



Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Local Nature Action Plan

2022 - 2025

**Westerleigh Parish
Council**



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Introduction

Westerleigh Parish Council, in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, has recognised the importance of taking steps to address the ecological crisis the world is facing. Using South Gloucestershire Council's Local Nature Action Plan Guidance¹, a sub group of the Council's Environment & Leisure Committee has drawn up a three year Local Nature Action Plan. It sets out a series of steps to help halt the decline of biodiversity in our parish.

Biodiversity is the whole variety of life on Earth, all species of plants and animals, their genetic variation and the habitats and ecosystems they are part of. It includes not just the rare or the threatened, but also the wildlife that is familiar to us in the places where we live and work.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake, along with the many benefits we derive from the natural environment – products like food, fibre, wood and water; services like pollination, nutrient cycling, soil formation, water purification, flood defence and opportunities for reflection and recreation – all are critical for our wellbeing and survival. ([South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan, 2016-2026](#))

The abundance and distribution of the UK's species has, on average, declined since 1970 and many metrics suggest this decline has continued in the most recent decade ([State of Nature Report 2019](#)). Once common UK species such as hedgehogs and house sparrows have seen losses of more than 50% in the last 25 years (JNCC UK Biodiversity Indicators, 2021).

There have also been substantial losses of many semi-natural habitats, particularly in England, and many are now largely confined to small, isolated fragments².

Such statistics can feel overwhelming, however people are already taking positive action to make a difference for local nature. According to our partners Avon Wildlife Trust, 'if 1 in 4 people started to do this, we'd reach a tipping point in favour of nature's recovery.'

By working together at a local level – residents, community groups, the Parish Council, businesses, land owners and South Gloucestershire Council – we can make our parish a place where nature can thrive.

This plan was approved by Westerleigh Parish Council's Environment & Leisure Committee on 3rd October 2022.

¹ Local Nature Action Plans: guidance for town and parish councils, 2021

² Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological networks. Report to Defra, 2010

Aims of the Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Local Nature Action Plan

Westerleigh Parish Council has created this Local Nature Action Plan to enable it to work with the community and stakeholders to protect and enhance nature in the parish of Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath.

Our aims include:

-  To provide more and better wildlife-friendly habitats in the parish that are connected.
-  To replace trees lost to ash die back and increase tree cover in the parish.
-  To increase insect numbers.
-  To increase small mammal and bird numbers including hedgehogs, bats, nesting birds, swallows, swifts and owls.
-  To empower local people to take action to protect and enhance nature in the parish.

Objectives

The aims of the Local Nature Action Plan will be achieved through the following linked objectives and the projects that will deliver them.

1. To reduce amenity grass-cutting and plant meadows on Parish Council-owned land to provide food and habitats for insects and wildlife. Facilitate the same on public access land, private land and in private gardens. (Meadows)
2. To plant trees and orchards on Parish Council-owned land. Facilitate tree-planting on public access land, private land and in private gardens. (Tree-planting)
3. To establish a pond/s on Parish Council-owned land to provide food and habitats for insects and wildlife. Facilitate ponds on public access land, private land and in private gardens. (Ponds)
4. To provide more wildlife-friendly habitats for insects, birds and mammals by installing log piles, insect and bee hotels, bird boxes and hedgehog homes on Parish Council-owned and public land. Facilitate the same on public access land, private land and in private gardens. (Homes for wildlife)
5. Identify opportunities to develop wildlife corridors (including hedgehog highways) to enable wildlife to move around the parish and improve connectivity between green spaces. (Wildlife on the move)
6. To engage local people and empower them to take action to enhance nature where they live through regular events, nature communications and practical help (working with the Avon Wildlife Trust.) (Engage and empower local people- 1 in 4)

*During the first few years of the plan we will have a specific objective to become a **hedgehog-friendly parish**. Over the life of the plan, and as opportunities arise, we may include more species-specific objectives.*

7. To become a 'hedgehog-friendly parish' by setting up a hedgehog working group and developing co-ordinated projects to encourage hedgehogs across the whole of the parish (i.e. hedgehog highways, hedgehog welcome packs, hedgehog events) (Hedgehog-friendly parish)

