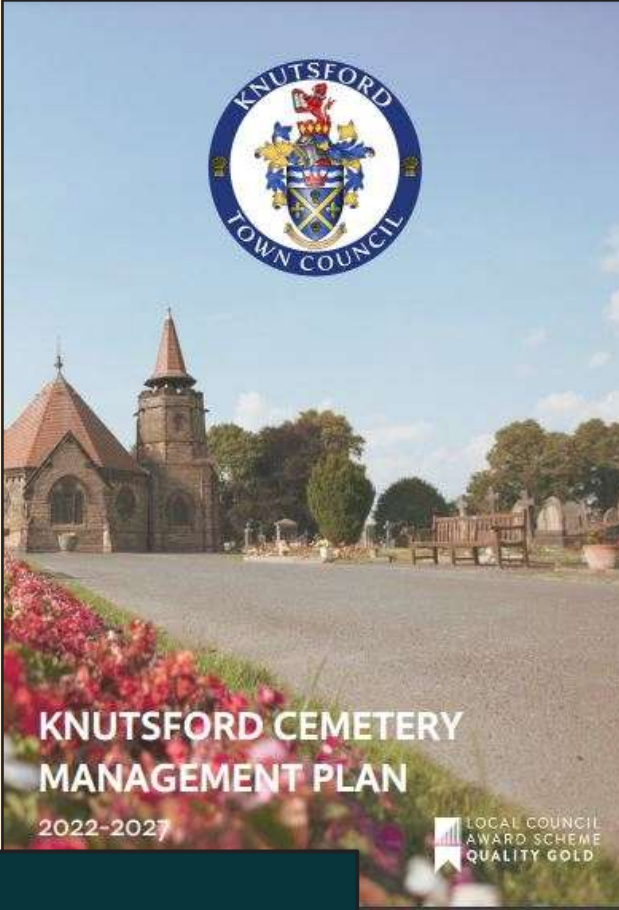


Management Plan

WITNEY LAKE AND
COUNTRY PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2024-2034



Written by Carl Whitehead, Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer
April 2024



KNUTSFORD
TOWN COUNCIL


KNUTSFORD CEMETERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022-2027

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

Little Burnham Meadow Management Plan, Alice Deegan Consulting, October 2023

Hughenden Parish Council
Management Plan; 2023-2028

Little Burnham Meadow & Spinney



HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

CROCKER END GREEN
MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR NETTLEBED PARISH COUNCIL

CROCKER END GREEN
01/08/2022

Trees & Woodland

OXFORDSHIRE TREESCAPE PROJECT

Parish Nature Recovery Survey Report

OXFORDSHIRE
TREESCAPE PROJECT



*A survey of Oxfordshire parishes that
Treescape Opportunity Report
Spring 2023*

OXFORDSHIRE
TREESCAPE PROJECT



Working together for the love of trees

Right Place Right Tree

Thinking about tree planting?

South Oxfordshire District Council
Listening Learning Leading

Vale of White Horse District Council

A guide to planting trees for community groups



Hedgerows



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

CPRE and Wild Oxfordshire – the return of
Hedgerow Heroes



West Challow Parish

[Home](#) [Parish Council](#)

Hedgerow Planting



JAN. 27, 2024

Come Celebrate our winter weather
some Hedge-Planting!

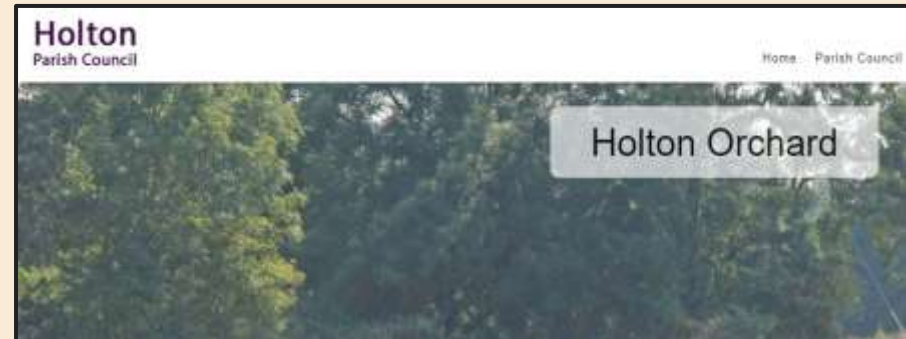
Eynsham Playing Fields
1 Oxford Road
Eynsham OX29 4HG

