

WEST HEATH GREEN SPACES: DRAFT BIODIVERSITY PLANS 1-9



Bee collecting pollen in Newcastle Road green space

GREEN SPACES INCLUDED:

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|--|
| 1 | Longdown Road | 6 | Padgbury Lane |
| 2 | Thirlmere Close | 7 | Bowness Court-Newby Court |
| 3 | Newcastle Road | 8 | Newcastle Road-Solly Crescent |
| 4 | Quinta Park Play Area | 9 | Back Lane-Hawthorne Close group |
| 5 | Sycamore Avenue-Chestnut Drive | | |

Also see Introduction, Appendix 1 with survey plans and notes for each site, and Appendix 2 with examples and references.

LONGDOWN ROAD GREEN SPACE

Site biodiversity plan 1



Longdown Road green space, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Build on existing landscape framework to increase variety of habitats and value for wildlife.

Site information

Location	Longdown Road, West Heath, Congleton
Description	Informal amenity open space with avenues of trees, individual trees and some developing woodland.
Use	Moderate-high use, including as a through route to Blackfirs Primary School, Congleton High School and Back Lane playing fields.
Total area	Approx 1.1 ha (2.76 acres)
Priority habitats & species	None known. Further surveys may identify species of interest.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Moderate (relative to 30 Congleton green spaces surveyed). Good green infrastructure links and cover for wildlife in copses and evergreen trees. Trend - currently static but this is one of Congleton Town Council's rewilding sites.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

THIRLMERE COURT GREEN SPACE

Site biodiversity plan 2



Thirlmere Court green space, tilted aerial photo 2022

Biodiversity aim

Greater diversity of habitats within this large green space without compromising its value for recreation.

Site information

Location	To the east of Thirlmere Close, West Heath, Congleton. Nearest postcode CW12 4JG. Grid reference SJ842626
Description	Amenity open space with occasional trees
Total area	1 hectare (2.45 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Hedgerows are a UK BAP priority habitat, and there is a remnant of a former field boundary hedgerow to the north east of the site.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Generally low - the majority of this large green space is amenity grassland. Trend - improving, with the addition of a new native hedge.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

