

## BAYSTON HILL PARISH COUNCIL LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Government guidance published (17 May 2023) states that town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration
- act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

**\*note – Areas shown on map at end of document and opportunities for Residents.**

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<b>Area 1 – The Community Woodland</b>			
<p>1. <b>Woodland Areas (20,000m<sup>2</sup>):</b> Some light thinning of weaker specimens to allow dominant trees to develop further, and to help develop structural diversity within the Established woodland. Layering of hazel and under-planting with additional shrub layer species to further increase structural and species diversity. Some of this work could be undertaken by volunteer work parties under the guidance of a conservation adviser, to further increase engagement within the site and help keep costs down. <b>(High Priority).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation advisor</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• 50m diameter circle area 2,000m<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	£500 Est	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>2. <b>Rough Grassland (Area 7,000m<sup>2</sup>):</b> The areas of rough grassland within the site are currently of low conservation value, due to an absence of stock grazing or an appropriate cutting regime. Stock grazing is not feasible on a site of this nature, but an appropriate annual cutting regime which involves a late season cut and, importantly, the removal of all cut material, would begin to lower soil nutrient levels and create conditions where less-dominant grasses and wildflower species can potentially thrive. After several seasons of successful cut and remove management in this way, spreading of flower-rich hay from a donor site, as well as Yellow Rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>) seed, will bring about an increase in grassland diversity with conservation benefits, both for plants and insects, as well as increased visual amenity. <b>(High Priority)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual cut and collect</li> <li>• Seed</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p>£500 Est</p>	
<p>3. <b>Orchard (Area 900m<sup>2</sup>):</b> This area has a variety of Established apple trees and is well-managed with the grass beneath the trees being amenity mown on a regular basis, which gives the area a tidy appearance and allows easy access in and amongst the trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Fruit Tree Types</li> <li>• Branch Tags</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• Interactive Panel</li> <li>• Cut and collect margins</li> </ul>	<p>£1000 Est</p>	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>Further value would be added to the orchard by labelling/tagging of the trees using high quality branch tags to show the varieties present within the orchard, and perhaps the addition of an interpretive panel which describes the area in more detail. There is also scope for creating wildflower margins in and around the orchard, further adding to the wildlife value of the area and providing habitat for pollinators in close proximity to the trees. This would involve a late cut-and-remove regime as previously mentioned, followed by the introduction of wildflower seed and Yellow Rattle from suitable donor sites. Yellow Rattle is a parasitic plant that helps to suppress the growth of dominant coarse grasses in the sward that would otherwise outcompete the lighter grasses and wildflower species and is an invaluable tool in developing native wildflower areas.</p> <p><b>(Moderate Priority)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seed</li> </ul>		
<p>4. <b>Sensory Garden(Area 600m2):</b> An excellent addition to this area, the sensory garden already provides nectaring resource for insects, and could be further enhanced by maximising the variety of pollinator plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollinator plants</li> <li>Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p>£150 Est</p>	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>available to further support invertebrate life within this valuable amenity area. <b>(Moderate Priority)</b></p>			
<p><b>Area 2 – Grassland Fringes of the Playing Fields</b></p>			
<p>1. <b>(Area 13,000m<sup>2</sup>)</b> A large and significant area of rough grassland bordering the Playing Fields and amenity mown areas of the football pitches and their margins. This area is currently left as rough grassland and has a restricted range of common dominant grasses and plants that thrive in high-nutrient soil conditions, such as Cock’s-foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), False oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>) and creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>). By a change in management practices involving (i) the introduction of an appropriate mowing regime and the removal of arisings after each cut, (ii) ground preparation, and (iii) seeding from suitable donor sites, this area could be transformed into a low-nutrient, wildflower grassland of significant conservation and amenity value, requiring minimal cost and time input to maintain its diversity. The approach taken would be similar to that used to create species-rich conservation grassland road verges, and I have provided two excellent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut and collect</li> <li>• Scarify the area</li> <li>• Seed</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p>£1500 Est</p>	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>publications from the charity ‘Plantlife’ alongside this letter report which detail how to successfully create wildflower rich grassland on verges. These approaches are directly transferable to other rough grassland amenity areas, such as Area 2 and Area 6. <b>(Moderate Priority)</b></p>			
<p>2. The ‘<b>Jubilee Trees</b>’ planted within the playing fields area would also benefit from having the rough grassland around their bases carefully cut to ground level without damaging the tree bark and stems, and a deep mulch applied in a ring around the base of each trunk, to assist in their future growth and development. <b>(High Priority)</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handy Persons</li> <li>• Mulch</li> </ul>	<p>£500 Est</p>	
<b>Area 3 – Established Plantation Woodland</b>			
<p>1. Bordering the playing fields and extending to the Parish boundary, this area of Established broadleaved plantation woodland has an informal MTB track running through it and is clearly used and valued by the young mountain bikers of the local area. The woodland is of moderate biodiversity value and is best managed through a limited intervention policy which satisfies the duty of care of the landowner as regards tree safety</p>			