Event has ended

Orchards



Mid-Shires 
Orchard Group



Rivers & Wetlands



Banbury Town Council



WOODSTOCK
TOWN COUNCIL

Accessibility Statement Contact Us

Home Town Council Documents Bookings Environment Woodstock Information Community Events

Natural habitats

Woodstock Town Council > Natural habitats

Woodstock's natural habitats include:

The Water Meadows



The water meadows are a unique feature in the heart of the town providing a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals, and plants from small aquatic species to mature trees. It covers 5.5 hectares of land on the flood plain of the River Glyme and is easily accessible to the public as an area of quiet tranquillity. It is bounded on the north by the mill stream which, these days, carries most of the water through and under the main A44 road and on to the Blenheim Lake by the seven arches bridge. On the south side it is bounded by the more modest flows of the residual Glyme river. The water meadows are frequently flooded in winter although drier areas have been set aside for managed grazing. The area is home to a large number of protected willows, white poplar and more recently planted species.

The Watermeadows has a Facebook Page: [Click here to view](#)

BBCNT Land Advice Service has produced a Management Report (Sept 2022) on the Water Meadows for the Town Council: [B80WT Management Plan](#)

A large number of birds and mammals have been spotted by our Volunteer Wardens over the last year: [Wildlife Report for](#)



Chipping
Norton
Town Council

Pool Meadow



Charlbury Town Council

Restoring floodplain meadow on The Mill Field



Ponds



Reduce Grass Cutting



Verges

Plantlife Follow us     The Campaign | Spread the Word | Road verge news | Resources | Health & Safety | Find out about Plantlife

Save wild flowers on road verges

Wild Parishes:
road verge and meadow management



Parish council leading the way in wildflower revolution

Twelve parishes have signed up for wild flower verges
Thursday, 6 August, 2020



(L-R) Old Blase Park, Parish Councillors Janet Entwistle and Tina McDonagh, and Cllr Trevor Penfethen at Fleckney's wild flower verge

Leicestershire Matters

Project uses sound to **dementia** >

British Library project embraces

Businesses encourage **Kickstart placements** >

The county council has offered young people so far, with full-time placements available in areas including operations, surveying, business administration.

Help at hand to quit smoking **Stoptober** >



Why hasn't this grass been cut?

We have decided to change the way we manage this local green space and we are now cutting less frequently. By leaving grass and wildflowers in this area to grow long we are:

- increasing habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife
- promoting sustainable landscapes that are bigger, better and joined-up
- encouraging native wildflowers to flourish and grow
- saving energy and reducing emissions by not using mowers and equipment
- providing an opportunity for observation and education about local wildlife and plants
- cutting costs, not flowers
- creating a beautiful meadow for the whole community to enjoy!

For more information on managing green spaces for wildlife, visit www.bucksmknep.co.uk/wilder



MANAGED FOR



POLLINATORS

This area is being cut and collected later in the year to let the wildflowers grow



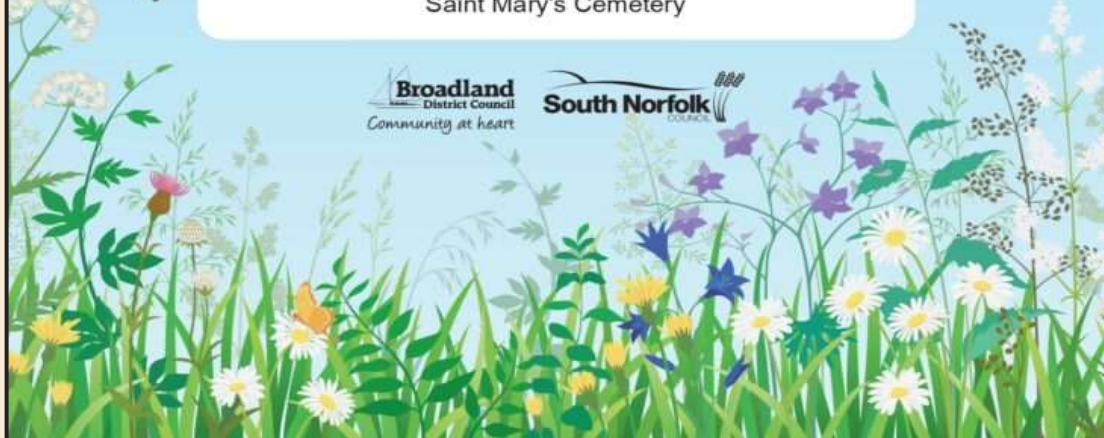
Pardon the weeds We're feeding the BEES!