NEWCASTLE ROAD GREEN SPACE

Site biodiversity plan 3



Tilted aerial photo 2021 looking north

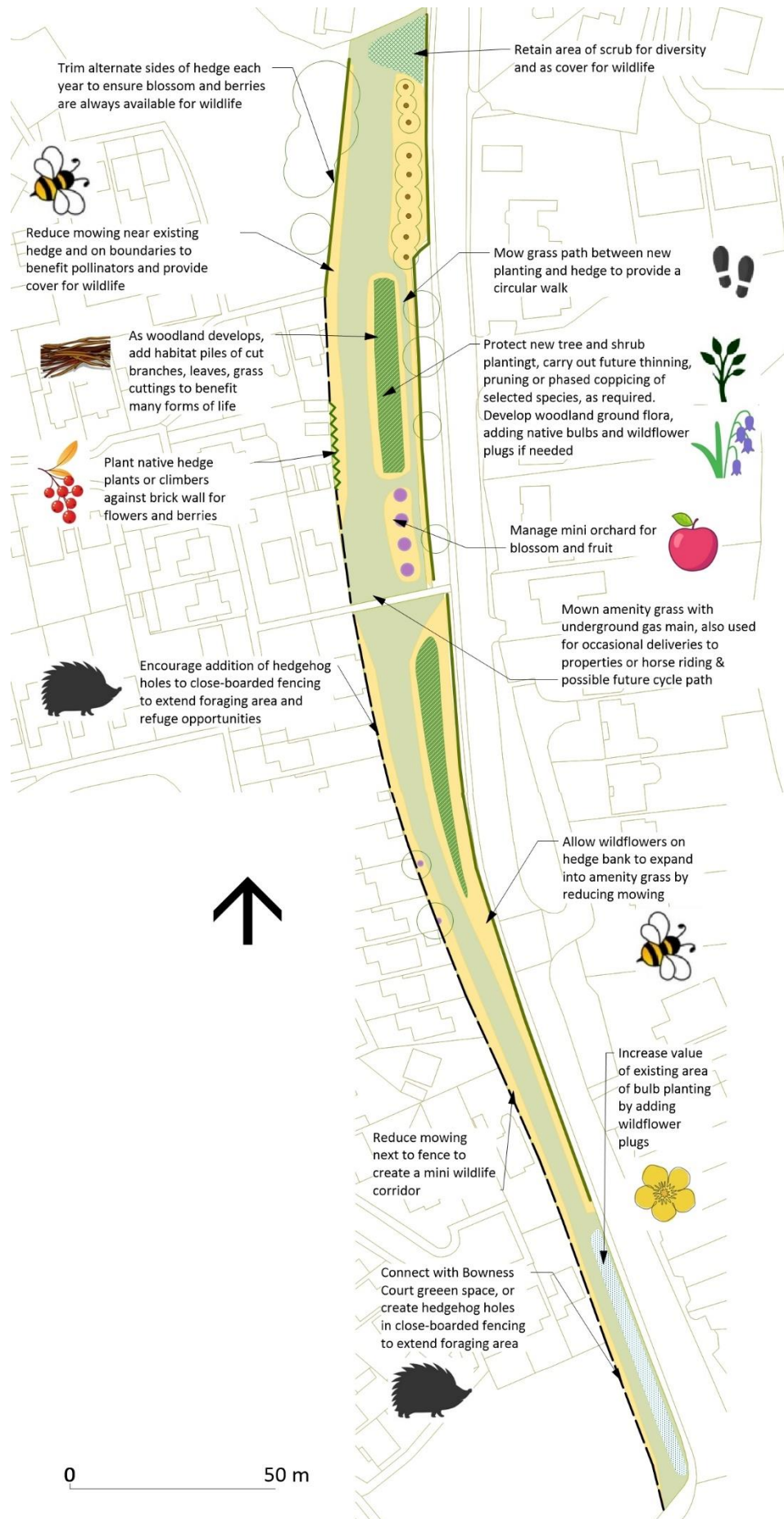
Biodiversity aims

Development of this linear green space as an ecological corridor with greater habitat diversity and increased tree cover where constraints caused by underground services allow.

Site information

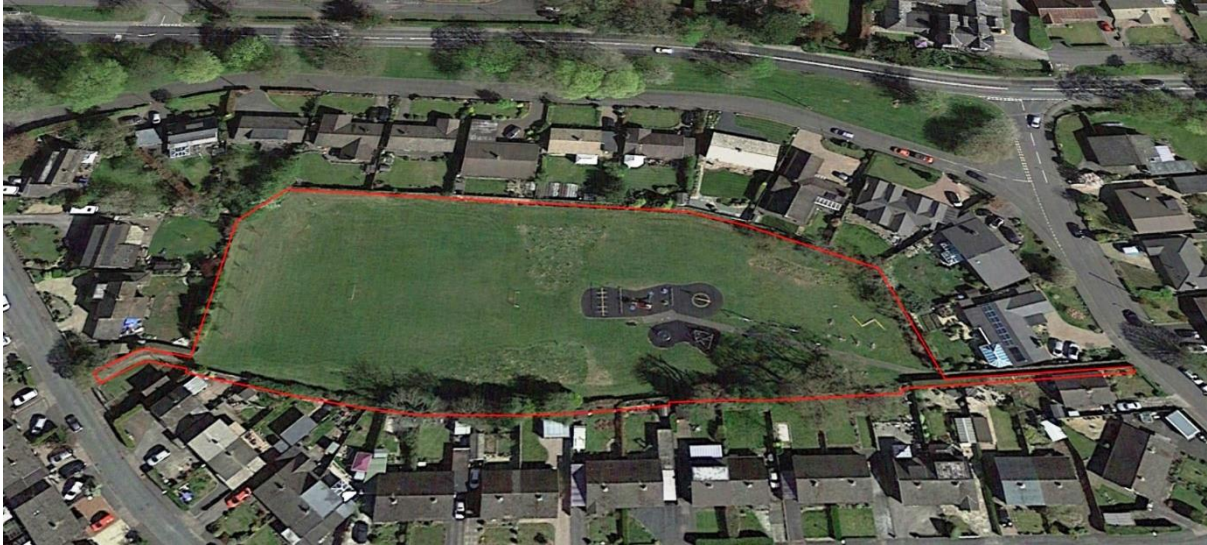
Location	To the east of Newcastle Road, West Heath
Description	Linear green space between the busy Newcastle Road and residential areas of West Heath.
Total area	0.57 hectares (1.4 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Hedgerows are a priority habitat, although existing roadside and other hedges have little diversity.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Relatively low (compared with 30 Congleton green spaces surveyed) . Trend - improving, with recent native tree and shrub planting.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



QUINTA PARK PLAY AREA

Site biodiversity plan 4



Quinta Park, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Manage green space to develop a mosaic of grassland, hedgerow and woodland habitats, building on existing seedbank and features of value.