Partnerships & stakeholders

Partnerships involved in developing and delivering the plan

Organisation	Role	Contact
Westerleigh Parish Council Environment & Leisure Committee/ Local Nature Action Plan sub-group	Lead, funding, committee structure	Deputy Clerk deputy@westerleighparishcouncil.org.uk
Avon Wildlife Trust	Nature events, advice & information	george.cook@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk
Frampton Cotterell Parish Council	Joint project development and co-ordinated delivery	Climate & Nature Officer nature@framptoncotterell-pc.gov.uk
South Gloucestershire Council	Guidance	nature@southglos.gov.uk
Parish Council land management contractors	Taking action on behalf of the Parish Council	Parish Clerk westerleighpc@gmail.com
Volunteers for the Parish Council	Taking action, reviewing and contributing to the plan	If you would like to volunteer please contact deputy@westerleighparishcouncil.org.uk

Stakeholders

- Blackberry Park developers/ management company & Residents' Association
- Bitterwell Lake Fishery business
- Churches
 - St James the Great Church, Westerleigh
 - St Saviours Church, Coalpit Heath
- Local schools & pre-schools
 - The Manor Primary School, Coalpit Heath
 - Pre-school (Little Explorers), Coalpit Heath
 - Immanuel School, Westerleigh
- Community buildings
 - Westerleigh Village Hall
 - Henfield Hall
 - Scout building, Serridge Lane, Henfield (under construction due to open late 2022)
 - Manor Hall & community garden, Coalpit Heath
 - St Saviours Church Hall, Coalpit Heath
 - Coalpit Heath Village Hall (The Miners Club)
- Community Groups
 - Westerleigh Bloomers
 - The Friends of Ram Hill Group
 - Frampton Cotterell Nature Group (working with our neighbouring parish of Frampton Cotterell)
- Direct neighbours of Parish Council land
- South Gloucestershire Council Biodiversity Officers
- South Gloucestershire Council Ward Councillors
- Frampton Cotterell Environmental Networking Group (contact Cllr Claire Young)
- Parish Council site users
- Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath residents
- Housing developers

- Local landowners
- Local businesses
- Neighbouring Town & Parish Councils

Engagement

We have held two community engagement events in order to shape our plan and begin the process of involving residents and stakeholders in projects to enhance nature in our parish. The first event was held at Westerleigh Village Hall in April 2022 and a second event was held at The Miners Club, Coalpit Heath in September 2022 in conjunction with the Avon Wildlife Trust. We were delighted that representatives from neighbouring Frampton Cotterell Parish Council and several members of the Frampton Cotterell Nature Group attended, kickstarting the process of working together across our administrative boundary. Following these events, we have identified opportunities for joint working, including a joint project to become hedgehog-friendly parishes.

We also gave a presentation to the Manor Hall Gardening group in October 2022 to share our plans and identify opportunities for further enhancing nature in the village.

Monthly Communications

Each month of the year, a different theme relating to nature and nature projects will be communicated with residents and stakeholders. The themes will tie in with national campaigns e.g. No Mow May and/or local monthly events being run by our partners Avon Wildlife Trust. We will also aim to work alongside Frampton Cotterell Parish Council's monthly themed communications, given the close connections between the villages of Frampton Cotterell and Coalpit Heath ([Frampton Cotterell Local Climate & Nature Action Plan](#))

The purpose of the communications is to share knowledge and raise awareness of nature issues and empower local people to take action.

Avon Wildlife Trust provides an annual programme of monthly wildlife-themed events for residents of Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath Parish which is reviewed each spring. The events programme is funded by the Parish Council's Community Benefit Fund, supplied from the Says Court solar farm. In the first year of the plan (2022/23) we will publicise these events as part of our communications plan. From Year 2 onwards we will work more closely with Avon Wildlife Trust to develop an annual programme of events that delivers on the objectives of this plan and the projects outlined in the project plan. The 2022/23 programme of events is attached at Appendix 2.