We are leaving some areas uncut to encourage a more diverse range of flowers and grasses. Which in turn will provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife.

Perhaps you could do something similar in your garden?



Ditchingham Parish Council
Thwaite Road & The Dip Play Areas
Saint Mary's Cemetery



Oxfordshire Verges



Charlbury Town Council

Wildflower Verges

Didcot Town Council wildflower beds



Wild
Oxfordshire

About ▾ Oxfordshire's Nature ▾ Our Work ▾ Guidance ▾

Verges

Guidance on managing verges

What is a verge?

A verge is an area of vegetated ground between the road curb and another boundary such as a wall, fence or footpath. Road verges are often considered public property, with maintenance usually being a local authority responsibility, however some verges' management is taken on by nearby property owners help maintain their respective verge areas.

Many roadside verges have become smaller or have been removed altogether due to road widening and placing footpaths next to roads. Where verges are left to grow wild they often support now uncommon hay meadow and arable weed species important for invertebrates.

 OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Road verge management

Are you applying as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

Oxfordshire

Nettlebed Parish Council

Nettlebed – Wilding our Verges

Why are we considering this

Grass verges and roadside nature reserves can be an oasis for nature. Oxfordshire County Council already have a strategy for this, 'Road Verge Reserve Network' (RVRN). RVRNs are verges rich in biodiversity, including scarce and threatened plants and habitats. These green verges provide a vital link between landscapes, benefiting wildlife and people. There are currently 32 managed RVRNs in Oxfordshire and we want to add Nettlebed's verges to this plan. However, there is no money or support from the County Council to do this.

Verges in Kennington, Oxfordshire

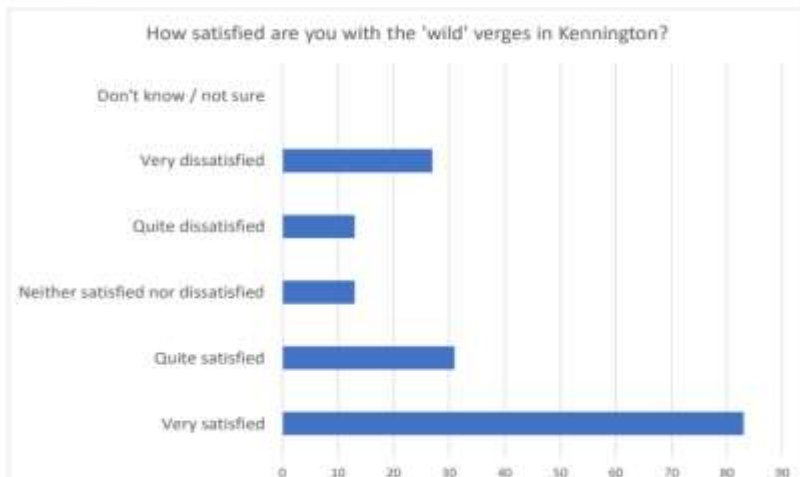


Results of public consultation on 'wilding' of grass verges in Kennington, Oxfordshire

This year, Wild about Kennington and Kennington Parish Council arranged a pilot project to leave some of the grass verges along The Avenue 'wild' to promote and increase biodiversity, particularly amongst insects and other small invertebrates. This involved leaving the grass and other plants in the verge to grow, aside from vision splays at junctions, and to plant wild flower plants in the verges.

A consultation took place during September-October 2021 to ascertain the views of local people on this pilot project. A total of 167 responses were received: 151 via Survey Monkey and 16 paper copies.

1. How satisfied are you with the 'wild' verges in Kennington?



Kennington Parish Council would like to know your views on the 'wild' verges.

Have Your Say!

The Parish Council, working with the newly-formed group, Wild about Kennington, agreed to a pilot project to change the mowing regime of grass verges for the benefit of wildlife. This was to allow wildflowers to flourish, which would improve chances for bees, butterflies, insect and bird life.

We are running a consultation to help decide whether the 'wild verge' project should continue.

Please complete one of the forms in the Village Centre or online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QSCMNPL>



TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT EYNHAM'S GRASS?

9 Aug 2023

WE'D LIKE RESIDENTS' OPINIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD APPROACH OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LOOKING AFTER PUBLIC AREAS OF GRASS.

MAY 11 2022

URBAN GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT



OXFORD
MARTIN
SCHOOL



The Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire

Verge Survey Group

The Verge Survey Group has a long history and has been instrumental in many sites being designated as *Verge Nature Reserves*.

