



Somerset
Wildlife Trust

Wilder Together 2025

Thanks for joining us!



Welcome and Housekeeping

- Parking – have you paid on app or input your numberplate?
- Fire exits
- First Aid – SWT branded staff
- Toilets
- Restaurant in use during the morning
- Quiet space upstairs, or community garden
- Photographs and film footage are being taken
- Please respect the artists!





With thanks to National Lottery players

Drayton Wildlife and Wellbeing



Woods for Well Being Drayton Woods, nr Langport

Woodland sessions
with campfire lunch
suitable for ADULTS & young people 16 years +
Thursdays 10.30-3.30pm

Oct 23rd
Nov 20th
Dec 18th

Sunday Dec 21st Mid Winter Celebration 3-6pm

TAKE A BREAK AND CONNECT WITH NATURE
Relieve stress, anxiety, isolation, small supportive group

FREE Entry (£5 cash donations for lunch welcomed)

For expressions of interest and to sign up, contact

Hannah@wilderwoods.org

text or phone 07970 883264



Wellbeing in Drayton Woods



Practical and Artistic Activities



BBC Natural History Unit



New York Times

OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

The Era of the American Lawn Is Over



No Mow Plants and Fungi



No Mow Inverts



No Mow People



Educating Our Community



 **Plantlife**



Somerset
Wildlife Trust

Engaging Our Community



Drayton Wildlife Christmas Fair: Saturday 22nd November, 11.00am-3.00pm

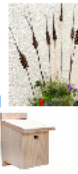


Christmas Crafts and Wildlife Fair:

Drayton Village Hall (TA10 0LH)
Saturday 22nd November
11.00am-2.00pm: Free

Christmas shopping - sustainable local crafts

- High quality jewellery made from recycled metals and jewels
- Somerset wool, spinning and woollen items
- Local woven willow
- Hand thrown pottery
- Paintings and cards
- Bird and animal boxes made from upcycled wood
- Andrew Kirby, wildlife photographer



What are your local wildlife groups up to? Come and meet:

- Somerset Otter Group
- Kingsbury Wildlife Group
- Butterfly Conservation
- Deon and his amazing wildlife exhibits (great for children)
- Secret World - Wild Animal Rescue and Hospital
- ROAM (Recorders of Avalon Marshes)
- Somerset Eel Recovery Group
- Drayton Wildlife Group
- Reimagine the Levels



(Stalls correct at time of printing)

It's free — we are supported by the Community Lottery Fund.

For more info Sally: gracefulbadgerforestschool@gmail.com

Snacks, drinks and hot lunch available



High Resolution Moth Monitoring

Fred Giles
RAM

Data collected by Rebecca Hardwick



Quotation:



***“Without data,
you’re just another
person with an
opinion.”***

William Edwards Deming
1900 - 1993

Bio-Indicator Monitoring

BUTTERFLY TRANSECTS

- *Standardised methodology*
- *Produces consistent data sets*
- *Used across Europe*

Established 1975 by Ernie Pollard



UK Lepidoptera



*~60 Species
of Butterflies*



~2,500 Species of Moths

High Resolution Moth Monitoring

DETAIL

Controlled and repeated
data collection over time

A Network of Traps

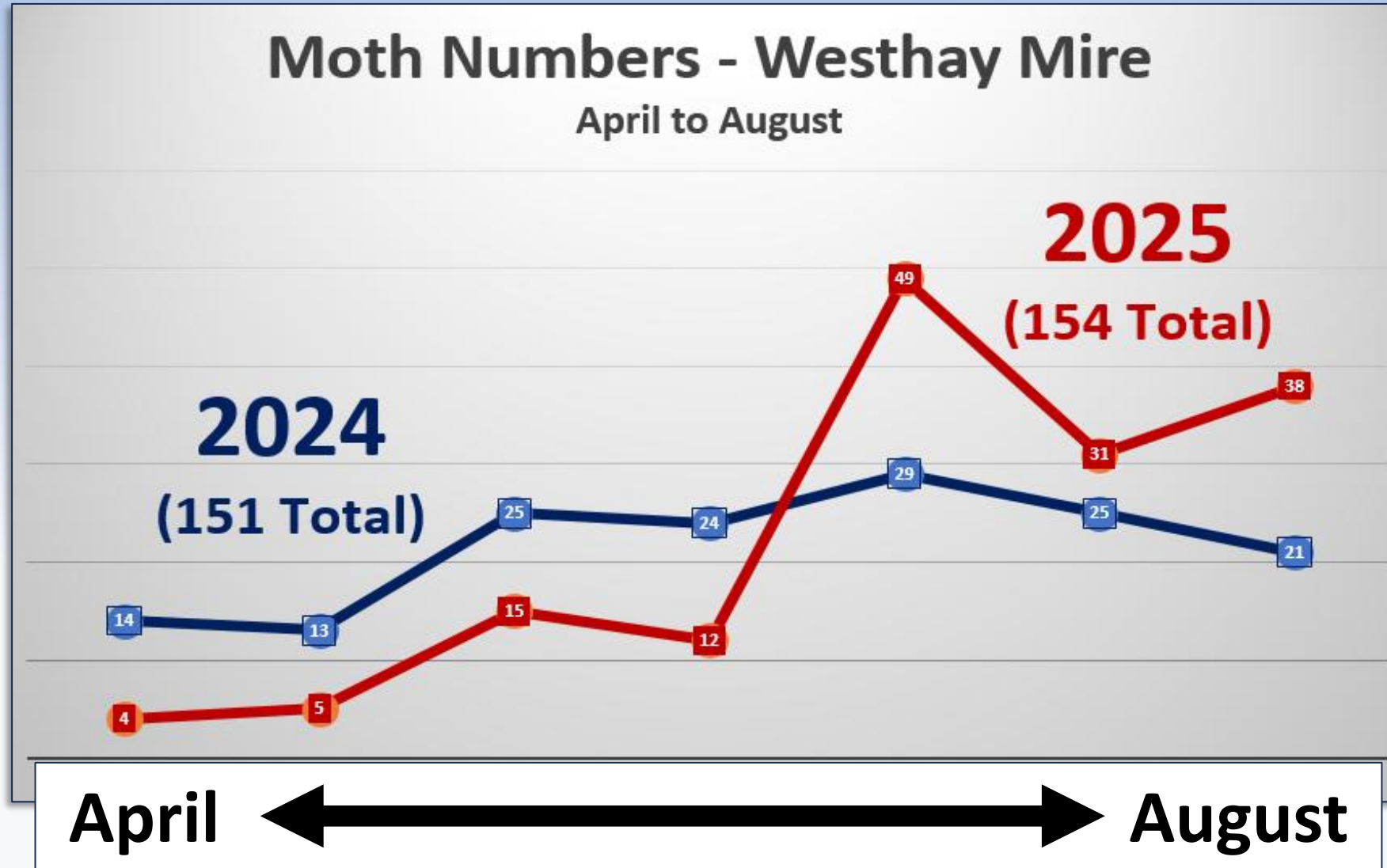
Multiple traps on a site

- *each with limited radius*
- battery operated with 24+ hour run-time
- lightweight and portable for transportation
- 360 to 400nm output (UV-A widely regarded as crucial for moth trapping)
- shower resistant

*Doesn't attract public interest and
can be left unattended overnight*



Data Analysis – Flight Peaks



Linking to Records to Habitat

Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	70.016	Range of low plants such as dock (<i>Rumex</i>) and dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i>)
Ringed China Mark	<i>Parapoynx stratiotata</i>	63.117	Larva is an aquatic feeder, living on pondweeds and other aquatic plants
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	72.024	Polyphagous, feeding on a number of herbaceous plants
Single-dotted Wave	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	70.011	Low parsley (<i>Anthriscus</i>) and burnet saxifrage (<i>Fimbrinella</i>)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Code	Larval Food Plant/s	Common Name	Scientific Name	Code	Larval Food Plant/s
Barred Straw	<i>Gandartia pyralata</i>	70.093	Various bedstraws (<i>Galium</i> spp.)	Mottled Beauty	<i>Alois repandata</i>	70.265	A number of different plants and trees
Brimstone	<i>Opisthographis luteolata</i>	70.226	Range of trees and bushes, including hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>) and blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradina montana</i>	73.092	Herbaceous plants, especially nettle (<i>Urtica</i>) and dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i>)
Brown Silver-line	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	70.222	Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>)	Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Collocasia corollae</i>	73.032	Variety of deciduous trees, e.g. Hazel, Birch and Hornbeam
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	72.019	Feeds in autumn on herbaceous plants, bushes and trees	Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpin</i>	71.02	Poplar (<i>Populus</i>), and willow (<i>Salix</i>)
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	71.025	Different deciduous trees, sometimes defoliating entire branches	Poplar Hawk-moth	<i>Lathrole populi</i>	69.003	Poplar (<i>Populus</i>), aspen (<i>P. tremula</i>) and willow (<i>Salix</i>)
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	70.207	Sallow (<i>Salix</i>) and poplars (<i>Populus</i>), especially aspen (<i>P. tremula</i>)	Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	73.247	Bog myrtle (<i>Myrica gale</i>) and willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.)
Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	73.242	Number of trees and shrubs, but especially oak (<i>Quercus</i>)	Red Chestnut	<i>Carastis rubicosa</i>	73.336	Several herbaceous plants such as groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>) and bedstraw (<i>Galium</i>)
Common Carpet	<i>Epirhoe alternata</i>	70.061	Bedstraw (<i>Galium</i>)	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	70.016	Range of low plants such as dock (<i>Rumex</i>) and dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i>)
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurida</i>	72.045	Various lichens	Ringed China Mark	<i>Parapoynx stratiotata</i>	63.117	Larva is an aquatic feeder, living on pondweeds and other aquatic plants
Common Pug	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	70.183	Range of trees and plants, including willow (<i>Salix</i>) and hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>)	Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	72.024	Polyphagous, feeding on a number of herbaceous plant
Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	73.244	Oak (<i>Quercus</i>), willow (<i>Salix</i>) and other deciduous trees	Single-dotted Wave	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	70.011	Low parsley (<i>Anthriscus</i>) and burnet saxifrage (<i>Fimbrinella</i>)
Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	70.278	Willow (<i>Salix</i>) and aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>)	Small China-mark	<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	63.116	Semi-aquatic larvae - feed on Duckweed (<i>Lemna</i> spp.)
Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	70.277	Number of trees and shrubs, especially birch (<i>Betula</i>)	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	73.293	Mostly grasses
Dark strawberry tortrix	<i>Calypha lacustrina</i>	63.08	Wide variety of herbaceous plants	Straw Dot	<i>Rivula senecialis</i>	72.002	Various grasses
Dingy Footman	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	49.166	Various lichens	Striped Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pudorina</i>	73.289	Mostly grasses and rush
Double Line	<i>Mythimna lura</i>	72.044	Grasses: Cock's-foot (<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>), Wood meadow-grass (<i>Poa nemoralis</i>), Wood-rush (<i>Luzula</i>)	The Drinker	<i>Corinnopotamon</i>	66.01	Mostly grasses and reeds
Early Grey	<i>Xylotampa areola</i>	73.288	Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera</i>)	The Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	72.001	Willow (<i>Salix</i>) and poplar (<i>Populus</i>)
Four Dotted Footman	<i>Cybistia mesomella</i>	73.069	Various lichens	The Lacky	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	66.003	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>), blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) and other trees and shrubs
Four Spotted Footman	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>	72.038	Lichens on the bark of deciduous trees	The Streamer	<i>Anticlea dentata</i>	70.067	Leaves and flowers of dog-rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)
Fox Moth	<i>Macronothia rubi</i>	72.041	Heather (<i>Calluna</i>) and bramble (<i>Rubus</i>), amongst others	The Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>	73.096	Low plants such as dock (<i>Rumex</i>) and plantain (<i>Plantago</i>)
Garden Grass Veneer	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	66.008	Various types of grasses, usually at the base	True Lover's Knot	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	73.338	Heather (<i>Calluna</i>) and heath (<i>Erica</i>)
Grey Birch	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	70.274	Birch (<i>Betula</i>) is the main foodplant, but occasionally alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) is used	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	70.258	Deciduous trees including hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>) and ivy (<i>Hedera</i>)
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	73.249	A number of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants	Yellow Oak Tortrix	<i>Aleimma lobelliana</i>	49.06	Mostly oak
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	73.342	Variety of herbaceous plants and grasses	Yellow-tail	<i>Euproctis similis</i>	72.013	Deciduous trees & shrubs

Quotation:



***“It is a capital
mistake to theorise
before one has
data”***



Sherlock Holmes

Visit **RoAM** stand for
further discussion

Fred Giles

fred.giles@hotmail.co.uk

Rebecca Hardwick

rebecca.hardwick@somersetwildlife.org

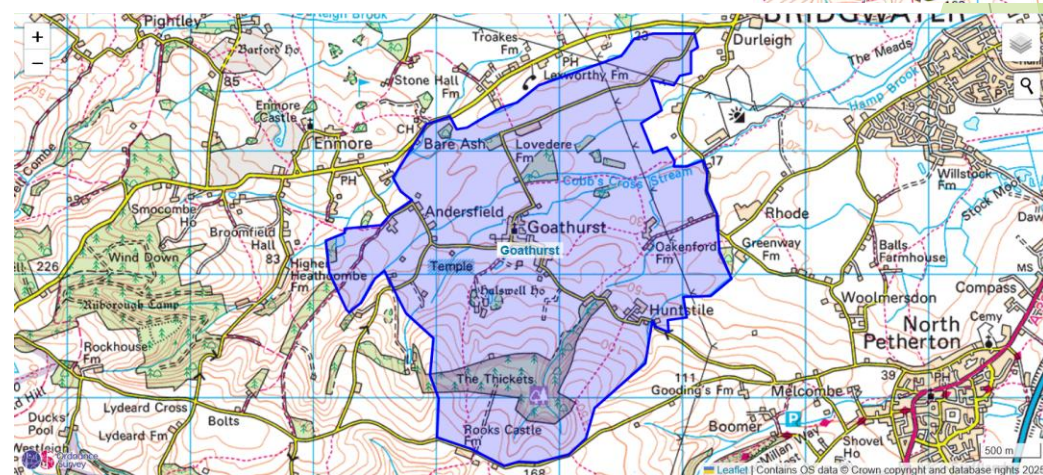
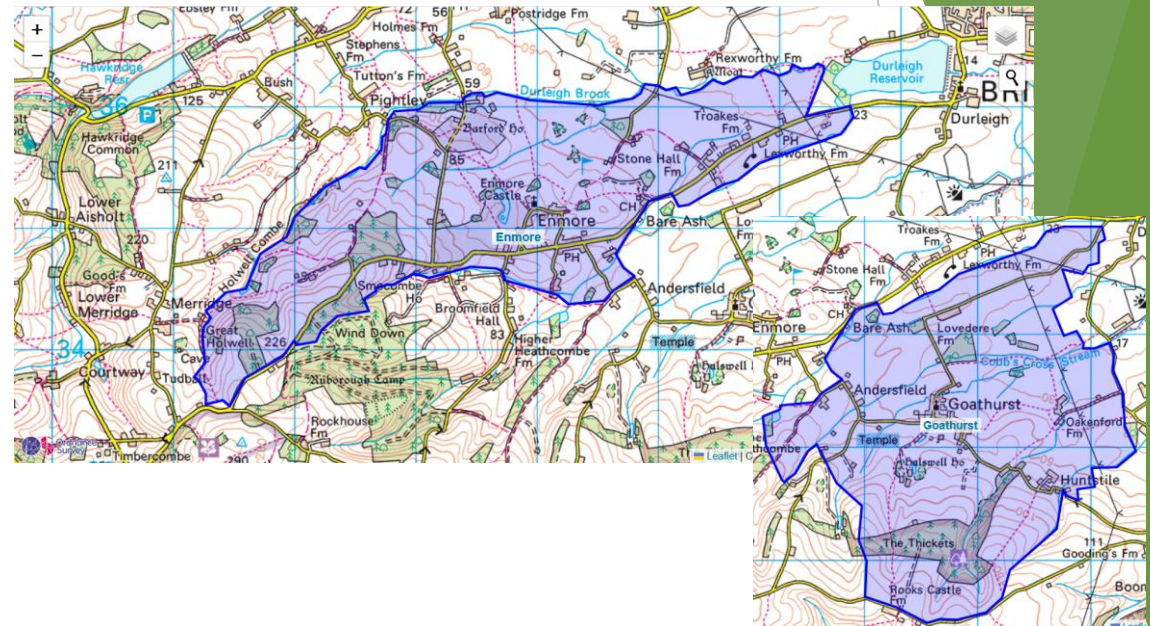
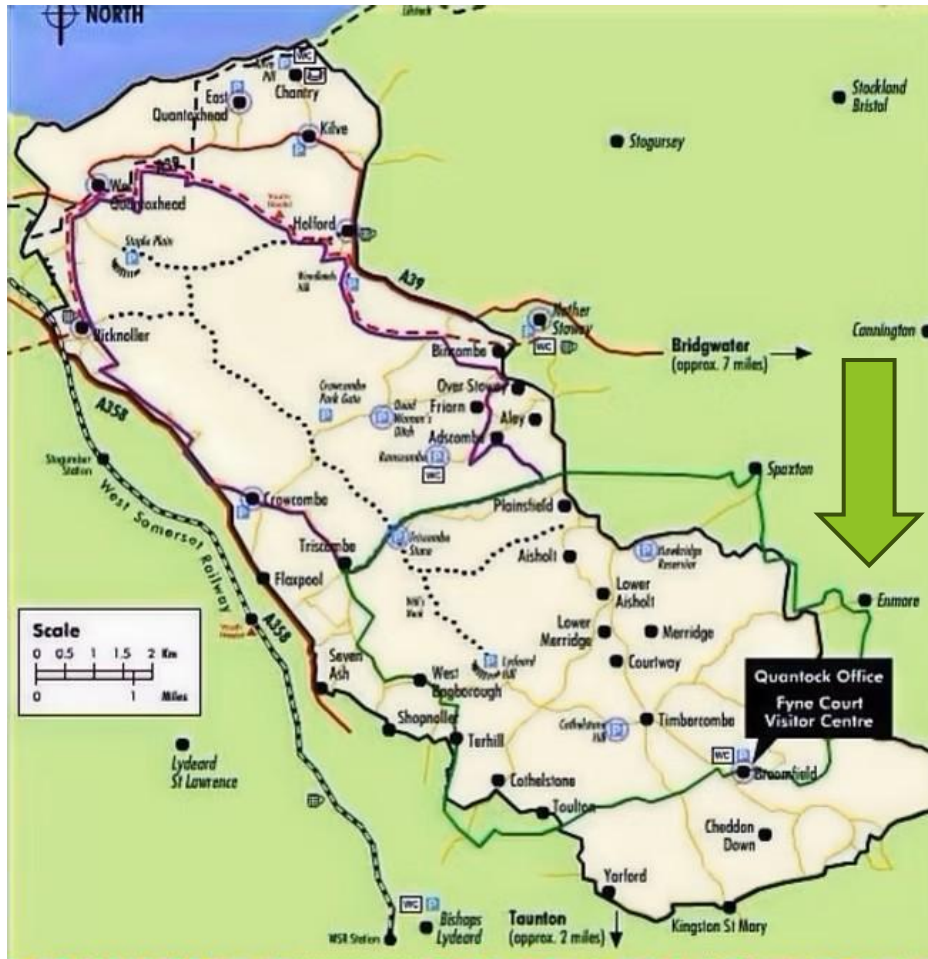
WILDER ENMORE & GOATHURST

ENMORE & GOATHURST PARISH COUNCILS JOINT INITIATIVE

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

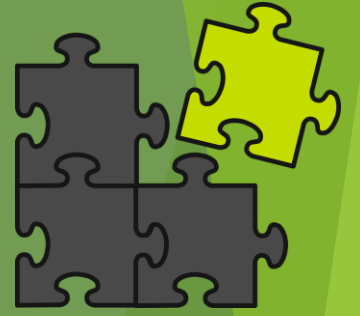


WHERE ARE WE?



WHAT WAS THE TRIGGER?

- SWT'S WILDER CHURCHYARDS INITIATIVE & LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCE ENGENDERED HOPE IN NATURE'S AND THE WORLD'S ABILITY FOR SPEEDY RECOVERY
- CONSIDER A WIDER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A LOCAL DIFFERENCE TO A BIGGER PICTURE
- AS PARISH COUNCILLOR ASKED ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL TO SUPPORT LAUNCH INITIATIVE
- PRESENTED AT VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
- GOATHURST CHAIR SPOKE TO HIS PC
- NOW WE WERE WILDER ENMORE AND GOATHURST



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

- WE STARTED TO TALK ABOUT POSSIBLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- WE BEGAN NETWORKING IN THE VILLAGES AND GATHERING INTERESTED PARTIES
- WE HAD AN ENMORE VILLAGE WHATSAPP BROADCAST AND A GOATHURST VILLAGE FACEBOOK PAGE TO AID COMMUNICATION, DELIVER UPDATES AND CALLS TO ACTION
- WE JOINED IN THE SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST'S WILDER "BUZZ"
- LOCALLY, QUANTOCK NL (AONB), QLPS TEAM MEMBERS BECAME INSTRUMENTAL SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE , WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND GUIDANCE AND KEY, PROACTIVE FUNDING



PLANNING OUR APPROACH IN ENMORE

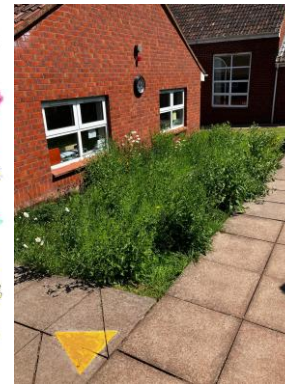
- SET UP A SMALL GROUP OF ABOUT 10 RESIDENTS TO HELP CHAMPION ACTION
- DIVIDED THE VILLAGE INTO  KEY AREAS OF FOCUS
 - THE CHURCHYARD
 - THE SCHOOL - ENMORE PRIMARY
 - THE UNUSED CIVIL CEMETERY FIELD NOW “JUBILEE MEADOW”
 - HEDGES AND VERGES, PRIMARILY ON FARMLAND
 - RESIDENTS’ GARDENS

THE CHURCHYARD

- LED BY SWT & DIOCESE OF BATH & WELLS WILDER CHURCHYARD INITIATIVE
- WORK WITH PCC, MAKING WILDING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE
- £500 MAGIC GRANT - INSTALLED WILDLIFE HABITAT BOXES, PLANTED WILDFLOWER BULBS, BOUGHT TWO BENCHES. WITH SCHOOL BUILT BUG HOTELS, AMPHIBIAN ROCK PILES, LET CORDONED OFF "GRASS" GROW
- WITH ENMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL HELD "WILDER" SESSIONS CLASS BY CLASS LED BY QLPS AND SUPPORTED BY ENMORE VOLUNTEERS
- RAN "INATURALIST" TRAINING EVENING IN THE CHURCH FOR RESIDENTS
- HELD TWO "BAT" MONITORING EVENINGS LED BY QLPS
- PUTTING TOGETHER A WILDLIFE/HERITAGE TRAIL FOR LOCALS/VISITORS



ENMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL



- WORKED WITH HEADTEACHER TO ENGAGE THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN WILDER ENMORE
- INTRODUCED QLPS AND HAVE:
 - ONGOING REJUVENATION TO SCHOOL'S WILD OBSERVATION AREA IN "ANCIENT PACKWAY"
 - RUN PUPIL "INATURALIST" TRAINING SESSIONS
 - RUN CLASS VISITS TO CHURCHYARD FOR WILDER ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING
 - NURSED TANK OF ELVERS AS PART OF THE SOMERSET EEL RECOVERY PROJECT
 - WILDFLOWER BEDS
- SUCH SUCCESS THAT SUPPORTING THE WILDER ENMORE INITIATIVE IS NOW A KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR IN THE SCHOOL'S STRATEGIC REPORT FOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
- IS STRENGTHENING ACTIVE TIES BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND THE CHURCH

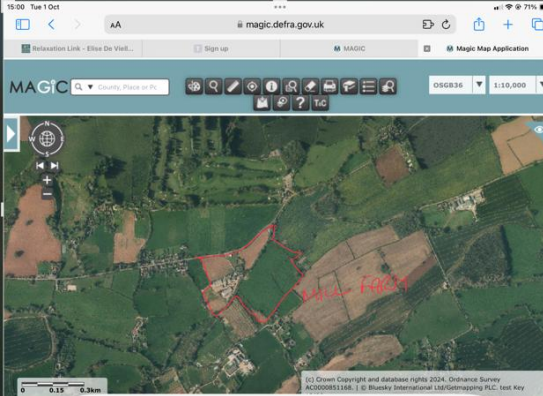


JUBILEE MEADOW

OUR VILLAGE GREEN SPACE

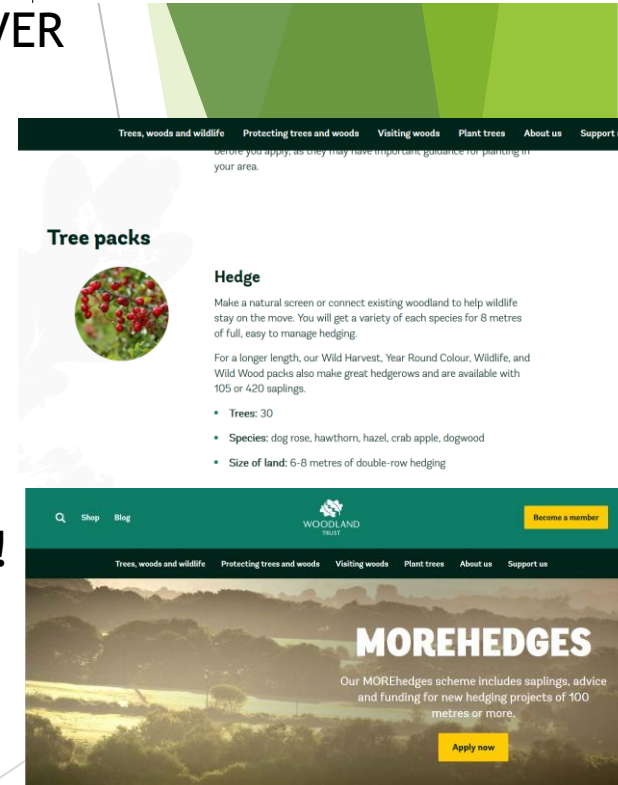
- SECURED A 75% GRANT FROM GQLDF TO ADD TO VILLAGE CONTRIBUTION TO:
 - PLANT AN ORCHARD WITH DEDICATION TAGS
 - CREATE WILDFLOWER MEADOW
 - SPRING FED WATER TROUGH
 - BIKE RACK
 - BUILD SEATING AREA, 2 WEATHERPROOF BENCHES
 - SINK OLD TROUGH AS A SMALL WILDLIFE POND
 - NEW JUBILEE MEADOW SIGN FOR VILLAGE GREEN SPACE
- A FURTHER GRANT TOWARDS:
 - LARGE CARPARK
 - REPAIRED OLD GATEPOSTS TO ACCESS GATE
- HAVE USED OUR MEADOW FOR VILLAGE EVENTS





HEDGES & VERGES

- SOMERSET FARMLAND SURVEY: 90% WILDLIFE FOUND IN HEDGES WHICH COVER 10%
- APPROACHED A LOCAL FARM, WHO ALSO DOES LOCAL HEDGECUTTING COMMERCIALY, TO BECOME A TEST CASE
- QLPS DID A HEDGE SURVEY ON FARM, PRODUCED EXCELLENT FULL REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
- POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM FARMER AS LITTLE TIME INVOLVEMENT AND FREE!
- WORKED WITH FARMER TO APPLY FOR TWO GRANTS, ONE TO PLANT A NEW 130M HEDGE AND THE OTHER FOR INFILL TO OTHER HEDGES
- BOTH GRANTS WERE SUCCESSFUL VIA THE WOODLAND TRUST
- HOPE TO TAKE POSITIVE IMPACT RESULTS TO ENGAGE OTHER FARMERS



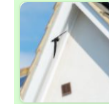
RESIDENTS' GARDENS

- LOCAL GARDENING CLUB TALKS SUPPORTING WILDER INITIATIVE
- SET UP A WILDER ENMORE AND GOATHURST WHATSAPP GROUP TO CELEBRATE LOCAL WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY ACTIONS



Bridgwater set to get new wildlife zones
The zones include grass mazes, long grass areas and a "no strim" policy around trees.
[www.bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9q04ex4lpgo)

BBC News - Bridgwater set to get new wildlife zones - BBC News
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9q04ex4lpgo> 18:14 ✓



Help stop the Planning and Infrastructure Bill tearing up nature protections
I've written to my MP to demand that the UK Government adopts a nature-friendly approach to planning and development. Will you take action too?
action.rspb.org.uk

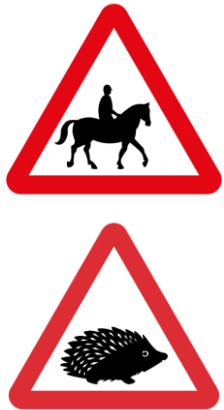
<https://action.rspb.org.uk/page/159517/action/1?locale=en-GB>

This is part of the small print in the new Planning Bill that needs your attention so that we build in sympathy with life around us. There is no work involved - just follow the link and press "create email" and with your name it will be sent to Ashley Fox our local MP. It is in all our interests to do this.

09:36 ✓



OTHER 'GREEN' ACTIVITIES



- QUARTERLY LITTER PICKS SUPPORTED BY SOMERSET COUNCIL
- IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONSISTENT VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT, SLOWED TO 30MPH AND 20MPH TERM TIME OUTSIDE SCHOOL
- AGREED 6 SIGNS FOR HORSERIDERS AND NATURE
- WORKING WITH FRIENDS OF THE QUANTOCKS TO ESTABLISH ENMORE AS A DISEASE RESISTANT ELM HABITAT FOR HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLIES
- WORKING WITH SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST TO ACHIEVE FOR ENMORE AND GOATHURST A SWT "WORKING TOGETHER FOR A WILDER ENMORE/GOATHURST" SIGN.

ON FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AFTER TWO YEARS OF EFFORT, ENMORE BECOMES THE FIRST SOMERSET RECIPIENT OF SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST'S WILDER COMMUNITY AWARD



PLANNING OUR APPROACH IN GOATHURST

- MAKING OUR CHURCHYARD WILDER
 - SECURED QLPS FUNDING TO RESTORE WILLIS MONUMENT
 - WITH PC FUNDS MADE A BEAUTIFUL BENCH OUT OF THE FALLEN TREE STUMP THAT FACES THE MONUMENT
 - CREATED A BUG HOTEL WITH LOCAL CHILDREN
 - MADE A WILDING STRIP IN FRONT OF TOP HEDGE
 - PLANTED DONATED MEMORIAL TREES AND BUDDLEJA
 - CREATED AN EASTER GARDEN WITH LOCAL CHILDREN
 - INSTALLED BENCHES AND SEATS
 - CREATED SEASONAL ACTIVITY SHEETS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN
- VILLAGE LITTER PICKS
- WILDER GARDENS' AWARDS
- TO ACHIEVE WILDER SWT COMMUNITY AWARD



BUILD COMMUNITY

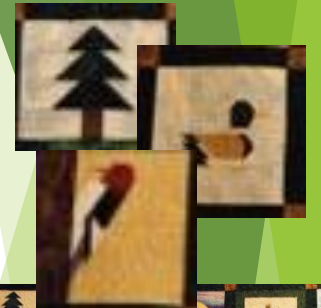


KEY ACTION DRIVERS....

- SET UP COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION CHANNELS EG. WHATSAPP, FACEBOOK
- INFORM COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- IDENTIFY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, SELECT <5 AREAS OF FOCUS
- SET PLANS FOR EACH AREA OF FOCUS AGAINST FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND EARLY WINS
- ENGAGE KEY STAKEHOLDERS EG. PARISH AND PAROCHIAL COUNCILS, SCHOOLS, RESIDENTS, OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS
- ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN IMPLEMENTATION, KEEP UPDATED
- CELEBRATE SUCCESSES
- APPLY FOR RECOGNITION EG. SWT WILDER COMMUNITY AWARD, WILDER CHURCHYARD AWARD, WILDER SCHOOL AWARD, INDIVIDUAL WILDER GARDEN AWARD, WILDER ALLOTMENT AWARD
- ENCOURAGE AND LINK-UP WITH ADJACENT COMMUNITIES = MORE PATCHES TO MAKE THE SOMERSET QUILT = SOMERSET NATURE RECOVERY NETWORK

BECAUSE.....

“WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US” - SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



Somerset's 1st Wilder Community Award!





“WHAT ARE THE QUANTOCKS?”



Quantock Hills
National
Landscape



Quantock Landscape
Partnership Scheme





5.75 km of hedge planted or restored
140km of hedges surveyed
3,100 woodland trees and shrubs planted
Nearly 2500 young people taken to the Hills,
Over 4000 other beneficiaries and 600 volunteers
(>4000 vol days total)
Well over 300 public events
About half of our engagement has been outside the
National Landscape



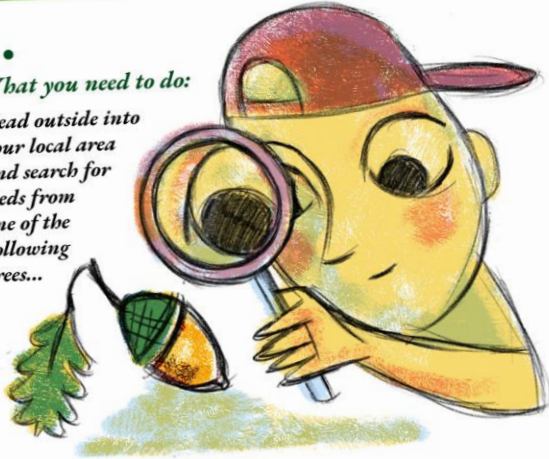
Grow your own tree for the Quantocks!



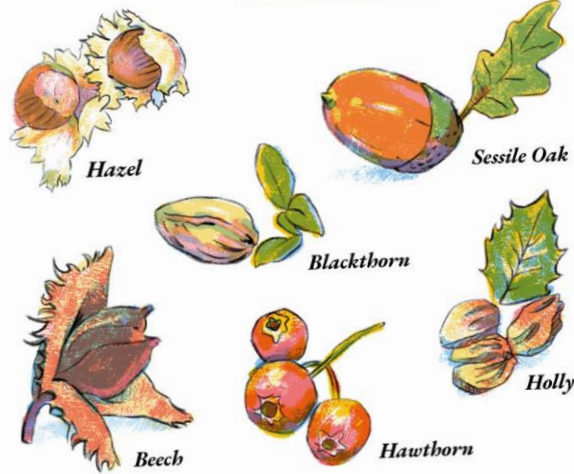
1.

What you need to do:

*Head outside into
your local area
and search for
seeds from
one of the
following
trees...*



2. *Search for seeds on the ground
beneath the living trees of these species:*



First steps; Oak for Hope Search for Seeds

Community Woodland

We invited the public to search for seeds for a new community woodland in Cothelstone.

Seeds collected and planted at home during the pandemic were then planted out in a day of people coming together again on the hills.



Community Mural Painting



Bobby, 7yrs old –
“there were kids drinking
and smoking in the park,
and they were only 11, so
we came here instead”

Community Trips to the Hills



Nature & You

What do you like most about living near the outdoors, countryside and hills?

What did you enjoy doing when you last visited your local countryside? Write or draw what you did here:

What wildlife can you remember seeing?

For you, what three words sum up the outdoors?

How do you feel when you are visiting local areas such as the Quantock Hills? (e.g. calm, peaceful, relaxed, tired, centred, spiritual, excited)

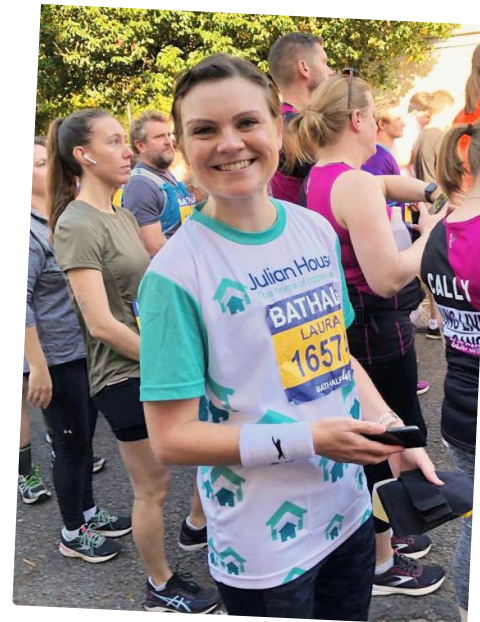
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“I’ve never been this close to a horse other than in Minecraft”

QLPS in the community



“Thanks to you [QLPS] I’ve had the confidence to learn how to drive... I’ve done mental health first aid training as well”



“[After volunteering at the Quantock Walking Festival] It inspired me to take up running, and now I’ve entered my first half marathon”

“I have met people, both volunteers and people within the QLPS team, who I can now call my friends”

QLPS Wildlife Officer, Jem Gibson at 2BU family event Woodland Play Centre.

Photo Walks



Broomfield Common; Ash Dieback writ large



Working with migrant communities



Conservation and Coppicing





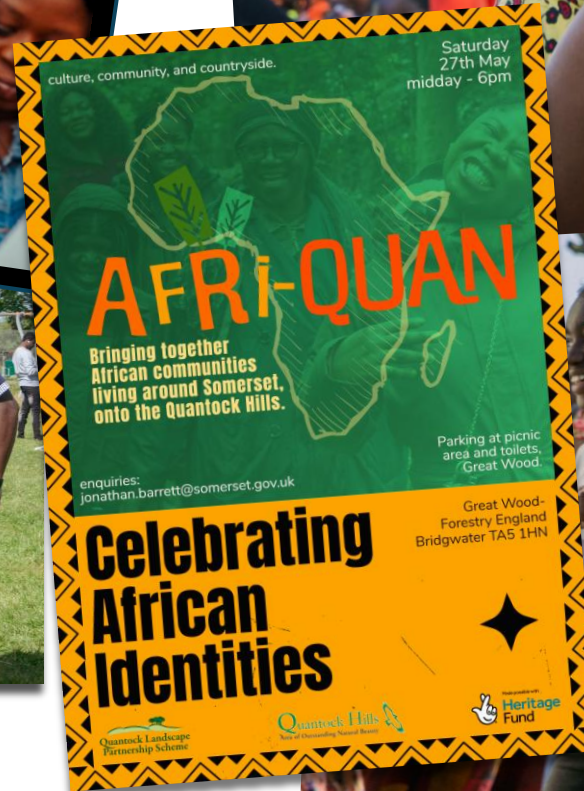
Adder & wildlife Surveys



Bulgarian/European community groups

“most migrant children struggle... this
has meant more to them than you think...
all parents appreciate it.”





AfriQuan

"It's helping with my frustrations"

"I want to be an ecologist"



Wild Wednesdays at Stockmoor County Park

Supported by LiveWest as a social value project

WILD NATURE EVENTS & ACTIVITY DAYS

SUMMER 2023
HAMP, WILSTOCK, & STOCKMOOR

All events free

Full Info 

2pm—4pm	26th July	— Wild Wednesday
2pm—4pm	2nd Aug	— Wild Wednesday
2pm—4pm	9th Aug	— Wild Wednesday
10:30am—1pm	16th Aug	— Wild Nature Day
2pm—4pm	16th Aug	— Wild Wednesday
11am—2pm	21st Aug	— Little Nature Folk Day
3pm—6pm	22nd Aug	— Sports & Nature Day
2pm—4pm	23rd Aug	— Wild Wednesday
2pm—4pm	30th Aug	— Wild Wednesday
10:30am—4pm	1st Sept	— Kilve Shore Search Trip

 **LiveWest**
A home for everyone

 **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

 **Quantock Hills**
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

 **SCIW Somerset art works**

 **COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST**

 **Frost**

 **Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme**

 **Bridgwater Blue Heritage**

 **Wilstockhub**
meeting & connecting communities

 **Youth Unlimited CIC**
Youth & Community Services

 **Growing 12 Minds**

Sally Hill
Contact email: sally.hill@livewest.co.uk

A way of working with resilient communities



antock
Hills
National
Landscape



Hills
National
Landscape

Nature Calling



Long Sutton Environment Group

Gill / Ben

October 2025



The start.....2022

Five Parish Council members (Gill, Ben, Neil, Alex and Graham) had three ideas.....which lead to much more....

Change the lengthsman management of the village green spaces



- Cricket club changed the recreation field mowing
- More Wilder gardens in the village
- Trees donated and planted by community payback
- A few complaints about tidiness

Survey the Parish to see how they felt about The Environment



- Focus on 1)Nature 2)Energy 3)Recycling
- Followed up with in person survey for some Parish Land
- Survey by Somerset Wildlife Trust on the state of the Parish ecology

Hold an Environment Day



- 2022 100 people came
- 2023 150+ villagers
- 2025 on October 25th 9.30 to 12

The Now....2025

- Environment team of 13 active members plus village for big activities
 - All on WhatsApp, no formal structure or meetings
- Strong support at Parish Council
 - Environment £ budget, progress/needs reviewed every meeting, Parish Clerks help on grant paperwork
 - 8 acre Nature Reserve since March 2025
- Strong Support from Partner Organisations
 - Somerset Wildlife Trust; Reimagining the Levels; Bumblebee Conservation Trust; FWAG; Able2achieve; Owl and Hawk Conservation Trust





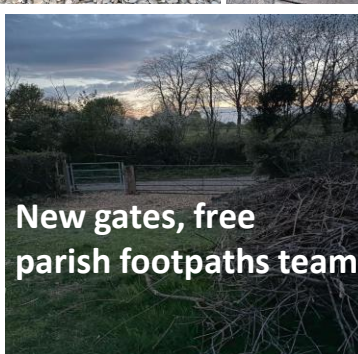
Signs, free Gill
Footpath team, SWT



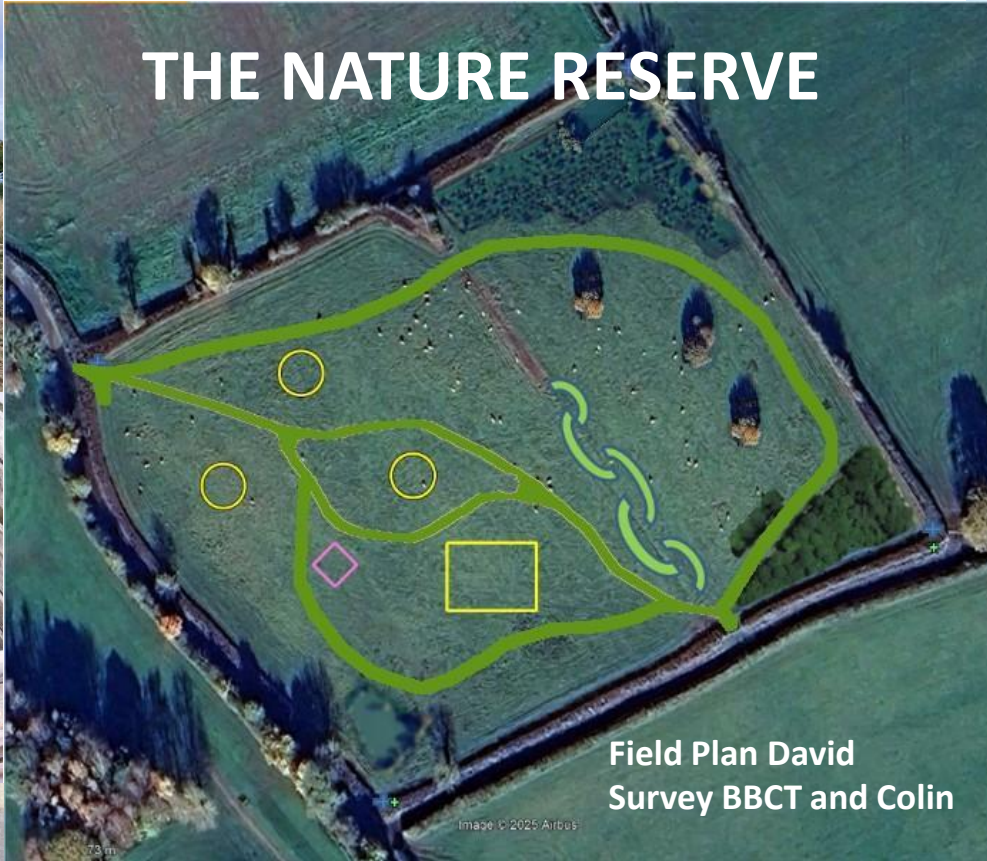
Compost Bin, Colin



Growing Trees
Ben, David2



New gates, free
parish footpaths team



Field Plan David
Survey BBCT and Colin



Planting trees, led by Ben, 80
villagers. Trees from
reimagining the levels



Bug hotels, Gill G., Colin and
the village school



Planting wildflowers, Colin, David
and village school



Mulching trees Lyn, Gill G Colin. et
Pizza boxes and mulch from local
businesses. Follow up survey and
watering Colin.



