

## Appendix B: Review of Biodiversity Action Plan Sept 2023

### Top 12 Priority Projects:

Site	Action	Progress
<b>Blackbird Leys Park</b>	Use ecological consultant to investigate potential to develop wet meadow areas	Considered to have minimal value in this urban park and remains unfunded.
	Create longer grass areas within silver birch copse adjacent to bowls green	
<b>Botley Park and Tumbling Bay (West Oxford)</b> 66	Work with EA to install a fish pass around the Tumbling Bay weirs to aid spawning and create a slow flowing stream habitat	Completed in 2022, but there will be ongoing work to further enhance this habitat
	Develop high value meadow either side of the fish pass and plant a new hedgerow along the adjacent boundary with farmland	Completed by EA in 2022
	Continue work on meadow establishment in main park area using wild flower plugs and further improve Kingfisher Corner wildlife area	Complete and there is on-going work by the Friends Group/Low Carbon West Oxford to further enhance King Fisher Corner
	Increase the width of the vegetation margin along the river	Completed 2022
<b>Burgess Field (adjacent to Port Meadow)</b>	Continue to work with FOG to manage the scrub to maintain open sward to increase the range of species attracted to the site and check vegetation that may suppress the finer plants, and lay additional hedgerows along the boundaries.	The work to further enhance this extensive mixed habitat created on the site of a former tip has been on-going, with regular volunteer sessions by the Friends Group managed by ODS. "This has become one of the most important inner-city wildlife habitats in Oxford" (quote by BBOWT Officer)
<b>Cowley Marsh</b>	Strengthen the green corridor along the Barracks Lane edge of the park by increasing the meadow area and coppicing the mature scrub to rejuvenate	Complete/on-going: Work has seen the

<b>Park (East Oxford)</b>	the existing planting/reinforced with a native hedge mix	expansion of the wildflower meadow areas and an additional project to plant 32 new, semi grown trees (winter 2022/23).
<b>Cotteslowe Park (North Oxford)</b>	Work with BSG ecology on the establishment of a wild flower meadow in the lower field and initiate twice yearly cut and collects regime (April / May - dependant on growing season). This project will be funded through offset from the Northern Gateway development	Meadow established, and work will be on-going to increase species richness through proactive sowing and plug planting
<b>Fettiplace Rec (Barton)</b>	<p>Fill in gaps to create a longer grass margin along the whole of the Bayswater Brook through the park (where there is room between the brook and the footpath) to increase habitat and deter the regular fly-tipping in the stream.</p> <p>Investigate option to create longer grass area at the Hubble Close end of the site and to plant a hedgerow along the boundary of the houses</p>	Plans to develop the fields on the opposite side of the brook will greatly reduce the biodiversity potential. Options for biodiversity offsetting will be investigated once the development plans are progressed.
<b>Foxwell Drive Open Space (Northway)</b>	Plant whips and create longer grass areas along the eastern and western thirds of this linear green space to increase and diversify habitat, with the added benefit to adjacent residents of reducing road noise from the bypass (the central third needs to remain short grass to provide kick-about area adjacent to the playground). This will also greatly reduce the area requiring ten day cyclical mowing.	A project with Friends of the Earth saw the creation of a 'Tiny Forest plantation' at eastern end of the site in 2021. This habitat is now starting to mature and there is on-going community input to help maintain it. There are plans by County to land a footbridge over the bypass at the western end so this will continue to be managed in its current state.
<b>Hinksey Park (South Oxford)</b>	Work with EA to further improve the habitat of the lake margin, including restoration of the floating reed platforms	Completed in 2021

	Add high quality meadow turf on Hinksey Step (in front of the car parking)	Further assessment concluded this is unviable due to the level of footfall in this area of the park
<b>King George's Field</b> <b>(Osney)</b>	Develop this field as a wild flower meadow and encourage community involvement/ownership through a project getting local people to grow wildflowers at home and then have a planting day on site	Meadow area developed and ecology survey undertaken by Dr J Webb identified a good range of species and potential to further increase species richness over time.
	Review tree management and planting to maximise habitat value	Survey undertaken by Dr J Webb to inform works, but no funding currently available to resource work required.
<b>Shotover Country Park</b> <b>(Horspath)</b>	Restore heath and acid grassland	Complete/on-going
	Bracken rolling/spraying over a 5-year programme	Complete/on-going
<b>Showman's Field</b> <b>(Marston)</b>	Develop ponds and surrounding habitat in the wetter, lower-lying tongue of land at the northern end of the site to attract Great Crested Newts (previously recorded habitat)	This is on a list of potential projects being investigated by OCC as part of a landscape nature recovery bid, being carried out jointly with FWHT.

