

---

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

---



TACKLING THE CLIMATE  
AND ECOLOGICAL  
EMERGENCY

Improving People's Lives

# Parish and Town Nature Action Plans

## Guidance for parish and town councils



## **Contents**

---

Introduction .....	3
Creating your Parish or Town Nature Action Plan .....	5
Submitting your Nature Action Plan for review .....	10
Delivering your Action Plan .....	11
Appendix I: A template for a NAP .....	12
Appendix II: Some ideas to get you started .....	15
Appendix III: Some helpful sources of information .....	20
Appendix IV: Local Organisations and Groups you could work with .....	22
Appendix V: Example NAPs from South Gloucestershire .....	25
Appendix VI: Achieving 30 by 30 at a local level .....	26

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

This document has been produced by Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council (hereafter referred to as the council) to guide parish and town councils in Bath and North East Somerset in the development and delivery of Parish/Town Nature Action Plans (NAPs). The document provides a template for restoring local biodiversity and engaging communities with nature, and builds on the work done in South Gloucestershire on 'Local Nature Action Plans'.

Initial engagement with parish and town councils at a Parish Liaison meeting in 2022 and subsequent discussions have indicated that such guidance would be useful. The council will continue to work with parish and town councils to support the development and delivery of NAPs.

### **The climate and ecological emergencies**

In 2019 and 2020, the council declared climate and ecological emergencies, setting ambitions to lead a nature positive, carbon neutral district by 2030. Climate and nature are completely interlinked, with climate change as one of the key drivers of nature loss and damage. Many actions taken to address one of these challenges may also contribute to tackling the other, and in the case of action on nature may support both climate change mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (preparing for changes already locked in).

Urgent and transformative action is needed in response to both emergencies, and this action needs to be taken by all sections of society. Parish and town councils have a crucial role to play in engaging with communities and driving local action on the climate and ecological emergencies.

### **Why do we need Parish/Town Nature Action Plans?**

Nature is collapsing at an alarming rate. Since 1970 global populations of wild vertebrates have declined by 60%, and we have lost 83% of freshwater species and up to 76% of insects. Similar trends have been observed locally; in our region, populations of once common birds such as swifts and cuckoos have plummeted in the past 25 years alone.

A range of interacting factors are behind the decline in nature. These include changes in land use and land management, the use of pesticides and other pollutants, the modification of our waterways, the presence of invasive non-native species, and climate change.

This matters to all of us because of the vital role that wildlife and nature play in supporting our wellbeing, society and economy. Nature provides the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and many of the resources we need to survive



## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

and maintain our quality of life. In total, more than half of the world's economy is moderately or highly dependent on nature.

To reflect the severity of this, the council declared an [ecological emergency \(hyperlinks\)](#) in July 2020, and are using three priorities to guide its work:

- Increase the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature across Bath and North East Somerset,
- Increase the abundance and distribution of key species across Bath and North East Somerset , and
- Enable more people to access and engage with nature.

These priorities were set in the context of the global target to protect 30% of the planet for nature by 2030 (known as '30 by 30'), which over 100 countries have signed up to.

To tackle the ecological emergency and reach 30 by 30<sup>1</sup>, we need everyone, at every level of society, to be taking action. Parish and town councils, local community groups and residents will know their area best, and the council wants to enable them to take action for nature.

### What is a Parish/Town Nature Action Plan?

A Parish or Town NAP is simply a way for parish and town councils to plan the action they will take to help nature in their area. They are intended to help parish and town councils identify their existing assets for nature and opportunities for restoring nature in their area. Opportunities may exist on land they own and arise through engaging with residents and communities, businesses and local landholders.

In this document the council have provided ideas for how to develop and deliver a NAP. A template for a NAP is provided in Appendix I: A template for a NAP, although parish and town councils are not expected to strictly follow this, and there is flexibility to design plans to best suit the needs of local residents.

This work builds on the concept first developed by South Gloucestershire Council. For examples of completed plans by parish and town councils, visit [South Gloucestershire Council Local Nature Action Plans \(hyperlinks\)](#).

