Nature Recovery Plan for Reach Parish.

REACH

PARISH COUNCIL

Nature recovery plan: The parish of Reach 2024

Summary

- The parish of Reach is a good place for nature but…
- There is great scope for improvement.
- This plan details the nature assets of the parish and lays out activities that will maintain, improve, and add to those assets.

Introduction

Reach Parish Council (the PC) is passionate about reversing the decline of nature and wants to take action to protect what is special about Reach, to create new habitats and to get more people involved in caring for and enjoying the natural environment.

This nature recovery plan sets out what we want to achieve over the next ten years to create, maintain and improve nature-rich habitats in the parish of Reach.

The Context

The parish of Reach is small, covering just 422 hectares (1044 acres). As such it is one of the smallest parishes in England. The village itself is a small and compact settlement that sits on a low area of chalk between 3 and 10 metres above sea-level, adjoining the surrounding fen. The parish is divided into two distinct landscapes, those of chalk and fen. The interface between the two landscapes runs roughly east-west through the parish and is of particular value to nature, especially in those areas where the boundary is marked by catchwaters or drainage ditches.

Two thirds of the parish falls within the National Trust's Wicken Vision project area. The National Trust owns a substantial proportion of the land in the parish. However, despite its proximity to Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve, the parish has little in the way of formally recognised wildlife areas with only the Devil's Dyke SSSI being recorded.

About one third of the parish is underlain by peat soils. We calculate that they hold over 120,000 tonnes of carbon, which under current management, is being lost to the atmosphere (and thus contributing to global warming and its net adverse impact on nature) at the rate of 900 tonnes per year.

The community of Reach has a good track record of preserving, improving, and creating nature-rich habitats, for example in planting Reach Wood in 1994 and the 24 Acres Wood in 2013. The PC wants to improve on this. The Reach Neighbourhood Plan, which will shortly go to referendum, contains two policies (RCH8 and RCH9) specifically designed to improve the biodiversity of the village and to protect Local Green Spaces. These policies are underpinned by a biodiversity assessment of the parish by MKA Ecology which was commissioned by the PC in support of the Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/9.%20Reach%20NP%20Biodiversity%20Assessment%20March%202021.pdf informs much of this nature recovery plan.

Our Aims

1. To make the parish of Reach an even better place for nature and for local people, recognising that access to nature also helps improve health and wellbeing.

2. To implement policies RCH8 and RCH9 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3. To inform, inspire and encourage the active participation of the community in helping nature to flourish and biodiversity to increase in the parish.

4. To protect, working with other bodies such as Natural England and the National Trust where appropriate, the most special natural environment spaces in Reach, specifically the Devil's Dyke and the Clunch Pits.

5. To restore the Hythe and to realise its potential as a wildlife site.

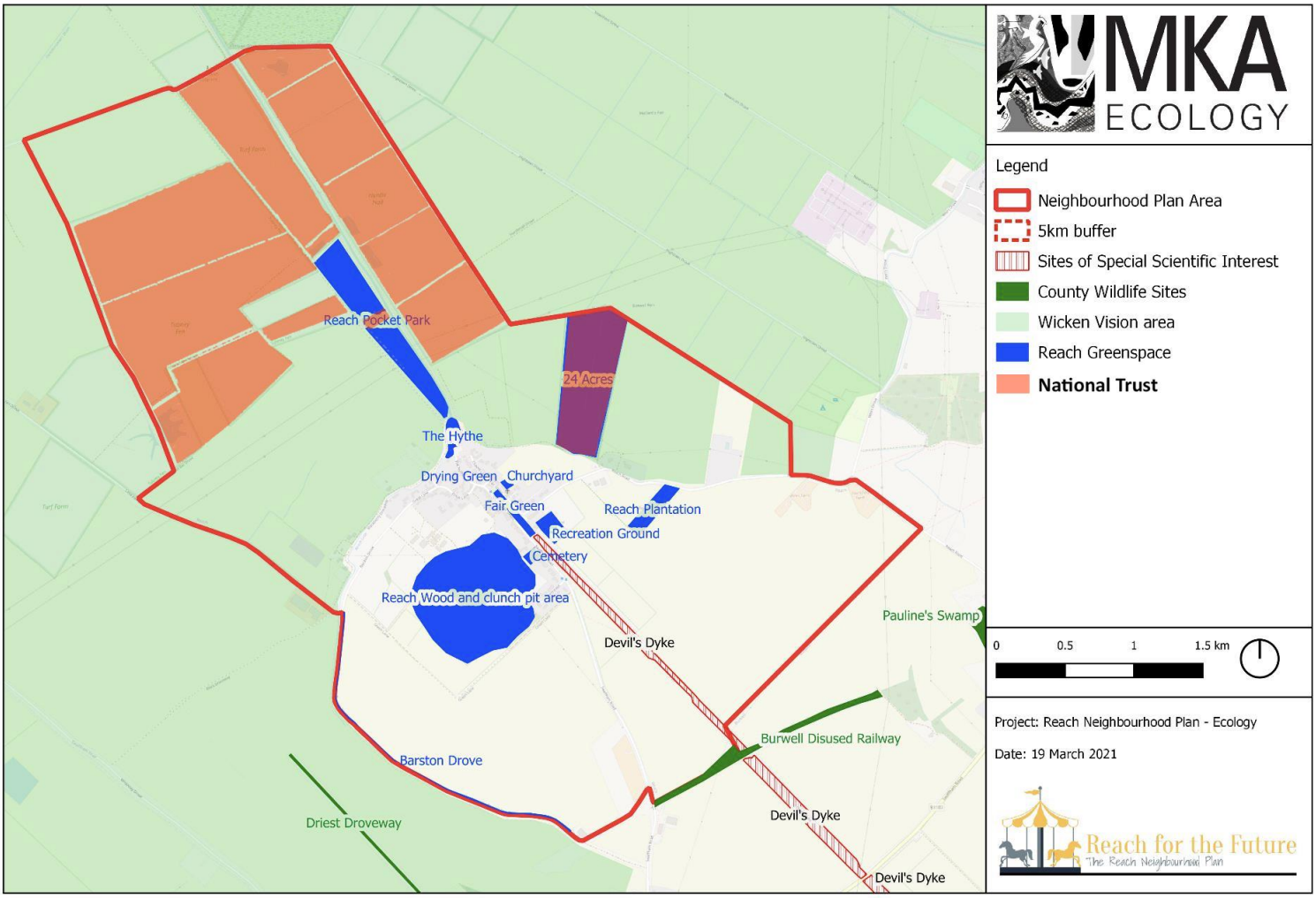
6. To create new habitats, with a special focus on calcareous grasslands, ditches and ponds.

7. To demonstrate gains for wildlife arising from this Plan.

Practical actions for the PC, residents of Reach and other stakeholders to achieve these aims are mentioned throughout this report and are listed at Annex 2.