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>but does not seek to actively manage beyond this. <b>(Low Priority).</b></p>			
<b>Area 4 – Parrs Woodland Community Woods</b>			
<p>1. <b>(Area 32,000m<sup>2</sup>)</b> This area was planted with an excellent variety of native broadleaved tree species around 30 years ago and has since grown into a valuable wildlife and community asset situated at the north-wEstern end of the playing fields and adjoining the Parrs Pool area. When planted the trees were close planted with the expectation of thinning within the first 15 years and at intervals beyond this, as determined by the growth rate of individual trees. Unfortunately, thinning has never been conducted, leading to a prevalence of tall, thin trees with very rEstricted canopies and dead/dying side and lower branches throughout many parts of the woodland. In the period since the woodland was planted, ash dieback has also arrived and spread within the UK, and many of the planted trees within this community woodland are ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>). For these reasons, Parrs Woodland is now in need of some management intervention to allow the woodland to grow and develop to its full potential, and to provide some structural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competent Contractor (Tree Surgeon)</li> <li>• Volunteers to plant shrubs</li> <li>• Understory shrubs</li> <li>• Climbing shrubs</li> </ul>	<p>£5000 Est</p>	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>diversity. Close-grown areas of tree cover should be selectively thinned, initially focusing on areas of ash cover to maximise cost-benefit from the thinning. Weaker specimens should also be thinned to allow crown and side branch thickening in more dominant trees. Occasional glades should be created and under-planted with understorey shrub species such as Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), Dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>), Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) and Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), where these are not already present. Now would also be a good time at which to introduce climbing and scrambling species to the understorey, such as Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>) and Dog Rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>). To thicken and develop the understorey at minimal cost, existing areas of Hazel can be layered to provide new growth all around existing coppice stools. Thinning of larger trees is now likely to require contractor involvement, but much of the work beyond this could be achieved through a dedicated volunteer group, guided by a conservation management adviser.</p> <p><b>(High Priority).</b></p>			

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<b>Area 5 – Parrs Pool</b>			
<p>1. Parrs pool is a substantial waterbody, surrounded by mature tree and shrub cover, and is a valuable nature conservation asset to the Parish. Adjacent to the Pool are areas of willow and alder carr woodland, which are valuable habitats in their own right. Due to the damp nature of ground conditions in the areas of carr woodland, they are generally inaccessible and although they may appear ‘scruffy’, this ‘scruffiness’ is of great value to nature, particularly insect and birdlife, and the areas should be managed through a limited intervention approach that deals predominantly with tree safety concerns over paths and boardwalks. In terms of Parrs Pool itself, the open water habitat would benefit from being less heavily shaded by surrounding tree cover on all sides, and pollarding of the surrounding Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>) tree cover would achieve this, whilst also prolonging the life of the trees themselves. Allowing more light onto the Pool will reduce leaf drop and nutrient build-up within the Pool, leading to improvements in water quality. <b>(Moderate Priority).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competent Contractor (Tree Surgeon)</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> </ul>	£2000 Est	
<b>Area 6 – Rough Grassland Triangle</b>			



Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>1. <b>(1,000m<sup>2</sup>)</b> This area of rough grassland is currently unmanaged, but, like Area 2, has the potential to be transformed into a wildflower meadow of conservation and amenity value. The approach to be taken has been outlined previously, and further information and assistance can be provided as required. <b>(Moderate Priority)</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut and collect</li> <li>• Scarify</li> <li>• seed</li> </ul>	<p>£750 Est</p>	
<b>Area 7 – Glebelands</b>			
<p>1. <b>(7,300m<sup>2</sup>)</b> The Glebelands site is dominated by an area of flat, open, semi-improved grassland bordered by boundaries comprising fences, scrub cover and, on one side, a mature tree line of oak trees believed to have been planted in 1814 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo. The area is used on occasion for public events and gatherings, and so an area of open grassland should be retained for these purposes. However, there is scope for the creation of dedicated wildlife areas, including wildflower meadow areas and possibly a pond, within the site, if desired. Consideration should be given to the addition of bat and bird boxes to mature trees within the site, to provide homes for these species,</p>			