Monthly Communications Plan

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bird watching- Big Garden Birdwatch last w/e Jan www.rspb.org.uk												
Nesting birds - National Nest Box week - BTO (14 th – 21 st Feb) www.nestboxweek.com												
Wild gardening& hedgehogs												
Connecting with & recording nature – City Nature Challenge Bioblitz nature recording www.bnhc.org.uk/city-nature-challenge												
No Mow May nomowmay.plantlife.org.uk												
Connecting with wildlife for well-being – Avon Wildlife Trust 30 days wild challenge												
Butterflies – Big Butterfly Count bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org												
Hedgehogs - how to help hedgehogs summer through to winter												
Wildflowers												
Bats												
Owls												
Connecting with winter wildlife Wildlife Trust 12 days wild												

Local mapping

Mapping of Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath's features for the purposes of this Local Nature Action Plan can be found here - <https://www.westerleighparishcouncil.org.uk/local-nature-plan/> - [click on the map](#)

Features noted on the map include:

- Parish Council owned land
- South Gloucestershire Council verges
- Habitats
- Land use
- Designated sites (Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI))
- Opportunities for nature

Westerleigh Parish Council owned land

Projects during the first three years of this Local Nature Action Plan will be focused on these sites.

1. Westerleigh Playing Field
2. The Pound, Westerleigh
3. Pansy Vale, Westerleigh
4. Westerleigh village triangle & war memorial
5. Bitterwell Lake, Henfield (owned by Westerleigh Parish Council, site run by Fishery Licensee)
6. Newman Field, Henfield
7. Mays Hill Triangle
8. Ivory Hill Wood, Coalpit Heath

(See Appendix 1 for photographs of each site)

- Westerleigh Parish Council pays for amenity mowing of 8,187 sqm of South Gloucestershire Council owned verges in the parish.
- Westerleigh Parish Council also owns three bus stops - Westerleigh Village (2), Kendleshire Triangle, Henfield.

Other public green space and footpaths

Westerleigh Parish Council recognises that there are important public green spaces and footpaths, particularly in the Coalpit Heath ward of the parish, that are owned/ managed by other organisations. These spaces could make an important contribution to the aims of the Local Nature Action Plan. Opportunities for projects at these sites will be investigated during the first three years of the Local Nature Action Plan and projects will be added over time.

1. South Gloucestershire Council verges
2. Manor Primary School Field, Badminton Road, Coalpit Heath (owned by South Gloucestershire Council, controlled by the Diocese of Bristol on behalf of Manor Primary School). *Public access to most of the field.*
3. Manor Hall Community Garden, Roundways, Coalpit Heath (owned by Westerleigh Parish Council, leased to Manor Hall Community Interest Charity) *Public access.*
4. Blackberry Park open space, Coalpit Heath (owned by Barratts Homes, managed by management company) *Public access.*
5. Ram Hill Colliery (owned by South Gloucestershire Council, run by Friends of Ram Hill Group) *Public access.*
6. The Frome Valley walkway (managed by the Avon Frome Partnership) *Public access to the route.*

7. The Dramway footpath *Public access to the route.*
8. Various Public Rights of Way *Public access to the routes.*

The close proximity of Coalpit Heath and Frampton Cotterell villages means that many Coalpit Heath residents will access land owned or managed by Frampton Cotterell Parish Council, and nature doesn't take any notice of administrative boundaries! These sites are listed in the [Frampton Cotterell Local Climate & Nature Action Plan](#) – p 8-9. During the life of this Local Nature Action Plan we will identify opportunities for joint working with Frampton Cotterell Parish Council and Frampton Cotterell residents on nature projects.

Community buildings

There are a number of community buildings in the parish (not parish council owned) that are close to public green space, and therefore present opportunities for nature infrastructure like bird and bat boxes. Opportunities for projects at these sites will be investigated during the first three years of this Local Nature Action Plan and projects will be added over time. These are listed below:

1. St James the Great Church, Westerleigh (adjacent to Westerleigh Playing Field)
2. Westerleigh Village Hall, Westerleigh (adjacent to Westerleigh Playing Field)
3. St Saviours Church & Church Hall, Coalpit Heath (across the road from the Manor Primary School Playing Field)
4. The Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath *listed building* (adjacent to the Manor Primary School Playing Field & Manor Hall Community Garden)
5. Henfield Hall, Ram Hill (adjacent to Bitterwell Lake & Newman Field)
6. Scout building, Serridge Lane, Henfield (close to footpaths and farmland)- under construction due to open late 2022

Land Services Checks

Before undertaking works that involve planting or land modification, up to date services checks will be undertaken on Parish Council owned sites, such as before tree planting or in the event of pond creation.

Previous Parish Council projects

Westerleigh Parish Council has worked on nature projects for a number of years now and many previous projects contribute to the aims and objectives outlined in this plan. Previous projects are listed under the objectives that they contribute towards.