Local Green Spaces

There are seven open spaces within the village that add significantly to its character, are a valuable recreational amenity for residents and are of considerable value to wildlife. They are captured on the map below



All seven areas are proposed for designation as Local Green Spaces in the Reach Neighbourhood Plan which would confer an additional safeguard against development.

The areas in question are:

- Fair Green and its associated verges.
- The recreation ground.
- Reach Pocket Park, owned by Cambridgeshire County Council Farms. The Pocket Park is an area of relatively unimproved damp grassland containing two ponds or pits (see the section on grasslands below).

- The community orchard and woodland at the 24 Acres (see section on woodlands below).
- Reach Wood (see the section on woodlands below).
- The Hythe, the former port of Reach at the head of Reach Lode. The Hythe, which is the core of the port, is owned by Anglian Water and the PC. It is standing archeology of some significance - there is growing evidence that the Hythe was constructed in the Roman period. Its potential as a wildlife site has yet to be realised, in large part due to the presence of a redundant sewage works.
- The Drying Ground, a small piece of common land, which may be a remnant of the former (pre-18th century) village green and contains several mature silver birch and flowering cherry trees and an understory that, in summer, is dominated by Wild Carrot *(Daucus carota)*.

Local Green Spaces: Actions

The PC will:

- work to see its Neighbourhood Plan (and the additional protection that this confers on Local Green Spaces) approved.
- continue to press Anglian Water to decommission the above ground infrastructure of the sewage works and return those areas of its site on the Hythe, no longer required for its wastewater system, to the village community. The land appears to have been common land compulsorily acquired for the construction of the sewage works.
- will also press Anglian Water for financial assistance in restoring the recreational and nature conservation value of this brown field site.
- will continue to monitor the management regimes for the Fair Green, the Drying Ground, and the Hythe to ensure that the best balance is struck between biodiversity, recreational amenity and cost.

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by lobbying Anglian Water to de-commission its sewage works.

Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows.

From the neolithic period woodland was cleared from the parish to focus on food production and, by the late 20th century, none remained. Since then, there have been five plantings:

Reach Clunch Pit is partly owned by the Parish Council and was planted with Beech, Maple and Ash in the 1980s. The privately owned part of the pit has been partly planted, partly recolonised by ash trees and thorn scrub.

Reach Wood is owned by the Woodland Trust and was planted as a community initiative in 1994. It is a mixed deciduous woodland of 4.59 hectares (11.34 acres). Originally designed to have Ash and Beech dominants, the arrival of ash dieback *(Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)* has had a major impact, not all of it negative. The site of the wood is a former clutch pit, and its thin, chalky soils create an interesting woodland environment. The Friends of Reach Wood works in co-operation with the PC and the Woodland Trust to maintain and improve the biodiversity of the wood.

Reach Plantation is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and was planted by local volunteers in 1998. It is a mixed deciduous woodland of Beech, Maple and Hazel covering 1.2 hectares (c. 3 acres).

Reach 24 Acres Woodland sits on land leased by the Parish Council from the National Trust. It was planted as a community event involving a third of all villagers and the local primary school in 2013. The wood covers 2.7 hectares (6.75 acres) and contains 25 native species of tree and shrub. In due course Oak, Beech and Alder will become the dominant species. The wood is managed by a sub-committee of the PC.

The **Prospects Trust** has begun planting a native **woodland** on a 3 hectare (7.3 acres) field on its holding. In due course the whole field will be planted along with ponds and a meadow and will be open to the public.

Although our locality is characterised by its open fields, Reach has a number of sizeable, predominantly thorn, hedges on Little Fen Drove, Straight Drove Barston Drove/Great Lane, Blackberry Drove, running alongside both banks of Reach Lode and on the byways that lead to Church Hill. The hedges provide shelter and food for a variety of birds. Sizeable winter flocks of Redwing *(Turdus iliacus)* and Fieldfare *(Turdus pilaris)* foraging in the hedges can be a particular spectacle. In the warmer months insects associated with the hedges draw in a range of bat and dragonfly species.

On the outskirts of the village, the hedge on Barston Drove/Great Lane contains Pale-leaved Elm, *Ulmus asymmetrica,* two of which are sizeable

regrowths (around 10 metres tall) after the original trees were infected with Dutch elm disease. This species of Elm is rare. Brian Eversham, CEO of the BCN Wildlife Trust and an expert on elms, estimates the total global population of *U. asymmetrica* to be in the low hundreds.

Reach parish contains a number of notable trees. Those belonging to the Parish Council and numbering approximately 150 are recorded in an annually reviewed inventory http://www.reach-village.co.uk/trees_in_Reach.html The most significant tree in the inventory is a Leathery-leaved Elm *U.coriacefolia* of which just 60 to 80 examples have been identified globally (a definitive identification is awaited). Our specimen on the edge of the recreation ground is one of the largest known and is in good health and is thus globally significant. Two oaks (*Quercus robur*) planted close to the Hythe in the 1970s have grown to become specimen trees. Also worthy of note are 2012 plantings by villagers, of a line of 50 Small-leaved Lime *(T.cordata)* on the roadside verge between Reach and Swaffham Prior and a further line of 26 on the southern edge of the 24 Acres.

Earlier plantings, undertaken as private initiatives, of lines of Common Lime *(Tilia x europaea)* are present on Burwell Road and Great Lane/Barston Drove. Those on Burwell Road are about 70 years old and are a significant presence in the landscape as well as being of value to bats and birds.

Other notable trees that are not owned by the PC include:

- a substantial Small-leaved lime adjacent to the catch water on Great Lane/Barston Drove. The tree is approximately 25 metres tall.
- six ash trees, forming an avenue with a couple of smaller sycamore trees on the Hythe. The trees are owned by Anglian Water and exceed 25 metres in height. Some appear to be suffering from ash dieback
- five large, pollarded Crack willows (*Salix* × *fragilis*) on the bank of the Catchwater Drain in private gardens behind Great Lane. It seems likely that this watercourse would once have been lined with these trees. Four of these are particularly well-developed and managed for wildlife with an interval of several years between pollarding.

There is thorn based scrub of significant value for wildlife along much of the Devil's Dyke SSSI (which is covered in more detail later in this plan). Wet scrub containing maple and willow species is also present on the margins of the pits of the parish (also see below).

Whilst the woodland and scrub creation has improved biodiversity in our parish, it should be noted that browsing by growing numbers of Roe and Muntjac deer is limiting our woods' potential. The deer are preventing the establishment of a woodland understory which significantly reduces habitat for a wide range of bird species. At present the PC has been unable to identify a cost-effective or affordable means of reducing deer damage.

Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows: Actions

Reach PC will:

- continue annually to inspect the trees for which it is responsible and to monitor the development of the woodland at the 24 Acres. Large scale interventions are not anticipated at either location in the foreseeable future although the PC is building a contingency fund to, for example, fell large ash trees in its inventory should they be infected by Hymenoscyphus fraxineus and pose a threat to public safety.