URBAN MEADOW AND VERGE GUIDELINES HOW YOU CAN HELP LOCAL WILDLIFE TO THRIVE



1. Mow less often (once or twice a year)



- Mow once between Feb-March if necessary, then leave flowers for spring pollinators.
- Mow once between Sep-Oct, so flowers have time to set seed & insects can complete their lifecycles.
- Remove grass cuttings to reduce soil fertility, so that wildflowers grow rather than just grass.



2. Leave refuges of long grass and shrubs



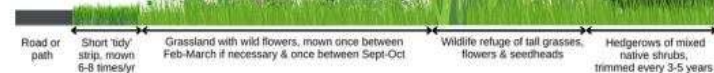
- Leave 10%-20% as an uncut refuge of tall grass & flowers. This helps insects & spiders complete their lifecycle, as larvae & eggs overwinter in dead vegetation like seedheads & hollow stems.
- Leave 10% as shrub cover (mixed UK species e.g., hawthorn, bramble & blackthorn) to ensure food & nesting sites for wildlife.
- Stop shrubs from spreading by trimming back as necessary.
- Mow towards the refuge to help wildlife such as insects, frogs & voles to escape.
- Having a mix of vegetation heights & leaving dead wood in place supports many species, & is good for biodiversity.



3. Work with local people



- Explain what is happening, e.g., with signs, & address any concerns.
- A mown edge or path shows that the area is cared for.
- Prioritise safety and visibility at road junctions.



Wilder Road Verges Toolkit

A guide to getting started managing road verges for wildlife in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

Wildflower verge in progress

We're cutting this verge less so wildflowers can grow more



For more information on managing green spaces for wildlife, visit:
www.bucksmknep.co.uk/wilder



Let's Get Bucks Buzzing



Bee orchids appeared on one of the trial verges.

Photo: Jenny Pearson, courtesy of Chesham Town Council.

Case Study

Chesham

In 2017, Chesham Town Council began a trial on 6 sites (including verges and town council owned open spaces) to see how changing the mowing regime from regular cuts to once per year could help their local insects. The key management change was the removal of grass cuttings after the annual cut. After the success of the trial, the council decided to permanently manage these sites for wildlife and expand the trial. There are now over a dozen sites in Chesham managed for wildlife.

Chesham Town Council worked in partnership with a local group, Chesham & District Natural History Society, to assess and monitor sites.

Meadows & Pastures



RYCOTE MEADOW RESTORATION

Enhancing the biodiversity of Rycote Meadow and making it a place for quiet recreation.

A sign placed in a meadow, explaining the purpose of leaving the area unmown. The sign is white with green text and features the Wallingford Town Council logo and a small illustration of a meadow.

THIS AREA IS BEING LEFT UNMOWN TO ALLOW WILDFLOWERS AND GRASSES TO FLOWER AND SEED

Cutting less, and later in the year, allows dormant wildflowers a chance to flourish, providing food for insects, which in turn provide food for birds and other creatures.

Wallingford Town Council

Wildflower meadows have decreased since the 1930s, even small areas like this are a vital refuge for many bees, butterflies, birds, bats and bugs, supplying a diverse source of nectar and pollen throughout the spring & summer.

Use the meadow as part of a 'wildlife corridor' through the town enabling our wild neighbours to move through our increasingly urbanised countryside.



Charlbury Town Council

Kidlington Parish Council



Engage Beforehand

Resident forced to cut 'disgusting' council-owned grass verges outside home himself

Chris Williamson says he is sick and tired of feeling 'neglected' by North East Lincolnshire Council after the council-owned grass verges in the village reach a 'disgusting' state



New Waltham residents Chris Williamson and Roger Breed, right, are angry that the grass verges are not getting cut on Janton Court, and as a result they're now having to mow them (Image: Jon Corken)

Residents think this overgrown verge is full of snakes and a fire risk but a housing association says it's a wildlife haven

The obsession with going green that's putting drivers' lives in danger: How UK's overgrown roadside verges have left motorists and pedestrians fearing for their safety as cost-cutting councils hide behind #NoMowMay and other eco-initiatives

- UK residents have voiced concerns over roadside areas becoming out of control
- It follows a scheme encouraging councils not to mow any green spaces in May
- Have you seen any dangerous verges? Email dan.woodland@mailonline.co.uk

By DAN WOODLAND

PUBLISHED: 15:54, 18 July 2023 | UPDATED: 16:10, 18 July 2023



News > UK News

ROWING OVER MOWING I'm furious after the council left our grass verges to overgrow – I refuse to cut it myself but it looks like a tip

Tom Hussey

Published: 13:25, 7 Jun 2022 | Updated: 13:25, 7 Jun 2022

Engage & Inform



Radley Village
Parish website for Radley in Oxfordshire

Home ▾ News ▾ Our Village ▾ Institutions ▾ Associations ▾ Practical ▾ Parish Cou

↑ Return to Our Village

Nature

The pages linked to below show some of the nature species seen in Radley. All photographs on these pages were taken in Radley.

