



Girton Local Nature Recovery Plan

Working for wildlife in our village



Local Nature Recovery Plan

2023-2033

October 2023

This is the Local Nature Recovery Plan written for Girton by the LNR Management Group. It has been developed by using biological records and site visits to understand the distribution of nature within the village and also by public consultation to involve the community to steer the objectives and priorities held within the plan. For further background information to the LNR and wildlife in Girton, refer to the accompanying document "Context, aims and objectives".

Due to the timing of the formation of the Management Group and the setting up of the Plan, the years within the plan start in October and run through until the end of the following September. This works well for nature conservation as autumn is a good time of planning, winter a time for habitat management (when many species are hibernating and it is out of the main breeding season) and setting up of projects to benefit species when they become more active in the following summer.

This plan is a working document and will be revised and republished on an annual basis.

The first edition was presented to the community in October 2023.

The LNR Management Group are:

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Objective	Planning Year: 2022-2023	Year 1: 2023-2024	Year 2: 2024-2025	Years 3-10: 2025-2033
LNRP Management Group and Plan				
<i>LNRP Management Group</i>	To establish a small management group (a sub-group of Parish Council) to lead the LNRP. To write Terms of Reference for the Group, agree a budget and set-up shared resources.	To continue to work as a group to develop, action, reflect on and review the Plan. To review the constitution, membership and working practices of the Group and adjust accordingly.	To continue to work as a group to develop, action, reflect on and review the Plan. To review the constitution, membership and working practices of the Group and adjust accordingly.	To continue to work as a group to develop, action, reflect on and review the Plan. To review the constitution, membership and working practices of the Group and adjust accordingly.
<i>Mapping of key habitats</i>	To map key habitats within the parish to be incorporated into the plan.	To update the habitat map as necessary.	To update the habitat map as necessary.	To update the habitat map as necessary.
<i>Assessment of biological records</i>	To request all biological data on the parish from CPERC and assess to see which species of importance have been recorded in the past.	To explore other sources of biological data and assess any new records to help inform plan.	To assess any new records to help inform plan.	To assess any new records to help inform plan.
<i>Key sites</i>	To map and visit key sites. These are mainly publicly accessible places where influence over their management might be possible either directly through Parish Council or collaboratively with landowners.	To continue with site visits to cover more sites and see them at a different time of year to help inform the plan.	To continue with site visits to monitor changes and see them at a different time of year to help inform the plan.	To continue with site visits to monitor changes and see them at a different time of year to help inform the plan.
<i>Local Nature Recovery Plan 'the Plan'</i>	To create an initial LNRP and share with the wider community. To develop this into an achievable 10-year plan.	To review the plan and its actions within (this table) and update as necessary.	To review Years Three to Ten of this Plan to develop more detailed targets.	To review this Plan as ongoing process in collaboration with community to develop further projects.

Objective	Planning Year: 2022-2023	Year 1: 2023-2024	Year 2: 2024-2025	Years 3-10: 2025-2033
<i>Partnership working with landowners</i>		To make contact with landowners, and tenants of large areas of land outside the main village where appropriate in tandem with the Neighbourhood Plan Team with a view to understanding their interests, concerns and constraints.	To continue to make contact and collaborate with landowners and tenants of large areas of land outside the main to develop inter-parish wildlife corridors.	To continue to make contact and collaborate with landowners and tenants of large areas of land outside the main to develop inter-parish wildlife corridors.
<i>LNRP Co-ordinator</i>			To assess viability for creating a paid role of LNRP co-ordinator as the work-load increases within the Management Group.	
Community Engagement				
<i>Public meetings</i>	To set up public meetings to discuss the developing LNRP, explain its function and gather ideas, concerns and constraints.	To organise at least one village wide public meeting to enthuse Girton residents, to provide an update on progress to date and to seek input on specific issues.	To organise at least one village wide public meeting to enthuse Girton residents, to provide an update on progress to date and to seek input on specific issues.	To organise at least one village wide public meeting to enthuse Girton residents, to provide an update on progress to date and to seek input on specific issues.
<i>Communication</i>	To start communicating with the community through digital media and the GPN. To set up 'Street Champions' using WhatsApp.	To continue to communicate with the community through digital media and the GPN. To review channels of communication to ensure it is effective.	To continue to communicate with the community through digital media and the GPN. To review channels of communication to ensure it is effective.	To continue to communicate with the community through digital media and the GPN. To review channels of communication to ensure it is effective.
<i>Events</i>	To hold several events to raise awareness of the LNRP and assess interest levels within the community.	To organise several events to cover a range of topics of interest, types of activity and target audiences.	To organise several events to cover a range of topics of interest, types of activity and target audiences.	To organise several events to cover a range of topics of interest, types of activity and target audiences.

