



# Getting Bath and North East Somerset Buzzing

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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

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Paul Pearce

Improving People's Lives

# This is B&NES

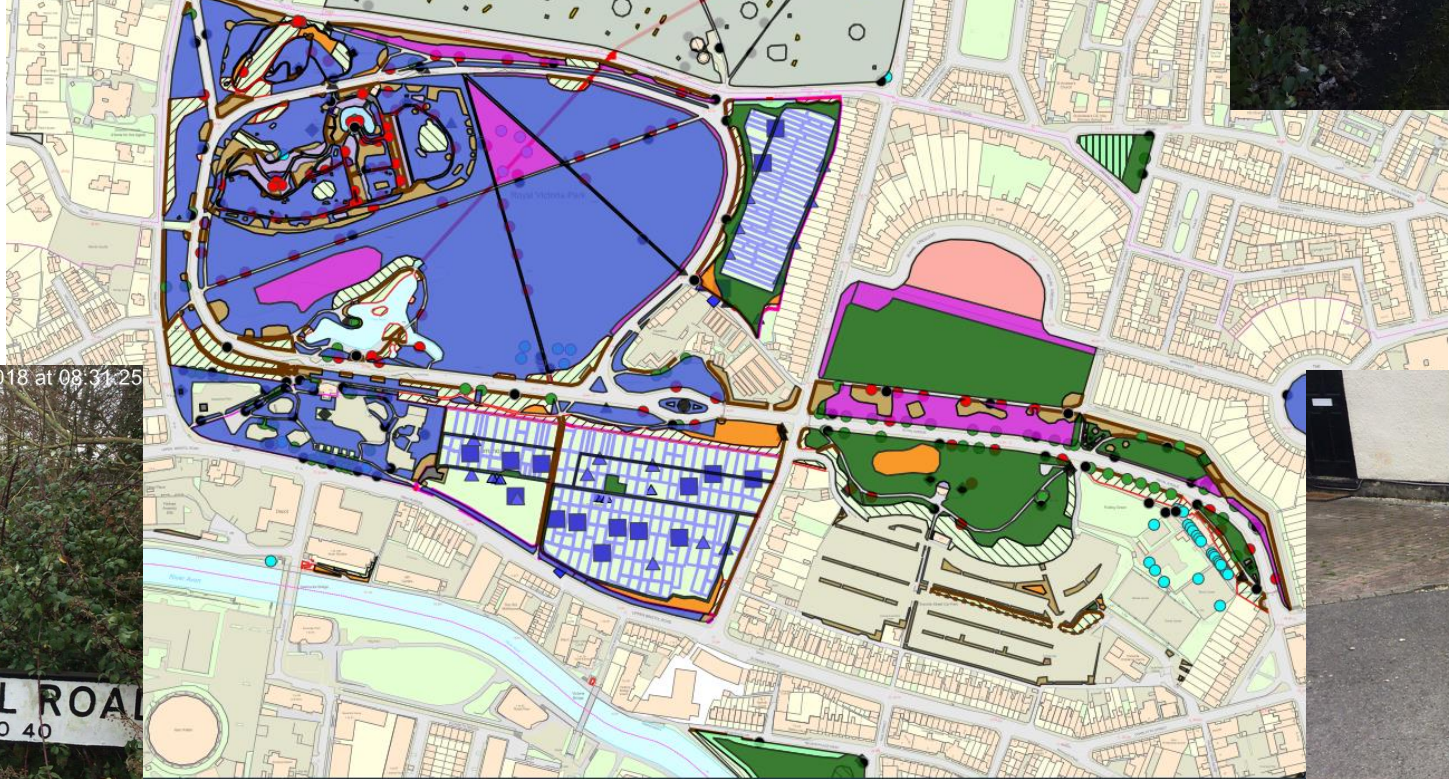
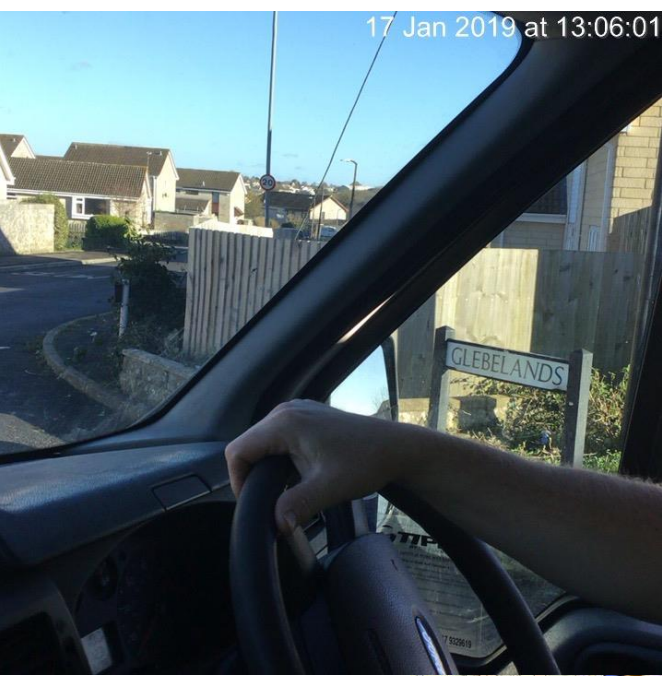








