

Nature Recovery Plan for [add parish or other area]

[add date]

Xxxx Parish Council

Nature recovery plan: [add area]

[add Date]

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Introduction

[Parish Council] is passionate about reversing the decline of nature, and wants to take action protect what is special about [area], create new habitats and get more people involved in caring for and enjoying the natural environment which is all around us.

This nature recovery plan sets out a medium-term plan for the creation of more nature rich habitats in [area].

This plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next ten years.

To do this, this plan has a double page for each theme we'd like to take action on, setting out what we currently have, where we'd like to get to, and how we are going to get there.

But to be a success, we will need your help! You can help be taking action in your own garden, or perhaps volunteering to help tidy up or manage a public space – more details in section x.

Our Five Point Recovery Plan Objectives

[adjust / add to the following as you see fit]

1. To make [area] Parish an even better place for nature and for local people, recognising that access to nature also helps improve our health and wellbeing.
2. To inform, inspire and encourage the active participation of the community in helping nature to flourish and biodiversity to increase in the Parish.
3. To protect, and where possible enhance, the most special natural environment spaces in [area], specifically [list areas, such as designated wildlife areas, nature reserves, etc]
4. To create new habitats, with a special focus on [add eg grasslands, wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows, etc]
5. To see anecdotal, or measurable if possible, gains for wildlife, such as increases in bird numbers, more sightings of hedgehogs, a richer and more plentiful variety of butterflies, and an increase in tree cover and hedgerow quality.

[add photos to help fill gaps]

Theme 1: Gardens

Introduction

Together, the UK's gardens are larger than all of our National Nature Reserves combined. They play a key role in connecting habitats, especially across urban areas, and provide safe refuges for wildlife in an ever-busy environment.

Gardens do not have to be large to benefit wildlife and less is more when it comes to management. It's not necessary for individual gardens to offer everything a species needs if nearby gardens contribute too, for example a blackbird will nest in one garden but forage and bathe in others.

What do we have in [area]?

There are approximately xxx homes in [area], therefore we have approximately xxx gardens, each of which can be a mini-oasis for wildlife. This collage of photos below show some great examples of habitats for wildlife, all of which were found in [area]

[perhaps add a collage of mini photos, to highlight examples of 'good' gardens. Eg bird boxes, ponds, log piles, 'wild' areas, mixed flowers, native hedges]

Gardens: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

1. Encourage home owners to create wildlife friendly gardens
2. Consider setting up a 'gardening club'
3. Consider running a 'most nature friendly' gardening annual competition

As a local resident, **you can help** by:

1. Choose native plants whenever possible
2. Choose bee and insect friendly flowering plants
3. Install a bird, bat or hedgehog box
4. Make sure there are small gaps in the boundary wall or fence, so small creatures can roam freely (but not so big that dogs, cats, foxes or larger animals become a problem)
5. Purchase a compost heap, but make sure it is turned regularly to prevent it becoming a home for unwanted pests
6. Put in a small pond or other water feature – even something as little as an old washing up bowl will attract wildlife!
7. Let the grass grow in part of your garden

More reading:

Wild About Gardens – Encouraging wildlife to your garden with RHS and the Wildlife Trusts [Wild About Gardens / RHS Gardening](#)

RSPB – Gardening for Wildlife <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/>

National Trust - Nine ways to build a wildlife friendly garden
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/gardening-tips/nine-ways-to-build-a-wildlife-friendly-garden>

Theme 2: Allotments

Introduction

Allotments often have many of the same features as gardens but without the physical boundaries between plots so offer a large area for wildlife to utilise.

What do we have in [area]?

We have [one?] allotment in [area]. [add brief description, note anything good / bad about it for nature. Include photo?]

Allotments: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

1. Survey our current allotment area, identifying what parts of it are good for nature, and what parts have potential for enhancement
2. Each year, provide a certificate or prize to the allotment holder who, alongside growing crops, does so with nature in mind
3. Provide tips and ideas to allotment holders, on what they can do to help the natural environment on their plot
4. Consider improving or expanding the number of allotment plots, and encourage more people to take up a plot

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

1. Consider taking up an allotment plot, if one is available, or register your interest.
2. When you have a plot, think about planting flowers that will attract bees or butterflies...or simply leave one or two 'misshapes' or bolting vegetable to flower naturally (for example, don't cut and throw away a bolting leek – let it flower, and it will attract a host of bees and insects)
3. Go organic, rather than use pesticides

More reading:

National allotment society - <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>

Theme 3: Churches and Their Grounds

Introduction

Churches have been a focus for communities for thousands of years and, alongside their primary purpose, are refuges for many species. Bats are well known for inhabiting churches due to their open structure and relative quiet.

The ancient stonework can be rich with lichens and mosses while the ledges and roofs can be ideal places for nesting birds. The church grounds have often escaped the damaging effects of fertilisers and ploughs so contain remnants of ancient grassland where fungi thrive and wildflowers flourish.

What do we have in [area]?

[describe, briefly, how many churches you have, and what wildlife they may be offering at present]

Churches and Their Grounds: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

1. Survey the church grounds, to learn more what animals are using them
2. Work with those currently responsible for maintaining the churches and their grounds, and see what could be done to improve them for nature
3. Example actions we could do include: wildflower sowing; cutting the grass less often; install bird and bat boxes

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

1. Visiting the church grounds, and note what you see and hear
2. Help with any survey work or actions set up by the parish council or church

More reading

Caring for God's acre: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>

Bats in churches: <https://batsinchurches.org.uk/>

Theme 4: School Grounds

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

School Grounds: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 5: Amenity Areas

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Amenity Areas: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 6: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 7: Orchards

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Orchards: Action Plan

The *[area] Parish Council* will aim to:

As a local resident, *you can help* by:

Theme 8: Grasslands and Road Verges

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Grasslands and Road Verges: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 9: Areas Designated for Nature

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Areas Designated for Nature: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 10: Farmland

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Farmland: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 11: Water (Streams, Ponds and Ditches)

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

Water (Streams, Ponds and Ditches): Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by:

Theme 12: [Blank]

Introduction

What do we have in [area]?

[Blank]: Action Plan

The **[area] Parish Council** will aim to:

As a local resident, **you can help** by:

Appendix 1: Map of [Parish]

[this could be just a simple OS map of your parish (which ECDC could provide if you don't have), or, if you have the skills and resource, you could start to plot on it some of the features or actions identified in this Plan]