- work with the National Trust, which plans to plant woodlands and hedge on land it has retained at the 24 Acres and on an adjacent field to the northeast (which lies in the parish of Burwell) to create a biodiverse area of woodland, hedges, ponds and calcareous grassland within the Wicken Vision area. The National Trust is keen to receive support from residents of Reach in, for example, monitoring numbers of increasingly rare farmland birds such as Turtle Dove *(Streptopelia turtur)* which are still occasionally sighted in the parish. The PC will encourage residents to do so. Such work should also benefit Nightingales *(Luscinia megarhynchos)* which are also occasionally seen and heard in the parish.

- engage local landowners with a view to planting native trees on Little Fen Drove and the permissive footpath between the 24 Acres and Reach Lode.

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

- participating in further tree planting, diversity enhancement and species monitoring days

- identifying locations for tree or hedge planting

- reporting any damage or disease on our trees to the Parish Tree Warden.

Water (Streams, Ponds, and Ditches)

As noted in the introduction, much of the parish is a low-lying fen landscape. Water bodies in the form of ponds, swamps and braided stream channels were natural features of this landscape. Human intervention to drain the fen and improve the agricultural productivity of the area has been ongoing since at least Roman times. This activity has reduced and altered but not entirely removed the presence of water bodies.

The most notable water feature in the parish is Reach Lode which was probably created by the Romans but re-routed and remodelled on several occasions through to the 18th century. It runs in a northwesterly direction from the Hythe to join the River Cam at Upware. One mile (1.5km) lies within the parish. The lode is fed by springs that emerge at the fen edge and its water level is regulated by an Environment Agency pump at Upware. In the summer months water movement is negligible and the lode effectively becomes a linear pond. Indeed, when water levels become low the lode receives flow-support (augmentation) from the EA ‘Lodes-Granta scheme', which pumps chalk groundwater from a borehole on Newmarket Heath and discharges it in to the Catchwater at Swaffham Prior.

The lode is host to a variety of still water fish such as Pike *(Esox lucius)*, Perch (Perca fluviatilis), Zander *(Stizostedion lucioperca)*, Silver Bream *(Blicca bjoerkna)*(and hybrids), Dace *(Leuciscus leuciscus)*, Tench (*Tinca tinca*), Roach *(Rutilus rutilus),* Rudd *(Scardnius erythrophtalmus)* and Gudgeon *(Gobio gobio)*. There is anecdotal evidence from anglers that shoals of Roach and Rudd have increased in size and quality since Anglian Water ended the processing of sewage on the Hythe. Kingfishers *(Alcedo atthis)* are occasionally sighted flying along the lode. In recent years there have been very rare sightings of otters *(Lutra lutra)* in or adjacent to the lode. However, there is evidence, in terms of the remains of large fish and spraints, to suggest that otters visit the parish rather more frequently.

Half of Tubney Mere, a former irrigation reservoir, lies within the parish. Owned by the National Trust, it is a haven for wildfowl especially in winter months when Wigeon and Mallard are present in large numbers. Smaller number of Gadwall *(Anas strepera)* also present then too. Great crested *(Podiceps cristatus)* and Little Grebe *(Tachybaptus ruficollis)*, and Coot (*Fulica atra)* are resident thought the the year Mute swans, Greylag and Canada geese and Marsh Harriers visit regularly. Some years ago, Avocet *(Recurvirostra avosetta)* nested on the margins of the mere.

There are four large ponds, termed pits, in close proximity to Reach Lode. These were probably created as borrow pits, the underlying gault clay being extracted and used in the construction and maintenance of the lode. It is possible that the ponds are relics of 19th century coprolite digging. The ponds host Common and Mirror Carp *(Cyprinus carpio)* Rudd and Tench. Some are visited by anglers on an informal basis (although in the past they were managed by angling clubs). The pits also attract water birds such as Coot, Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus)* and the occasional Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*). Muntjac deer and bats are also present.

The fen area of the parish contains a network of drainage ditches which form part of the system for which Swaffham Internal Drainage Board (IDB) is responsible. Most of the network is regularly dredged of vegetation, especially emerging reed. Nonetheless it still offers important habitat and a secure network of routes between key wildlife sites.

Water voles *(Arvicola amphibius)* have been recorded at sites within the ditch network.

Water (Streams, Ponds, and Ditches): Action Plan

The PC will:

- support the National Trust's plans to construct spring-fed ponds on the land the Trust retains on the 24 Acres to create scrapes on land the Trust owns at Hurdle Hall and to increase water abstraction and retention on Tubney Fen
- examine the feasibility of restoring the eastern channel of the Hythe in conjunction with the neighbouring landowner, Cambridgeshire County Council Archeology Department, Anglian Water, and the Environment Agency
- engage with the IDB to identify opportunities to improve biodiversity in the ditches of the parish.

The Devil's Dyke SSSI

The Devil's Dyke is an Anglo-Saxon earthwork, arguably the finest in the country, that runs from Reach in a south easterly direction for 7.5 miles (12 kilometres). In addition to being a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the internationally important areas of chalk grassland that make up

much of its slopes it is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Approximately 7 per cent of the Dyke sits within the parish of Reach.

The case for granting SSI status states:
'The Devil's Dyke holds one of the best and most extensive areas of species-rich chalk grassland in the county…. The grassland is of a type characteristic to chalklands of south, central and eastern England and represents a habitat type now very restricted in distribution and extent throughout its British range….Originally colonised by plants from adjacent grassland, much of the latter is now arable and so the Dyke now remains as one of the few areas still supporting these vegetation communities, once traditionally maintained by sheep grazing. The species-rich grassland community is dominated by upright brome (*Bromus erectus*) and a range of typical chalk herbs are present including salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*) and rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*). Some uncommon plants such as purple milk-vetch (*Astragalus danicus*), bastard toadflax (*Thesium humifusum*) and the pasque flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) are also present together with a number of national rarities. The chalk scrub is dominated by thickets of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) but many other shrubs are present including buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*), wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) and rose (*Rosa spp)*. The wood, scrub and grassland habitats combined are valuable for a number of insects which are now uncommon in the county. The site also provides an attractive nesting and feeding area for many birds in a part of the country where cover and semi-natural habitats are scarce'.

Surprisingly the citation fails to mention the presence of Lizard Orchid *(Himantoglossum hircinum)* and other orchid species that are present on the Dyke.

Scrub management on the dyke in our parish has been limited in recent years and grassland has reduced.

Devil's Dyke SSSI: Actions

The Parish Council will engage regularly with the Wildlife Trust to explore the benefits of implementing a rotational scrub management system or other management actions to improve the biodiversity of the Dyke.

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by volunteering to assist with scrub management days or as and when they are announced.

Reach Clunch Pits

Clunch, a form of building chalk, has been extracted from pits on the outskirts of Reach for centuries. Whilst many areas of extraction have now been reclaimed in various ways, two areas of remnant clunch workings remain to the south east of the village, covering an area of approximately 0.6 hectares (1.5 acres). The PC owns approximately 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) of this area; the remainder is privately owned. All areas are inaccessible to the public and are bounded to the south and east by steep cliffs of unworked clunch that rise to about 15 metres. The cliffs have been listed by Cambridgeshire Geological Society.