17 Jan 2019 at 13:06:01



11 Dec 2018 at 08:31:25



14 Jan 2019 at 12:00:44



## Lose Yourself In Our Wild Meadows..



In 2015, B&NES Parks Team have created a network of 25 new meadows areas in parks and green spaces across Bath

In the UK we have lost around 90% of our wildlife-rich grassland since the Second World War and meadow areas like this one are helping fight this decline: providing an important refuge for bees, butterflies and bugs; and food for songbirds.

For more information about the project visit our website at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/meadows](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/meadows) or look out for one of our meadows in a green space near you..

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

For more information, please contact 01225 39 40 41 or email [Parks\\_Greenspacesadmin@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Parks_Greenspacesadmin@bathnes.gov.uk)

## Lose Yourself In Our Wild Meadows..



This wildflower meadow has been created to attract wildlife and provide a refuge for bees, butterflies and bugs, as well as food for songbirds.

Please enjoy the meadow but remember that longer grass can be home to invertebrates such as bees and ticks. You might want to wear long sleeves / trousers if walking through it and to check yourself and your pets once you get home.

Alexandra Park with meadow areas shown in blue



Wildflower meadow - Paul Wilkins

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## Let's Get Buzzing

We are constantly trying to identify suitable green spaces to help improve areas for wildlife and native plants. Can you help us?

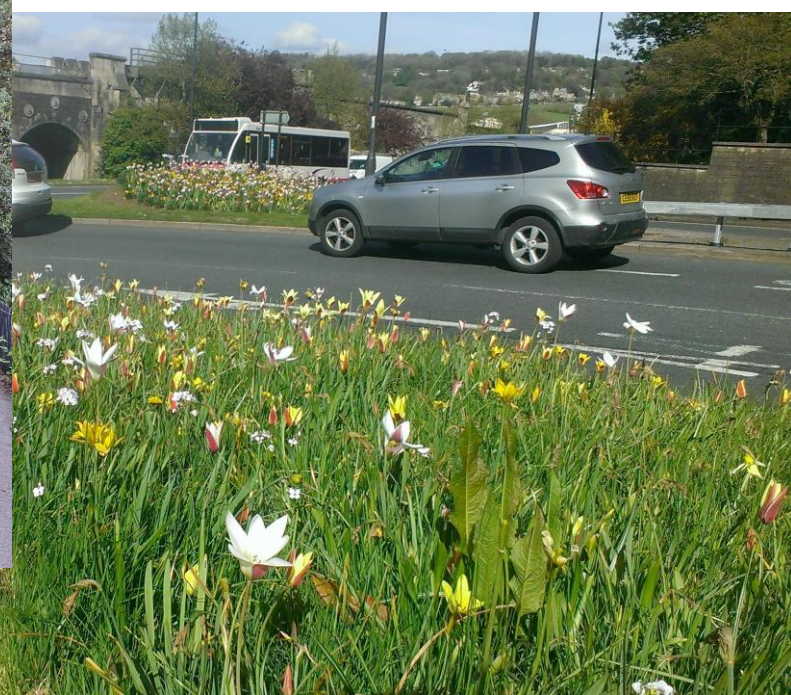
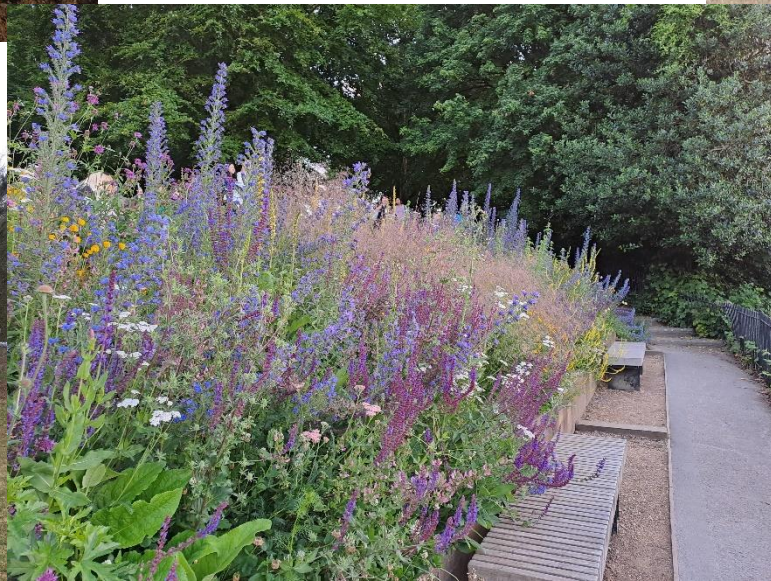
You can forward your suggestions to [parks\\_admin@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:parks_admin@bathnes.gov.uk). Please note not all areas will be owned or managed by the Local Authority however wherever we can we would like to increase biodiversity and help tackle the climate and nature emergency.

