



Environment, Trees and Wildlife Policy

The Brunton Memorial Hall

Riverside Rise
Allington
Wiltshire
SP4 0AF

The Brunton Memorial Hall Committee (TBMHC) recognises that its operations and activities impact the environment. TBMHC also recognises its duty to conserve biodiversity set out by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. TBMHC takes its duty seriously and pledges to work to minimise any adverse impacts and maximise positive impacts on the environment.

The Brunton Memorial Hall Committee's objectives are to:

- Ensure we and all our contractors are aware of and comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Prevent pollution within our site and Parish
- Commit to continuous improvement of our Parish's environment
- Use water, energy and other natural resources efficiently and commit to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Protect and enhance the environment on Parish Council land and support residents to consider climate change, biodiversity and sustainability in their actions
- Minimise waste and reuse or recycle all waste where appropriate
- Consider sustainability within the neighbourhood plan and consider supporting planning applications that prioritise sustainability
- Encourage the use of sustainable transport
- Use non-toxic products on Parish Council land and buildings
- Work with suppliers and contractors that have an environmental policy that meets best practices and is, where possible, a local business to support the local economy and reduce travel requirements
- Raise awareness and provide training to volunteers, employees and councillors on environmental issues
- Look to operate all elements of managing the whole site in a sustainable manner with sustainable use of resources like paper, fuel, power, sustainable and bio-secure procurement around items like timber, plants and trees.

An annual report will be provided to the Parish Council by TBMHC to demonstrate their actions taken concerning the above ensuring that they are accountable to the Parish Council for their actions.

The transfer map shows the demise of The Brunton Memorial Hall within the red line. The main area of trees is to the south of the site which includes a line of mature Beech trees. There are newly planted trees within the car park and shrub beds at the bottom of the grass area. There are existing young to middle-aged trees and shrubs to the northern boundary above the grass area adjacent to Bourne View.

Wildlife on and within land around the Brunton Memorial Hall

TBMHC will ensure that all gardening, grounds maintenance works and other activities relating to the use or maintenance of the hall are carried out in accordance with all the current and relevant wildlife legislation under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. The main element will be wildlife protection including the protection of wild birds, their eggs and nests, protection of other animals and protection of plants.

Bats

There are two known Bat boxes installed on the line of Beech trees to the South of the hall within the demise of the site. Before any tree works these will need to be checked by a suitably qualified Ecologist with the appropriate bat licence before works to check for bat activity.

Biodiversity enhancements

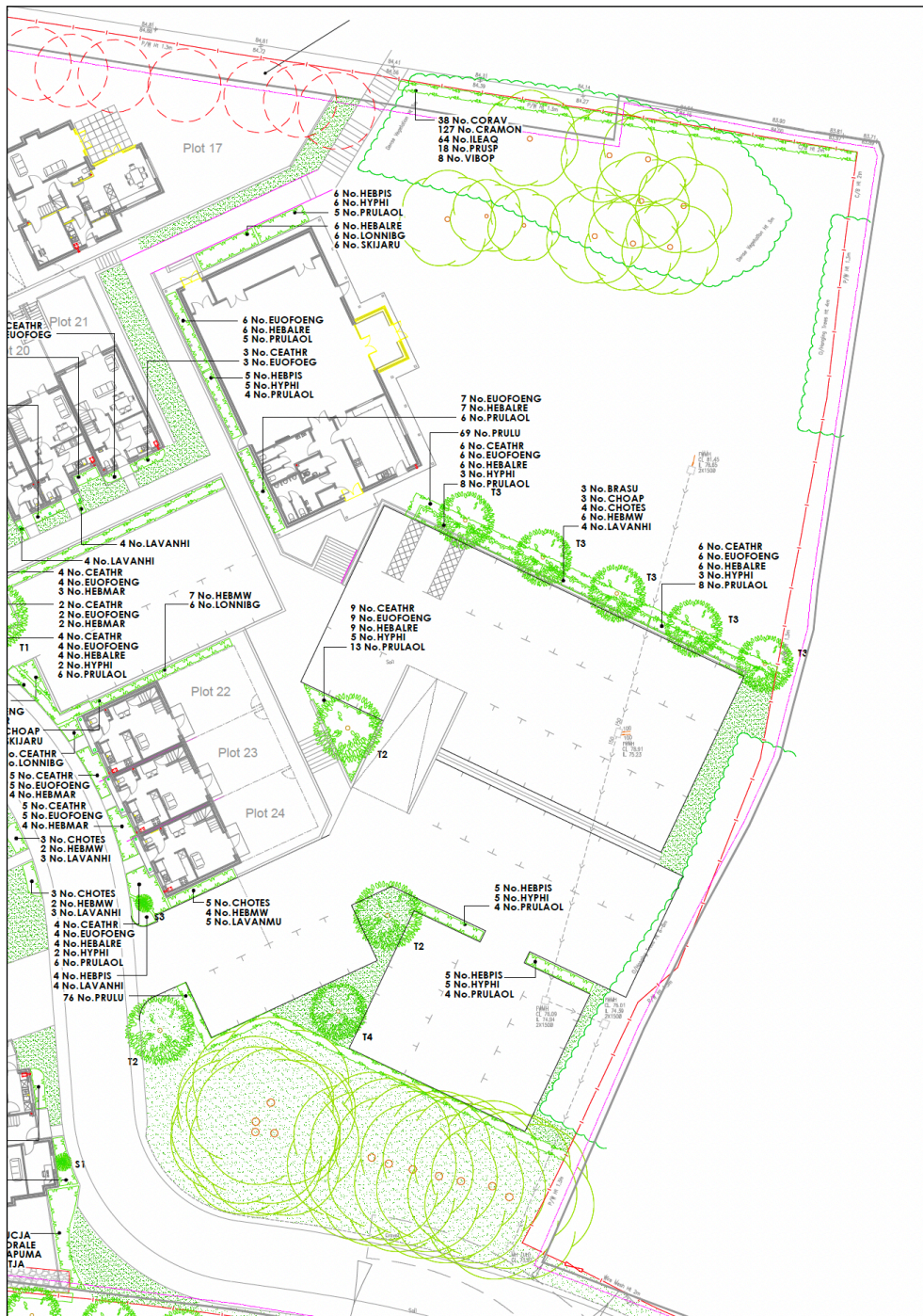
TBMHC are actively keen to improve the biodiversity of the site and surrounding area and this requires everyone to do their part. Here is a short list of ways that everyone could aid with biodiversity enhancements:

- Erection of bird boxes
- Create and install insect and bug hotels
- Create a deadwood habitat pile
- Install dead birch poles as wildlife habitats of standing dead wood
- Create and install solitary bee hotels
- Install bat boxes
- Plant hedgerows
- Plant species of plants that encourage butterflies and bees
- Plant community orchard
- Create community allotment
- Appoint a Tree Warden to aid with inspecting the trees
- Appoint a Biodiversity Warden to aid with recording and monitoring wildlife
- Create a wildflower area
- Create a wildlife pond
- Leave standing and fallen dead wood as habitat for invertebrates
- Reduce the grass-cutting regime and encourage wildlife flowers and areas of long grass to thrive
- Reduce or abandon the use of pesticides and herbicides, and ensure that any other noxious chemicals (including chemical fertilisers) are not used near ponds or watercourses
- Avoid the use of leaf blowers and manually if needed remove dead leaves and other vegetation
- Retain where possible leaf litter, moss, piles of stones and dead vegetation as these are all important microhabitats for invertebrates to feed breed and shelter including small mammals like hedgehogs
- Install a hedgehog house
- Avoid using pesticides, herbicides, slug and snail pellets and chemical fertilisers. A good balance of pests and predators can be naturally encouraged by appropriate habitat management
- Control invasive and non-native species like Japanese knotweed
- Install signage to explain the wildlife areas and the value of the area and why it is being managed in a particular way.

Landscaping on and within land around the Brunton Memorial Hall

TBMHC will ensure that the approved and installed landscaping as per the plan extract below including newly planted trees, shrubs and plants will be maintained to ensure it establishes and thrives to enhance the soft landscape of the site through their annual grounds maintenance schedules. This will include annual watering of the trees for the first few years to ensure they are established, including young tree maintenance by checking stakes and ties and topping up the mulch rings.

All landscaping and grounds maintenance works will be properly scaled and timed to minimise the impact on the known biodiversity of the site. Maintenance practices which are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed.



Landscape Plan

Relevant Legislation

The Water Act 2003: This Act places a duty on all public bodies to take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to premises.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006: From 1 October 2006, every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006: This Act gives specific powers to town and parish councils to tackle climate change. The Act places an obligation on town and parish councils to improve their energy efficiency.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005: This Act extends the statutory offence of dropping litter and enables town and parish councils to authorise officers to serve fixed penalty notices for the littering offence under section 88 of the 1990 Environmental

Protection Act: This gives town and parish councils the power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting offences; and allows town and parish councils to create offences relating to the control of dogs and replaces the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Duty of Care (Waste): The Duty of Care covers any business that produces or disposes of waste and requires the business to ensure that any waste produced is handled safely and in accordance with the law.

Water Framework Directive: The purpose of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater.

Protected Species have specific protective legislation

- EC Directive 92/43/EEC, which is enforced in the UK by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (known as the Habitats Regulations)
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)
- BAP Species are those species with a written Biodiversity Action Plan Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 as species of principal importance

Relevant groups and links in Wiltshire

- Wiltshire Climate Alliance: www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk
- Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1004/Climate-strategy
- Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1003/Climate-emergency
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: www.wiltshirewildlife.org
- Wildlife Watch Groups: www.wiltshirewildlife.org/pages/category/wildlife-watch-groups
- Wiltshire Wildlife Conservation Volunteers: www.wwcw.co.uk
- Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital: www.wiltshirewildlifehospital.co.uk
- Wiltshire Bat Group: www.wiltshiremammals.wordpress.com/wiltshire-bat-group
- Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre: www.wsbrc.org/wildlife-recording/local-groups
- Wiltshire Butterfly Conservation: www.wiltshire-butterflies.org.uk
- RSPB South Wiltshire Local Group: www.group.rspb.org.uk/southwiltshire