Building picnic
benches
PC Funded
Gill, Simon,
Max, Davidsx2,
Janette



Digging 2 ponds and lots of hibernaculum
William & David ,Grant from FWAG Gill and Parish Clerk



Installed water (David, Rupert); Mowed paths (unknown villager)
chopped thistles (Martin, Lyn, Gill x2, David2).....etc etc

What's next?



Nature Reserve....

Field Mowing (local contractor, PC funded)

Cornish Hedges for reptiles (David 2)

Replace lost trees and plant more (Reimagining levels, village school and whole village)

Willow coppice plantation (FWAG funded, Gill & whole village)

Design new main sign (Janette, Village school and local business funding)

Grow plug plants (Seeds Wessex Water grant (Ben & parish clerk), Somerton Gardening club, Villagers)

Reptile Survey (Ben and David 2)

Manage transition to a new village lengthsman

Need Help with....

Someone who can do a moth survey

Better plan for grass cutting next year

Nature friendly lengthsman job description

Ansford Academy Forest School



So... what is a Forest School?

A forest school in the UK is an **outdoor**, long-term educational process that encourages confidence and independence through hands-on learning in a **natural environment**. Imported from Scandinavia in the 1990s, the Forest School approach focuses on holistic child development rather than traditional academic outcomes.



Forest school differs from standard outdoor learning by adhering to a set of core principles established by the FSA.

UK's Forest School Association (FSA).

Long-term process: Sessions are held regularly, not as one-off trips. This allows children to build a relationship with the natural world and develop skills over time.

Natural setting: It takes place in a woodland or other natural environment, though a park or even a well-equipped school ground can be used.

Holistic development: The process aims to foster resilient, confident, and independent learners by nurturing their social, emotional, physical, and communication skills.

Learner-led approach: The curriculum is flexible and guided by the children's own curiosity and interests, rather than being strictly adult-led.

Supported risk-taking: Children are given the opportunity to take supervised, appropriate risks, such as using real tools or climbing trees. This helps them develop problem-solving and risk-assessment abilities.

Qualified practitioners: Sessions are run by trained Forest School leaders who ensure a high adult-to-child ratio to maintain safety.

Typical Activities

- Activities are often/usually improvised on what the children find most interesting & can include...
- Bug hunts
- Den Building
- Crafts
- Camp fire cooking
- Use of tools
- Plant ID



Thank you, Somerset Wildlife Trust,

- We recently were lucky enough to work with Guy from Somerset Wildlife trust who helped us.
- Build a pond
- Build a hibernaculum
- Plant up a bog garden
- And to understand how important these things are

















Westbury Tree Group

Started July 2020



Tree Group ambition:

**To increase the number of
trees and compensate for Ash
Dieback losses**

How

***To collect seed within 10 miles
of village.....local adaption***

***To plant within 10 miles of
village.....few tree miles***

***To enhance diversity for
resilience***





Hawthorn



Acorn



Gelder Rose



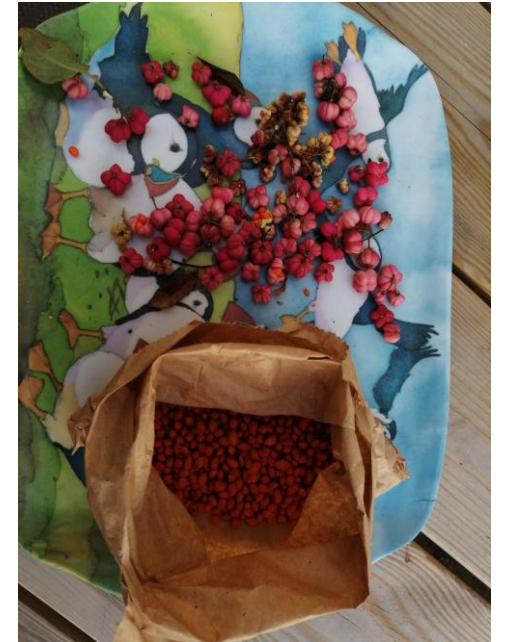
Collected
Haws



Field Maple



Alder
Buckthorn



Spindle







40 people
450 trees
2 hours
One new
hedge

Planted over 12,000 trees
Grown and planted over 6,000
trees
Provided trees to more than 57
landowners



Right
Tree
Right
Place



Three Acre Wood



Who are we?

- We grow Mental Health Recovery
- 4 groups: Watchet, Bridgwater, Chilton Polden and Street
- Cooperative model
- Running for 10 years

HOPE!



Being outdoors and connecting with nature,



Natural sunlight



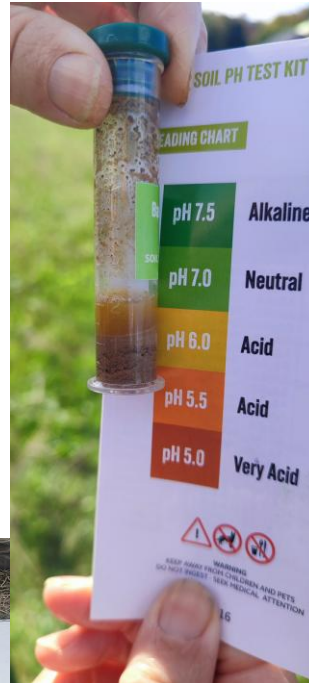
**working with others
nurturing living plants and environments**

gentle exercise



The story in Street...

- Somerset Wildlands offered us the chance to take on a 3 Acre Field!
- Voted on last Christmas
- 10 year lease since this April
- Our mission: create a Community Food Forest
- So far on site..



Trail cam videos



What's next...

- Community events - Seasonal Pond digging 24/10 with the local RAG

- Spending our grant money!



- So we can: build a compost loo, lean to and plant our canopy layer this Winter

How to get involved

- Join our newsletter about this project
 - See events on our Facebook Page: Seed of Hope CIC
- Come volunteer on Friday's with us!
- Spread the news and let us know your ideas

Thanks - I can't wait
to eat your trees



Afternoon agenda

WORKSHOPS WILL START AT 1.45PM

(later start to allow everyone to get lunch)

3.15pm Closing session



Thank you for joining

Wilder Together 2025

**Safe travels and we hope to see
you next year in Taunton!**

