



**Derbyshire**  
Wildlife Trust

## HILTON GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN HILTON PARISH COUNCIL



August 2021



## Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
1.1	Context.....	3
2	Aims and Objectives.....	3
3	Methodology.....	4
3.1	Field Survey .....	4
3.2	Desk Study.....	4
4	Results .....	5
4.1	Desk Study.....	5
4.2	Habitats.....	5
5	Management Plan .....	10
5.1	General Management Suggestions .....	10
5.2	General Management Prescriptions .....	12
5.3	Memorial Meadow (GS13) Management Suggestions.....	14
5.4	Memorial Meadow (GS13) Management Prescriptions.....	16
5.5	Enhancing Connectivity .....	20
5.6	Community Involvement .....	21
5.7	Monitoring .....	21
	Appendix A: Greenspace sites map.....	22
	Appendix B: Greenspace species lists and photos.....	23



## 1 Introduction

This habitat survey report and management plan has been prepared by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) on behalf of Hilton Parish Council. The report has two main purposes:

- to outline the results of habitat surveys undertaken on 19 greenspaces within the Parish and suggest appropriate management prescriptions for the enhancement of the greenspaces for local biodiversity.
- to provide a management plan with prescriptions for one of the 19 sites, the Memorial Meadow.

### 1.1 Context

The Hilton Parish greenspace sites include small amenity grassland sites, recreational play facilities, road verges, potential Local Wildlife Sites and a memorial community site. They are distributed throughout the parish of Hilton and vary in size from 0.02Ha to 1.6Ha. They are diverse in habitat and ecological value, from species-poor amenity grassland to species-rich grassland, scrub, woodland and ponds.

## 2 Aims and Objectives

The aims of this plan are to:

- Provide a baseline assessment of the current ecological value of the greenspace sites and provide a basis for long-term monitoring;
- Make general recommendations for the enhancement of the greenspace sites;
- Suggest long-term management prescriptions for habitats across Hilton green spaces;
- Provide a management plan with prescriptions for Hilton's Memorial Meadow
- Identify opportunities for enhancing wildlife connectivity.

The objectives of this plan are to:

- Increase biodiversity of the sites through enhancement and changes to management;
- Encourage community involvement in the sites and their management;
- Identify 'easy-wins' for biodiversity throughout the Parish.



## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Field Survey

The greenspace sites were surveyed in May 2021 by ecologists Molly Gorman and Chloe Gordon. The survey followed standard Phase 1 Habitat assessment methodology, as recommended by Natural England. This involved a systematic walk over to classify broad habitat types. Sightings or evidence of fauna species within or adjacent to the sites were recorded.

### 3.2 Desk Study

A desk study to determine the presence of designated sites and protected or notable species was undertaken using Magic Map and a data request from Derbyshire Biological Record Centre. Sites and species of interest searched for included:

- Non-statutory designated sites of county importance including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS);
- Statutory designated sites of national importance including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – S41 Species of Principal Importance, including Great Crested Newts, Badgers, Bats, White-Clawed Crayfish, Otter and Water Vole.



## 4 Results

### 4.1 Desk Study

The desk study identified a small number of sites or species of interest within or adjacent to the greenspace sites. These are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Desk study results**

Feature	Name	Greenspace ref	Description
Potential LWS	Sutton Brook Meadow	GS12 Mease Meadow	Wet grassland
DWT reserve	Hilton Annex	GS17	Restored gravel pits, bats, dragonflies
Protected species	White-clawed crayfish	Adjacent to GS17, Hilton Annex	Records along the Hilton Brook (1997)

### 4.2 Habitats

Descriptions of habitats recorded on the greenspace sites are described below. A map of greenspaces is provided in Appendix A and species lists and site photos shown in Appendix B. Table 2 shows the habitats recorded on each greenspace site.