For those interested in developing a combined 'climate and nature action plan'; [Frampton Cotterell's Climate and Nature Action Plan \(hyperlinks\)](#) is a good example of this. In 2023, the council published [a document \(hyperlinks\)](#) that includes some additional guidance and resources on actions to address the climate emergency.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more detail on how NAPs can help achieve the 30 by 30 target, see Appendix VI: Achieving 30 by 30 at a local level

## **SECTION 2: CREATING A PARISH OR TOWN NATURE ACTION PLAN**

Those struggling for resource to develop a NAP are encouraged to consider funding officer time using the [Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\) \(hyperlinks\)](#).

### **Working in partnership**

The most effective NAPs will be developed in partnership with local expertise and community groups, securing buy-in from as many people and organisations as possible.

Organisations that could be useful to work with include:

- Neighbouring town and parish councils
- 'Friends of' groups and volunteer groups
- Local nature groups and action groups
- Local and regional charities
- Local businesses
- Local landholders
- Resident groups
- Youth organisations such as: scouts, guides and youth clubs
- Sports clubs
- Local faith groups
- Local experts
- Bath & North East Somerset Council

This list is by no means exhaustive and there will be other people or groups that could be involved. Appendix IV: Local Organisations and Groups you could work with' lists some local groups that you might be interested in working with, depending on your area.

Parish and town councils might want to form a partnership group to develop the NAP. This should bring together a range of representation and expertise appropriate to the area but should not be too large.

## Stakeholders and communication

There will be a broader range of stakeholders (those with an interest in the development of the NAP) who will need to be engaged and communicated with.

It is important to consider the level of interaction that will be needed with different stakeholders. Those with more interest in the NAP and influence on the actions that will be delivered will need to be the most actively engaged.

Stakeholder mapping tools like the one shown below can be used to help scope and plan engagement.

	<b>Low Stakeholder Interest</b>	<b>High Stakeholder Interest</b>
<b>High Stakeholder Influence</b>	Satisfy and Influence	Collaborate
<b>Low Stakeholder Influence</b>	Inform	Show consideration

*Figure 1: Stakeholder Mapping Tool showing the different approaches to engagement depending on the stakeholder's 'influence' and 'interest'.*

It is important to communicate with these stakeholders. All communications must be clear and stakeholders should be communicated with as early as possible, although the nature of the communication will depend on the category of stakeholder. Each stakeholder should have a clear point of contact, a method for contacting them, and a plan for how they will inform the rest of their organisation (if relevant).

## Evidence

The best plans are informed by the best evidence, and there are a number of sources that can be used to help develop a NAP. Parish and town councils with access to [Parish Online \(hyperlinks\)](#) will find lots of relevant evidence and data on there.

Some other key sources of evidence are listed below:

- [Bristol Environmental Records Centre \(BRERC\) \(hyperlinks\)](#) has historical species records for the whole of the West of England including Bath and North East Somerset..
- [West of England Nature Recovery Network \(hyperlinks\)](#) shows strategic priorities for nature recovery.
- [Forest of Avon Plan \(hyperlinks\)](#) is our regional strategy for trees and woodlands and includes localised priorities.
- [DEFRA Magic Maps \(hyperlinks\)](#) has a range of national datasets related to the natural environment.
- [Swift Mapper \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [BIG Hedgehog Map \(hyperlinks\)](#)

We also strongly recommend that NAPs are informed by local [Neighbourhood Plan \(hyperlinks\)](#), where available.

## **Mapping**

Creating a map will enable parish and town councils and plan users to better visualise existing 'nature assets', to plan ongoing work to help nature, to help identify potential opportunities, and to help monitor change and progress. It is important that landholders are consulted before identifying opportunities and actions on their land.

Using a free mapping service such as [Google My Maps \(hyperlinks\)](#) or [FELT \(hyperlinks\)](#) is an easy way to do this. FELT has more functionality than Google My Maps and we recommend using this.