As mentioned above, the area has been partly planted and partly naturally re-colonised by ash, maple, hawthorn. The cliffs which in some places are covered by ivy provide excellent habitat for bats and birds including Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Reach Clunch Pits: Actions

The PC will sponsor a survey of its clunch pit by residents with appropriate skills to scope the wildlife as a first step towards establishing a management plan.

Gardens

The UK's gardens cover an area that is larger than all of our National Nature Reserves combined. They play a key role in connecting habitats and provide safe refuges for wildlife.

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.

There are approximately 150 homes in Reach, virtually all of which have gardens, and which have the potential to be mini oases for wildlife. This is particularly so because the small size of Reach and its layout ensures that most of its gardens adjoin open countryside.

Gardens: Actions

The PC will:

- encourage home owners to create wildlife friendly gardens
- consider running a ‘most nature friendly’ gardening annual competition

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

- choosing native plants whenever possible
- choosing bee and insect friendly flowering plants
- avoid using insecticides
- installing a bird, bat, or hedgehog box
- making 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 muntjac or larger animals become a problem)
- creating a compost heap and making sure it is turned regularly to prevent it becoming a home for unwanted pests
- putting in a small pond or other water feature – even something as little as an old washing up bowl will attract wildlife!
- letting 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

Allotments

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

There is a strip of allotments within the parish on Barston Drove, amounting to 0.4 hectares (one acre). The land is owned by the Swaffham Parochial Charities and plots are available to let to villagers. On encouragement from the village, the Charities has recently doubled the size of the allotment area. There are now 15 standard plots and one larger market garden which are cultivated on a low input or organic basis. Much of the fertiliser is farmyard manure obtained from the adjacent Hill Top Farm. A hedge of dogwood ash and field maple runs along one side of the allotments.

Allotments: Actions

The PC will:

- encourage villagers to take up the vacant plots and cultivate them in a way that encourages nature
- provide tips and ideas to allotment holders, on what they can do to help the natural environment on their plot

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

- taking on an allotment plot
- once you have a plot, thinking about planting flowers that will attract bees or butterflies and leaving ‘misshapes’ and bolting vegetables to develop 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)

More reading:

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

The Church, its grounds, and the Cemetery

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. Church grounds have often escaped the damaging effects of fertilisers and ploughs and so contain remnants of ancient grassland where fungi thrive and wildflowers flourish.

The village church of St Etheldreda on Fair Green was built in 1860 on the site of the earlier Chapel of St John, an arch of which remains in the grounds. The church is believed to act as a bat roost and hosts a colony of wild bees. The Church community has plans for the grounds of the church to, amongst other things, enhance its biodiversity. The plan includes:

- planting herbs to benefit pollinators
- maintaining areas as hay meadow, using ‘green hay’ from local meadows to increase species diversity,
- maintaining habitat piles and some nettles in unobtrusive corners
- putting up a bird box and possibly swift and/or bat boxes

The village has a separate cemetery on Swaffham Road which contains a substantial avenue of common lime trees *(Tilia* × *europaea)* and several other large limes and bird cherries (which are contained on the PC’s tree inventory). The cemetery is predominantly unimproved calcareous grassland that hosts a significant number of bee orchids (150 were counted in 2022). A survey by Steve Boreham identified 29 other plant species within this ‘orchid lawn’. A copy of his survey is at Appendix 1.

The Church, its grounds, and the Cemetery: Actions

The PC will:

- support a survey by the church community to identify plant species currently in the church grounds and to identify the bat species roosting in the church.
- monitor plant species diversity at the cemetery, maintaining for now, the existing mowing regime, especially the avoidance of cutting the grave-free area until late July to enable the bee orchids to set seed. In years of

abundance the PC will collect orchid seed to sow in other suitable locations in the parish.

- support the Church wardens and others responsible for implementing the improvement plan and subsequently maintaining the grounds including offering practical assistance where required.

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

- visiting the church grounds and cemetery and noting what you see and hear
- help with any survey work or conservation actions set up by the PC

More reading:

Caring for God's acre: https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/ Bats in churches: https://batsinchurches.org.uk/

Orchards

In 2013 the village planted a community orchard of 155 trees at the 24 Acres. The orchard contains apples, pears, plum, cherry, quince, medlar, walnut and fig, many of them local or regional varieties or national rarities. A full list of the trees can be found at http://www.reach-village.co.uk/Orchard%20varieties%20sorted%20by%20flowering%20period.pdf . The underfloor of the orchard is being managed to create a calcareous grassland. The produce of the orchard is available to all in the village and Apple Days are held most years. The windfalls attract a variety of wildlife from wasps to badgers. In 2023 villagers sowed yellow rattle (Rhinanthus minor) to reduce rank grass growth and encourage chalk loving flower species.

A number of gardens in the village host fruit trees of some age and distinction. Some of them are likely to be rare local varieties.

Orchards: Actions

The PC will:

- continue to support the activities to maintain and improve the orchard
- sponsor an event to identify fruit trees in village gardens

Grasslands and Road Verges

Reach is a small parish with few roads (Burwell Road, Swaffham Road and Great Lane/Little Fen Drove). The wildlife potential of verges is thus somewhat limited. Nonetheless the Parish Council has explored how to enhance the value of roadside verges. In 2021 it agreed a new mowing regime with the Highways Department of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). The agreement also extends to the Drying Ground (see above). The new regime prescribes one cut a year in late summer/early autumn. The Parish Council is also considering the removal of the cuttings and the sowing of calcareous grassland flower seed. On both points it has engaged with the Highways Department's ecologist. The Parish Council awaits indications of the impact of the revised mowing regime.

In addition to stretches of the Devil's Dyke, covered above, the parish has the following areas of grassland of value to wildlife:

Reach cemetery (see above)

The **Pocket Park**

The **meadow in Reach Wood**. This is an area of about 0.78 ha (1.94 acres) that has been actively managed by the Woodland Trust since 2012 with an annual bar cutting and removal of uprisings. The meadow sits on the floor of the former Clunch Pit and its soils are thin and chalky. An interesting calcareous grassland habitat is developing, assisted on a small (0.15 ha) experimental area at TL 56505 65792 by the sowing of N13 wildflower mix in October 2021 by the Friends of Reach Wood. Plant surveys were undertaken by Dr Steve Boreham in 2022 and 2023 to monitor the impact of this sowing. His results are at Appendix 2. The surveys indicate that, initially at least, Clustered Bellflower *(Campanula glomerata),* Common Knapweed *(Centaurea nigra),* Greater Knapweed *(Centaurea scabiosa),* Wild Basil *(Clinopodium vulgare)*, Viper's Bugloss *(Echium vulgare)*, Lady's Bedstraw *(Galium verum),* Burnet Saxifrage *(Pimpinella saxifraga)*, Self Heal *(Prunella vulgaris)* Yellow Rattle and Salad Burnet *(Sanguisorba minor)*,were successfully introduced to the site. The meadow now contains in excess of 50 species of wildflowers and grasses. The habitat attracts a range of butterflies including Marbled White *(Melanargia galathea)* and Common Lizards *(Zootoca vivipara)*. The domed heaps of yellow meadow ants *(Lasius flavus)* are a feature.