Table 2: Greenspace habitats

Greenspace reference	Habitat(s)	Greenspace reference	Habitat(s)
GS1	Modified grassland	GS11	Modified grassland
GS2	Modified grassland, wildflower verge, broadleaved woodland	GS12	Mease meadow semi-improved grassland, stream
GS3	Modified grassland	GS13	Memorial meadow semi-improved grassland, scattered trees and scrub
GS4	Modified grassland	GS14	Modified grassland, scattered trees and scrub
GS5	Modified grassland	GS15	Modified grassland
GS6	Modified grassland	GS16	Modified grassland
GS7	Modified grassland	GS17	Hilton annex semi-improved grassland
GS8	Modified grassland	GS18	Modified grassland
GS9	Modified grassland	GS19	Plantation woodland
GS10	Modified grassland		

### Modified Grassland

The majority of the greenspaces were amenity grassland on road verges, residential areas or playing fields. All these areas consisted of modified grassland that have been subject to regular mowing with arisings left on site. This has increased the nutrients and resulted in grass dominant sward and a lack of herb diversity. Perennial ryegrass was consistently abundant throughout the sites with other grass species including cock's-foot, false oat grass and rough meadow grass. Herb species were limited to common and widespread species such as white clover, creeping buttercup, cut-leaved cranesbill and black medick.

A small number of species indicating slightly lower levels of nutrient enrichment were recorded on some of the sites including pignut, bulbous buttercup, common sorrel and mouse-eared hawkweed, however, these were recorded in very low abundances and often at the base of trees where the mowing intensity may be lower.



**Photo 1: Bulbous Buttercup**



The modified grassland areas were considered to be of local value. Although many of grassland areas were relatively species poor, they all contained at least the common herb species such as dandelion, buttercup, clover and daisy which will provide a food source for a range of invertebrates. Species such as common nettle, cocks-foot, Yorkshire fog and bent grasses provide foodplants for a range of common butterflies and moths, while species such as vetch, sorrel and doves-foot cranesbill support more limited invertebrates. Some of the modified grassland sites also comprised areas of scrub and bramble which provides habitat structure and is likely to be of value to small mammals and birds. The majority of the modified grassland areas were in residential areas and also provide aesthetic and recreational value to the local residents.

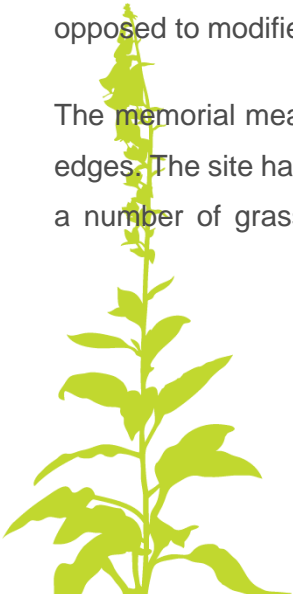
### **Semi-improved grassland**

Three of the sites comprised semi-improved grassland, with varying levels of species diversity. Semi-improved grassland is grassland that has had only low-to-medium levels of nutrient enrichment. Low levels of nutrients are beneficial to herbaceous plants and fine grasses which leads to higher biodiversity, as opposed to modified grasslands which have high nutrient levels and so have lower biodiversity.

The memorial meadow is species rich grassland, with mixed deciduous trees and shrubs planted along the edges. The site has been surveyed numerous times in recent years with surveys in 2018 and 2019 recording a number of grassland indicator species but not quite meeting the Local Wildlife Site selection criteria.

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people



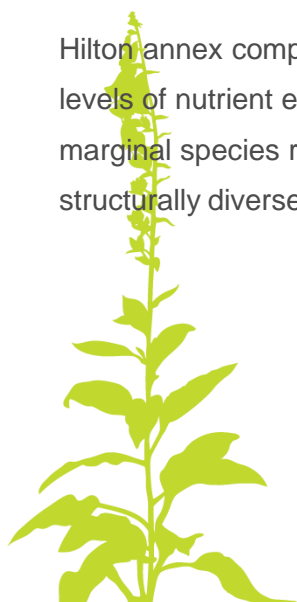
However, the 2021 survey recorded 12 grassland indicator species meaning it is a candidate to be designated as a Local Wildlife Site. Indicator species recorded in the 2021 survey are listed below.

<i>Carex spicata</i>	Spiked Sedge
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch

Semi-improved grassland recorded on the Memorial Meadow is considered to be of county value as it meets the criteria to be designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The grassland is species rich and contains a diverse range of herb species which is likely to be of value for a range of invertebrates. The site is extremely structurally diverse providing shelter and nesting habitat for birds and small mammals.

Further semi-improved grassland was recorded at Mease Meadow (GS12) and Hilton annex (GS17). These sites were less species diverse, with 7 and 3 grassland indicator species recorded respectively. Mease meadow was grass dominant with red fescue, false oat-grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot and rough meadow grass. Herb species were frequent throughout the sward with large amounts of tare and lower abundances of saint John's wort, lesser stitchwort, common bird's-foot trefoil and creeping cinquefoil. The non-native, invasive species Himalayan Balsam was recorded along the brook. Mease meadow was considered to be of local value owing to the moderate species and structural diversity.