	Restore this historic ridge and furrow meadow through cut and collect regime	Cut and collect regime now in place and survey by Dr J Webb reveals the high potential of this meadow.
Sunnymead Park and Meadow (Cutteslowe/North Oxford)	Review planting to increase wildflowers, native shrubs and pollinating plants	All works complete/on-going
	Increase the margins around the areas of semi-woodland/copse	
	Work with FHT to develop ponds and scrapes	
	Manage the site to encourage and protect the known hedgehog and bat populations which rely on the diversity of this extensive habitat	
	Improve management of Sunnymead Meadow to overcome dominance by Meadowsweet	

## 72 Additional projects achieved utilising Development Biodiversity Offset:

Site	Action	Comments
<b>Rivermead (Rose Hill)</b>	Re-wetting and restoration of important fenland habitat	Completed 2022
<b>Slade Camp Meadow Field (Off eastern bypass)</b>	Plant extensive (300m) new native hedgerow along the field boundary which lies adjacent to Brasenose Woods (SSSI) and its many important habitats.	Completed 2021
<b>Barn Green, Dunnock Way (Greater Leys)</b>	Create small community Orchard on the green by planting 16 semi-ground fruit trees	Completed 2022
<b>Marston Rd New Marston)</b>	Plant 18 semi grown new trees	Completed 2022

### Smaller urban park projects:

Site	Action	Comments
Alexandra Park (Summertown)	Plant avenues of small trees (including blossom/flowering species) along the western and northern edges of the open green space recently created by reducing the number of grass tennis courts	Completed in 2019, with additional trees planted in 2022
	Trial climbing plants (such as honey suckle) against walls regularly subject to graffiti to deter this activity and provide nectar producing flowers	Not deemed viable due to need to retain access to this historic wall to monitor its condition/maintain it
Aristotle Lane Rec 73 (Walton Manor)	Improve the ditch along the southern boundary to improve its habitat value (scaloping etc) and setting	Not deemed viable due to pollution levels of the ground water
	Improve the tree/scrub margins around the edge of the site through pollarding and under planting	On-going
Barracks Lane Meadow  (East Oxford)	Continue to manage this specialised habitat to protect and encourage endangered butterfly species (including hairstreak)	Increase in Brown hairstreak eggs recorded in 2020
Bernwood Rd Park (Barton)	Review planting to improve connectivity with surrounding area and green corridors and consider creating longer grass area in former play area plot adjacent to Sherwood Close	Not deemed to have enough value to fund in this small urban park
Bury Knowle Park (Headington)	Work with the Friends group to build and install bird and bat boxes (the many large, mature trees in the park make it a suitable venue for both)	Complete

Court Place Farm Sports Site and Open Space (Marston)	Discuss pond water level issues with NFASC to resolve the issue and restore pond margin planting	On-going
	Develop longer grass/meadow areas using funding provided by Flood Alleviation Scheme contractor	
Croft Rd Rec (New Marston)	Work with local group to create and manage a community orchard/wildlife area at the Farmer Place end of the site.	Planting done in 2019/20
	Increase vegetation margin along the whole length of the stream	Completed 2020
Dunstan Park (Old Headington)	Continue to enhance/expand balancing pond habitats	On-going
	Remove the unsightly, dilapidated park railings and create a boundary security scheme just by improving and filling in the existing internal hedge which will increase habitat and improve the park setting. A chestnut paling fence would need to be put in place until the hedge matures. There would be a significant cost involved in this project but this would be considerably less than the financial and environmental costs of replacing the iron railings like for like	Planning approval needed to replace railings. 200m of internal hedging planted in readiness for this.
Five Mile Drive Rec (North Oxford)	Introduce under-planting along tree-line boundary with cemetery	No funding at present
	Consider additional tree and hedge planting	
Florence Park (Cowley)	Improve the pond to increase its habitat value	No longer sufficient water levels in the pond to make this viable
	Consider option to extend the wide shrubbery/vegetation bund which runs along the inside of the railings parallel with Boundary Brook down to Campbell Rd entrance to provide additional habitat adjacent to the brook	Not approved by stakeholders who wish

