

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	31st March 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Ruth Burgess – Streetscape Development Manager		
AGENDA ITEM	16		
REPORT TITLE	30 Site-Specific Biodiversity Sites and No Mow May		
Background	<p>At the January Community and Environment Committee, the committee agreed to move forward with appointing a consultant to help create Site-Specific Biodiversity Plans for 30 sites across Congleton. This paper is to update members of the plans for the Site-Specific work and also for the Town Council plans for No Mow May, which is a campaign aimed at helping wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>30 Biodiversity Sites</p> <p>An initial meeting was held on the 10th March attended by Ruth Benson, the consultant expert on the subject, along with Cllr Margaret Gartside, Cllr Suzy Firkin and Streetscape Development Manager - Ruth Burgess. At that meeting, the following sites were approved for more work: (also see map in Appendix 16.1)</p> <p>West Heath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Padgbury Lane/Langdale Close/Rydal Close (CTC rewilding site) 2 Thirlmere Close 3 Newcastle Road linear green space 4 Quinta Park Play Area 5 Sycamore Avenue-Chestnut Drive 6 Longdown Road-Chestnut Ave (CTC rewilding site) 7 Bowness Court 8 Newcastle Road-Solly Crescent 9 Back Lane/Hawthorne Close group of small green spaces <p>Central</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Hankinson's Field (CTC rewilding site) 11 Banky Fields (CTC rewilding site) 12 Thames Close-Townsend Road? 13 Quayside-Goldfinch Road 14 West Road (former Danesford frontage) 15 Stirling Close (CTC rewilding site) <p>Lower Heath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Land off Hillfields Close (CTC rewilding site) 17 Lower Heath Play Area 18 Hertford Close-Riverdane Road 19 Lady Warburton's Walk. Ownership unclear (CTC rewilding site) 		

Buglawton

20 Mardale Close

21 Havannah Lane/St John's Road

22 St John's Recreation Ground, Play Area and River Dane floodplain

23 Redfern Avenue-Buxton Road (CTC rewilding site)

Bromley Farm

24 Bromley Woods (has an old management plan)

25 Bromley Farm Play Area

26 Windsor Place

Mossley, Astbury Lane Ends, upper Canal St

27 Derwent Drive (CTC rewilding site)

28 Isis Close-Tamar Close (CTC rewilding site)

29 Bridgewater Close (CTC rewilding site)

30 Blackshaw Close? Marshall Grove is larger but not owned by CEC.

Other alternative sites suggested:

A River Dane walkway (extent of CEC ownership to be determined)

B Area off Howarth Avenue

C Area off Pirie Road

D Congleton Cemetery (part-owned by CEC)

E Area off Camborne Close

F Area off Lamberts Lane, including bridleway

G Marshall Grove Play Area (managed but now owned by CEC)

NOTES**Not included:**

- Schools
- CEC Highways land
- Biddulph Valley Way
- Astbury Mere Country Park
- Very small sites unless as part of a group
- Sites still owned by the developer and managed by a management company (as far as is known).
- Plus Dane sites

Congleton Park together with Town Wood - as a Historic England Grade 2 registered park with Local Wildlife Site this area should have its own management plan or plans.