Hilton annex comprised semi-improved grassland with moderate species diversity. Species indicating lower levels of nutrient enrichment included common sorrel, creeping cinquefoil and lesser stitchwort. Aquatic and marginal species recorded in the ponds included purple loosestrife, bulrush and water mint. The site is very structurally diverse with a mosaic of habitats including ponds, hedgerows, scrub and trees, creating important





ecotones and microhabitats that are likely to support a wide range of wildlife. It is possibly that the site meets Local Wildlife Site selection criteria for its habitat mosaics and is considered to be of county value.

**Photo 2: Purple Loosestrife**



### **Plantation woodland**

The plantation woodland (GS19) comprised even-aged Scots pine plantation with occasional mature beech, oak and horse chestnut trees on the edges. Understory was dominated by elder with small amounts of young holly. Given the dense canopy causing low light reaching the ground, ground flora was limited to common nettle, bramble, ivy and herb-robert with a thick leaf litter layer. The site was considered to be of local value owing to its moderate structural diversity and connectivity to the wider landscape.



## 5 Management Plan

This management plan provides general principles for managing the different habitats and species that occur on Hilton green spaces to increase biodiversity in sections 5.1 and 5.2. Where multiple options are given, they are given in order of preference. This is followed by specific advice for the management of the Memorial Meadow (GS13) in sections 5.3 and 5.4.

These are followed by recommendations for increasing connectivity of the sites and associated habitats within the council area, as well as suggestions for engaging the community with plans for increasing biodiversity.

### 5.1 General Management Suggestions

#### Grassland

The modified grassland areas are currently under a regular mowing regime with cuttings remaining on site. This increases nutrients in the soil therefore reducing species diversity. For amenity areas where the vast majority of the grassland is used i.e. for recreation, this type of grassland is functional and the current management is appropriate. However, where grassland areas are not used for recreational purposes, or use can be limited to mown footpaths i.e. dog walking areas, these areas provide a great opportunity to increase species diversity and could play an important role as stepping stone sites to improve the connectivity for wildlife.

Where the sites are large enough to warrant enhancement through over-seeding, a native species seed mix such as Emorsgate EM1, General Purpose Meadow Mixture is recommended. This is suitable for a range of soil types and contains fine, slow growing grasses which allow wildflowers to establish. Herbs contained within the mix are robust and showy which is perfect for increasing the aesthetic value of the greenspaces in community areas.

To sow the wildflower seeds the grassland should be cut as short as possible in late-August with a chain harrow or rake immediately after. The wildflower seed mix should be broadcast in October/ November once grass growth has started to slow and tread in or flat rolled to ensure good seed to soil contact.

Smaller grassland areas may not be suitable for sowing however, it is likely these areas could be enhanced somewhat with a less intensive mowing regime. The frequency and timing of these cuts is essential to reduce the vigour of coarse grasses and replenish seed banks. A cut in March will avoid any nesting birds and is

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people



before the majority of flowering plants. Increasing the height of cutter bar slightly will also lower the risk to small mammals and amphibians. The second cut should be undertaken once plants have flowered and set seed in late August/September.

Grass mowing should be followed by collection and removal of arisings, either off-site or to a sacrificial area of each site to create a compost or habitat pile. This is essential as it reduces nutrient enrichment back into the soil, increasing plant diversity and the competitiveness of pioneer species. Removing arising also reduces thatch built-up, which maintains an open sward and promotes seed germination.

Sites used for access or dog-walking should continue with a regular cut of paths through the grassland to ensure trampling is reduced on the enhanced areas. Sites with hard surfaced paths should continue to have mown narrow strips along the sides to maintain footpath access.

Sites that aren't enhanced with wildflower seed should be considered for 'wilder' areas such as small corners left unmown. Allowing growth of vegetation at the base of established trees will provide habitat for small mammals and invertebrates. Planting of native species of bulbs could also be considered to increase the diversity and aesthetics of sites whilst continuing with a more regular mowing regime. Bulb species should be native and provide a nectar source for the benefit of invertebrates. Further consideration should be given to the creation of ponds, scrapes, native tree planting and habitat piles on all sites to increase biodiversity as well as improving their connectivity to the wider landscape.

Chemical use such as pesticides or fungicides should be avoided wherever possible.