## **Case Study**

***Frampton Cotterell Parish Council have created a map for their Climate and Nature Action Plan using Google My Maps. To view their map, visit [Frampton Cotterell Climate and Nature Action Plan Maps \(hyperlinks\)](#).***

## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils

January 2024

Some suggestions for things to be included on a baseline map are:

- Trees of interest, including ancient and veteran trees
- Woodlands, scrub and wildflower meadows
- Well-managed hedgerows
- Ponds and rivers/streams
- Public open space
- Highway verges
- Wildlife corridors, such as hedgehog highways
- Nesting spaces, such as swift boxes and bat boxes
- Land ownership

Mapping land ownership will be particularly important in deciding where to target action. Land owned by the parish and town council or by the council will provide the best opportunities for quick-wins and is the best place to start. Land in private ownership will require a longer-term approach of engagement and communications.

For those who are unsure what land the town and parish council own or lease, the following steps can be taken to find out:

- Speak with the clerk and ex-members of the parish or town council
- Check legal documents for deeds, leases and conveyances
- Use [Land Registry searches \(hyperlinks\)](#)

### Land Management

Changes to land management is one of the most important actions to help nature and can also contribute to tackling climate change. Actions could involve creating wildflower meadows, planting trees and orchards, establishing ponds and wet areas, reducing cutting frequency on verges and green spaces, or just letting areas go wild. Land management can, however, come with challenges if it is not properly thought out.

Some things to consider when changing land management are:

- Are there any other conflicting land uses? A football pitch cannot be managed for nature, but an unused area of a common might be more appropriate.
- Is there any existing habitat on site that would be negatively affected by the change? Some habitats, such as scrub, nettles and long grass, may look messy, but can be really valuable for wildlife.



## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils

January 2024

- Who is currently managing the land, and would they be supportive of the proposed change?
- How will a new management regime be resourced, is the necessary equipment available, and is it sustainable in the long-term?
- Are there any services or infrastructure that could be affected by management plans? If plans involve significant digging, it is advisable that a search is conducted for things like water pipes, sewer pipes, BT lines, below-ground electric cables and gas pipes. If needed, the council can conduct searches for a fee. For further information, visit [Bath & North East Somerset Council Request a Local Authority Search \(hyperlinks\)](#).

### Tips for content

Some tips for producing an effective NAP are:

- Keep the plan concise and use plain language. This will get the message across and ensure the document is accessible to everyone.
- Develop a time frame for the action plan. It could be a 3-year plan or a 5-year plan, and it could also be framed with ambitions or targets for 2030 and 2050, mirroring national and international nature recovery ambitions.
- Make actions ‘SMART’: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound, where possible. This will make actions easier to progress and monitor. For example, ‘from 2024, reduce the mowing frequency on the Common to twice a year, in early May and September’ compared to ‘mow grass less frequently’.
- Do not be over ambitious. It is better to focus on a smaller number of actions that can confidently be delivered, rather than lots of actions that may be hard to progress. Plans can always be updated with further actions at a later date.
- Consider how actions will be funded and how they will be delivered (see ‘SECTION 4: DELIVERING AN ACTION PLAN’).

### **SECTION 3: SUBMITTING A NATURE ACTION PLAN FOR REVIEW**

Draft NAPs can be submitted to the Nature Recovery Team at the council using the following email address: [Nature\\_Recovery@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Nature_Recovery@bathnes.gov.uk). The Team will review the document and will return any feedback. Response times will depend on workload, and at busy times it may take up to four weeks.

Once published, NAPs should be updated every year to keep it as relevant as possible. This will also enable the council to help identify potential opportunities in each parish or town.

Remember, the NAP will not be a statutory document: it is intended to support parish and town councils in taking action for nature.

## **SECTION 4: DELIVERING AN ACTION PLAN**

Funding may be available for some actions identified in individual Plans, especially if these are deemed 'shovel ready'. The council's Nature Recovery Team aim to keep town and parish councils aware of relevant funding opportunities and may be able to provide letters of support for funding bids where NAPs have been submitted and reviewed by the Team.