To reduce amenity grass-cutting and plant meadows on Parish Council-owned land to provide food and habitats for insects and wildlife. Facilitate the same on public access land, private land and in private gardens. (Meadows)

- Grant support to the Westerleigh Bloomers to plant flower tubs around Westerleigh village (Westerleigh Playing Field, the Pound, the triangle)
- Bee bomb seed pellets given out to residents at events in 2022
- Trial of No Mow May on Pansy Vale – May 2022



Pansy Vale during No Mow May – 2022

To plant trees and orchards on Parish Council-owned land and enhance hedgerows. Facilitate tree-planting on public access land, private land and in private gardens. (Tree-planting)

- Newman Field copse
- Newman Field wildlife-friendly planting area – planted autumn 2021



Newman Field copse and wildlife-friendly planting area - Spring 2022

- Pansy Vale mini orchard
- 3 x Platinum Jubilee trees (planted at Immanuel School Westerleigh, Manor Primary School Coalpit Heath, Kendleshire Triangle) – planted April 2022
- 3 x Westerleigh Playing Field trees - planted May 2022

To provide more wildlife-friendly habitats for insects, birds and mammals by installing log piles, insect and bee hotels, bird boxes and hedgehog homes on Parish Council-owned and public land. Facilitate the same on public access land, private land and in private gardens (Homes for wildlife)

- Bat & Bird boxes installed around Bitterwell Lake -2020
- Pansy Vale bug hotel - built March 2019
- Westerleigh Playing Field bug hotel – built Spring 2022



Pansy Vale and Westerleigh Playing Field bug hotels

To engage local people and empower them to take action to enhance nature where they live through regular events, nature communications and practical help (working with the Avon Wildlife Trust.) (Engage and empower local people – 1 in 4)

- Annual programme of Avon Wildlife Trust wildlife/ nature events for the public
- Coalpit Heath Local Nature Action Plan drop-in event and wildlife talk from Avon Wildlife Trust – September 2022

Strategic context to the Local Nature Action Plan – relevant plans and projects

South Gloucestershire Local Plan

The adopted [South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Policies, Sites and Places Plan \(2017\)](#) gives some official protection to green spaces in the parish, through the planning process. Appendix 2 of the PSP shows the spaces which are Designated Local Green Spaces under PSP4. Designated Local Green Spaces are spaces which are of particular importance to communities, which they wish to see have special protection that rules out new development other than in very special circumstances or through a set of limited exceptions. This list includes some, but not all local green spaces listed above on p6/7.

Westerleigh Parish

LGSD436	Bitterwell Lake/Newman Field	Westerleigh Parish Council owned
LGSD441	War Memorial and Village Triangle Westerleigh	Westerleigh Parish Council owned
LGSD442	Westerleigh Playing Field	Westerleigh Parish Council owned
LGSD443	Ivory Wood	Westerleigh Parish Council owned
LGSD445	Pansy Vale Westerleigh	Westerleigh Parish Council owned

LGSD1119	Ram Hill Colliery	South Gloucestershire Council owned
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Westerleigh Biodiversity Action Plan

The [Westerleigh Biodiversity Action Plan](#), prepared by South Gloucestershire Council, provides an audit of local biodiversity and a framework for local biodiversity enhancement projects under the umbrella of the [South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan \(2016 - 2026\)](#).

According to the Plan, there are no Internationally important wildlife sites and no Nationally important wildlife sites in the parish.

The following Locally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) are found in the parish (and are included in the local mapping -see p6):

- Cuckoo Lane/ A432, Wick Wick road verge, neutral grassland
- Fields south of Rockwell Wood
- Hotwater Brake
- Blackberry Brake
- Branch pool wood, Henfield
- Martin Croft Brake, Ramhill
- Disused railway, Ramhill, woodland and hedgerows
- Dewshill Wood
- Fields near Cliff Farm, calcareous grassland
- Disused railway east of Coalpit Heath, leading to Frog Lane
- River Frome (part of)

Note - the Parish Council does not own/ have responsibility for these sites.

Species of Principal Importance (Section 41 NERC Act 2006) are the most important species for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The following priority species have been recorded in the parish. This list was compiled by BRERC (2016). European protected species are not included.

