

## **Parish Nature Warden Scheme. (PNWS)**

April / May 2022, Monthly report.

<b>Number of bags of litter picked</b>	4.5 bin bags
<b>Reported 1 dead hedgehog on Big Hedgehog Map</b>  <b>Verge review:</b> Over the last year we have been monitoring the parish verge management to see if any change is needed (especially with the NoMow May campaign run by Plantlife in mind). Any strimming that is done is done sensitively by Josh, who has local knowledge and is aware of the seasons and changes in vegetation and is sensitive to species such as orchids, which thrive on the verges in our parish. The areas which he manages are where the visibility splays at junctions and also in amenity areas around the play area and bus stops. It is a good example of where local knowledge and non-centralised management is working... rather than the 'slash and burn' often criticised in other councils. Also it seems that the majority of our verges are privately owned. Over a number of years the Addicott family have been systematically planting daffodil bulbs along the verges which are a wonderful sight and the parish is often complimented on its appearance in the spring.  There is a small amount of encroachment of winter heliotrope (a non-native invasive, which can become established and shade out native plants) which may require management, however this verge is privately owned so we may need to keep an eye on this and work together to minimise its impact.  Following on from this it is hoped that an awareness campaign around hedges will be carried out in the autumn, to encourage new hedges particularly to focus on the importance for connectivity and that we should favour them instead of hard and impenetrable fencing especially near the roadside...  <b>Aporee soundscape recording:</b> Uploaded 3 sound files to Radio Aporee- a worldwide map of soundscapes. The recording I took on the road near Cotley Castle got nominated for recording of the month! To continue this project to highlight what wildlife hears when moving through the parish and beyond: <a href="https://aporee.org/maps/">https://aporee.org/maps/</a>  <b>Cutteridge Wood planting:</b> So far all of the Wild Service Trees at Cutteridge Wood are surviving with the exception of one which will be replaced in the next planting season.  <b>Monitoring projects:</b> Continued surveying 4 stream points for Westcountry Rivers Trust CSI including Phosphate testing, turbidity, temperature and dissolved solids.	

### **Standard paragraph for planning applications re NERC obligations drafting ideas:**

We have discussed creating a standard paragraph that we can submit for most planning applications to highlight some ideas that people can do when undertaking building development to help wildlife.

This is NOT in cases where an ecological survey is required as this is analysed on a case by case basis in the usual manner.

It is more for every application we have where we normally say “No Comment” eg the development looks fine and we are happy for it to go ahead:

Current draft:

“Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Longdown and Holcombe Burnell parish council are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we would welcome any action that can be taken to help wildlife in this time of ecological crisis. Any new development offers an opportunity for residents to help us in this endeavour. Steps that could be taken include:

- Ensuring outside lighting is carefully positioned and where possible shaded from above to reduce the impact that lighting has on bats, night flying birds and insects.
- Installing swift bricks
- Installing bat boxes / bat bricks
- Avoid removing existing tree and hedging as well as consider planting new hedgerows instead of fencing, this helps wildlife move more freely across the parish as well as creating connectivity for species such as hedgehogs and bats
- Planting berry and fruit-bearing trees
- Maintaining hedgehog highways”

..... Any other ideas??????

So whilst it won't be binding it may hopefully make people more mindful of their impact on wildlife.

### **MONTHLY NATURE PHOTO LOG**



**April Early Purple orchid**



**May Common blue butterfly**

## CUTTERIDGE WOOD BRIDLE PATH



**April 2022**

### **ACTIONS**

To arrange a community activity eg Bioblitz / Removal of laurel in Chalk's Corner. Discussed ? removal with Josh after nesting season

To ? advertise for additional Wildlife Wardens to join the ACT team.

To move PNWS updates to quarterly instead of monthly.

**Author Kate Morley**