Local funding opportunities include:

- The [Trees for Climate Fund \(hyperlinks\)](#) for tree planting, including orchards and hedgerows
- The [Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership Fund \(hyperlinks\)](#) Community Grants Scheme for water/river-related projects
- Money that your parish or town council has received through the [Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\) \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- S106 funding (off-site open space contributions secured through the planning process)
- Free trees and support from the [Woodland Trust \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- Other external grant funders, such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Sponsorship by residents or business (e.g., sponsor a tree, pond or square metre of meadow)
- Community benefit money from nearby developments like solar farms and waste transfer stations
- Developers still working on nearby development sites

The council have also launched a [Call for Nature Sites \(hyperlinks\)](#), which identifies and shares the location of areas of land where the owners are interested in taking action for nature recovery and are looking for funding or assistance in doing so. Nature Sites could be identified through the NAP process and subsequently submitted through the council's [Call for Nature Sites \(hyperlinks\)](#). This provides opportunities to promote land for nature recovery for example to developers needing to provide [Biodiversity Net Gain \(hyperlinks\)](#), or NGOs who are looking for sites to work on with nature volunteers.

The council's Parks & Green Spaces team is also running a local [Neighbourhood Nature Area \(hyperlinks\)](#) initiative, which enables local groups to adopt council owned green spaces and manage them for nature. The NAP could help identify such sites, allowing quick adoption and support from the Parks Team.

## **Appendix I: A template for a NAP**

### **Background and introduction**

Explain why you are producing a NAP, what its purpose is and how it should be used.

### **Strategic Context**

It might be useful to explain the strategies, plans and evidence you have used to produce your NAP and how they relate to your area. For example, the B&NES Ecological Emergency Action Plan, West of England Nature Recovery Network, Forest of Avon Plan, B&NES Local Plan, and any existing projects in your area could all be of relevance, among others.

### **Aims and objectives**

It is helpful to set out a clear aim and a set of objectives for your Plan, which all your actions are contributing towards.

For example, your aim could be to ‘create a thriving natural environment in [your] parish’, with objectives such as ‘increase the extent of parish/town council-owned land managed for nature’, ‘ensure parish/town council decisions are taken with a consideration of their impact on nature’, ‘increase community engagement and involvement in nature recovery’, and ‘better understand the state of our local natural environment and wildlife’.

### **Partnership**

Make clear who has been involved in developing the plan and will lead its delivery, providing contacts so that readers can get in touch with them as needed. The table below provides a template for this.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Example parish council	Lead, funding, committee structure	JaneDoe@gmail.com
B&NES Council	Guidance	Nature_recovery@bathnes.gov.uk
Example residents action group	Volunteers, work, surveys, site management	example@outlook.com
Residents	Consulted on content of plan	N/A

### **Stakeholders**

Map the stakeholders in delivering your NAP and how you will involve them. This could be a simple list or a diagram.

## The Action Plan

This is the core of your NAP, where you set out the actions that you plan to take to help restore nature. A table is a good way of presenting your actions, ensuring that they are easy to understand. A template is provided below, but you may want to add columns describing how you will resource the action and how you will monitor success.

Theme/Project	Location	Description	Timescale
<b>Meadow restoration</b>	Example field	Introduce meadow area with cut and collect once per year	2023
	Example playing field	Introduce meadow area around the edge of playing field	2023
	Residents	Provide residents with wildflower seeds and plugs to sow in their gardens	2024
	etc	etc	etc
<b>Homes for wildlife</b>	Town hall	Install three swift boxes on town hall	2023
	Example field	Install two log piles, and a bee/bug hotel in suitable locations	2023
	etc	etc	etc
<b>Etc...</b>	etc	etc	etc

## Communication Plan

Building on your list of stakeholders, it will be helpful to set out how you plan to communicate what you are doing to each stakeholder, and how you will build a partnership approach to delivering the NAP.

Stakeholder	Actions	Delivery Method	Timescale
Local residents	Provide the opportunity to shape the plan as it is produced Provide regular updates and opportunities to get involved in delivery	Noticeboards, website, social media, parish newsletter, meetings	Monthly updates online Quarterly updates in parish newsletter
Local businesses	Communicate examples of actions local businesses can take to help nature Provide opportunities for sponsorship of projects	Emails, leaflets, in person	As required
B&NES Council	Keep informed of delivery Ensure link-up with projects B&NES Council are leading	Email	Every 6 months



## **Mapping**

As explained in the main body of this guidance, it will be helpful to create an online map of opportunities that have been identified and delivery of actions. Make sure you provide a link to the mapping in your NAP.