• Blood-vein • Bullfinch • Cinnabar • Common Toad • Corn Bunting • Corn Buttercup • Cornflower • Cuckoo • Dunnock • Eel	• Ghost Moth • Grass Snake • Grey Partridge • Hedgehog • Herring Gull • House Sparrow • Lapwing • Lesser Redpoll • Linnet • Reed Bunting	• Skylark • Slow-worm • Song Thrush • Spotted Flycatcher • Starling • Turtle Dove • White-clawed Crayfish • Yellowhammer
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This Local Nature Action Plan will have a focus on increasing hedgehog numbers during its first three years. Opportunities and actions to support and encourage other species on this list will be investigated and added to the plan over time.

The Westerleigh Biodiversity Action Plan includes suggested actions, see below, for improving biodiversity. These are reflected in the objectives of this Local Nature Action Plan (see p3), and projects that will deliver them.

- Creating new areas of priority habitat - Investigate ways to increase tree cover to increase woodland / street trees/ orchards. There may be patches of amenity land available.
- Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature - Consider putting on events / recording/ volunteering opportunities e.g. via schools(s).

West of England Nature Partnership

The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) is a partnership between Bristol City, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset working to restore the natural environment in the West of England. WENP is establishing a Nature Recovery Network as a joined up network of marine, water and terrestrial habitats where nature and people can thrive. It has identified three opportunities for improving the connectivity of woodland (two areas) and grassland (one area) in and around Westerleigh village. (www.wenp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network)

The Parish also lies within the Forest of Avon Community Forest – see forestofavontrust.org.

This Local Nature Action Plan will take account of the WENP mapping and Forest of Avon Community Forest plans when identifying future tree planting opportunities.

B-Lines Project

[Buglife's B-Lines project](#) covers a significant swathe of the parish – Coalpit Heath and Henfield. B-Lines are an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators. The B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside and towns, along which the project is restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies– but also a host of other wildlife. ([Buglife's B-Lines project](#)).

This Local Nature Action Plan will complement the B-Lines project by engaging with local residents and promoting actions to help pollinators. Additional opportunities and actions will be investigated and added to the plan over time.

River Frome Reconnected

The [River Frome Reconnected](#) is a partnership project between South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol City Council, Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP).

It aims to improve the health and resilience of the River Frome and its catchment and to make sure the river can be accessed and enjoyed by all.

The Bristol Frome and its tributaries comprise 4,117 km of river and 17,636 ha of agricultural and urban land. The Frome Valley creates an important green corridor through the villages and farmland of South Gloucestershire and the dense housing of northeast Bristol. However, the quality of its environment is degraded, particularly in the river's lower reaches.

The project has five core themes, the most relevant of which to this plan is RECONNECTING THE FROME TO NATURE. Within the Frome catchment, fish populations are declining and water quality is moderate to poor. The project will be looking at what can be done to address this.

The River Frome and River Frome Walkway form part of the western boundary of our parish. Over the life of this Local Nature Action Plan opportunities to contribute to the River Frome Reconnected Project will be identified and developed e.g. awareness raising through the [yellow fish scheme](#) for

surface water/ storm water drains and encouraging the use of raingardens and water butts to manage storm water run-off and reduce the flow of pollutants into the river.

Bioblitz/ Bristol & Bath City Nature Challenge

A Bioblitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. The [Bristol & Bath City Nature Challenge](#) is an annual citywide challenge taking place over a few days each spring. Local people are encouraged to download the free [iNaturalist](#) app and record wildlife sightings from windows, gardens and local parks wherever they are in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire or North Somerset. Frampton Cotterell Parish Council and Frampton Cotterell Nature Group organised a successful weekend event in 2022 to encourage local people to take part.

Taking part in the annual City Nature Challenge and organising bioblitzes will be one strategy to engage local people and gather data about our local biodiversity. These actions are included within this Local Nature Action Plan.

Acknowledgements

Yate Town Council

[Yate Local Nature Action Plan](#)

South Gloucestershire Council

[Local Nature Action Plans: Guidance for town and parish councils](#)

[Local Nature Action Plan Field Guide](#)

Tytherington Parish Council

Tytherington Local Nature Action Plan

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council

[Frampton Cotterell Local Climate & Nature Action Plan](#)

Doddington Parish Council

Draft Doddington Parish Local Nature Action Plan

Sodbury Town Council

[Sodbury Local Nature Action Plan](#)

Three Year Project Plan – 2022/23 – 2024/2025

The Parish Council is proud of the previous projects we have delivered to protect and enhance local nature. However, much more can still be done.

