

## THE BUTTS LAND - Biddestone Conservation Area

Mixed Grassland, open Landscape Trees, and perimeter Woodland Hedgerow. Supporting the environment, plant and wildlife biodiversity and contribution to climate change strategy.

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Management Processes in place since 2019 in further supporting a valuable and beneficial environment within the village conservation area across each season.

### 1. The Grassland:

Mixed Grassland areas and seasonal conditions include, a developing summer flowering meadow, a semi-wetland grassland area and reed bed.

#### Current Management Processes:

##### a. Main Overall Grass Cuts – at End of August Summer Flowering through to early year:

All managed in the agreed annual overall grass cut process at the end of the flowering season x 3 cuts ie end of August/September main cut through to early year/early spring - all to reduce matted ground thatch arising out of an over 25 year once a year cut only in late Spring/early June.

This current programme of main cuts & scarifying to allow aeration of the land soil to allow existing wild-flower species dormant within the ground to surface and flourish, along with supportive additional indigenous seeding in selected areas. All to assist and develop further the varied full summer season flowering for increasing biodiversity, pollinators, insects and birds and visual display. Progress has exemplified in 2021 for the first time in over 25 years 17 Wild Orchids surfaced along the front area of the land.

##### b. Grass Management during the Spring and Summer Season Flowering

With the routine process of the main overall cuts achieved, and the grass growth at a lower level at the start of the developing growth season, the volunteers then monitor and manage flexibly any areas of overly increased natural seasonal grass growth, as required – ie main naturally trodden pathway, any linking pathways to flowering areas or any growth of concern, along with the land corner as it meets Hartham Lane monitored and controlled for visibility throughout the Spring and full Summer Season grass & flowering period.

All with varied methods of strimming, scything or light mowing or occasionally shears in supportive care of any selected area of newly seeded and monitored fledgling flowering areas.

### 2. Woodland Hedgerow:

The perimeter of the land a mixed Woodland Hedgerow of varied fruiting and berried shrubs and trees allowing a beneficial woodland environment as a safe haven, habitat and harvest for all wildlife - birds, pollinators, butterflies & insects

along with a managed corner area of bramble & fruiting blackberry for blackbird harvesting & the village.

Managed with an annual supportive trim in 'managed depth and natural height' to selectively ensure one species does not overtake another and allowing growth to graduate & flow naturally to the open land rather than sharp cut edges, with additional allowances and management of areas of taller and tufted grass along the hedgerow edge as it meets the open grassland - all to allow protective routes and corridors for hedgehogs and further protective provision at low level for additional varieties of pollinators, insects and butterflies.

All wood trimmings prepared, piled and replaced at intervals within the hedgerow to provide shelter and insect habitat, with the stripped general leaf and vegetation trimmings in orderly management now to be placed in various rotated positions within the depth of the hedgerow to compost down.

### 3. Trees - Open Landscape Trees & Woodland Hedgerow

All surveyed and appraised as a Conservation Mix and in line with Working Principles and Practices agreed 2019, additions or replacement trees to the open land will be taken from selected and nurtured 'seedling to sapling' specimens from existing trees on the land.

In the woodland hedgerow, The Butts has been successfully awarded beneficial additions of fruiting and berry trees for all wildlife harvest from the Woodland Trust in association with the Queen's Canopy Jubilee Celebrations in 2022.

These to be delivered at the latest 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 and a planting party to be arranged.

The Butts Land - All in accordance with Research and Consultation & Seasonal Record - Specialist Conservation Input and Surveys.  
Plantlife Meadow Conservationist, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Wild Landscapes Ecologists, AONB Cotswold National Landscapes.  
Conservationist & Ecology/Biodiversity Survey, Tree Survey and Appraisal, Soil Analysis.

January 2022  
ANTHEA KELSALL

General Information Reference Notes Attached: Office of National Statistics -  
Estimated Stored Carbon in Grassland, Woodland, Trees and Scrubland.