Please click on the thumbnail to go the individual posting, clicking on other links such as Family, Species, takes you to a listing page for that item. Click on column headings to sort the postings.

The following is a list of the 50 most recent postings. To access the complete database, use the Nature sub-menus at the top of the page to drill down to the species category you are interested in.

Group	Order	Family	Species	Common Name	Author	Date
	Birds	Gruiformes	Gruidae	Common Crane	Nicky Jones	2023/05/04
	Insects	Coleoptera	Scarabaeidae	Phyllopertha	B	2015/05/28

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Accessibility Statement Contact Us

Home Town Council Documents Bookings Environment Woodstock Information Community Events

Natural habitats

Woodstock Town Council » Natural habitats

Woodstock's natural habitats include:

The Water Meadows

The water meadows are a unique feature in the heart of the town providing a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals, and plants from small aquatic species to mature trees. It covers 3.5 hectares of land on the flood plain of the River Glyme and is easily accessible to the public as an area of quiet tranquillity. It is bounded on the north by the mill stream which, these days, carries most of the water through and under the main A44 road and in to the Berriheim Lake by the seven arches bridge. On the south side it is bounded by the more modest flows of the residual Glyme river. The water meadows are frequently flooded in winter although drier areas have been set aside for managed grazing. The area is home to a large number of pollarded willows, white poplar and more recently planted species.

The Watermeadows has a Facebook Page: [Click here to view](#)

BBCOT Land Advice Service has produced a Management Report (Sept 2022) on the Water Meadow for the Town Council: [SSOWT Management Plan](#)

A large number of birds and mammals have been spotted by our Volunteer Warden over the last year: [Wildlife Report for Watermeadows](#)

East Hagbourne
Village & Community

Climate Change & Biodiversity

Didcot Town Council

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust Events

Wildlife Trust run lots of events through Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties. [Check out their website HERE](#) for more info on upcoming events.

Posted: Mon, 21 Aug 2023 14:25 by [Chelsey Jordan](#)

Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust



East Hagbourne
Village & Community

Opportunities for biodiversity improvement in East Hagbourne Parish

A discussion document from
East Hagbourne Parish Council (EHPC)
Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability



July 2022

Discussion - opportunities

Treescapes	Thought starters
Woodland	Are there opportunities on alluvial lowlands. Thicken existing tree belts?
Boundary trees	Fill in gaps along streams, field boundaries, Moor Lane etc?
Hedgerows	Allowing existing hedges to grow taller? Non-intrusive locations for new hedges?
Grasslands	Can diversity of existing grassland be improved? Field edge wildlife areas?
Orchards	Are there relict orchard sites that could be restored?
Agro-forestry	Does this make sense in our area?
Wildlife corridors	Maintenance, are there gaps that could be filled?

Innovate; Tiny Forests



WITNEY'S TINY FOREST



Polly Inness, Communications Officer at Witney Town Council explains how their community came together to plant a tiny forest to boost biodiversity and as a step to address local environmental concerns.



England · Local News · Oxfordshire

'UK's first tiny forest' in Witney helps urban environment

10 March 2020



Witney Town Council

13 August 2025 · 🌍

🌱 Tychwood – A Tiny Forest with a Big Heart! 🌱

Nestled in Eton Close, 'Tychwood' is one of Witney Town Council's proud green spaces: the UK's first Tiny Forest full of life, learning, and local pride. It's a brilliant example of how small spaces can make a big difference for nature which everyone can enjoy.