Did you know your garden might be the perfect place to help our bees, butterflies, birds and small invertebrates. You can find how to make your garden a haven for wildlife at the following sites;









Typology	Quantity	Unit of measurement
Conservation Grass (grass cut less than every 6 weeks)	580318	m <sup>2</sup>
Conservation Grass (grass cut less than every 6 weeks) as % of all grass	21.43	%
Conservation Shrubs, Hedges & shrub lines, Coppice (cut less than once p/a)	25262.67	m <sup>2</sup>
Conservation Shrubs, Hedges & shrub lines, Coppice (cut less than once p/a) as % of all Shrubs, Hedges & shrub lines	37.38	%
Woodland	600459	m <sup>2</sup>
Woodland as % of all land	16.94	%
Perennial Flowerbeds	5628	m <sup>2</sup>
Perennial Flowerbeds as % of all land	0.16	%
Hard Surface	41025.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Hard Surface as % of all land	1.16	%
% of land managed in an ecologically friendly way	34.18687	%

Dear Parks and Green Spaces Team,

Cc: Council Leaders  
Cc: Bath Chronicle

We have seen the efforts you're making for biodiversity in Bath's wonderful parks and green spaces and would like to say thank you.

- We've seen the reduction in grass cutting and we love it.
- We love dandelions and daisies as much as primroses and cow parsley.
- We have enjoyed seeing the bulbs you've planted in the grass come into bloom.
- We are happy to see nettles in our verges - and we know the butterflies are too.
- We love seeing deadwood left as habitat for insects, thank you for not clearing it all out of the parks.

We know that all these things are because you care about the biodiversity of our natural spaces, and we are grateful you prioritise this in the face of complaints from people who want their spaces maintained with a different aesthetic.

We know it must be a difficult to balance the formal with the informal whilst working with funding cuts, and we are grateful to you all for doing it with love and care.

Please keep up the good work.

With love  
The undersigned citizens of Bath and North East Somerset:

Ruth Hand	Nathan Hand	Elizabeth David	Hazel Rowcliffe
Crystal Close	Kelly Tyndale	Sam Rawes	Bridget Newbery
Victoria Topping	Sarah Callaghan	Vaclav Flegl	Emelia Newton Jones
Stephanie Mills	Alison Crowe	John McCulloch	vickie bodie
Katrina Thuis	Susannah Crowe	Katrina Kelly	Yasmin Tenpow
Teresa Currie	Andy Macintosh	Selina Gynn	Kate Jones
Sarah Lillywhite	Anna Carroll	Rowan Tempo	Donna Trundley
Carole Faithorn	Polina Belousova	Alice Taylor	Fiona Orel

## Neighbourhood Nature Area Agreement to undertake a project on land managed by the Parks Department

Name of Site: Roadside verge to [insert location]

Location within the site: The small stretch of grass verges to the [insert location]

Name of Group / Individual: none (residents of [insert location])

Name of Representative of the Organisation/holder of this agreement: [insert name]

Phone number:

Email Address:

\*\*\*Items below to be adjusted according to each circumstance\*\*\*

- We, the residents of number [insert location] agree to undertake the following piece of work: To plant the verge to the [insert specific location detail] as identified in the attached photo and map with wildflowers through prior agreement with the Council's Parks Department.
- We agree to follow the criteria set out in the Neighbourhood Nature Area Outline document:
  - Enhance what is already there, rather than entirely re-landscaping it
  - That plants used are all good for wildlife, such as spring bulbs, herbaceous perennials, and wildflowers.
  - No woody shrubs or trees; nothing prickly, pointy, or poisonous and no invasive weeds, please!
  - Pathways are kept free of plants; and any vegetation encroaching into the road or onto paths is cut back regularly.
  - The focus is on soft landscaping only (no stones, sleepers, fences, or hard edgings)
- We agree that we will not remove any materials from the site (soil, stones, or any uncovered historical artefacts without the written permission of the Parks Department.
- We agree that the area will be cut once/year by the Parks Department from [insert specification]
- Please note that the grass will only be cut by the Parks Department [insert specification] As this may be a narrow grass verge, we will need to ensure that long vegetation does not grow onto, nor obstruct the pavement.
- We agree to remove any waste from the site that is generated from our activities and we will dispose of this separately.

- We agree that we will not plant any woody shrubs or trees in the area.
- We agree that we will not carry out any other operations on the site that are not listed within the risk assessment for the site without the written permission of the Parks Department
- We agree that we will not affix any materials to adjacent walls or fences or carry out any other work or build/demolish any structures without the written permission of the Head of the Parks Service.
- We will meet/liase by telephone annually to discuss how the project is progressing and issues arising or variations that might benefit the site.
- We understand that if the site is not taken care of in the manner agreed in this document the Group / Individual will be asked to relinquish the site

Signature: Team Leader Parks and Trees

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Date: .....

Signature: Representative of the Group / holder of this agreement

.....

Date: .....











# Lessons learnt...

## Management

- Find the best techniques for the site
- Pay attention to the edges
- Enhance hedges with native species



# Lessons learnt...

## Resources

- **Where possible require contractors to re-instate with biodiversity enhancements**
- **Use BNG to fund enhancements**
- **Invest in staff training**
- **Partner with existing or new groups wherever possible**

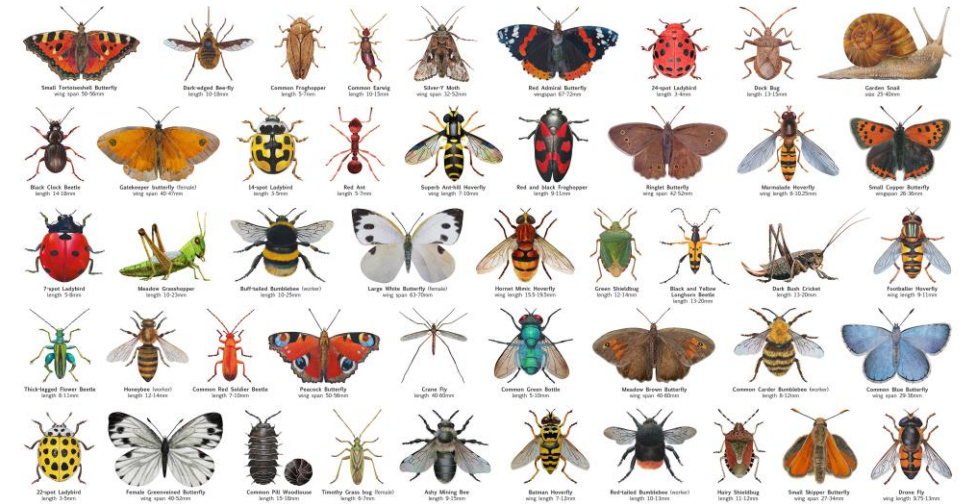


# Lessons learnt...

## Comms

- Call long grass a Nature Recovery Area
- Talk about other pollinators – not just bees
- Re-wilding is a contentious term
- Publicity, publicity, publicity...

Welcome to this pollinator friendly open space  
West of England Combined Authority is funding the creation of vital insect habitat.



Enjoy the flowers but leave plenty for the pollinators and see how many of these insects you can spot.

Illustrations by Marian Hill buzzandscuttle.com

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**Thank you....**