The **meadow in the 24 Acres woodland**. A former arable field, this has been actively managed by the village since the wood's planting in 2013. Annual cuts of 'hay' have been taken to reduce the soil's fertility and used for forage by local farmers or left on the margins as litter piles for grass snakes

and the like. Some plants such as vetches have begun to colonise the meadow. A small amount of calcareous plant seed was sown in 2022 and a more concerted and extensive sowing of yellow rattle took place in 2023.

The **meadow under the Community orchard on the 24 Acres**. Also, a former arable field. The meadow has been cut annually and yellow rattle was sown in 2019. Establishment was limited but a more concerted and extensive sowing took place in 2023.

The **rough grasslands of Hurdle Hall and Tubney Fen**, owned by the National Trust. These are grazed by cattle and host populations of Roe deer *(Capreolus capreolus).* Deer numbers have increased in recent years and probably exceed 25 animals at any one time. Barn owls, which nest in the parish, hunt over these areas. Shorteared owls are occasional winter visitors. Lapwing and Greylag and Canada geese also congregate in large numbers on Tubney Fen.

The **banks of Reach Lode and the Catchwater**. The grass in the centre of the banks is cut four times a season by the Environment Agency (EA) to maintain recreational amenity and access for maintenance. However, the margins are less intensively managed, with vegetation dredged from the edges of the lode every couple of years on a rotational basis. The margins closest to the lode carry curtains of reed *(Phragmites australis)* that provide nesting sites for reed warblers and sedge warblers. These species draw in Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) which are a summer presence in the vicinity of the lode. In 2023 villagers had a site meeting with the Environment Agency to encourage a change in the mowing regime that would leave a broader curtain of reeds and some modification to the vegetation removal regime. Both proposals would improve the nesting habitat for warblers and thus cuckoo. We await to the results.

The margins of the Catchwater are managed by Swaffham Internal Drainage Board (IDB). In 2023 the IDB's activities provided an opportunity for villagers to sow calcareous flower seed to improve biodiversity on short lengths of the Catchwater banks. A plant survey by Dr Steve Boreham, which suggests mixed results, is at Appendix 3.

The **margins of Barston Drove and Blackberry Drove.** Barston and Blackberry Droves fail to meet the criteria for listing as a local Green Space but are a linear green spaces with extensive areas of relatively unimproved grassland. Barston Drove is the larger and bounds the western and southwestern edges of the parish. It contains scrub areas and the occasional Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)* Horse Chestnut *(Aesculus hippocastanum)* and Field Maple *(Acer campestre).*

Grasslands and Road Verges: Actions

The Parish Council will:

- maintain its dialogue with CCC's Highways Department and will engage with the EA to take on the dialogue about improving management of the lode banks for the benefit of nesting birds.
- sponsor the sowing of calcareous wildflower species at suitable points on the roadside verges of the parish if, following the change in roadside mowing regime, conditions appear conducive to successful establishment.

Farmland

Reach is a rural parish and whilst in recent decades some land close to the village has been given over to recreational equine use much of the land surrounding the village continues to be used for food production, predominantly arable although sheep and cattle are also raised.

The PC supports the farming community and recognises the importance of food security, but it is keen to encourage farmers within the parish to improve bio-diversity and to minimise losses of carbon from the fensoils that comprise a third of the land in the parish (see The Context above).

In winter the arable fields in the north of the parish are sometimes visited by large flocks of Mute *(Cygnus olor)* and Whooper Swans *(C cygnus)*, their presence and numbers determined by what's being grown and its state of cultivation.

Farmland: Actions

The PC will encourage:

- owners and occupiers of farmland in the parish to find space for nature by leaving uncultivated or ungrazed corners of fields or paddocks.
- set-aside and conservation headlands in fields of arable crops.
- restraint in the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- restraint in the use of fertilisers and encourage sensitive application to reduce the impact of run-off and groundwater pollution.

- the reduction of run-off and groundwater pollution from silage and dung heaps/slurry lagoons.

Bats

In May 2022 a bat survey was conducted by led by Richard Sewell along with villagers. It detected the presence of four species of bats in the vicinity of the village Common Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*, Soprano Pipistrelle *(P. pygmaeus)*, Serontine *(Eptesicus serotinus)* and Noctule *(Nyctalus noctula).* Daubenton's bats were detected by Mr Sewell on an earlier 2022 visit to Reach. Mr Sewell concluded that 'Reach is endowed with excellent habitat for foraging bats, and in future as the trees mature in The 24 Acres they should provide holes and crevices in which bats may roost. In the meantime, carefully positioned artificial bat boxes could encourage the bats to move into the new woodland and its surroundings'.

Bats: Actions

The PC will aim to improve the environment for bats by supporting applications to the amenities fund for bat boxes from residents of the village.

As a local resident, ***you can help*** by installing bat boxes at appropriate locations on your property.

Integration and connectivity

The value of all of the above mentioned assets to wildlife is increased if they are connected to other assets of wildlife value in the parish and beyond. Connecting green corridors do exist in most instances but there is room for improvement. Many of the corridors also serve as recreational routes for local people.