Why not drop by for a moment of calm, spot some wildlife, or bring a friend to see what Tiny Forests are all about? You can also read about Earthwatch's Tiny Forests here: <https://earthwatch.org.uk/program/tiny-forest/>

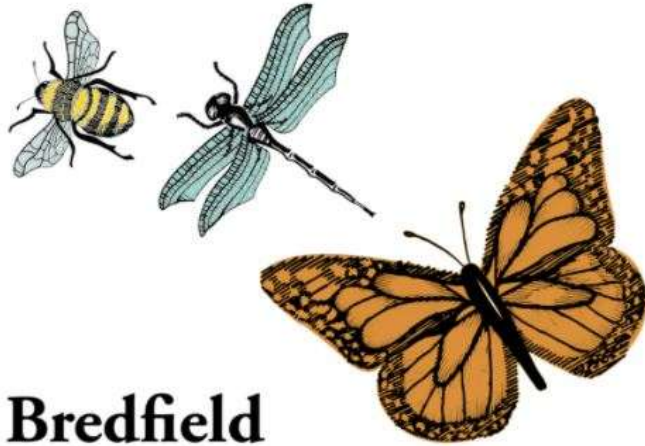
Our team have had to clear up some significant messes here recently. While our dedicated team are proud to maintain this green space, it's disheartening when it's not treated with the care it deserves. If you see anything untoward in the area please report to the police by calling 101.



Gardens for Nature

Bredfield Parish Council

Home ▾ News Events Parish Council ▾



Bredfield Wildlife Friendly Village



Serving the people of Long Ashton & Leigh Woods

Every Garden Counts

Saving wildlife & biodiversity Long Ashton & Leigh Woods style

When reports of plummeting wildlife populations hit the headlines, Long Ashton Parish Council declared a Biodiversity Emergency in our community. Now the Government has set a national target to increase space for nature by 30% and nationally, gardeners, landowners, farmers and councils are turning words into action. For Long Ashton & Leigh Woods, this is an exciting challenge:

The hope is that as many people as possible within the parish will embrace the concept of increasing their capacity to help wildlife. To start the ball rolling, the Parish Council has developed an initiative called

Biodiversity: Every Garden Counts. Making gardens wildlife-friendly isn't a new concept but has gathered more momentum in recent years. Some people in Long Ashton already have wildlife-friendly gardens or have turned their whole front gardens into a wild patch; others are nurturing patches of ox-eye daisies in verges. Even the smallest changes to green spaces can add up, over time, to significant positive impacts.



Logo for Alwoodley 2030 Climate Action Hub, featuring a stylized green starburst and the text 'Alwoodley 2030 Climate Action Hub'.

Join the 100 Nature-Friendly Gardens Club



Amersham Town Council

Bees & Pollinators!

📅 May 31, 2022



Home / The Bug Hotel Receives A New Living Roof!

The Bug Hotel Receives A New Living Roof!

📅 May 18, 2022



Wildflowers Across Our Town

📅 July 27, 2022



Town council scheme sees vibrant murals painted on internet cabinets (Image: Amersham Town Council)

Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council



Swift Nest Boxes

Firstly, the Swift Box Project aims to address the decline of the Swift population, (which has fallen by 60% since 1985) by installing Swift nest boxes within the parish.

The initial stages of the project were funded by the Parish Council and involved installing nest boxes on residents' houses. 20 boxes have been installed this year and

ENSTONE PARISH



Parish Council ▾

News

Parish Hall ▾

Local Info ▾

Recreati

News

Enstone Parish Council > News > Climate Change > Part-Night Lighting – Public Consultation

Part-Night Lighting – Public Consultation

Published on **June 30, 2025**



Hedgehog Awareness Week 1st May—7th May 2022



Aston Clinton Parish Council are helping protect Hedgehogs native to the UK by handing out FREE Hedgehog Highways. Please pop in to our office in Aston Clinton Park to collect yours. Fitting is simple just make sure your fence has a hole and attach to help let Hedgehogs move freely between fences.



Old River Bed SSSI Beaver Project



**Countryside and Greenspace Team Manager
Shrewsbury Town Council**

SLOW THE FLOW



Letcombe
Brook Project

Natural Flood Management

GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [River maintenance, flooding and coastal erosion](#)

Guidance

Natural flood management programme

Apply now for funding: increase flood resilience with Natural Flood Management

From: [Environment Agency](#) and [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#)
Published 22 September 2023

OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

13 August 2025

Community flood projects share £500,000 of funding



Hasley Brook is the subject of a flood scheme involving BBOWT and Little Milton Parish Council



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Slowing the flow: managing water to reduce flooding



YouTube Video



Hebden Royd town council

Serving Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd

[Home](#) [Search](#) [About us](#) [News](#) [Councillors](#) [Meetings](#) [Community Funding](#) [Twinning](#) [Erringden Parish Council](#)



Film: Slow the Flow together



Slowing the flow together



National Trust

A film about flooding in the Calder Valley

Launch night 3rd June, via Zoom.