Objective	Planning Year: 2022-2023	Year 1: 2023-2024	Year 2: 2024-2025	Years 3-10: 2025-2033
<i>Engagement with children through schools and youth groups</i>		<p>To work with at least one school in the parish to engage children in wildlife activities.</p> <p>To make contact with other two schools, the pre-school provisions and other youth groups to see what support and activities they would be interested in.</p>	To continue to work with the educational and extra-curricular provisions for children to support any of their projects for biodiversity and to offer some expertise and potential engagement activities.	To continue to work with the educational and extra-curricular provisions for children to support any of their projects for biodiversity and to offer some expertise and potential engagement activities.
<i>Creation of Biodiversity Hub and Biodiversity Trail</i>			<p>To assess the potential for a Biodiversity Hub in Girton. What this might entail, how it would be operated and funded.</p> <p>To create a Biodiversity Trail around Girton to help engage the community and engage them about important site, species and habitats around of the parish.</p>	To create and manage a Biodiversity Hub, if feasible.
Funding				
	To identify funding needs to deliver projects and to apply for funding as appropriate, both from the parish council and external grant bodies.	To identify funding needs to deliver projects and to apply for funding as appropriate, both from the parish council and external grant bodies.	To identify funding needs to deliver projects and to apply for funding as appropriate, both from the parish council and external grant bodies.	To identify funding needs to deliver projects and to apply for funding as appropriate, both from the parish council and external grant bodies.
Monitoring				
<i>Moth trapping</i>		To set a moth trap within the parish regularly. Ask for volunteers to host. When suitable, this can be an event for the wider community.	To set a moth trap regularly with more targeted surveys.	To continue with moth trapping.

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<i>Hedgehogs</i>		To find out where hedgehogs are currently living/foraging within the village and to map their distribution. With consent of owners, they should be mapped to garden level so clusters of sightings can be identified.		
<i>Eddington records</i>		To liaise with ecologists at the Eddington development to request biological records for the site to increase our knowledge of that part of the parish.		
<i>Trail camera scheme</i>		To purchase a trail camera to be loaned out to residents for recording purposes.	To continue with trail camera scheme.	To continue with trail camera scheme.
<i>Butterflies and dragonflies</i>		To conduct surveys of butterflies and dragonflies within the parish in conjunction with a local specialist.	To continue to monitor butterfly and dragonfly populations within the village.	
<i>Other recorders</i>		To speak to county recorders, local experts or other knowledgeable enthusiasts about historic records and inviting them to visit Girton in order to make new records. To continue to encourage all residents of Girton to submit any records of sightings to the LNRP Management Group or appropriate recording app.	To speak to county recorders, local experts or other knowledgeable enthusiasts about historic records and inviting them to visit Girton in order to make new records. To continue to encourage all residents of Girton to submit any records of sightings to the LNRP Management Group or appropriate recording app.	To speak to county recorders, local experts or other knowledgeable enthusiasts about historic records and inviting them to visit Girton in order to make new records. To continue to encourage all residents of Girton to submit any records of sightings to the LNRP Management Group or appropriate recording app.

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<i>Other taxonomic groups</i>		To review interest and skills in the parish to increase recording effort in other taxonomic groups, as opportunity arises.	To review interest and skills in the parish to increase recording effort in other taxonomic groups, as opportunity arises.	To review interest and skills in the parish to increase recording effort in other taxonomic groups, as opportunity arises.
<i>Bats</i>			To map bat activity within village by combination of community engagement and fieldwork.	
<i>Water Vole</i>			To gather historic data on Water Vole populations, including data held by Eddington development.	To conduct fieldwork to assess extent of Water Vole activity within parish.
Projects				
<i>Swift boxes</i>		To actively encourage and support people to install swift boxes on their homes, particularly in local clusters.	To continue to actively encourage and support people to install swift boxes on their homes, particularly in local clusters and as part of a developed project.	To monitor any swift boxes to see if any are successful.
<i>Hedgehog Highways</i>			To engage residents to develop a series of Hedgehog Highways by creating gaps within property boundaries in key areas for hedgehogs as identified in survey.	To monitor success of Hedgehog Highways by engaging with residents, possibly through use of a trail cam loaning scheme.
<i>Wildlife-friendly gardening</i>		To highlight the need for a wildlife-friendly approach to gardening through a series of talks, events and other communication.	To highlight the need for a wildlife-friendly approach to gardening through a series of talks, events and other communication.	To highlight the need for a wildlife-friendly approach to gardening through a series of talks, events and other communication.