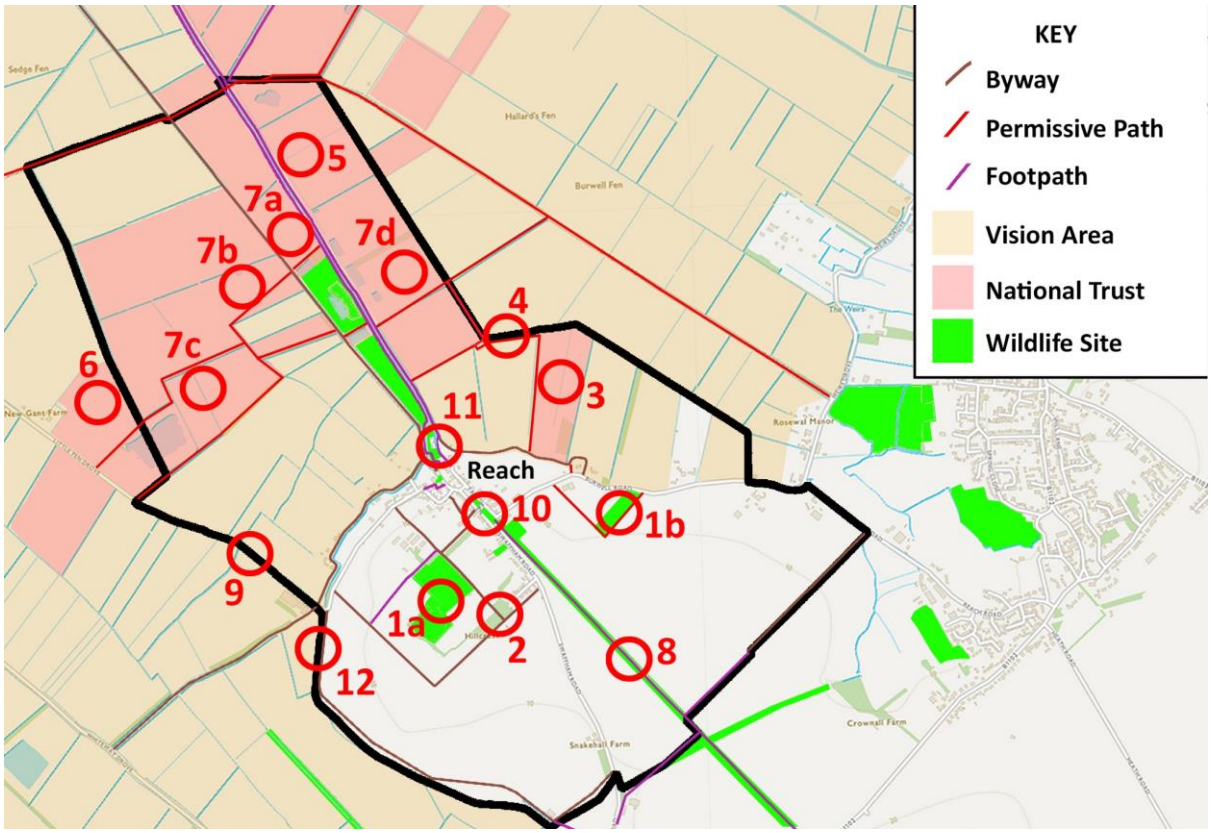
Integration and connectivity: Actions

The Parish Council will:

- support the creation of green corridors connecting our nature assets.
- explore with parish councils in Burwell and Swaffham Prior creation of green corridors that link wildlife assets in the three parishes with the aim of creating a landscape scale connectivity plan.

Annex 1: Map of Reach

This map outlines the parish boundary (in black), shows land owned by the National Trust (in pink) and the wider Vision Area (in beige). Other key wildlife sites in and just outside the parish are coloured green. The numbers on the map link to specific actions in the Plan at Appendix 2



Annex 2: Actions to support the Recovery plan.

This table lays out key actions the Parish Council intends to take or to encourage over the period 2023-2025 in support of its Recovery Plan.

Project	Description	Lead	Additional comments
Reach Neighbourhood Plan	Implement policies RCH8 and RCH9	The PC	Amongst other benefits to nature this would confer additional protections on seven green spaces in the parish
General liaison with neighbouring PCs	Engagement with neighbouring PCs with a view to creating green corridors	The PC	Connectivity action point
1a	Biodiversity enhancements in Reach Wood	Friends of Reach Wood,	Trees woodlands and hedgerows action point
1b	Biodiversity enhancements in Reach Plantation	Villagers in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council	Trees woodlands and hedgerows action point
2	Survey of Reach Clunch Pit and development of management plan	The PC	Clunch Pit action point
3	Construction of spring fed ponds on NT land at 24 Acres	National Trust	Water (ponds) action point
4	Tree planting on the strip of land between the IDB ditch and the permissive path that links the 24 Acres to Reach Lode and on Little Fen Drove	The PC in conjunction with landowners	Trees woodlands and hedgerows action point. There has has been no engagement with the landowner on this proposal
5	Creation of scrapes in compartments 218 and 219 of National Trust Land at Hurdle Hall	National Trust	Water (ponds) action point. The scrapes will provide havens for wildfowl
6	Construction of a bund on Tubney Fen	National Trust	Water (ponds) action point. The bund will retain winter water of Tubney Fen, enhancing its value to wildlife

7	Increased winter water abstraction from Reach Lode onto Tubney Fen to	National Trust, IDB, EA	Water (ponds) action point. The bund will retain winter water of Tubney Fen, enhancing its value to wildlife
8	Scrub clearance from patches of the Devil's Dyke to create a rotation system over time.	Wildlife Trust in conjunction with village volunteers.	Devils Dyke SSSI action point
9	Planting of lime or oak trees on Little Fen Drove in the manner of the plantings on Swaffham Road, Burwell Road and Great Lane/Barston Drove	The PC in conjunction with the landowners	Trees woodlands and hedgerows action point. There has been no engagement with the landowner on this proposal
10	Removal of cuttings from the annual mowing of verges around the village and the Drying Ground. Sowing of calcareous grassland species.	The PC in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and local residents	CCC changed its mowing regime in 2021. It is too soon to say if this is sufficient to improve verge biodiversity. Grassland verges action point
11	Scrub clearance and restoration of the eastern channel of the Hythe	The PC in conjunction with Anglian Water and the adjacent landowner	Water (ponds) action point. The scrapes will provide havens for wildfowl
12	Scrub clearance and tree planting on Barston Drove	The PC in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and local residents	Barston Drove forms a key green link within the parish and also to the neighbouring parish of Swaffham Prior. Trees woodlands and hedgerows action point.
13	Grassland management at the 24 Acres, Reach Cemetery and Barston Drove	The PC in conjunction with the National Trust and the EA (as appropriate) and local residents	Grassland action point