Site information

Location	Between Ullswater Road and Brooklands Road, West Heath, Congleton.
Description	Hidden area of amenity grassland enclosed by housing, including a play area, kickabout area, and fitness equipment.
Use	Well-used by children and other local residents. Also used by children and parents en route to Quinta Primary School and Congleton High School.
Total area	0.73 hectares (1.8 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Remnants of old field boundary hedgerow with mature oak trees
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Formerly low value apart from old hedgerow oaks and sections of hedge on southern boundary, but new habitats were established in 2020, and there is good potential for further habitat development. One of Congleton Town Council's rewilding sites. Trend - improving.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Notes

- Proposals are based on a rapid initial Phase 1 habitat survey carried out in April 2022 (see further information). Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed.
- These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

SYCAMORE AVENUE-CHESTNUT DRIVE GREEN SPACE

Site biodiversity plan 5



Sycamore Avenue-Chestnut Drive, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Provision of a mosaic of new habitats to add diversity to the existing framework of trees and mown grass.

Site information

Location	Off Sycamore Avenue, Chestnut Drive, Laburnum Close and Beech Close, West Heath, Congleton
Description	Informal irregularly-shaped amenity open space with scattered trees, developed in the 1970s on former farmland. Enclosed by housing.
Use	The greenspace is well used by local residents. Its surfaced footpaths connect cul-de-sacs and it is used as a through route, including children and parents en route to local schools.
Total area	0.9 hectares (2.22 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Bats may be present in the old former hedgerow tree within the park (to be confirmed) but tree is at risk.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Low-moderate (relative to 30 Congleton green spaces surveyed). Old ash tree, other trees and boundary hedges are assets but there is little ground cover within the park for wildlife. Trend - static.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional information from local people, naturalists and others would be welcomed. The proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