### **Woodland**

Sites with planted or naturally regenerating broadleaf woodland may require selective thinning (cutting down of around 10% of individual trees) to prevent competition and enable natural regeneration of saplings. Felling should favour dying or in-decline trees (such as ash) or thin, wispy trees, allowing the better-quality trees to thrive. Any felled trees should be left on-site creating brash/log piles or fallen deadwood to provide habitat for invertebrates and fungi.

The pine plantation woodland should be managed to maintain open paths and glades to allow light to reach ground level and increase the habitat diversity within the woodland. Consideration should be given to the conversion of woodland from conifer to broadleaf. This could be completed gradually on a 5-year thinning cycle. Planting of native broadleaf species such as oak, cherry, rowan and aspen with hawthorn and blackthorn understory species should ensure continuous high cover once conifer species have been thinned.

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people



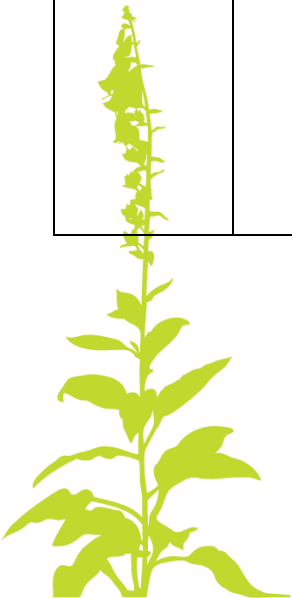
Occasional scots pine can be retained for structural and species diversity. All standing and fallen deadwood should be retained where safe to do so.

**Fauna**

Given the historic records of white-clawed crayfish along the Hilton Brook, further surveys should be undertaken to determine their status and enhancement of the brook for this species undertaken where suitable.

The roosting potential for bats could be increased by siting a number of bat boxes on trees. These should be sited in a sheltered location atleast 4m from the ground on a south-east or south-west aspect.

**5.2 General Management Prescriptions**

Habitat		Management Prescriptions
<p><b><u>Modified grassland</u></b></p> 	<p><b>Option 1 – enhance with wildflower seed and change in mowing regime</b></p>	<p><u>Year 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Carry out late summer (Aug/Sept) cut as short as possible.</li> <li>b) Immediately after chain harrow or rake the grassland twice in immediate succession and in a different direction each time.</li> <li>c) Broadcast wildflower seed mix in October/ November once grass growth has started to slow. This can be done using a pedestrian broadcast spreader or by spreading from the hand, following the recommendations from the supplier.</li> <li>d) Tread in with volunteers or flat roll the grassland to ensure good seed to soil contact</li> <li>e) After seed has been trodden in or rolled, limit trampling pressure whilst wildflowers establish using signs asking members of public to stay on the surfaced or mown paths.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2 onwards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) Mow grasslands in early spring (March) and late summer (late August/September) to allow the wildflowers to become established and reduce the competitiveness of coarse grasses.</li> <li>g) Remove arising immediately after the spring cut by raking and piling in a compost/habitat pile.</li> <li>h) Leave arising 3-4 days after the late summer cut to allow seeds to shed from the cut plants to the ground, then remove arisings to prevent nutrient enrichment by raking and piling in a compost/habitat pile.</li> </ul>

		<p>i) Mow paths through the grasslands on a regular basis to avoid trampling throughout the enhanced areas.</p>
	<p><b>Option 2 – enhance with change in mowing regime</b></p>	<p>a) Mow grasslands in early spring (March) and late summer (late August/September) to reduce the competitiveness of coarse grasses.</p> <p>b) Remove cuttings immediately after to prevent nutrient enrichment by raking and adding to habitat/compost piles.</p> <p>c) Mow paths through the grasslands on a regular basis. These should be wide enough to prevent the grass falling inwards across the whole path after rain.</p>
	<p><b>Option 3 – leave small areas uncut and plant native bulbs</b></p>	<p>a) Carry out regular mowing of amenity areas.</p> <p>b) Leave corners, strips, patches of the grassland unmown to create ecotones (transitions between different habitats) and microhabitats. For these areas mow in early spring (March) and late summer (late August/September) to reduce the competitiveness of coarse grasses.</p> <p>c) Remove arisings immediately after to prevent nutrient enrichment, by raking and adding to piles</p> <p>d) Plant native bulbs in winter.</p>
<p><b>Woodland</b></p>	<p><b>Thinning</b></p>	<p>a) November to March - selective thinning where canopy is dense to allow more light to the ground.</p> <p>b) Thinning should target dying or decline trees (such as ash), non-native species or thin, wispy trees, allowing the better-quality trees to thrive.</p> <p>c) Retain felled trees for fallen deadwood or creation of log piles.</p>
	<p><b>Conversion to broadleaf</b></p>	<p>a) Fell pine at maturity on a ~5-year cycle.</p> <p>b) Plant native broadleaf species such as oak, cherry, rowan and aspen with hawthorn and blackthorn understory species.</p> <p>c) Retain some pine for structural and species diversity.</p> <p>d) Retain all deadwood on-site.</p>



### 5.3 Memorial Meadow (GS13) Management Suggestions

The memorial meadow site consists of a mix of habitat types, with the majority of the area being semi-improved grassland with areas of native trees and shrubs planted around the site. The semi-improved grassland habitat on the site is sufficiently diverse for the site to be listed as a Potential Local Wildlife Site (pLWS), based on the number of certain species that exist on the site, therefore this habitat should be a priority for sympathetic management. Also of importance is the use of the site as a memorial, with trees planted with corresponding plaques in remembrance of servicemen and residents from the parish.

#### Semi-improved grassland

The semi-improved grassland on the site should be managed to maintain and enhance the diversity of the flora. This is best achieved by allowing the grassland to grow, flower and set seed through the spring and summer months, followed by mowing in late summer to maintain a sward that is open enough for seeds to germinate and to prevent the grassland transitioning to scrub over time.

To maintain the structural diversity within the grassland one third of the grassland should be left uncut each year. The area left uncut should be changed every year to ensure that the whole area of semi-improved grassland is maintained. This is best achieved by dividing the area into thirds and leaving one of these thirds uncut each year on a rotational basis. The benefits of this are providing a habitat of longer grass for invertebrates and small vertebrates over the winter and also allowing late-flowering plants to set seed.

Cuttings should be removed and piled to create a habitat pile and reduce nutrient levels in the grassland to reduce coarse grass species and increase competitiveness of fine grass species and herbaceous plants. This can be done by raking the cut grass and transferring it to a small number of compost heaps.

#### Rough grassland

The area of grassland behind the memorial trees should be maintained as rough grassland. This should be managed with less frequent cuts than the semi-improved grassland to leave a thicker sward. This provides good habitat for invertebrates and small vertebrates and therefore the species that hunt them, for example owls.

One third of this area should be cut each year, with the cut high. This provides a thatch layer at ground level while preventing scrub and species like bramble from taking over. Bramble and other scrubby species can have benefits to wildlife but if left unmanaged can take over an area resulting in the loss of the grassland

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people



habitat. This is best achieved by again dividing the area into thirds, but for this habitat two thirds should be left each year with only one third cut. Arisings from the cut should be removed and piled in one place to create a habitat pile and reduce nutrient levels in the grassland, this will increase competitiveness of fine grass species and herbaceous plants which are beneficial for wildlife.

### **Memorial Area**

The area intended as a memorial should be managed differently to the rest of the site to best serve its intended purpose, however it will still have benefits for wildlife. The trees with plaques should be mulched to reduce growth of grass and other plants around their bases to reduce competition, as well as reducing the drying of the ground around the roots during dry spells. Bark chip would be a suitable option that would look appropriate in this more ornamental area. Selected other trees which currently don't have plaques in this area should be managed in the same way as those with plaques to allow a backup in case of death of trees with plaques. As the trees in this area grow it is possible some may compete due to spacing, however this should be minimal due to the mix of different species which have different heights and life expectancies. If any trees die they should be removed and stacked as a neat pile in the back of this area of trees to provide valuable dead wood habitat. In the case of any trees with plaques dying, the plaques can be moved to alternative trees as agreed by the parish council.

The grassland in the memorial area should be managed in whichever way is seen as most appropriate by the council as it is amenity grassland. This will likely involve more regular mowing in certain areas but could still have some areas left to grow through spring and summer as in 2021. This management of this area may change over time with different projects or events being carried out here.