## **Other info (appendices)**

Some other context and information you may want to include in your document, perhaps in appendices, could include:

- Information on and/or a map of any land that you own
- Information on previous projects related to nature recovery that you have undertaken
- A list of priority species in your area

## Appendix II: Some ideas to get you started

Theme	Ideas	Benefits
<b>Tree planting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify locations where you can plant trees on land you own</li> <li>• Set up a sponsor a tree programme</li> <li>• Offer local residents the opportunity to care for establishing trees</li> <li>• Work with schools and communities to <a href="#">request free trees from the Woodland Trust (hyperlinks)</a></li> <li>• Purchase trees to giveaway to local residents to plant in their gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits a wide range of species, including birds, insects, and mammals</li> <li>• Sequesters carbon</li> <li>• Provides cooling and shade during hot summers</li> <li>• Can reduce air pollution</li> <li>• Low maintenance once established</li> </ul>
<b>Hedgerows</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you can, talk to local farmers and landholders about improving hedgerow management for wildlife</li> <li>• If there are any hedgerows on your land, manage them for wildlife using the guidance in Appendix III</li> <li>• Inform residents about how they can manage hedges in their gardens for wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits lots of species, including birds, pollinators, bats and small mammals</li> <li>• Adds to landscape character and heritage</li> <li>• Sequesters carbon</li> <li>• Can reduce air pollution</li> </ul>

## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

Theme	Ideas	Benefits
<b>Rivers and streams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise a litter pick of your local stream, where it is safe to do so<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Speak to local householders about what they flush down their drains and how these items may pollute local rivers and streams, and how they can reduce their water use</li> <li>Identify invasive species along the river corridor and organise systematic removal of them<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Work with organisations such as the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to map opportunities and identify unique local projects</li> <li>Reduce erosion of the riverbank by providing designated areas where people and dogs can access streams without eroding banks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving water quality is important for local fish and invertebrate species, which have declined both nationwide and locally</li> <li>Removing litter from the river improves the habitat for wildlife and makes areas nicer for residents to enjoy</li> <li>Invasive species can cause lots of problems for our rivers and streams, including increasing bank erosion and threatening native species. Removing them can make habitat more resilient and wildlife friendly</li> <li>Community engagement and activities</li> </ul>
<b>Ponds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local communities to create ponds on land that you own, where this doesn't conflict with other uses and where it is safe</li> <li>Manage new and existing ponds where necessary to ensure they continue to benefit wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lots of species are reliant on ponds and other wet areas, including amphibians, such as toads and newts</li> <li>Ponds are amazing carbon sinks (one study suggests they can absorb carbon at a rate 20-30 times that of woodland<sup>4</sup>)</li> <li>Can reduce flooding (depending on location)</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Make sure you have obtained landowner consent before undertaking any activities on private land, and that you have appropriate insurance and safety measures in place when working near rivers and streams.

<sup>3</sup> It is recommended that you speak to an expert, such as Avon Invasive Species Forum or Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, before attempting removal of invasive species, especially ones that are difficult to identify and/or require specialist treatment and disposal. Japanese knotweed must be dealt with professionally or sent to a disposal facility with the appropriate permit.

## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

Theme	Ideas	Benefits
<b>Meadows and grass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify small areas of land that B&amp;NES Council manages, such as road verges and small open spaces, where you could set up a <a href="#">Neighbourhood Nature Area (hyperlinks)</a></li> <li>Reduce the frequency of cutting some areas of grassland to once or twice a year</li> <li>Create wildflower meadows, perhaps in partnership with local residents, cutting and collecting once or twice a year</li> <li>Plant flowering lawns where grass needs to remain short for amenity use</li> <li>Purchase wildflower seed packs to giveaway to local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great for pollinators and other insects</li> <li>Good opportunities for community engagement and sense of ownership</li> </ul>
<b>Orchards and community food growing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a community orchard / plant fruit trees</li> <li>Create other food growing opportunities, such as community-owned allotments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great for wildlife while providing local food</li> <li>Food growing can have huge benefits for people's health and wellbeing</li> <li>Helps build a sense of community</li> </ul>
<b>Nesting birds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install nest boxes, including swift boxes, on your properties where feasible</li> <li>Work with local residents to make nest boxes (using guidance in Appendix III)</li> <li>Work with local schools to install nest boxes on their properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iconic species such as swifts, swallows and martins are largely dependent on human structures for nesting</li> <li>Good opportunities for community engagement</li> <li>Low/zero maintenance once installed</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Taylor et al., 2019. *High carbon burial rates by small ponds in the landscape*

## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

Theme	Ideas	Benefits
<b>Homes for insects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a bug hotel or deadwood pile on your land, with signs explaining the benefits of this</li> <li>• Work with volunteers in the local community to build bug hotels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement and educational opportunities</li> <li>• Relatively simple to establish without needing lots of land</li> </ul>
<b>Homes for mammals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put up bat boxes to provide roosting space for local bats</li> <li>• Install hedgehog homes on your land</li> <li>• Create 'hedgehog highways' by cutting small holes in fences on your properties, and encourage local residents to do the same in their gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits rare or threatened mammals: the hedgehog is much more reliant on urban and suburban areas due to changes in the agricultural landscape</li> </ul>
<b>Pesticides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce or, ideally, eliminate any use of pesticides on your land</li> <li>• Share guidance with local residents on how to reduce pesticide use in gardens, and encourage sharing of advice between residents</li> <li>• Herbicides might be needed to tackle certain non-native invasive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits wildlife, especially insects and pollinators</li> <li>• Can reduce human exposure to pesticides, improving health</li> </ul>
<b>Light pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify where light pollution is most likely to be affecting nature in your area</li> <li>• Work with B&amp;NES Council to reduce light spill from street lighting and/or fitting filters to change the colour of lights</li> <li>• Work with businesses and local residents to reduce light pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits night-flying insects and bats, in particular</li> <li>• Can also benefit people's health and wellbeing by reducing light exposure</li> </ul>



## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

Theme	Ideas	Benefits
<b>Local gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local residents to set up a gardening for wildlife group, if not already active</li> <li>• Set up a wildlife garden open day, where local residents open up their gardens to the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great opportunity for community engagement and increasing sense of place</li> </ul>
<b>Community engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up a local wildlife group (which could be on social media), where people can share local wildlife sightings and ideas for wildlife</li> <li>• Create a local volunteering group for nature if one isn't already active</li> <li>• Put up information boards explaining what you are doing to help nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Builds support and momentum for action to help nature, and empowers people to take action themselves</li> <li>• Volunteering can benefit health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Increases sense of community</li> <li>• Helps build understanding of people's priorities and the state of nature locally</li> </ul>

### Appendix III: Some helpful sources of information

Subject	Sources and description
<b>Tree planting</b>	<p><a href="#">How to Plant a Tree – Woodland Trust (hyperlinks)</a> (guidance on ways to plant trees, with a link to how to care for them once planted)</p> <p><a href="#">Which tree to plant – Woodland Trust (hyperlinks)</a> (guidance on how to choose which trees to plant, including a guide to 31 native species)</p>
<b>Hedgerows</b>	<p><a href="#">How to manage a hedgerow for wildlife – The Wildlife Trusts (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hedgerow Management Advice - Hedgelink (hyperlinks)</a></p>
<b>Rivers and streams</b>	<p><a href="#">Community Information – Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Everyday action for rivers – Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (hyperlinks)</a></p>
<b>Ponds</b>	<p><a href="#">How to make a wildlife pond - RSPB (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Gardening for wetlands – Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Pond Creation toolkit – Freshwater Habitats Trust (hyperlinks)</a></p>
<b>Meadows and grass</b>	<p><a href="#">Magnificent Meadows (hyperlinks)</a> (a partnership project with advice on making, restoring and protecting meadows)</p> <p><a href="#">Plantlife Meadows’ Hub (hyperlinks)</a> (Plantlife’s hub on all things meadows, including guidance on making and maintaining meadows)</p>
<b>Orchards</b>	<p><a href="#">Planning and designing an orchard – The Orchard Project (hyperlinks)</a></p>

## Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Sources and description</b>
<b>Nesting birds</b>	<p><a href="#">Nestboxes - RSPB (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Make a Nest Box – BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) (hyperlinks)</a> (guidance on how to make nest boxes for different garden birds)</p> <p><a href="#">Create a high home for swifts - RSPB (hyperlinks)</a> (guidance on how to make or buy a swift box, providing nesting sites for swifts)</p>
<b>Homes for insects</b>	<p><a href="#">Homes for insects and minibeast - RSPB (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">How to make a log shelter – The Wildlife Trusts (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dead wood for wildlife – RPSB (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Build a bug hotel - RSPB (hyperlinks)</a></p>
<b>Homes for mammals</b>	<p><a href="#">How to attract hedgehogs to your garden - RPSB (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">How to attract bats to your garden - RPSB (hyperlinks)</a></p>
<b>Pesticides</b>	<p><a href="#">Pesticide Action Network UK (hyperlinks)</a></p>
<b>Light Pollution</b>	<p><a href="#">Light Pollution - Buglife (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Take action on local light pollution - CPRE (hyperlinks)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Bats &amp; Artificial Lighting at Night (hyperlinks)</a></p>

## Appendix IV: Local Organisations and Groups you could work with

The table below is not comprehensive but is intended to provide an overview of some key nature-focused projects, organisations and groups that you could work with on developing and/or delivering your Nature Action Plan.

Organisation/Group	Area and parishes included	Contact
<a href="#">Bathscape (hyperlinks)</a>	Bath and surrounding parishes (Bathampton, Batheaston, Bathford, Charlcombe, Claverton, Combe Hay, Corston, Englishcombe, Freshford, Hinton Charterhouse, Kelston, Limpley Stoke, Monkton Combe, Newton St. Loe, North Stoke, Southstoke, St. Catherine, Swainswick, Wellow).	Lucy Bartlett ( <a href="mailto:Lucy_Bartlett@bathnes.gov.uk">Lucy_Bartlett@bathnes.gov.uk</a> )
<a href="#">Chew Valley Reconnected (hyperlinks)</a>	Chew Valley (Chelwood, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Clutton, Compton Dando, Compton Martin, East Harptree, Hinton Blewitt, Keynsham, Marksbury, Nempnett Thrubwell, Norton Malward, Pensford, Publow, Stowey Sutton, Ubley, West Harptree).	Victoria Prescott ( <a href="mailto:Victoria_Prescott@bathnes.gov.uk">Victoria_Prescott@bathnes.gov.uk</a> )
<a href="#">Somerset Valley Rediscovered (hyperlinks)</a>	Somerset Valley (Camerton, Clutton, Dunkerton and Tunley, Farrington Gurney, High Littleton, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Peasedown St John, Radstock, Shoscombe, Temple Cloud with Camerley, Timsbury, Wellow, Westfield)	Miriam Woolnough ( <a href="mailto:Miriam_Woolnough@bathnes.gov.uk">Miriam_Woolnough@bathnes.gov.uk</a> )
<a href="#">Waterspace Connected (hyperlinks)</a>	River Avon corridor (Corston, Kelston, Keynsham, Newton St Loe, North Stoke, Saltford)	Siobhan Lamb ( <a href="mailto:Siobhan_Lamb@bathnes.gov.uk">Siobhan_Lamb@bathnes.gov.uk</a> )
<a href="#">Bath Riverline (hyperlinks)</a>	River Avon corridor between Batheaston to Newbridge	Anna Penning-Rowse (Anna_Penning-Rowse@bathnes.gov.uk)

Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

Organisation/Group	Area and parishes included	Contact
<a href="#"><u>Avon Wildlife Trust (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	<a href="mailto:mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk"><u>mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>University of Bath (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	
<a href="#"><u>Bath Spa University (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	
<a href="#"><u>Bath Natural History Society (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	<a href="#"><u>Bath Natural History Society Contact Form (hyperlinks)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	info@bristolavonriverstrust.org
<a href="#"><u>Cam Valley Wildlife Group (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Cam and Wellow Valleys (Camerton, Combe Hay, Clutton, Dunkerton and Tunley, Farmborough, Farrington Gurney, High Littleton, Hinton Blewitt, Hinton Charterhouse, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Peasedown St John, Radstock, Shoscombe, Southstoke, Temple Cloud with Camerley, Timsbury, Wellow, Westfield)	<a href="#"><u>Cam Valley Wildlife Group Contact Form (hyperlinks)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chew Valley Trees (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Chew Valley (Chelwood, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Clutton, Compton Dando, Compton Martin, East Harptree, Hinton Blewitt, Keynsham, Marksbury, Nempnett Thrubwell, Norton Malreward, Pensford, Publow, Stowey Sutton, Ubley, West Harptree).	<a href="#"><u>Chew Valley Trees Contact Form (hyperlinks)</u></a>



Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils January 2024

Organisation/Group	Area and parishes included	Contact
<a href="#"><u>Forest of Avon Trust (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	<a href="mailto:info@forestofavontrust.org"><u>info@forestofavontrust.org</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>More Trees BaNES (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Whole of Bath and North East Somerset	<a href="#"><u>More Trees BaNES Contact Form (hyperlinks)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wild About Bath (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Bath	<a href="#"><u>Wild About Bath Contact Form (hyperlinks)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Your Park Bristol and Bath (hyperlinks)</u></a>	Bath	<a href="#"><u>Your Park Bristol and Bath Contact Form (hyperlinks)</u></a>

## **Appendix V: Example NAPs from South Gloucestershire**

Several parish and town councils in South Gloucestershire have produced NAPs (referred to as 'Local Nature Action Plans' in South Gloucestershire), which are a useful reference when producing yours. Do remember that each parish and town council area is unique, and so the structure and content of your plans may differ from those below.

- [Yate Town Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [Frampton Cotterell Parish Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [Sodbury Town Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [Westerleigh Parish Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [Patchway Town Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [Dodington Parish Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)
- [Winterbourne Parish Council \(hyperlinks\)](#)

## **Appendix VI: Achieving 30 by 30 at a local level**

There is a global target to protect 30% of the planet for nature by 2030 (known as '30 by 30'), which has been signed up to by over 100 countries, including the UK and the EU.

The council's priorities to tackle the ecological emergency have been set with this target in mind, and parish and town councils could make a meaningful contribution to 30% of Bath and North East Somerset being protected for nature by 2030. However, to be meaningful this will require land to be well protected and managed for nature in the long term.

The Wildlife & Countryside Link advocate that for land to contribute meaningfully to the international 30 by 30 target the following two conditions should be met<sup>5</sup>:

- 1) **Protected for nature in the long-term.** The entirety of the 30% should be afforded long-term protection for nature and long-term protection against damage such as pollution, overexploitation, invasive non-native species, habitat destruction and harmful development.
- 2) **Effectively managed for nature.** As well as protection from harm, areas counted toward the 30% should be afforded appropriate management for nature's recovery. They should be well managed for nature and regularly monitored at appropriate intervals as part of a programme of management and investment to ensure that they are in good or recovering condition.

Parish and town councils could contribute towards this target by, for example: protecting some of the land they own for nature; using CIL monies to protect and enhance existing green spaces for nature using conservation covenants; developing of Local Nature Reserves; and the provision of Biodiversity Net Gain sites.

A less onerous approach could be to work with local landowners and community groups to get 30% of land in your town or parish into good management for nature, without necessarily having the long-term protection needed to be considered 'protected' for nature. This could be used as a more feasible local target for 30% of land to be *managed* for nature, and act as a first step towards 30% of land being *protected* for nature.

The mapping of land areas that are currently protected and well managed for nature, and those areas with potential for such, would also be beneficial.

The development of NAPs can, therefore, provide a starting point towards either type of target by: identifying the condition of existing protected sites; helping to identify and plan buffers to any existing protected sites; mapping other important habitats; and identifying opportunities for areas to be enhanced for nature.

---

<sup>5</sup> [Wildlife and Countryside Link \(2020\), Achieving 30x30 in England on land and at sea \(hyperlinks\)](#)