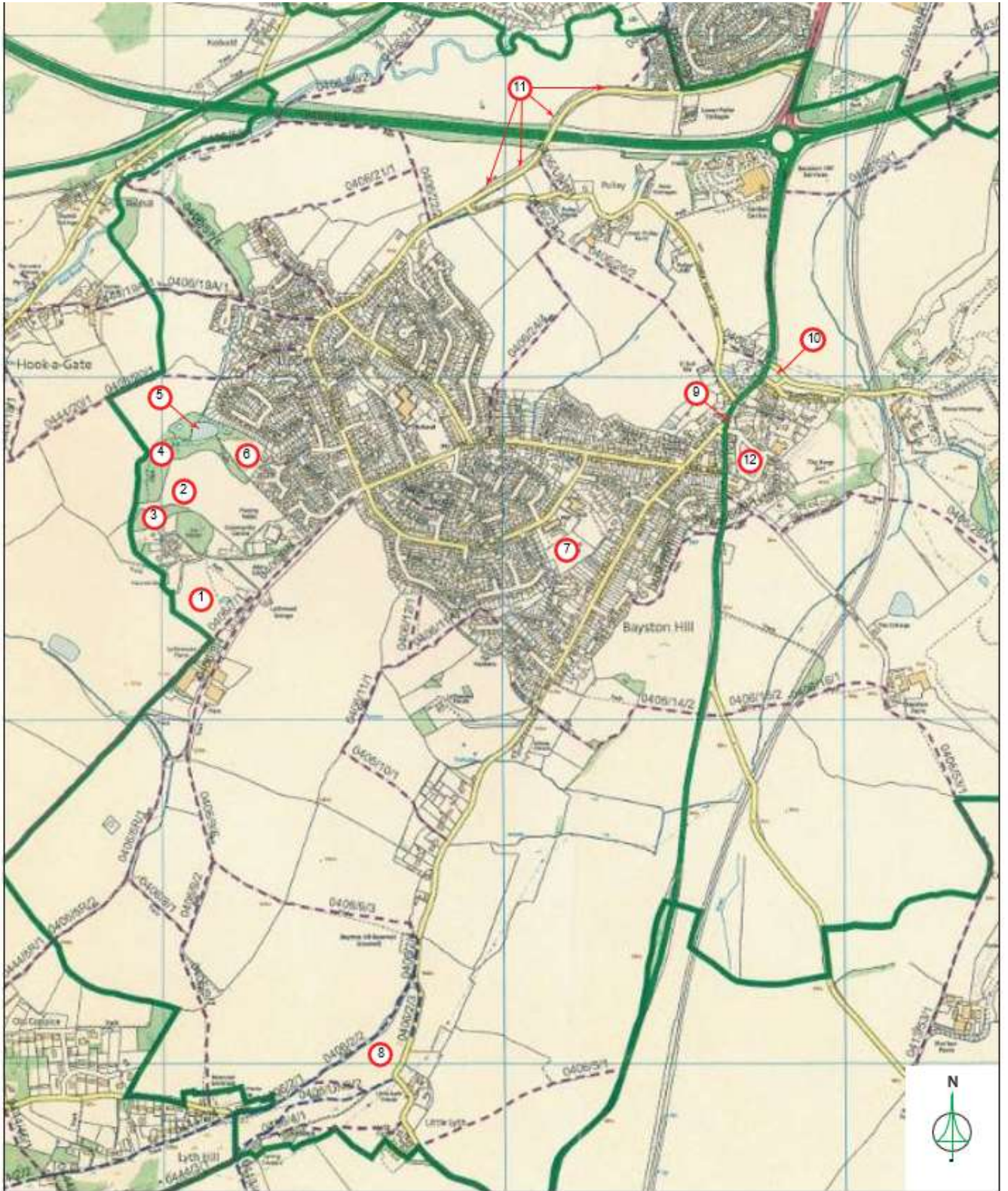
Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>and further advice can be provided where requested. <b>(Moderate Priority).</b></p>			
<b>Area 8 – Lyth Hill Country Park</b>			
<p>1. The north-eastern end of this important and much-visited Country Park is situated within Bayston Hill Parish Council and the Council provides an annual sum towards management of the site to Shropshire Council. Outside the Parish but within the site, Ed Andrews of Shropshire Council has been involved in the Establishment and development of areas of conservation grassland on parts of the site. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement should be planned and co-ordinated through liaison with Ed and Shropshire Council, but include: additional hedgerow planting alongside boundaries, conservation management of grassland habitats to improve floristic diversity, and sensitive management and control of gorse and scrub cover on the lower slopes of the site. <b>(Moderate Priority)</b></p>			