SLOW THE FLOW
CALDERDALE



Celebrate Your Nature



WILDLIFE GARDENS OPEN DAY (FREE)



Kidlington

Saturday 15th June 11am-4pm

 Please book via Eventbrite so we can send you a digital map of the gardens to save paper

 Or, printed maps can be picked up from Exeter Hall from 9am on Saturday 15th June



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

HOME

THE COUNCIL ▾

COMMUNITY ▾

SEARCH

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Witney Lake and Country Park & Biodiversity

EXPLORE THIS WONDERFUL GREEN SPACE and its biodiversity

A peaceful lake, a distributary of the River Windrush and wetland meadows.

Conservation Volunteers

Kidlington Parish Council

[Parish Council](#) - [Facilities & Services](#) - [Environment](#) - [Contact Us](#)

St Mary's Fields

Wild Banbury is an ongoing partnership between Banbury Town Council, BBOWT (Berks, Bucks, Oxon Wildlife Trust) and local volunteers.



Greener Henley



Horspath Parish Council Wildlife Conservation Area Volunteers

Project work planned for the summer and autumn 2023, updated 30th June 2023





Cultivating a greener future for Banbury Town



Cultivating a greener future for Banbury Town



Could you help create a
wildlife corridor in Eynsham
Playing Fields?

Nature Recovery Network planting event
Saturday 27 January 10am-1pm
Eynsham Playing Fields



**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!**



...for a fun and productive morning
at the Fishponds



Nature and Wellbeing

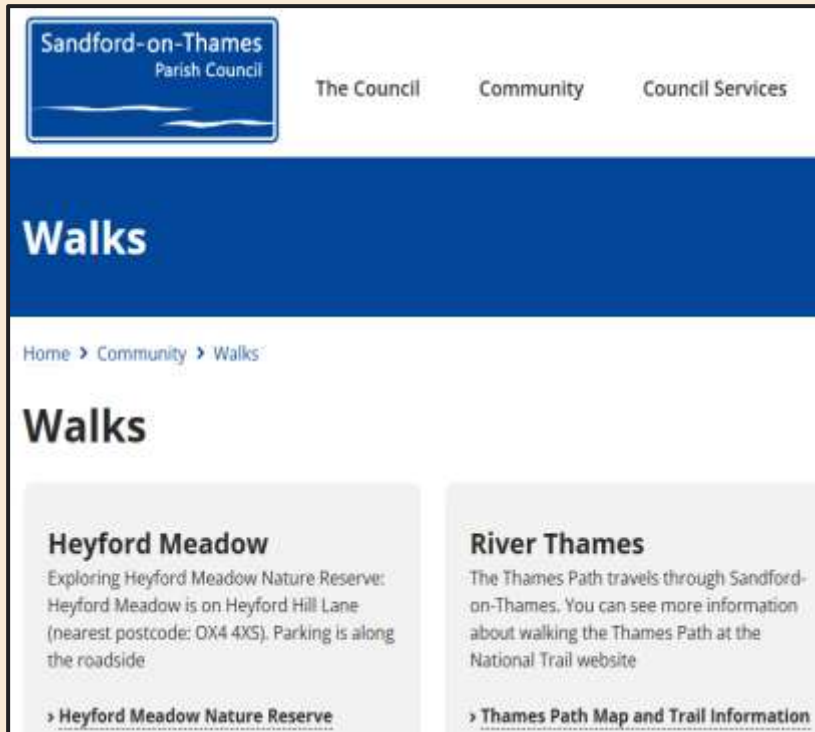


Wild Oxfordshire

About ▾ Oxfordshire's Nature ▾ Our Work ▾ Guidance ▾ News Support Us

Health, Wellbeing & Nature

Ways to connect with nature



Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council

The Council Community Council Services

Walks

Home > Community > Walks

Walks

Heyford Meadow

Exploring Heyford Meadow Nature Reserve: Heyford Meadow is on Heyford Hill Lane (nearest postcode: OX4 4XS). Parking is along the roadside

> Heyford Meadow Nature Reserve

River Thames

The Thames Path travels through Sandford-on-Thames. You can see more information about walking the Thames Path at the National Trail website

> Thames Path Map and Trail Information



Tetsworth Parish Council

Home > Services

Services

Footpaths and Rambling

Information about footpaths and rambling



Kidlington Parish Council

Home Kidlington Parish Council Visit Kidlington Village Environment News/Events Reporting A Problem Contact Us

Circular Walks

You are here: Home / Visit Kidlington Village / Circular Walks

Walks Round Kidlington

We are fortunate to be surrounded by some beautiful and interesting towns, villages and countryside. Oxford and its College and Thameside walks lies only a few miles south of us.