Appendix 1: Plant survey at Reach Cemetery by Dr Steve Boreham

Reach Cemetery Orchid Lawn

		30th June 2022	2022 notes	24th June 2023	2023 notes
Herbs					
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	X		X	
Corncockle	Agrostemma githago				
Corn Chamomile	*Anthemis arvensis*				
Kidney Vetch	*Anthyllis vulneraria*				
Common Daisy	*Bellis perennis*	X		X	
Clustered Bellflower	*Campanula glomerata*				
Common Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	X		X	
Greater Knapweed	*Centaurea scabiosa*	X		X	
Mouse-ear chickweed	*Cerastium fontanum*				
Rosebay Willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*				
Common Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*			X	<- Not seen 2022
Spear Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	X		X	
Wild Basil	*Clinopodium vulgare*	X		X	
Field Bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*	X		X	
Wild Carrot	*Daucus carota*	X		X	
Viper's Bugloss	*Echium vulgare*				
Common Stork's-bill	*Erodium cicutarium*				
Dropwort	*Filipendula vulgare*				
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*				
Lady's Bedstraw	*Galium verum*	X		X	
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	*Geranium disectum*				
Cranesbill	*Geranium molle*				
Ground Ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*			X	<- Not seen 2022
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*				
Common St Johns Wort	*Hypericum perforatum*	X		X	
Field Scabious	*Knautia arvensis*	X		X	
White Dead-nettle	*Lamium album*				
Rough Hawkbit	*Leontondon hispidus*	X		X	
Oxeye Daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	X		X	
Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*	X		X	
Common Mallow	*Malva sylvetris*				
Black Medick	*Medicago lupulina*	X		X	
Field Forget-me-not	*Myosotis arvensis*				
Love-in-a-mist	*Nigella damascene*				
Common Restharrow	*Onionis repens*				
Bee Orchid	*Ophrys apifera*	X	Around 150 flowering spikes	X	Around 6 flowering spikes
Wild Marjoram	*Origanum vulgare*				
Lesser Broomrape	*Orobanche minor*	X	One specimen	X	
Field Poppy	*Papaver rhoeus*				
Burnet Saxifrage	*Pimpinella saxigraga*				
Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	X		X	
Hoary Plantain	*Plantago media*				
Cowslip	*Primula veris*	X		X	
Self Heal	*Prunella vulgaris*				
Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	X		X	
Yellow Rattle	*Rhinanthus minor*				
Salad Burnet	*Sanguisorba minor*				
Small Scabious	*Scabiosa colombaria*				
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*	X		X	
Grounsel	*Senecio vulgaris*	X		X	
Perennial Sow-thistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	X			<- Present in 2022
Spiny Sowthistle	*Sonchus asper*	X		X	
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	X		X	
Red Clover	*Trifolium pratense*				
White Clover	*Trifolium repens*	X		X	
Common Speedwell	*Veronica officinale*	X			<- Present in 2022
		56	27	27	
Grasses					
Meadow Foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*	X			
Cocksfoot Grass	*Dactylis glomerata*	X		X	
Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*	X		X	
Meadow Oat-grass	*Helictotrichon pratense*	X		X	
Timothy Grass	*Phleum pratense*	X			
Rough Meadowgrass	*Poa trivialis*	X		X	
Field Wood-rush	Luzula campestris				
		7	6	4	
Shrubs					
Field Maple [sapling]	*Acer campestre*				
Hawthorn [sapling]	*Crataegus monogyna*	X		X	
Ivy	*Hedera helix*	X		X	
Bird Cherry (seedlings)	*Prunus padus*	X		X	
Sloe Blackthorn [sapling]	*Prunus spinosa*			X	
Dog Rose	*Rosa canina*			X	
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*			X	
		7	3	6	
Lower plants					
Moss	*Hypnum sp.*	X		X	
		1	1	1	
		Species count	**37**		**38**

Appendix 2: Plant surveys on part of Reach Wood Meadow by Dr Steve Boreham.

Reach Wood Meadow Experimental Biodiversity Plot - TL 56505 65792

Plot size - ca.35m wide and ca.45m deep – ca. 1500m^2 – 0.15 Ha

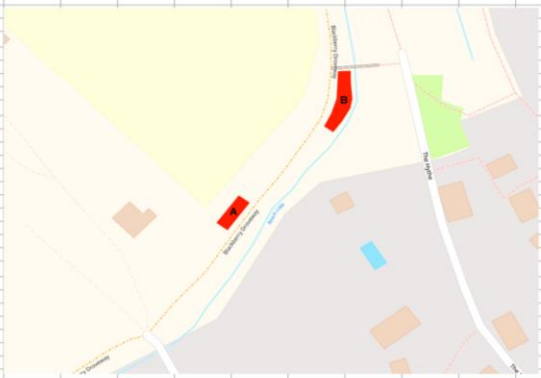
	Original + N13 Wild flower Species		22nd June 2021	29th June 2022	4th July 2023	2023 notes
	Herbs					
p	Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	X	X	X	
a	Corncockle	Agrostemma githago		X	X	<- Successfully established
a	Corn Chamomile	Anthemis arvensis		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Kidney Vetch	*Anthyllis vulneraria*	X	X		<- Not found 2023
p	Common Daisy	Bellis perennis	X	X	X	
p	Clustered Bellflower	*Campanula glomerata*		X		<- Not found 2023
a	Cornflower	*Centaurea cyanus*		X		<- Not found 2023
p	Common Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Greater Knapweed	*Centaurea scabiosa*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Mouse-ear chickweed	Cerastium fontanum	X	X	X	
p	Rosebay Willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*	X	X		<- Not found 2023
p	Common Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	X	X	X	
b	Spear Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	X	X	X	
p	Wild Basil	*Clinopodium vulgare*		X	X	<- Successfully established
b	Wild Carrot	*Daucus carota*	X	X	X	
b	Viper's Bugloss	*Echium vulgare*		X	X	<- Successfully established
a	Common Stork's-bill	*Erodium cicutarium*	X	X	X	
p	Dropwort	*Filipendula vulgare*				<- Failed to establish
a	Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	X	X	X	
p	Lady's Bedstraw	*Galium verum*		X	X	<- Successfully established
a	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Geranium disectum		X	X	<- Successfully established
a	Cranesbill	Geranium molle	X	X	X	
p	Ground Ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*	X	X	X	
b	Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*	X	X		<- Not found 2023
p	Field Scabious	*Knautia arvensis*			X	<- Successfully established
p	White Dead-nettle	*Lamium album*	X	X	X	
p	Rough Hawkbit	*Leontondon hispidus*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Oxeye Daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*			X	<- Successfully established
p	Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*	X	X	X	
p	Common Mallow	Malva sylvetris	X	X	X	
p	Black Medick	*Medicago lupulina*	X	X	X	
a	Field Forget-me-not	*Myosotis arvensis*	X	X	X	
a	Love-in-a-mist	*Nigella damascena*	X		X	<- Not found 2022
p	Common Restharrow	*Onionis repens*				<- Failed to establish
p	Wild Marjoram	*Origanum vulgare*				<- Failed to establish
a	Field Poppy	*Papaver rhoeus*		X	X	<- Successfully established
a/b	Bristly Ox-tongue	*Picris echioides*			X	<- Successfully established
p	Burnet Saxifrage	*Pimpinella saxigraga*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	X	X	X	
p	Hoary Plantain	*Plantago media*				<- Failed to establish
p	Cowslip	*Primula veris*	X	X	X	
p	Self Heal	*Prunella vulgaris*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	X	X	X	
a/p	Dyer's Rocket	*Reseda luteola*			X	<- Successfully established
a	Yellow Rattle	*Rhinanthus minor*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Salad Burnet	*Sanguisorba minor*		X	X	<- Successfully established
p	Small Scabious	*Scabiosa colombaria*			X	<- Successfully established
b/p	Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*	X	X	X	
a	Grounsel	*Senecio vulgaris*	X	X	X	
a	Spiny Sowthistle	*Sonchus asper*	X	X	X	
p	Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	X	X	X	
p	Red Clover	*Trifolium pratense*	X	X	X	
p	White Clover	*Trifolium repens*	X	X	X	
p	Stinging Nettle	*Urtica dioica*	X	X	X	
p	Common Speedwell	Veronica officinale	X	X		
		55	**30**	**45**	**45**	
	Grasses					
	Meadow Foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*	X	X		
	Cocksfoot Grass	*Dactylis glomerata*	X	X	X	
	Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*	X	X	X	
	Field Wood-rush	Luzula campestris	X	X	X	
	Timothy Grass	*Phleum pratense*	X	X	X	
		5	**5**	**5**	**4**	
	Shrubs					
	Field Maple [sapling]	*Acer campestre*	X	X	X	
	Hawthorn [sapling]	*Crataegus monogyna*	X	X	X	
	Ivy	Hedera helix	X	X	X	
	Oak	Quercus petraea			X	
	Sloe Blackthorn [sapling]	*Prunus spinosa*	X	X	X	
	Dog Rose	Rosa canina	X	X	X	
	Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus* agg.	X	X	X	
		7	**6**	**6**	**7**	
	Lower plants					
	Moss	*Hypnum* sp.	X	X	X	
		1	**1**	**1**	**1**	
	Species count	**68**	**42**	**57**	**57**	