	(with the added bonus of screen the unsightly old railings)	this area to remain open.
Fry's Hill Park (Greater Leys)	Consider creating meadow/longer grass area at the Windale School end of the site	Development of adjacent Spindleberry/knight Rd site means this area is now needed as recreational offset
Gillian's Park (Greater Leys)	Consider planting additional trees and development wet meadow areas using wild flower plugs/turf	No funding at present
Headington Hill Park (St Clement's)	Continue to work with the Friends Group to manage and further improve the important tree collection (many survivors from the original Headington Hall arboretum), increase wild flowers and install bird boxes	Complete and on-going. Lots of good work by the proactive Friend's group
Horspath Road/Hollow Way Rec (Cowley)	Hedgerow planting to fill in missing areas of the boundary hedge to increase habitat and tackle on-going graffiti on the exposed walls has been unsuccessful – trial climbing plants as an alternative	Not successful
	Plant additional trees in this park to increase the overall canopy cover	25 new, semi grown trees funding through the UTCF planted in winter 2021/22
Long Bridges Nature Area (New Hinksey)	Work with FHT to create two ponds. There is an existing strong flora and fauna profile within this area and would be further enhanced by the creation of ponds	Complete and work will be on-going to develop this habitat
Manzil Way/Cowley Road Gardens (East Oxford)	Plant a hedge along the back of the health centre side of the gardens and plant additional trees (to be undertaken as part of the planned, funded improvement works for this site)	New semi-grown trees planted in 2019/20  The hedge was not viable

Margaret Road Rec (Quarry Hollow)	Investigate option to create a 5m wide longer grass strip along the Ramsey Rd boundary (up to the treeline) to increase habitat and add visual interest to this otherwise featureless sports field	Not viable due to level of footfall so additional tree planting undertaken instead  15 semi-grown trees planted winter 2021/22
Meadow Lane Rec (East Oxford)	Create a longer grass buffer zone along the scrapyard, tree-lined boundary and continue to manage the trees to develop under planting	Complete
Milham Ford Park (New Marston)	Further improve planting along the Jack Straws Lane boundary, and continue work to enhance the pond and meadow areas	Complete
Northway Rec	Continue to develop the planting following the re-landscaping of the site in connection with the local flood alleviation scheme, including laying wild flower meadow turf and gapping up the hedges – funded by the FASC	This area has remained under the ownership and management of the construction company, how have undertaken their own works
Oatlands Rec (Osney)	Plant whips, and create longer grass area in the bottom corner of the field adjacent to Willow Walk	Extensive whip planting undertaken in 2022
Oxpens Meadow (City centre)	Develop under-planting around the edges of the site (including introduction of species which provide nectar and year-round colour) through pollarding /coppicing	Proposed OXWED development and new bridge have changed to plans for this site. To be reviewed once development details become clearer.



Peasemoor Piece (Northway)	Improve the wetland/pond area (discussions already underway with FHT)	Complete
Rose Hill Rec	Plant additional trees, particularly in the Spencer Crescent Field – funded through Low Carbon Oxford/Woodland Trust. This will require on-going community involvement to establish the trees through watering and mulching	Complete
South Park (St Cletmet's/East Oxford)	Continue active management of veteran oaks to allow them to decline naturally (providing habitat for a wide range of species) without endangering park users in this busy public space. Consideration to be made for further improvements, such as replacement of fencing around veteran trees with dead hedging, to improve invertebrate habitat.	Complete and on-going
Twenty Pound Meadow (fragment only - Botley Rd)	Introduce high quality meadow turf and improve planting to provide more pollinator friendly and attractive planting in this highly visible roadside location	This site will form a compound as part of the new train station and bridge works. Site to be re-assessed once works complete.

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