To the North-West and West lies Woodstock and the Cotswolds; to the North, the Oxford Canal walks and to the East, Otmoor, the Otmoor Villages and the RSPB Reserve walks.

However, the countryside immediately surrounding our village is full of history and beauty. The purpose of this page is to introduce some of the walks that will enable you to explore these areas.



Funding



Community Fund Funding Key Initiatives News Insights Contact us

Funding - Search all grants - The Great Gidding Newt Trail

The Great Gidding Newt Trail - Project

Project overview

This is a project by a parish council in Cambridgeshire. The group will use funding to restore their villages main pond, facilitate improvements to other ponds in the network and create a newt trail for the wider community. This will safeguard and increase the populations of amphibians in the ponds, provide habitat management and improve ponds in the community.

[Back to your search results](#)

Recipient organisation

Organisation name: [Great and Little Gidding Parish Council](#)

£10,000
The Great Gidding Newt Trail
30 November, 2020
Duration: 11 January, 2021

GOV.UK

Home > Environment > River maintenance, flooding and coastal erosion

Press release

£25 million for projects using nature to increase flood resilience

£25 million to support projects that use nature to increase the nation's flood resilience

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#), [Environment Agency](#), and [Rebecca Pow MP](#)

Published 22 September 2023



Blog

WOODLAND TRUST

Trees, woods and wildlife Protecting trees and woods Visiting woods Plant trees About us Support

Free trees for schools and communities

We want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. So we're giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. Together, we'll get millions more trees in the ground.



The Tree Council

WHAT WE DO TAKE ACTION VOLUNTEER SCIENCE AND RESEARCH SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIPS NEWS & VIEWS [SEARCH](#)

Apply for our Community Hedge Fund

[Home](#) / [All about](#) / [Recent campaigns](#) / [Apply for our Community Hedge](#)

Plant hedgerows in your community with our grant funding

The Tree Council's [Great Green Community Hedge Fund](#) can provide up to 100k grants for volunteer Tree Wardens and community groups in England to plant new hedgerows, hedge new trees and gap up existing hedgerows in winter 2023/24. Planting can be in rural or urban areas on private or public land where the community will benefit.

Farmer-landowners can register their interest in a related [Farmer Hedge Fund](#) being run by our colleagues at the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) for planting and gapping up agricultural hedgerows by emailing formhedge@fwag.org.uk



Local Environment Fund

Supporting Oxfordshire communities to take action to restore nature and promote public access to green spaces.

This is TOE's original grant programme for community groups and other charitable or non-profit organisations throughout Oxfordshire.

Grants of up to £25,000 can be used to deliver projects that support at least one of the following priorities: Access, Biodiversity and Community.

We award Small Grants of up to £1,000, grants of £1,000-£15,000 and Transformational Grants of up to £25,000.



Account and billing ▾ Help and

Home > About us > Community > Community funding

Community funding



South Oxfordshire District Council

New fund for nature recovery projects

September 2025

We have a new £50,000 fund to increase biodiversity and encourage public access to green spaces in the district.

In partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), the money will be given as grants through TOE's [Local Environment Fund](#) to help boost local nature recovery efforts and reduce the impacts of climate change.



Search for services and topics



Services ▾

[Home](#) > [Communities](#) > [Councillor Priority Fund](#)

Councillor Priority Fund

The fund supports councillor priorities in their local areas.

Each councillor has a budget of £10,000 that they can use to support community projects in their divisions over the course of 2025-2027 financial years. Councillors can decide how to award their funding, including pooling funds with other councillors to support larger-scale projects.



Business Directory Community Groups Bursary & Grants Local Map News Forum Contact

Community Green Grant

Blenheim's Green Community Bursary will offer funds for local, community projects to improve sustainability and/or adapt to climate change.

This is for smaller scale community projects that promote sustainable environmental benefits, such as planting wildflower verges. There will also be practical support for projects on a limited basis. For example, advice and practical support from our gardeners when planting the wildflower areas.

The support from this bursary is up to £500.00.



Summary

- **Make most of new Duties**
- **Make links with partners**
- **Utilise local support**
- **Manage to enhance wildlife**
- **Actions and Innovate**
- **Engage and inform**
- **Celebrate your wild places**