The Council has produced a three-year plan of projects to further enhance the natural environment in the parish. During this period the focus will be on Parish-Council owned land. The following project plan is not exhaustive as additional opportunities will arise. The projects may be subject to modification when they are each investigated, costed and discussed by the Environment & Leisure Committee of Westerleigh Parish Council.

Projects shall be impact assessed before moving forward to ensure the positive impacts outweigh the negative impacts.

A note about funding

Funding for these actions will come from a mix of existing budgets and 'Community Benefit Funding' (funding available to the Parish Council which is not part of the precept). Community Benefit Funding is made up of funding from the Says Court Solar Farm & development activity such as Blackberry Park. Grant applications may be made where appropriate.

Project Plan

Project name	Site	Description	Resources	Timescale	Monitoring
Meadows	Westerleigh Playing Field	-Introduce meadow area (cut & collect once per year) -Review mowing regime for remaining area (consider reduced number of cuts, long grass area, uncut margins)		Year 1– spring 2023 onwards	Baseline species count September Repeat annually
	The Pound	-Investigate opportunities in this area		Year 1- spring 2023 onwards	
	Pansy Vale	- Meadow/ long grass around orchard trees with mown paths (cut & collect once per year) -Review mowing regime for remaining area (consider reduced number of cuts, long grass area, uncut margins) -Trial from May 2023 (No Mow May, Let it Bloom in June, Knee High July)		Year 1– spring 2023 onwards	Baseline species count September Repeat annually
	Westerleigh Triangle	-Continue with pollinator-friendly planters		Year 1 – spring 2023 onwards	
	Bitterwell Lake	-Agree long grass/ reduced cut areas with Lake Manager		Year 2 - spring 2024 onwards	
	Newman Field	Review mowing regime to identify any further opportunities (consider reduced number of cuts, long grass area, uncut margins)		Year 1 – spring 2023 onwards	Baseline species count September Repeat annually
	Mays Hill Triangle	-Review mowing regime for rest of field (consider reduced number of cuts, long grass area, uncut margins) -Include in No Mow May 2023 onwards (consider extending to Let it Bloom in June, Knee High July)		Year 1 – spring 2023 onwards	Baseline species count September Repeat annually
	South Gloucestershire Council verges	-Review 8,187 sqm of verges amenity mown by South Gloucestershire Council (paid for by WPC) to identify any areas which could be mown less frequently.		Review in Year 1, for implementation Year 2	

Project name	Site	Description	Resources	Timescale	Monitoring
		<i>-Work with South Gloucestershire Council to identify opportunities for wildflower verges along Westerleigh Road to Henfield.</i>		<i>Year 4 (2025 – 2026) (after this action plan)</i>	
	No Mow May	2022 – Pansy Vale 2023 – Pansy Vale, Mays Hill Triangle, part of Westerleigh Playing Field (consider extending to Let it Bloom in June, Knee High July) -Engage residents in April bioblitz recording then promote No Mow May with residents, AWT talks		Years 1 - 3	
Tree-planting	Westerleigh Playing Field	-Identify opportunities for additional tree-planting/ mini orchard. Opportunity to contribute to woodland connectivity opportunity identified by West of England Nature Recovery Network - Review hedgerow management to enhance habitat/ wildlife corridors (cutting regime, scalloping, plant whips in gaps)	Community Benefit funding	Year 2 (2023-24) (Approach SGC Tree officer for advice summer 2023)	Baseline species count Y1 Repeat annually
	Pansy Vale	-Install signage for community orchard -Identify opportunities to replace dead trees along boundary, additional tree-planting	Community Benefit funding	Year 1 (2022-23) Year 2 (2023-24)	Baseline species count Y1 Repeat annually
	Newman Field	-Plant memorial woodland 15 – 20 trees by zip wire	Community Benefit funding <i>then sponsored by purchasers</i>	Year 1 – autumn - spring (2022-23)	Baseline species count Y1 Repeat annually
	Ivory Hill Wood	-Investigate opportunities in this area	Community Benefit funding	Year 2 onwards (2023-24)	
	Mays Hill Triangle	Identify opportunities for tree-planting to replace trees felled with ash die back, and develop annual programme	Community Benefit funding	Year 2 onwards (2023-24)	

Project name	Site	Description	Resources	Timescale	Monitoring
	Residents	Develop scheme to provide reduced price trees for residents - x 10 per year, plus planting guidance	Community Benefit funding	Years 2 - 5	
Ponds	Westerleigh	Investigate a location for a community pond/s in Westerleigh - consider Westerleigh Playing Field, Pansy Vale.	Community Benefit funding	Investigate - Year 1 (2022-23) Implement Year 2 (2023-24)	
	Residents	Develop home pond resource pack	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
Homes for wildlife	Westerleigh Playing Field	Identify locations for 2+ log piles, 2 x vandal-proof hedgehog homes, more bee/ bug hotels, nesting boxes & bat boxes (if appropriate - on Westerleigh Village Hall)	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
	Pansy Vale	Identify locations for 2+ log piles, 2 x vandal-proof hedgehog homes, more bee/ bug hotels, nesting boxes (if appropriate)	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
	The Pound	Assess suitability for homes for wildlife in this location	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
	Newman Field	Identify locations for 2+ log piles, 2 x vandal-proof hedgehog homes, bee/ bug hotels, more nesting boxes, bat boxes	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
	Bitterwell Lake	Identify locations for bee/ bug hotels nesting boxes, bat boxes (if appropriate - Henfield Hall)	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
	Mays Hill Triangle	Identify locations for log piles, hedgehog homes, bee/ bug hotels, poss nesting boxes (if appropriate)	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	
	Community buildings	Approach St James the Great Church in Westerleigh (and other community buildings as/ when opportunities arise) to provide advice and free bird and bat boxes (if appropriate)	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	

Project name	Site	Description	Resources	Timescale	Monitoring
Wildlife on the move	Westerleigh Playing Field	-Create corridor around the field by thickening/scalloping hedge and filling in gaps & review hedge-cutting regime -Review lighting to ensure it is wildlife-friendly -Identify actions to enhance corridor to St James the Great Church - Identify poss locations for hedgehog highway holes or add signs to existing holes (LINK to Hedgehog-friendly parish project)		Year 2 onwards (2023-24)	
	Pansy Vale	-Create corridor around by thickening/scalloping hedge and filling in gaps & review hedge-cutting regime, with focus on corridor to Dramway - Identify poss locations for hedgehog highway holes or add signs to existing holes (LINK to Hedgehog-friendly parish project)		Year 2 onwards (2023-24)	
	Newman Field	Review hedge-cutting regime to ensure it is wildlife-friendly		Year 2 onwards (2023-24)	
Hedgehog-friendly parish		(Using model from Ecclesfield Parish Council & Kirtlington) Set up Hedgehog working group to develop co-ordinated projects for the parishes of Westerleigh and Frampton Cotterell – cllrs, officer, local wildlife organisation, residents (draw on resources from SGC, British Hedgehog Preservation Society - BHPS- and Hedgehog Street)		Year 1 Spring 2023	
	All Parish Council land	Work with grounds contractors to make sure they are 'hedgehog aware', BHPS stickers		Year 2 (2023-24)	
	Residents	Develop hedgehog welcome packs for local school children and for residents (Guidance and voucher for reduced price hedgehog home, free hedgehog highway sign)- send out via schools. Encourage residents to post their photos and add to Hedgehog Street online map	Community Benefit funding	Year 2 (2023-24)	Monitor hedgehog sightings and hedgehog holes on Hedgehog Street online map

Project name	Site	Description	Resources	Timescale	Monitoring
	Residents	Resident awareness-raising of being hedgehog-friendly and the project on website/ social media, Westerleigh newsletter & Frome Valley Voice article	Community Benefit funding	Year 2 (2023-24)	As above
	Residents	Arrange hedgehog events with AWT e.g. nature picnic days at Westerleigh Playing Field, Newman Field to inform residents and hand out free Hedgehog Highway plaques	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	As above
	Residents	Hedgehog Highway project - IF holes installed on Council land publicise on FB/ email newsletter -Set up Hedgehog champion to install holes and signs on residents properties - 10 gardens per year	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	As above
Engage & empower local people 1 in 4	Big Garden Birdwatch & National Nest Box week	Promote with residents and AWT events in January and February Post on Facebook to see who has any nesting birds on their properties – will help identify existing species Organise presentation about nesting birds, threats, how to help, what type of nestboxes, where to get them or build Purchase bulk order of nestboxes and sell to residents at half price – aim for x 10/year	Community Benefit funding	Year 1 onwards (Jan 2023) then annually Year 3 (2024-25)	
	Residents - annual wild-gardening promotion	-AWT March wild gardening event for residents -Promote with residents and link to April bioblitz & No Mow May -Seed giveaway via local schools and preschool, linked with a school event	Community Benefit funding	Year 2 onwards (March 2024) then annually	
	Residents - Coalpit Heath & Henfield B-Line zone	Promote national B-Lines project with residents Develop 'bee pack' for residents with seeds and information Plan for annual bee event at Manor Hall community garden with AWT	Community Benefit funding	Year 3 (2024-25)	

Appendix 1 - Westerleigh Parish Council Owned Land

1. Westerleigh Playing Field



2. The Pound, Westerleigh





3. Pansy Vale, Westerleigh



4. Westerleigh village triangle & war memorial



5. Bitterwell Lake, Henfield



6. Newman Field, Henfield



7. Mays Hill triangle



8. Ivory Hill Wood, Coalpit Heath

Appendix 2 - Avon Wildlife Trust events programme 2022/23

2022/23 Events Schedule Start				
Date	NATURE CONNECTION Activity National Event	LEARNING & SKILLS Activity Life Long Learning Course	EMPOWERMENT & ACTION Take Home &/or Action	MOVEMENT BUILDING Team Wilder Comms Support Other Events
April 26 th	City Nature Challenge : School Assembly – Immanuel	How to get involved in City Nature Challenge How to use iNaturalist Improve identification skills	Take part in the City Nature Challenge at home using iNaturalist	Links with Comms around CNC Suggest other events going on around City and around CNC
May 30 th	Bird Walk – Bird Song	Bird Identification skills Learn Bird song	Survey birds at Home iNaturalist and BirdNet app Get involved with 30 days Wild	Life Long Learning – Bird ID course Photos to share after walk Share bird photos with AWT – repost
June 1 st	Summer day at Says Court 30 Days Wild	Bug and Flower ID Crafts River dip	Continue surveying at home iNaturalist How to make wildflower meadow in gardens 30 Days Wild handouts	30 Days Wild – AWT Comms and National TWT campaign Share what you get up to over 30DW with @avonwt
July 27 th	Big Butterfly Count	Butterfly ID skills Moth ID Skills – Bitterwell lake / Says Court – Moth Trap?	How to help butterflies at home Make a butterfly feeder jar What to plant in gardens	Join in with national campaign Share what you get up to with @avonwt
Aug 15 th	Bitterwell Lake Event - Community bug hotel building	Bug ID Survey skills How to build a bug hotel	Take mini bug hotel home with them Actions for insects to take home with them Throw out pesticides	Share photos of bug hotels at home and bugs you see. Log your activity on our projects map #TeamWilder
Sep	<i>Local Nature Action Plan Meeting?</i>			
Oct	October Half Term Bat Walk	Enjoy looking for bats How to use Bat detectors Difference between bat species	How to get bats in your garden Bat box – how to guide	Halloween Repost any of your photos and findings on AWT channels
Nov	Owl Prowl walk	Learn Owl identification	Report owl sightings to South Glos Owl group	Tag and Share photos from events

				Owl Handouts – How to help owls at home
Dec	Festive Crafts & Winter Wildlife (Adults)	Nature wellbeing activities to do at home Create some wildlife feeders	Use crafts to decorate garden and attract wildlife Carry on wellbeing activities at home	12 Days Wild – Carry on doing wildlife activities over the festive break
Jan	Big Garden Bird Watch Bird walk and school assembly	Bird walk ID How to get involved in the Birdwatch	Big Garden Bird Watch Website AWT supporting online docs	Social Media Posts George ‘How Many Birds in South Glos’ online challenge
Feb	Nest Box Building	How to make a bird box Winter Bird ID	Bird Box to hang up at home	National Nest Box
Mar	<i>Community Conservation Review? Tied in with GC Bird Photo Talk?</i>	<i>Review and share of action taken since Sep?</i>	<i>Action plans for the year?</i>	