Close to NVC community MG4 (mesotrophic grassland)

Seed sown in Oct 2021	N13 wildflower seed mix
Established after Oct 2021	Not in N13 wildflower seed mix

Appendix 3: A plant survey of short lengths of the Catchwater banks by Dr Steve Boreham

	Reach Lode Bank			
			Area A	Area B
	Original + N13F & N4F Wild flower Species		13th July 2023	17th July 2023
	Herbs			
p	Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	x	x
a/b	Fool's Parsley	*Aethusa cynapium*	x	x
a	Corncockle	*Agrostemma githago*		
b	Garlic Mustard (Jack by the hedge)	*Alliaria petiolata*	x	x
a	Corn Chamomile	*Anthemis arvensis*	x	x
p	Kidney Vetch	*Anthyllis vulneraria*	x	
p	Greater Burdock	*Arctium lappa*	x	x
p	Common Wormwood	*Artemisia absinthium*	x	x
p	Mugwort	*Artemisia vulgaris*	x	x
p	Common Daisy	*Bellis perennis*		
a/p	Borage	*Borago officinalis*	x	
p	White Bryony	*Bryonia cretica (dioica)*	x	x
p	Hedge Bindweed	*Calystegia sepium*	x	x
p	Clustered Bellflower	*Campanula glomerata*		
p	Nettle Leaved Bellflower	*Campanula trachelium*		
a	Shepherd's Purse	*Capsella bursa-pastoris*	x	x
a	Cornflower	*Centaurea cyanus*		
p	Common Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	x	x
p	Greater Knapweed	*Centaurea scabiosa*		
p	Mouse-ear chickweed	*Cerastium fontanum*		
p	Rosebay Willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*		
a	Pineappleweed	*Chamomilla suaveolens*	x	x
a	White Goosefoot	*Chenopodium album*	x	x
p	Common Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	x	
b	Spear Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	x	
p	Wild Basil	*Clinopodium vulgare*		
p	Field Bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*	x	x
b	Wild Carrot	*Daucus carota*		
b	Viper's Bugloss	*Echium vulgare*		
a	Common Stork's-bill	*Erodium cicutarium*		
p	Dropwort	*Filipendula vulgare*		
a	Cleavers	*Galium aparine*		
p	Lady's Bedstraw	*Galium verum*		
a	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	*Geranium disectum*		
a	Cranesbill	*Geranium molle*		
p	Meadow Cranesbill	*Geranium pratense*		
p	Ground Ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*		
b	Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*		
p	Common St. John's Wort	*Hypericum perforatum*		
p	Field Scabious	*Knautia arvensis*		
a/b	Prickly Lettuce (Milk Thistle)	*Lactuca serriola*	x	x
p	White Dead-nettle	*Lamium album*		
a	Red deadnettle	*Lamium purpureum*	x	
p	Meadow Vetchling	*Lathyrus pratensis*		
p	Rough Hawkbit	*Leontondon hispidus*		
p	Oxeye Daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*		
p	Common Toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*		
p	Bird's-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*		
p	Purple Loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*		
p	Common Mallow	*Malva sylvetris*	x	x
p	Black Medick	*Medicago lupulina*		
a	Field Forget-me-not	*Myosotis arvensis*		
a	Love-in-a-mist	*Nigella damascena*		
p	Common Restharrow	*Onionis repens*		
p	Wild Marjoram	*Origanum vulgare*		
a	Field Poppy	*Papaver rhoeus*	x	x
p	Amphibious Bistort	*Persicaria amphibia*		x
a/b	Bristly Ox-tongue	*Picris echioides*		
p	Burnet Saxifrage	*Pimpinella saxigraga*		
p	Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*		
p	Hoary Plantain	*Plantago media*		x
a	Common Knotgrass	*Polygonum aviculare*	x	x
p	Silverweed	*Potentilla anserina*	x	x
p	Barren Strawberry	*Potentilla sterilis*	x	x
p	Cowslip	*Primula veris*		
p	Self Heal	*Prunella vulgaris*		
p	Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*		x
a/p	Dyer's Rocket	*Reseda luteola*		
a	Yellow Rattle	*Rhinanthus minor*		
p	Curly Dock	*Rumex crispus*	x	x
p	Salad Burnet	*Sanguisorba minor*		
p	Small Scabious	*Scabiosa colombaria*		
b/p	Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*		
a	Groundsel	*Senecio vulgaris*		x
a	Charlock	*Sinapis arvensis (Rhamphospermum arvense)*	x	x
a/b	Hedge Mustard	*Sisymbrium officinale*	x	x
p	Perennial Sow Thistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	x	x
a	Spiny Sowthistle	*Sonchus asper*	x	x
p	Betony	*Stachys officinalis*		x
p	Hedge Woundwort	*Stachys sylvatica*		
p	Devilsbit Scabious	*Succisa pratensis*		
p	Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	x	x
p	Red Clover	*Trifolium pratense*		
p	White Clover	*Trifolium repens*		
p	Stinging Nettle	*Urtica dioica*	x	x
b/p	Dark Mullein	*Verbascum nigrum*	x	
p	Common Speedwell	*Veronica officinale*		
p	Tufted Vetch	*Vicia cracca*		
		88	**33**	**32**
			4	*5*
	Seed sown in 2023	N13F & N4F wildflower seed mix		
		Not in N13F & N4F wildflower seed mix		
	Grasses			
	Meadow Foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*		
	Cocksfoot Grass	*Dactylis glomerata*	x	
	Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra*		
	Field Wood-rush	Luzula campestris		
	Timothy Grass	*Phleum pratense*		
		5	**1**	**0**
	Shrubs			
	Field Maple [sapling]	*Acer campestre*		
	Hawthorn [sapling]	*Crataegus monogyna*		
	Ivy	*Hedera helix*		
	Oak	*Quercus petraea*		
	Sloe Blackthorn [sapling]	*Prunus spinosa*		
	Dog Rose	*Rosa canina*		
	Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus agg.*	x	
		7	**1**	**0**
	Lower plants			
	Moss	*Hypnum sp.*		
		1	**0**	**0**
	Species count	**101**	**35**	**32**



Wildflowers at Area B 17th July 2023