### **Scattered Trees/Woodland Areas**

The areas which have been planted with native trees, other than the areas which are being used as memorial areas, should be managed as new native woodland. Due to the mix of species planted it is anticipated that as these areas develop the different growth forms (height and spread) and different life expectancies of the species should mean competition between trees is not too great. Where groups of one species have been planted together and are competing to the detriment of those trees, removal of individual trees can be considered, however an alternative is to allow the less competitive individuals to die naturally which will provide a variety of dead wood habitats over a longer period. Where dying trees are at risk of falling onto paths or areas used regularly such as benches they should be removed. All wood from trees which are

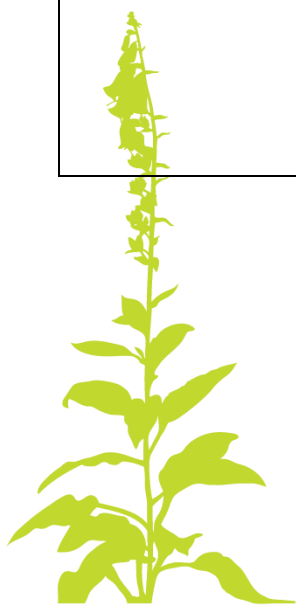


chopped down should remain in the woodland area, either where they fall or added to brash piles in the woodland area to provide valuable dead wood habitat.

The edges of the woodland habitats should be managed to provide a gradual boundary between the woodland and semi-improved grassland areas by allowing a transition from woodland to scrub to grassland. However, due to the fact the semi-improved grassland is of high value these edges should be managed by cutting at intervals as detailed in the table in the next section to prevent a reduction of the area of semi-improved grassland over time.

### 5.4 Memorial Meadow (GS13) Management Prescriptions

Habitat		Management Prescriptions
<b>Semi-improved grassland</b>	<b>Annual cut and collect of two-thirds of area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual mow to be carried out in August</li> <li>• Two-thirds of area to be cut each year, with one third left, on a rotational basis</li> <li>• Cuttings to be collected by raking</li> <li>• Cuttings to be added to habitat piles on edge of habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>Rough grassland</b>	<b>Annual cut and collect of one third of area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual cut to be carried out in late summer or early autumn</li> <li>• One third of area to be cut each year, with two thirds left, on a rotational basis</li> <li>• Cut high to reduce disturbance to ground layer</li> <li>• Cuttings to be collected</li> <li>• Cuttings to be consolidated into habitat piles</li> </ul>
<b>Memorial area trees</b>	<b>Maintained as managed woodland with trees managed for plaques</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area is managed with different aims than the rest of the woodland within this plan, with the priority being it's use as a memorial rather than wildlife habitat.</li> <li>• Bulbs in this area are to be left for 6 weeks after flowering before being cut</li> <li>• Trees with plaques to have mulch put around base to depth of 10cm</li> <li>• Recommended using bark chip to mulch for visual reasons</li> <li>• Mulch to be topped up annually with any weeds growing through mulch removed by pulling</li> <li>• Selected other trees to be managed in the same way as plaque trees to allow for alternatives in case of death of plaque trees</li> </ul>





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any dead trees to be felled and stacked into neat brush piles at back of area</li> </ul>
<b>Memorial area grassland</b>	<b>Managed for memorial reasons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area is managed with different aims than the rest of the grassland within this plan, with the priority being it's use as a memorial area rather than wildlife habitat.</li> <li>Suggestions are made below, but as this is an amenity grassland area Hilton Parish Council will decide most appropriate management</li> <li>Some areas to be mown regularly to keep shorter formal amenity grass</li> <li>Some areas may be left to grow longer through growing season as wildflower areas as decided by the council</li> <li>Bulbs in this area are to be left for 6 weeks after flowering before being cut</li> <li>The management of this area may change over time within the timescale of this management plan as new projects are developed, for example the current flower bed</li> </ul>
<b>New native scattered trees/woodland</b>	<p><b>Managed as woodland with minimal intervention</b></p> <p><b>Boundaries managed to provide transition between woodland and grassland habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal intervention</li> <li>Dying trees next to paths or areas where people linger such as benches to be felled and stacked in woodland area to provide deadwood habitat</li> <li>Dying trees that are not next to paths or in areas where people linger such as benches to be left to die in situ to provide standing deadwood habitats</li> <li>Grassland and scrub to be allowed to grow around edges of woodland patches to provide more gradual edges and allow a gradient from semi-improved grassland to woodland</li> <li>This 2-3m scrub boundary to be rotationally coppiced/cut in sections initially every 7 years, with 1/7 cut each year</li> <li>Cutting of scrub boundary to be carried out in the winter</li> <li>The intervals of the cutting of these scrub boundaries should be reviewed regularly to ensure there is not a gradual encroachment of woodland and scrub into the semi-improved grassland in the long-term. If the boundary scrub encroaches more than 3m into the semi-improved grassland the boundary scrub should be cut at more regular intervals.</li> </ul>

