

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Grassland Management Strategy

A short presentation on Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's new Grassland Management Strategy to increase the biodiversity and carbon sequestration of the borough for the benefit of the environment, society and economy.

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Newcastle Introduction

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is a district local authority located in Staffordshire County. The borough is at the heart of the County and is a close neighbour to Stoke-on-Trent. The borough is home to roughly 123,900 residents with an average age from 41 to 43 years of age.

The borough is home to multiple towns and villages such as Newcastle-under-Lyme, Kidsgrove, Talke, Audley, Madeley, Loggerheads and more.



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Streetscene Introduction

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Streetscene Service is composed of 6 operations staff members and crew members who oversee important services to the borough and their development such as:

- Street Sweeping
- Litter, Dog Waste & Fly-Tipping
- Playgrounds
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Trees
- Grass Cutting & Grounds Maintenance
- Fly-Posting & Graffiti
- Leaf Fall Sweeping & Weed Control



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Grassland Management Strategy

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Sustainable Environment and Streetscene Services attended a sustainable land management training session with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust in January 2024. From this session the Council began development of a Grassland Management Strategy to promote the growth of long grasses in the borough.

The Council has over hectares of strictly mowed grasslands in the borough which have the potential to serve the residents an environment of Newcastle a lot more through the promotion of long meadow growth.

This strategy is organised through two key documents, the main strategy document and the policy documents. The strategy outlines background information, main aims, plan and a timeline. the policy document outlines all 6 different grassland identifications and how they should be mowed.



Grassland Management Strategy

The Strategy includes 6 main policies which detail the different mowing regimes required for different types of area and identifies those that will be used for long meadow generation. Below is listed the 6 individual policies:

Policy 1 - Public Open Spaces & informal Sport Amenity

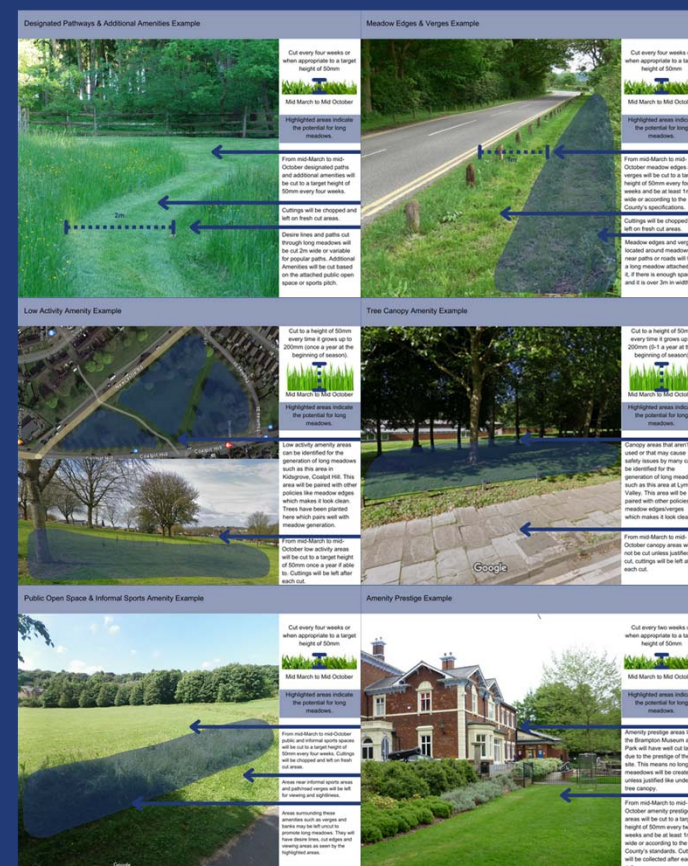
Policy 2 - Designated Pathways & Additional Amenities

Policy 3 - Meadow Edges & verges

Policy 4 - Amenity Prestige

Policy 5 - Low Activity & Tree Canopy Amenity

Policy 6 - Wildflower Meadows



Grassland Management Strategy

The Grassland Management Strategy and Policy documents were adopted by the Council in April 2024 with these main objectives:

- To increase biodiversity and nature recovery networks in the Borough.
- To increase efficiency in Council resource use by enabling resources for priority jobs and works in the Borough.
- To contribute towards the Councils Net Zero goals by 2030 and 2050 by sequestering and storing more carbon with increased grasslands.
- To inform residents, businesses and visitors about the change in grassland management and why biodiversity is important for the Borough.



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Grassland Management Strategy

Phase 1: Pocket Ward Grasslands

Phase 1 will incorporate new grassland management regimes at different pocket sites in different wards. These are listed below:

- Bradwell – Arnold Grove
- Clayton – Kingsbridge medical centre
- Brampton Vale (Donkey Field)
- Bradwell - Chatterley Close (already meadow location)
- Crackley – Crackley Field
- Chesterton – Douglas Road
- Westlands – Guernsey Drive
- Keele – Keele Cemetery (already meadow location)
- Westlands – Leys Drive
- Chesterton – Loomer Road
- Clayton – Norwich Place – Stafford Ave
- Poolfields – Rotterdam Field
- Chesterton – Sheldon Grove
- Kidsgrove - Coalpit Hill
- Cross Heath – The Wammy
- Thistleberry – Thistleberry Parkway
- Westbury – Westbury Park
- Clayton – Wye Road

Phase 2: Review & Consult

After Phase 1 (which may be conducted over 2 years), the Council will conduct a review and consultation to identify and report on the social and environmental impacts of pockets ward grasslands programme. If proved to benefit biodiversity and improve resident views on wildlife in public spaces then Phase 3 in parks and Grassland Spaces may begin.

Phase 3: Parks & Grassland Space

Once Phase 2 is completed then the Council may move to Phase 3. The Council will begin to roll out the new management regimes throughout the parks listed below and other grassland spaces such as road verges and low amenity spaces.

- Bathpool Park
- Lyme Valley parkway
- Brampton Museum & Park
- Wolstanton Marsh & Park



Progress to Date

January 2024

Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust
Training
Session

April 2024

NuLBC
Cabinet Adopts
Grassland
Management
Strategy

July - October 2024

Processing
feedback and
developping
engaging media.

Development
of a Grassland
Management
Strategy

January - April 2024

Implementation
of reduced
mowing regimes
at Arnold Grove,

April - October 2024

Cpmpleting the
full Phase 2
report of the first
year of the
strategy.

October 2024



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Positives & Negatives

- Long meadows have begun to develop in the borough, increasing short-term local biodiversity and carbon capture.
- The Council have begun a refresh of the webpages and media content (like social media) to engage with residents on this new strategy and increase awareness.

- The Council have received multiple complaints about multiple different long meadow sites. These have significantly come from dog walkers and residents complaining about dog waste being left in the grass and the potentiality of mites.
- Due to extreme weather it has been difficult for Streetscene to maintain mowing regimes.



Conclusion



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Thank you for Listening!

Learn more at newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or send me an email at thomas.guilbert-newell@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.



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Scan here for the
full strategy