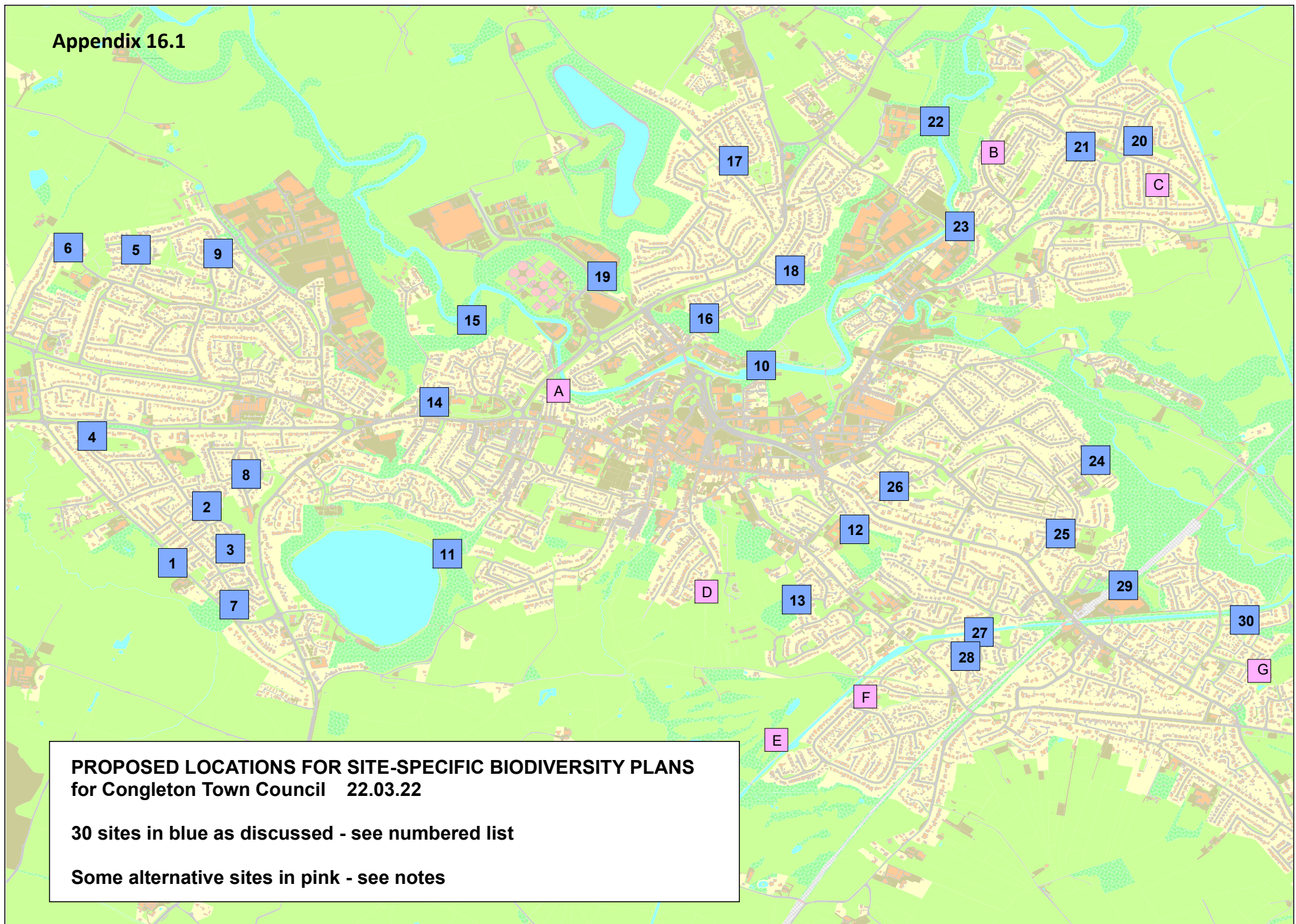
NO MOW MAY

Congleton Streetscape Services provides the grounds maintenance for the parks and many of the green spaces in Congleton under contract to Cheshire East.

Cheshire East has reviewed its Municipal Parks Strategy and as part of the Climate and Nature emergency is encouraging NO MOW May. This also fits with the Town Council's green agenda. No Mow May is a national campaign to let more flowers bloom in May to support bees and other pollinators.

	<p>Changing grass-cutting habits in May can create enough nectar for 10 times more bees and insects. This is critical for our rapidly depleting insect and bird populations.</p> <p>Our parks and open spaces are valued in Congleton and used by hundreds of people. The current climate emergency presents the Council and the community with challenges that we cannot ignore. Our parks and open spaces are essential to helping us address the impact of global warming and take actions to take to tackle climate change head-on. Cheshire East and the Town Council need to make sure that our parks and open spaces are managed and maintained sustainably, and the Town Council intends to lead by example to influence positive change.</p> <p><i>Congleton Town Council will be working with Cheshire East to adopt more sustainable methods of managing our open spaces.</i> We are committed to making our approaches to the management and maintenance of the park and other areas more sustainable. This year we will be leaving some areas of the parks and open spaces unmown. This is a simple way to provide a more diverse landscape for wildlife such as birds, small mammals, and pollinating insects. In May 2022 we will only cut where it is needed on health and safety grounds or where we must cut under contract.</p>
Proposal	For the Community and Environment Committee to note the work on the site-specific biodiversity plan and to support Streetscape adopting the national No Mow May campaign where it is safe and possible to do so.
Environmental	This paper is fundamentally about the Town Council's response to the Climate and Nature emergency and actions to encourage greater Biodiversity in Congleton.
Equality	Tackling environmental issues is to the benefit of everyone. If the No Mow May has a detrimental impact on access for some community members, that area will be considered, and appropriate action is taken.
Financial	Taking part in No Mow May will positively impact the Town's carbon footprint and reduce fuel costs used for mowing.
Decision Requested	For the Community and Environment Committee to note the 30 areas where site-specific Biodiversity Plans are being developed and support Streetscape in adopting the No Mow May campaign where practical to do so.

Appendix 16.1



PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR SITE-SPECIFIC BIODIVERSITY PLANS for Congleton Town Council 22.03.22

30 sites in blue as discussed - see numbered list

Some alternative sites in pink - see notes