



A presentation for Twyford Parish Council

Fiona Hewer, Chair of Wild Maidenhead
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About me

A meteorologist and Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, now working as the Climate Change and Sustainable Transport Projects Officer at Henley Town Council.

Founder and chair of resident-led wildmaidenhead.org.uk biodiversity charity



Formerly

Parish Councillor and Chair in
Cookham, Berkshire

Senior Biodiversity and Planning Officer
(Bucks, maternity cover)

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire
Home



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1. What is Wild Maidenhead?

- Local charity founded in 2016
- To discover, celebrate, support and protect protect wild things and wild places
- Knowl Hill - Cookham - Maidenhead town - Fifield
- Resident led, apolitical
- A membership organisation
- Writing and implementing a **Biodiversity Action Plan**

2. Our changing wildlife

We have lost species and habitats

75% flying insect biomass, half ponds, 97% of wildflower meadows

due to destruction and neglect

habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, pollution, invasive species, climate change
lack of management eg Threatened Plants, Walker, Stroh and Ellis 2017

and therefore we need a step-change

in attitude, coordination and action

to reverse biodiversity decline

and make our parishes places where everyone is connected to wildlife.

Better, bigger, more,
joined - John Lawton

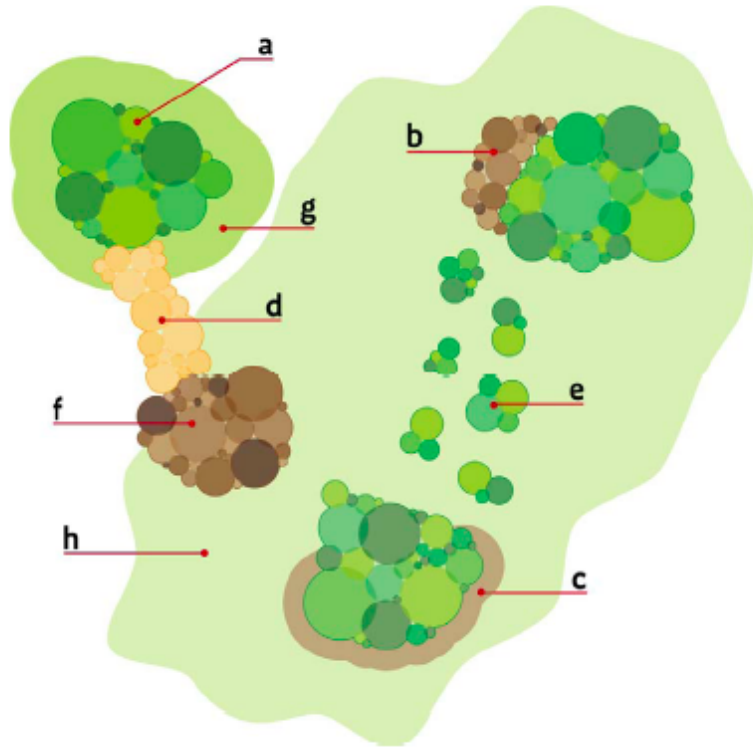


Figure 5. Enhancing ecological networks

Approaches include: improving the quality of habitat patches (a); making existing sites bigger (b), which can include creating ecotones (c – see section 5.1.3); enhancing connectivity through a continuous corridor (d) or a stepping stone corridor (e); creating new sites (f); and reducing pressures on sites either by establishing buffer zones (g) or enhancing the wider environment (h).

3. What have we done so far?

About 250 members and 1800 followers on facebook

Identified 128 priority species in our area from otters and slow worms to sky larks and stag beetles.

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Published a Biodiversity Action Plan.

Monthly events.

Practical projects and policy changing campaigns



Wild Maidenhead so far

- England's largest toad ladder project

- Protecting toads during their annual migration to and from their breeding ponds
- Toad ladders
- Toad patrols



Wild Maidenhead so far

- improving habitats to store carbon

- Hedgerow planting
- The government's Climate Change Committee has proposed that extending hedgerows by 40% is needed as part of the actions to reach net-zero carbon 2050 (CCC May 2019)



Wild Maidenhead so far

- the RBWM Environment & Climate Strategy

- December 2020 - a momentous day!
- Wild Maidenhead a key member
- Natural Environment Theme and a **Biodiversity Action Plan**



Wild Maidenhead so far

- the RBWM Biodiversity Action Plan

- A new plan by June 2021
- Using Wild Maidenhead's surveys and objectives for Maidenhead
- Seven wild groups covering the whole borough and representing young people



Wild Maidenhead so far

- supporting Local Wildlife Sites

- Identify and map with the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
- Eg Twyford Gravel Pits and Loddon Nature Reserve
- New applications
- A key component of Nature Recovery Networks

4. Future plans



**Hedgehog
Highways**



10% Wild in
Parks -
stepping stones
for habitat
connectivity



**Wild
About
Gardens
Awards**

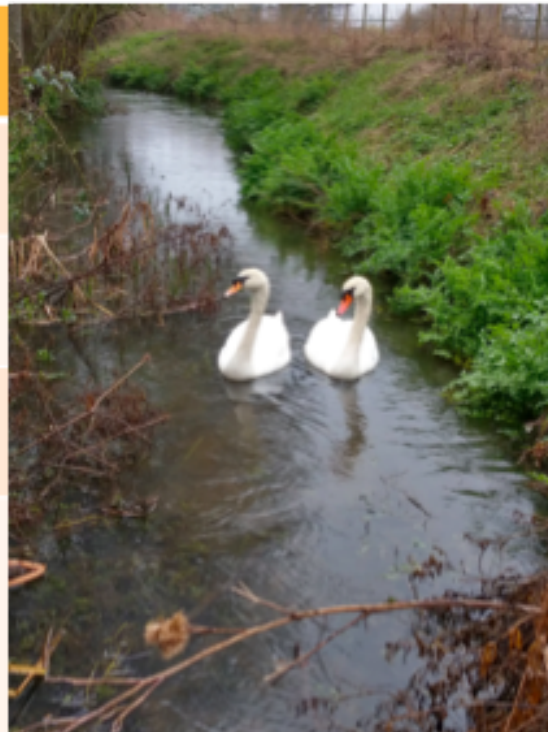
5. What can Parish Councils do for biodiversity?



- Biodiversity Duty
- Allotments
- No mow May
- Cut down glyphosate and pesticides
- Wildflowers areas and nectar bars in your green spaces
- Dead wood matters!
- Planning Committee - biodiversity net gain in the NPPF

5. What can Parish Councils do for biodiversity?
National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019)

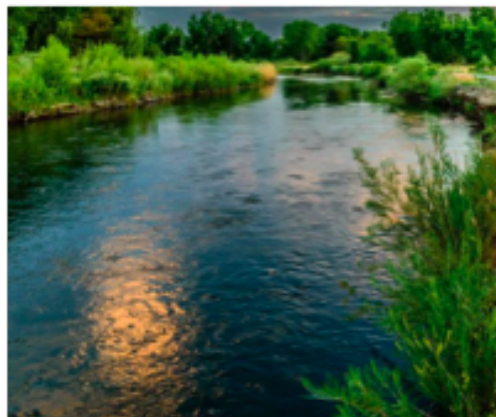
Paragraph of section 15	Quotable topic	Explanation
170, 174b	measurable biodiversity net gain	area and quality of habitat
175a	mitigation hierarchy - avoid, mitigate, compensate	if can't be avoided, onsite mitigation is best
170d, 171, 174	ecological networks	proximity to other habitats, wildlife corridors such as waterways or hedgerows
175	irreplaceable habitats	eg Ancient Woodlands and SSSIs - development within or outside likely to have an adverse effect not normally permitted



5. What can Parish Councils do for biodiversity?

Seven steps to success for wildlife

1. Always use planning grounds - NPPF, Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan
2. Never assume officers are aware, OBJECT and ask for CONDITIONS
3. Require **Biodiversity Net Gain** in every application (sometimes above a minimum size)
4. Ecological Appraisal - irreplaceable habitats, Priority Habitats and Priority Species
5. Know you Local Plan policies - biodiversity, nature, tree, woodland, hedge, waterway, light pollution...
6. Ask for building enhancement conditions - bat boxes, bird boxes, swift bricks, hedgehog corridors, green roofs, swales, native planting
7. Call for protection of waterways and Local Wildlife Sites eg 10m buffer



Thank you for your attention

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www.wildmaidenhead.org.uk