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<i>Skylark</i>		To liaise with landowners in the agricultural areas of the parish to take Skylark into consideration when managing the land.	To liaise with landowners in the agricultural areas of the parish to take Skylark into consideration when managing the land.	To liaise with landowners in the agricultural areas of the parish to take Skylark into consideration when managing the land.
<i>No Mow Summer</i>		To identify suitable sites managed by Parish Council to implement a relaxed mowing regime with no cuts during summer months. To work with Green Team and other volunteers to rake up arisings after main late-summer cut in key sites. To install information signs in key locations to communicate the purpose and benefits of an alternative mowing regime.	To continue with No Mow Summer, adapting management if necessary. It may take several years of new management regime for positive results. To continue to install information signs on the management and benefits of No Mow Summer during the summer months.	To continue with new management regime, adapting if necessary.
<i>Tree planting</i>		To identify suitable places in the village to plant new trees and funding sources to purchase them.	To plant new trees as community project in winter months.	To monitor health of newly planted trees and manage appropriately.
<i>House Sparrow</i>			To map colonies within village by combination of community engagement and fieldwork. To speak to key residents who have House Sparrow in their gardens. To develop a project to supply and install house sparrow nest boxes through the village.	Continue engagement with key landowners for House Sparrow colonies to raise awareness of importance of maintaining their habitat. To monitor any nest boxes to see if any are successful.

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<i>Resident-led projects</i>			To support suitable projects to increase biodiversity within the village proposed by and with sufficient support from local residents.	To support suitable projects to increase biodiversity within the village proposed by and with sufficient support from local residents.
<i>Bat boxes</i>				To consider the installation of bat boxes in key sites across village and parish.
<i>Ponds</i>				To create and restore ponds within parish for amphibians, including Great Crested Newt. This may include Wellbrook Way after consultation with stakeholders.
<i>Water Vole</i>				To consider a project to increase habitat in Beck Brook for Water Vole.
<i>Fruit trees</i>				To map known locations of veteran fruit trees within the parish and to liaise with their owners to highlight their value for biodiversity and appropriate management.

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Sites				
<i>Girton Green Team</i>	To work with Green Team to manage sites and to explain the LNRP and its objectives and the impact it may have on the team.	To increase membership of the Green Team from the whole community in order to increase the amount of work possible to achieve. To encourage those with specific skills in practical habitat management to join or lead certain work parties. To purchase equipment for use by the Green Team.	To continue to work with and support the Green Team to help establish management objectives and priorities, purchase necessary equipment and to inspire new members to join.	To continue to work with and support the Green Team to help establish management objectives and priorities, purchase necessary equipment and to inspire new members to join.
<i>Town End Close</i>	To update the 2009 management plan for the site.	To liaise with Green Team to manage the site according to the revised management plan. To apply for Local Nature Reserve status.	To continue to liaise with Green Team to manage the site according to the management plan.	To continue to liaise with Green Team to manage the site according to the management plan.
<i>Hibbert-Ware Garden</i>	To conduct background research on the origin of the site and Alice Hibbert-Ware.	To redesign and enhance the site to increase biodiversity, engaging the community in its restoration. To liaise with Green Team to manage the site according to the management plan. To install an interpretation board about the origin, biodiversity and management of the site. To host an opening event for the redesigned garden.	To complete the redesign work started in Year 1. To continue to liaise with Green Team to manage the site according to the management plan.	To continue to liaise with Green Team to manage the site according to the management plan.

Objective	Planning Year: 2022-2023	Year 1: 2023-2024	Year 2: 2024-2025	Years 3-10: 2025-2033
<i>Girton Wood</i>		To review the Woodland Trust's management plan and to liaise with them to update it.	To liaise with Woodland Trust to manage the site according to the management plan, with assistance from Green Team where possible.	To liaise with Woodland Trust to manage the site according to the management plan, with assistance from Green Team where possible.
<i>Wellbrook Way</i>			To investigate how to reinstate the two ponds for amphibians, engaging with all stakeholders within the estate.	To restore the two pond habitats within the estate if agreed by stakeholders.
<i>St Andrew's Churchyard</i>		To liaise with the Church Warden to enhance biodiversity within the site, taking into account the needs of all users.		

Finance

The LNRP accounts will be looked at in line with the financial year which is offset by six months from the year used by the LNRP. This table will be updated with each LNRP update and seeks to provide transparency and information about how the income is spent.

Item	April 2023 – March 2024	April 2024 – March 2025	April 2025 – March 2026	April 2026 – March 2027	April 2027 – March 2028
Income					
Budget from Parish Council	£1,650				
PC direct funding for Hibbert-Ware interpretation board	£1,620				
JustGiving campaign for Hibbert-Ware re-design project	Unknown				
Total to date	£3,270				
Expenditure					
Moth trap (with battery and charger)	£245.5				
Bird seed (for community event)	£30				
Nest boxes	£35.98				
Bat boxes	£39.98				
Swift boxes	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Interpretation board (Hibbert-Ware)	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Wildflower seed	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Tools for Green Team (hay rakes, pitchforks etc.)	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Banner for public events	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Garden designer for Hibbert-Ware	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Plants and other items for Hibbert-Ware project	<i>Not yet purchased</i>				
Total to date	£351.46				
Balance to date	£2918.54				