

Ash Biodiversity Action Plan

This action plan documents what we will jointly do to help nature's recovery in the Parish. It is a framework for habitat and species conservation.

It also recognises the benefits of wildlife to people and helps to identify ways to better promote, and engage people in, biodiversity conservation locally.

Public bodies such as the Parish Council in the UK are legally required to “conserve and enhance” biodiversity. This does not mean that they are obliged to have a BAP, but having one will help them ensure that they are meeting their obligations.

The purpose of the action plan is to:

- translate national and regional targets for species and habitats into effective action at the local level;
- identify targets for species and habitats important to the local area, reflecting the values of local people;
- engage local people in biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
- ensure opportunities for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are promoted, understood and rooted in policies and decisions;

Ash Biodiversity Action Plan

Theme	Work	Description	Resources	Timescale	Lead	Status
PROCEDURE & POLICY	ABWG set up	Terms of Reference agreed	PC	January 2023	MW	Complete
	Admin	Roles and lines of communication agreed	ABWG PC	February 2023	MW	Complete
		Meetings arranged	ABWG	ongoing	MW	
	Policy	Document “Biodiversity Net Gain” guidance to aid PC decision making	A&MN	April 2023	MW	Complete
		Communicate BNG to PC	ABWG	April 2023	TG	
		Develop a biodiversity policy for Ash PC	ABWG	May 2023	MW	
		Policy adopted	PC	June 2023	TG	

Theme	Site	Description	Resources	Timescale	Lead	Status
PROJECTS	Verge by Village Car Park	Reduce grass cutting	PC SSDC	April 2023 ongoing	TG AG	Monitor for what plants grow
		Plant trees	PC community	November 2023	TG	
	New Burial Ground	Plant hedgerow and trees	PC community	March 2023	TG	Complete
		Reduce grass cutting	SSDC	ongoing	TG	Monitor for what plants grow
	Recreation Ground	Plant trees	PC community	TBA	TG	
	Playground	Plant trees	PC community	TBA	TG	
		Reduce grass cutting	PC SSDC	ongoing	TG	
	Main /Burrough Street	Reduce grass cutting		ongoing	TG AG	
	“	Wildflowers	?	?	?	unallocated
	“	Monitor tree health		ongoing	NP	
	Churchyard	Identify opportunities	PCC	ongoing	AW	
	Help Out Monday	Verge in front of school: tidy up, litter pick, shape trees, remove stakes, plant wildflowers	community	May 8th	MW AW	
	“	Nature quiz questions		May 8th	Unallocated	not proceeding
	“	Bioblitz	community	May 8th	Unallocated	not proceeding

Theme	Work	Description	Resources	Timescale	Lead	Status
HABITAT INFORMATION	Habitat Map	Produce map showing Principal Habitats of Importance as recorded	A&MN	January 2023	MW	Complete
		Review and adopt	ABWG PC	February 2023	MW	Complete
		Explore use of Phase 1 habitat recording			MW	
	New habitats	Review method for habitat identification	ABWG		MW CW	
		Review criteria for unrecorded habitat sites	ABWG		MW	
		Identify habitats of local importance	ABWG		MW	
		Agree sites to be added to the list Identify candidate Local Nature Reserves	ABWG PC	ongoing	MW	
		Research benefit of “core”, “stepping stone” and “corridor” habitats			MW	
		Work with SCC, SWT and SERC to identify nature recovery network in Ash			MW	
		Identify possible micro-habitat projects e.g. bird boxes, hedgehog highways, log piles, field margins		ongoing	unallocated	
	Millennium Wood	Tree inventory	MW	April	MW	
	PC land	Tree inventory	PC	ongoing	NP	

Theme	Work	Description	Resources	Timescale	Lead	Status
SPECIES INFORMATION	Collate species data	Analyse and present SERC species data	ABWG		MW	
		Identify short list of locally important species	ABWG		MW	
	Encourage better monitoring of local wildlife	Workshop event for iNaturalist	ABWG	February 2023	DG	Complete
		Invite community to help in wildlife surveys: e.g. water monitoring, hedgerow information, pond monitoring, SWT and other surveys	ABWG A&MN		?	
		Bat Survey	ABWG	June 2023 on	CW	
		Reptile Survey	ABWG	April 2023 on	CW	
		Set up a bioblitz event	ABWG PC	June 2023	DG	
		Identify key species for action, e.g. stag beetles, great crested newts, swifts	ABWG	ongoing	unallocated	

Theme		Description	Resources	Timescale	Lead	Status
PUBLCITY	Raise awareness	Collate information on biodiversity and put on Village website	ABWG	ongoing	AG	
		Social Media	ABWG	ongoing	AG	
		Collate advice leaflets for householders			?	
		Collate advice for landowners			?	
		Consider presentation/workshop			?	
		Events for school/children			?	
		Stories: what conservation projects have been done Stories: how nature has changed locally			?	
		Village Survey: special or part of PC survey?	ABWG PC	?	MW	Lily Humby?

Abbreviations:

ABWG	Ash Biodiversity Working Group
A&MNR	Ash and Martock Nature Recovery Group
PC	Ash Parish Council
SERC	Somerset Environmental Records Centre
SCC	Somerset County Council
SSDC	South Somerset District Council
SWT	Somerset Wildlife Trust