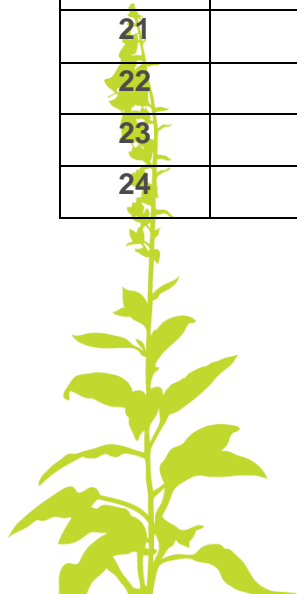


<b>Paths</b>	<b>Maintain edges for amenity purposes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A strip of no more than 1m width should be cut along both sides of paths regularly to maintain the edges for amenity reasons</li><li>• This provides adequate space for passing and gives the site an 'intentional' appearance</li><li>• If using a pedestrian mower, one mower width is adequate for this purpose</li></ul>
--------------	--	--



**Table 3: habitat management by year- each of the following habitat types to be divided into the stated number of sections and cut according to these rotations (timing of cuts for each habitat type in prescriptions above). The actual sections for each of the habitats are best determined on the ground by those involved in the grounds maintenance of the site.**

Year	Semi-improved grassland	Rough Grassland	Woodland/Grassland Boundary
1	A and B	A	A
2	B and C	B	B
3	C and A	C	C
4	A and B	A	D
5	B and C	B	E
6	C and A	C	F
7	A and B	A	G
8	B and C	B	A
9	C and A	C	B
10	A and B	A	C
11	B and C	B	D
12	C and A	C	E
13	A and B	A	F
14	B and C	B	G
15	C and A	C	A
16	A and B	A	B
17	B and C	B	C
18	C and A	C	D
19	A and B	A	E
20	B and C	B	F
21	C and A	C	G
22	A and B	A	A
23	B and C	B	B
24	C and A	C	C



25	A and B	A	D
----	---------	---	---

### 5.5 Enhancing Connectivity

The council greenspaces provide a valuable resource for wildlife as stepping stone sites and connective corridors. Along with enhancement of greenspaces, road verges should be prioritised for biodiversity enhancement as these have significant potential to add to the grassland resource in the parish and provide additional connective habitat.

The general management recommendation for the enhancement of grassland on road verges is to decrease the number of cuts to twice annually. The frequency and timing of these cuts is essential to reduce the vigour of coarse grasses and replenish seed banks. A cut in late Feb/March will avoid any nesting birds and is before the majority of flowering plants. Increasing the height of cutter bar slightly will also lower the risk to small mammals and amphibians. The second cut should be undertaken once plants have flowered and set seed in September. Cuts should be followed by collection and removal of arisings, either off-site or to a sacrificial area of the verge to create a compost or habitat pile. This is essential as it reduces nutrient enrichment back into the soil, increasing plant diversity and the competitiveness of pioneer species. Removing arising also reduces thatch built-up, which maintains an open sward and promotes seed germination. A full assessment of road verge habitat and management can be undertaken if required.



## 5.6 Community Involvement

Enhancing the greenspaces around the parish provides an excellent opportunity to engage with the community and educate the benefits of managing these spaces for biodiversity, as well as community use. The following table provides a list of opportunities that would be easy to initiate around the parish.

Type	Action
Volunteer work parties	Native bulb planting
	Site management e.g. scrub clearance, scything, raking etc
	Bat box checks (led by a licenced bat worker)
	Clearing out any bird boxes over winter
Promote individual action	'Grow don't mow' gardens over the summer months
	Pot planting ideas for small gardens/ yards
	Swift box installation
	Gaps in garden fences to increase connectivity
	Creation of habitat piles in gardens
Education	Interpretation signs on greenspaces/road verges to educate the benefits of less frequent management
	Community consultation prior to enhancement

## 5.7 Monitoring

Regular monitoring of the greenspaces should be undertaken to ensure the enhancement or change in management is having the desired outcome. This should be undertaken annually or biannually and following the same survey methodology as the 2021 baseline survey.



## 6 Appendices

### Appendix A: Greenspace sites map

