

North Nibley Biodiversity Discussion

23/10/24

What (might we consider doing)?

- Mow Knoll and remove grass
- Swift Boxes
- River Monitoring
- Map areas that can be managed differently
- Ensure proposed new play area is combined with conservation initiatives and any removed trees at least replaced
- Re-survey the Knoll around May/June (Bel/Aileen to lead?)
- Wildflower planting in odd corners of village
- Co-ordinate Butterfly Count to coincide with National Survey
- Tyndale Monument – flood lighting possibly detrimental to wildlife? Could the lights be switched off in the Spring/Summer?
- Community Engagement ideas:-
 - Collate RSPB birdwatch results for Nibley
 - Record butterfly and hedgehog sightings
 - Adopt a Verge
 - Adapt swift box model success with bug hotels, hedgehog friendly gardens etc
 - Regular page in OTE

- Create Hedgerow friendly gardens
- Hedgehogs – road speed!
- Greenway to Wotton
- Invite subject matter experts to give talks relevant to local biodiversity
- We need to make a wetland somewhere
- Village Pond?
- Create Biodiversity Action Plan
- Glow Worm Survey
- Butterfly Survey
- Consider Community Asset Transfer for areas that could be managed differently. But NB liability and might be better to influence current regime rather than take on full responsibility/liability
- Set up Volunteer Group to take action on planting, cutting back, mow and collect
- Pond Restoration Scheme
- Protect Skylarks on Knoll – consider temporarily fencing off nesting sites at certain times? Discussion about whether this is practical and desirable vs open access
- NN School Housemartin population
- Need to have prioritised action so success is achieved in a few areas first – suggested that Churchyard and Roadside verges are a good place to start.
- Information Board at Knoll for benefit of land and monument if it can be grant funded
- Education needed for residents on small scale actions that can be taken, e.g. Hedgehogs and Wildflowers

Where (might we do it)?

- The Knoll – co-operation between Parish Council, Knoll Trust and Monument Trust – future Grant opportunities
- Verges/odd corners etc – influence current managers – need to establish who is currently responsible – Gloucestershire Highways or Stroud District Council
- e.g. banks outside Swedish Houses, triangle at Southend, area under Jubilee Tree (but this is possibly already being managed to benefit biodiversity due to Alan Kennett’s intervention?)
- Do we have any registered Conservation Verges? – there is a database. No we don’t and it doesn’t appear that there are any nearby
https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/xk1pfrji/crv-register-v2_4-2022.pdf
- Orchard and triangle of land between Timothy Lane, Back Lane and Forthay – discussion about private land and need to encourage rather than dictate

Who (can we learn from and/or engage with for help/advice)?

- Wickwar Parish Nature Plan - Talk to Wickwar Parish to see how they went about their plan
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
- Breakheart Quarry (Ray) www.breakheart.org.uk
- Pete Cranswick – ‘Mr Moth’
- Chris Wiltshire – Stinchcombe Hill Trust www.stinchcombehill.org.uk
- Create a WhatsApp Group
- Westridge Woods owners
- Cotswold Wardens – AONB/Cotswolds National Landscape www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk
- Wotton Area Climate Action Network www.wottonareacan.org
- Eco-Church www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Areas to take forward initially:

- Knoll – Management Plan for the Knoll area in discussion with Parish Council, Knoll Trust and Monument Trust. To include plant survey, mowing regime if possible, consideration of skylark habitat, provision of information boards. NB – previous survey info already available at <https://www.northnibley.org.uk/knoll.php>
- Verges and Miscellaneous areas – Establish which area we are keen to see managed differently, who is currently responsible for them and if/how their management can be influenced.
- Churchyard – review current management regime and research Eco-Church scheme www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk. Church are keen to have a management day so this could be first of an environmental volunteer session in the Spring?
- Hedgehogs – consider way of reporting sightings and educate residents on how to develop habitats/make gardens more hedgehog friendly
- OTE Article to promote the above areas