PADGBURY LANE GREEN SPACE

Site biodiversity plan 6



Padgbury Lane green space, tilted aerial photo 2021

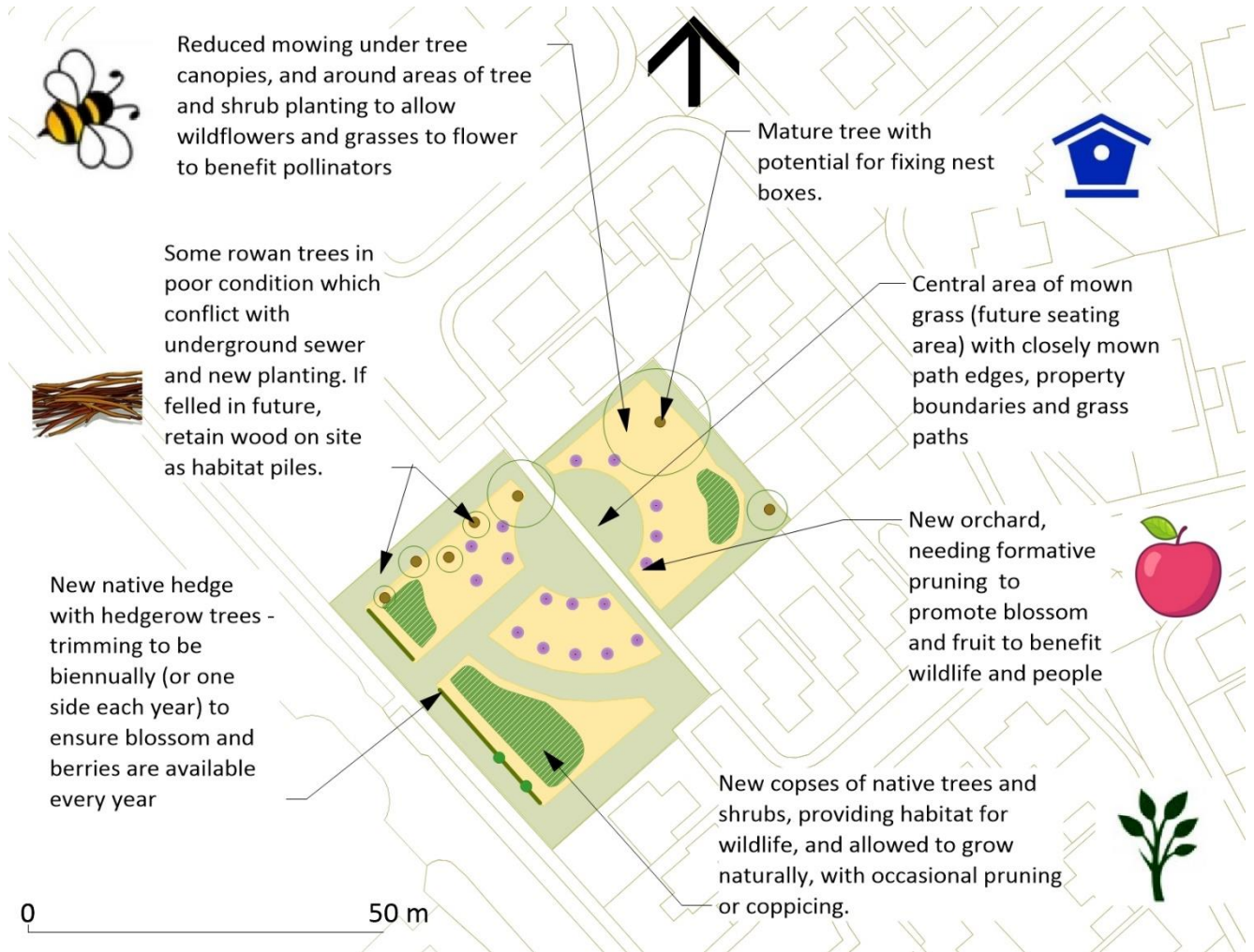
Biodiversity aims

Continuation of the re-wilding that is already under way, but within a framework of well-managed grass paths and edges, and with aftercare of new orchard, trees and shrubs and hedgerow.

Site information

Location	To the north east of Padgbury Lane, between Langdale Court and Rydal Court, West Heath. Grid ref SJ 384 155, 362420, Postcode CW12 4JL
Description	Small informal public open space within residential area, sloping towards Padgbury Lane.
Use	Low-moderate use by local residents, including as a route to the shop on the other side of Padgbury Lane.
Total area	0.25 hectares (0.55 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	None present
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Relatively low value up to 2020. Trend - transition occurring as one of Congleton Town Council's rewilding sites - improving, with new habitats added.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

BOWNESS COURT-NEWBY COURT GREEN SPACE Site biodiversity plan 7



Bowness Court green space, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Management of existing good grassland with some wildflowers to create larger areas of wildflower meadow, together with ground flora and cover for wildlife under trees, shrubs and hedges, whilst retaining space for ball games and informal recreation.

Site information

Location	Off Bowness Court and Newby Court, West Heath, Congleton
Description	Very enclosed area of informal amenity green space with two existing trees, a memorial seat, and some recent native tree and shrub planting. Access to busy Padgbury Lane to the south is via a narrow stile only.
Total area	0.28 hectares (0.69 acres)
Use	Mainly local residents. Occasionally used as a through route.
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Hedgerows are priority habitats but those present are single species with little ground flora.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Low (note: initial assessment only, in relation to other 30 green spaces surveyed). Trend - improving, as some diversity has been introduced.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

