

Shabbington Parish Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2024

(in partnership with PC Working Group, Shabbington Nature Network)

Site / Objective	Action	Outcome	Target (years)	Reporting/ Publicity
Raise awareness of local biodiversity in whole parish	Organise educational talks, guided walks and workshops on a wide range of biodiversity-related subjects <i>Past topics include:</i> - local River Thame ecology - hedgehog behaviour/monitoring - small mammal trapping/identification - dawn chorus bird walk - bat detection walk Run annual wildlife photo competition, with winners' photos incorporated into a calendar, which also features tips on improving habitats and biodiversity	Gain support from residents for local action to improve biodiversity Gain knowledge on existing species and monitoring techniques	Ongoing	Social media, website, newsletter, Parish magazine, village noticeboard
	Residents spend time outside, observing and identifying wildlife, and gain useful information	Ongoing		
Recreation ground (Millennium Field) (A 5-acre field, bordered by hedgerows and small trees. Mainly laid to grass, with wilder, overgrown perimeter borders)	<i>Initiatives so far undertaken/begun:</i> - plant survey (2022) directed by local wildlife trust, BBOWT - native snowdrops and bluebells planted within small copse of trees - 300 native trees whips planted (supplied by The Woodland Trust) - wildflower and yellow rattle seeds (to reduce grass) scattered in borders - bug hotels and log piles built within the wide overgrown border areas - bird box building session (x2) - session making bird food balls <i>Ongoing/future initiatives:</i> - continue adding native wildflowers (bulbs/seeds/plugs), and trees - build a willow maze	Provide baseline of existing flora Improve environment for invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats and other small mammals, by increasing the diversity of food sources and habitats Encourage public engagement by involving residents, particularly children, in all activities	Ongoing	Social media, website, newsletter, Parish magazine
	Promote increased diversity/density of plants, Provide additional wildlife habitat, and further engage village children	Ongoing		
Churchyard (St Mary Magdalene) (0.75 acres surrounded by hedgerows and predominantly laid to grass, with some trees)	Manage churchyard more effectively through recently formed partnership between SNN, the PCC of the church, and Friends of St Mary Magdalene <i>Planned initiatives include:</i> - survey existing flora - improve mowing regime - grass to be kept short around gravestones, but left longer around perimeter - add wildflowers (bulbs/seeds/plugs) - install bird boxes on suitable trees and possibly the belfry	Enhance biodiversity, whilst still providing the respectful care of the gravestone areas preferred by visitors Help to support local owl populations, and hopefully attract swifts to the area	Ongoing	Social media, website, newsletter, Parish magazine

<p>Other common areas</p> <p>Road verges</p> <p>Glebe land</p>	<p>Manage the verges with nature and biodiversity in mind, alongside the need for road safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wherever possible, cut the grass less frequently and at more appropriate times - collect all cuttings to reduce soil fertility which helps natural colonisation of local wildflowers - plant additional wildflowers suitable for site (e.g. low-growing species where sight lines exist) <p>Organise regular litter picks</p> <p>Enhance a 3-acre parcel of uncultivated glebe land (<i>with permission of tenant and CofE</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tawny owl box recently purchased by SNN and installed by Bucks Owl & Raptor Group (BORG) - plans to add more wildflowers - possibly create a scrape adjacent to the river in conjunction with the River Thames Conservation Trust 	<p>Enrich the range of food sources and habitats for invertebrates, which, in turn, will help birds and small mammals</p> <p>Help natural spread of local wildflower species across village and beyond</p> <p>Provide a more visually appealing environment for the villagers</p> <p>Remove items dangerous to wildlife and people</p> <p>Help to support local owl populations</p> <p>Create a new specialised habitat for aquatic life, including plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians and birds</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social media, website</p>
<p>Gardens</p> <p>(around 200 in village)</p>	<p>Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife</p> <p>Hold open wildlife-friendly garden events</p> <p>Advise and help residents (<i>both practically and with donated items</i>) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create hedgehog highways (<i>already underway, with holes cut in some residents' garden fences</i>) - build ponds, however small - grow pollinator-friendly plants - add log piles - include piles of stones - build bug hotels - build compost heaps - leave heaps of leaves and fallen fruit - install bird feeders, bird & bat boxes - reduce use of harmful chemicals - install water butts 	<p>Demonstrate good practice and inspire residents</p> <p>Help to support the dwindling population of local hedgehogs</p> <p>Support dragonflies, amphibians, bats etc.</p> <p>Provide food sources for bees, butterflies etc, and habitats for invertebrates</p> <p>Enhance biodiversity, more generally, including that of fungi and lichens</p> <p>Support local populations</p> <p>Preserve existing wildlife</p> <p>Conserve water</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social media, website, newsletter, Parish magazine, village noticeboard</p>
<p>The Built Landscape</p>	<p>Ensure that planning consultations consider wildlife conservation, particularly with respect to existing great crested newt and bat colonies</p> <p>Include in the Neighbourhood Plan the requirement for new builds to install bird and bat boxes, and facilitate hedgehog highways</p>	<p>Protect existing species and enhance habitats</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social media, website</p>

<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>River Thame Conservation Trust Part of a long-term project run by RTCT which involves monthly monitoring of water quality (including nitrates, phosphates, ammonia, pH, temperature, and turbidity) along our stretch of the River Thame</p> <p>Tring Anglers Work with members to improve their 6-acre field adjacent to the river</p> <p><i>To date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Himalayan Balsam removed from riverbank - two black poplar trees planted <p>Local farmers/landowners Engage with and assist, where possible, with mutually beneficial initiatives</p> <p><i>To date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - secured agreement for two owl boxes (SNN funded) to be installed in derelict barn of village-edge farm by members of BORG <p>Local parish councils and other environmental groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exchange ideas and share practical experiences <p>Youth involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mentor young people interested in nature conservation as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, - provide the opportunity for hands-on experience of technical tasks, such as river water testing 	<p>Obtain longitudinal data on the state of the River Thame to inform policy makers, Thames Water, farmers/landowners and the general public</p> <p>Start of long-term effort to remove this invasive non-native plant</p> <p>Part of wider programme to repopulate this once-common native species within Buckinghamshire</p> <p>Help to support local owl populations</p> <p>Increase knowledge base</p> <p>Inspire and nurture the interest shown by the younger generation in nature and the environment</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social media, website, newsletter, Parish magazine</p>
<p>Eco-friendly initiatives</p>	<p>Raise awareness of the value in adopting eco-friendly behaviours</p> <p><i>To date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eco-café held in village, selling vegetable seedlings etc - presentation by local shopkeeper providing refills of many foodstuffs and essential household products - presentation by local organic vegetable grower 	<p>Help to reduce the use of chemicals and packaging deleterious to wildlife</p> <p>Promote sustainability</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social media, website, newsletter, Parish magazine</p>