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<b>Area 9: Wildflower Triangle Opposite Lyth Hill Road End</b>			
<p>1. <b>(Area 84m<sup>2</sup>)</b> On the east side of the A49, opposite the junction with Lyth Hill Road, a small area of road verge is in conversion to wildflower verge, and adds both visual and biodiversity value to an otherwise amenity-mown area of grassland. Further enhancement of this area should be delivered by continuing with a late-July cut regime, after the flowers have dropped their seed, and removal of all arisings to continue to lower nutrient levels in the soil. The addition of Yellow Rattle would further help to Establishment of this area. Following the late summer cut, the area should be scarified and Yellow Rattle seed from a suitable donor site spread over the scarified ground. Additional wide road verges to the north of this area also provide opportunities to Establish similar wildflower areas. <b>(High Priority).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers to cut and collect and scarify</li> <li>• Seed</li> </ul>	£250 Est	
<b>Area 10: Tarmac Land near Sharpstone Lane</b>			
<p>1. <b>(500m<sup>2</sup>)</b> An amenity-mown patch of grassland on Tarmac-owned land by Sharpstone Lane also presents an opportunity to develop a wildflower meadow similar to that described in Area 9 above. This</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• Cut and collect</li> <li>• Scarify area</li> </ul>	£750 Est	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
<p>is in a highly visible area on the way into the village from the north and should be encouraged and developed as a priority. <b>(High Priority)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seed</li> </ul>		
<b>Area 11: Highways Verges in North of Parish</b>			
<p>1. <b>(Distance 1200m)</b> There are relatively wide verges on both sides of the road towards Shrewsbury, at the locations marked on the 'Site Location Map'. These are currently rough grassland verges dominated by Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvEstris</i>) with little botanical interEst. Again here, there is scope to turn these into flower-rich road verges through an appropriate cutting regime and the introduction of Yellow Rattle and wildflower seed. This will require liaison with Shropshire Highways to put in place an appropriate cut and remove policy during Establishment, and then a late cut once Established. The Plantlife guidance documents provided alongside this report provide invaluable advice on how to achieve these objectives. In addition, REstoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) should also be contacted for support, advice and guidance to help Establish and register</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers</li> <li>Cut and collect</li> <li>Scarify area</li> <li>Seed</li> </ul>	<p>£500 Est</p>	

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
these verges for future conservation management. <b>(Moderate Priority).</b>			
<b>Area 12: The Common</b>			
<p>1. The Common currently comprises an area of amenity-mown grassland with a variety of native and ornamental tree plantings, from semi-mature to mature in age category. There may be limitations to what can be achieved here due to surrounding householder concerns over visibility, ‘tidiness’ and safety issues, but there is certainly scope for the creation of areas of wildflower planting within what is currently a large area of sterile amenity grassland. Tree and shrub planting is also an option here to add biodiversity value, but this may need to be carefully designed and located to ensure any concerns over visibility and perceived safety are not compromised. It is suggested that this process is driven through a community consultation approach, specifically seeking the views of those with houses that face onto The Common, as well as others in the immediate surrounding area.</p> <p><b>(Low Priority).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound out the residents</li> </ul>		
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>		<b>£13400</b>	

### Area Location Map



## POTENTIAL ACTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF BAYTON HILL

Action	Resources	Potential Cost	Comments
1. Establish Wildlife Ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance – “How to”</li> </ul>		
2. Put up Bird/Bat/Bee Boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance – “Where”</li> <li>• Bulk Purchase via the Parish</li> </ul>		
3. Tree planting opportunities in the garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance</li> <li>• Bulk Purchase Parish</li> </ul>		
4. Establish a wildlife corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance</li> </ul>		
5. Establish Hedgehog Highways between gardens and open ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance</li> </ul>		
6. Establish an online interactive map where residents can add what they have achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to Bishop Castle as to how to achieve this.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	£?	