SOLLY CRESCENT-NEWCASTLE ROAD GREEN SPACE

Site biodiversity plan 8



Solly Crescent-Newcastle Road green space, tilted aerial photo 2021

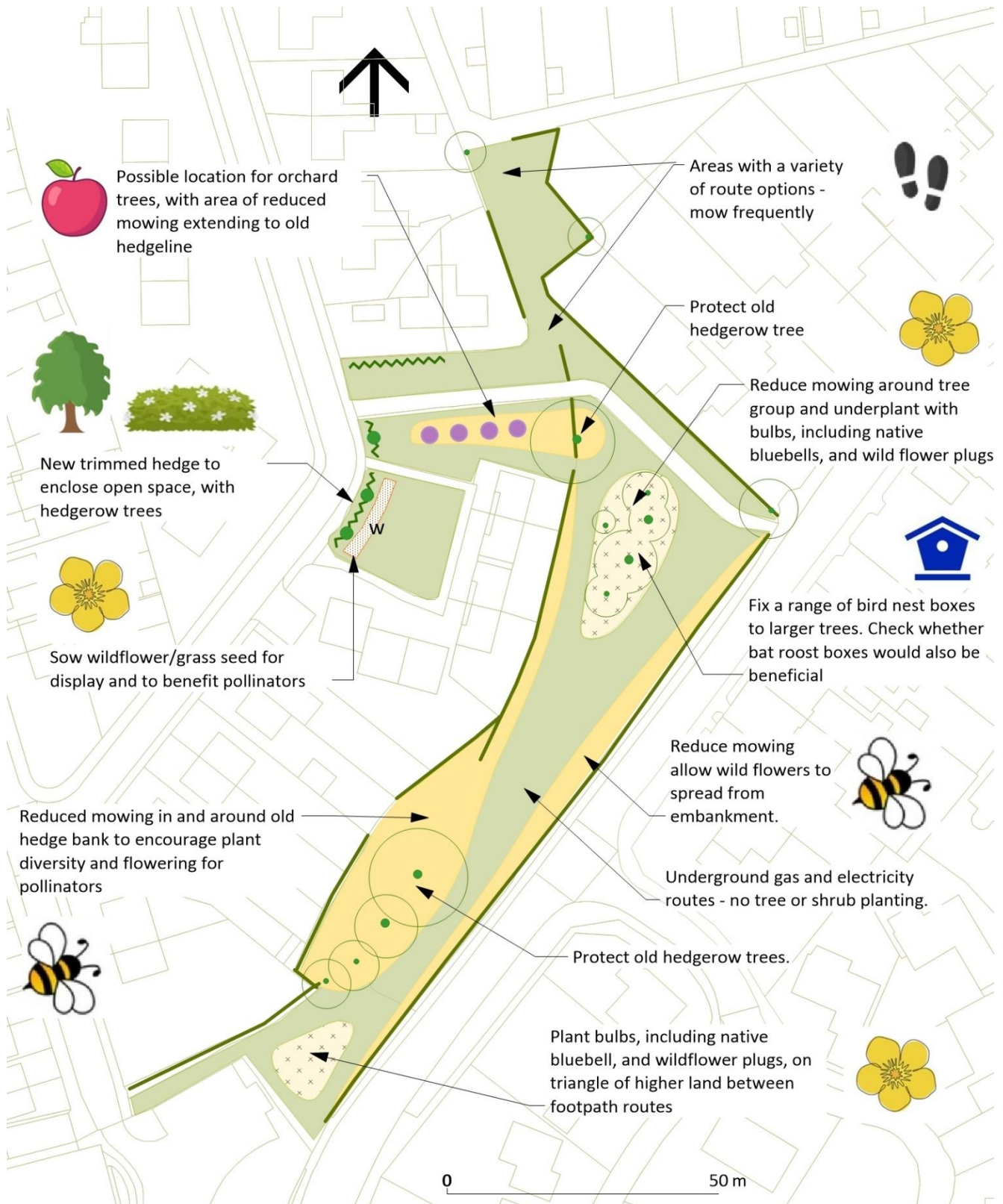
Biodiversity aims

Enhancement of site as part of an ecological network utilising framework of existing hedgerows and associated ground flora, and extending areas of wildflowers.

Site information

Location	Between Solly Crescent and Newcastle Road, West Heath, Congleton
Description	Irregular-shaped area of informal green space, consisting of several linked spaces, bounded by hedges and containing small groups of trees.
Use	Used for informal recreation by local residents and also as a through route - it is connected to a footpath network linking Newcastle Road, Solly Crescent and Heath Road.
Total area	0.61 hectares (1.5 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Hedgerows, including sections of historic hedge with hedgerow trees
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Low-moderate value (note: initial assessment only, and in relation to 30 Congleton green spaces surveyed). Trend - static

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

BACK LANE-HAWTHORNE CLOSE GREEN SPACES

Site biodiversity plan 9



Back Lane-Hawthorne Close green space group, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aim

A series of enriched habitats that will form stepping stones or corridors for wildlife whilst enhancing amenity and recreation value.

Site information

Location	Off Back Lane and Hawthorne Close, West Heath
Description	Small areas of informal amenity open space between areas of housing
Use	Mixed. Linked areas of green space and through routes are most used.
Total area	1.1 hectares (2.72 acres)
BAP Priority Habitats and Species	Hedgerows are priority habitats but their value for wildlife could be improved.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Generally low. Includes some mature trees but all are of similar age and a number have been removed over past years. New native hedge and trees have been planted along Back Lane. Trend - improving.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed.