Neighbourhood Plan

Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Wildlife Working Group

Working Group Report – March 2026

Disclaimer:- This report has been prepared in good faith to be an accurate and unbiased summary of what is known within the topic area. However, the authors cannot guarantee the accuracy or the completeness of the information provided, and the report may be subject to revision and correction.

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Contents

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Aims, scope and membership

WG Name	Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Wildlife
Aims	To protect and enhance the natural beauty, animal-life and biodiversity of Sunningwell parish for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations.
Scope	Includes all naturally-occurring geological and environmental features and animal species. Also includes: ● Man-made green environment (orchards, field margins, hedgerows, drainage channels, gardens, woodlands etc.) ● Water management and flood management/alleviation measures ● Farmed and tended animals ● The contribution that can be made by domestic gardens ● Small as well as large areas. ● Publicity and educational activities on the above topics
Members	Andrew Hoare (Lead), Tom Alden, Bob Evans, Vicky Russell, Sandy Sims

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Executive Summary

This report has been prepared by the Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Wildlife Working Group to support the development of Sunningwell parish's Neighbourhood Plan. Its purpose is to help protect and enhance the parish's natural environment, wildlife and landscape character, ensuring that they continue to benefit residents, visitors and future generations.

Sunningwell parish sits within a highly valued and sensitive rural landscape, forming an important ecological link between Cothill Fens, Bagley Wood, Boars Hill, Radley Lakes and the wider Thames Valley. The parish supports a rich variety of habitats and species, including ancient woodland, hedgerows, ponds, grasslands, bats, birds, pollinators and amphibians. These natural assets are central to the parish's identity, wellbeing and resilience in the face of climate change.

The working group's vision is for Sunningwell to be a place where nature thrives alongside a living, working community. This report sets out suggestions to safeguard existing habitats, improve biodiversity, strengthen wildlife corridors and manage water naturally. It suggests that any development contributes positively to the environment, and emphasises that development should meet published environmental standards, deliver measurable Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), protect dark skies, and avoid increasing flood risk.

The report also recognises the vital role played by farmland, private gardens, village greens, school grounds and other local spaces, in supporting wildlife. Long-term success will depend on collaboration between the parish council, landowners, farmers, developers and residents, supported by education, volunteering and community stewardship.

Key local sites have been identified as part of the parish's ecological network, including Sunningwell village green and pond, woodland copses, valley fens, recreational spaces and school grounds. Practical suggestions are included for managing and enhancing these areas in ways that benefit both people and wildlife.

Finally, the report proposes an approach to implementation and monitoring to ensure accountability and encourage continuous improvement.

Overall, this document provides a framework to guide the Neighbourhood Plan. It aims to protect Sunningwell's rural character, strengthen ecological connections, improve climate resilience and empower the community to play an active role in caring for its natural environment. The working group has produced this as a best collective effort and welcomes further input, ideas and collaboration from the wider parish during the consultation stage.

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1. Vision

Sunningwell parish should be a landscape where nature thrives. By protecting and enhancing local habitats, restoring ecological connections, and encouraging nature-friendly land management, the parish should safeguard its wildlife, landscape character and environmental quality for present and future generations. The Neighbourhood Plan should empower the parish to respond to climate challenges, strengthen biodiversity, and ensure enforced development supports a healthy, resilient natural environment which protects wildlife. This document aims to support that plan.

2. Core objectives

1. Safeguard and enhance habitats including ancient woodland, ponds, hedgerows, grasslands, and watercourses.
2. Increase biodiversity across the parish through habitat creation, ecological restoration, and measurable net gains.
3. Integrate nature into all enforced development, ensuring high environmental standards and improved ecological connectivity.
4. Protect key species, particularly bats, owls, water voles, hedgehogs, pollinators, amphibians, and farmland birds.
5. Support climate resilience by improving tree cover, soil health, and natural water management.
6. Maintain flood defences by ensuring work identified by the Local Flood Authority is completed, not compromised by development, and fully maintained.
7. Empower the community through education, involvement and stewardship of the natural environment.

3. Geology

The geology of the parish is largely Ampthill Clay, with Greensand Sandstone on Boars Hill. The area around the Quarry, and the Sunningwell to Bayworth road, is differentiated as limestone in some surveys.

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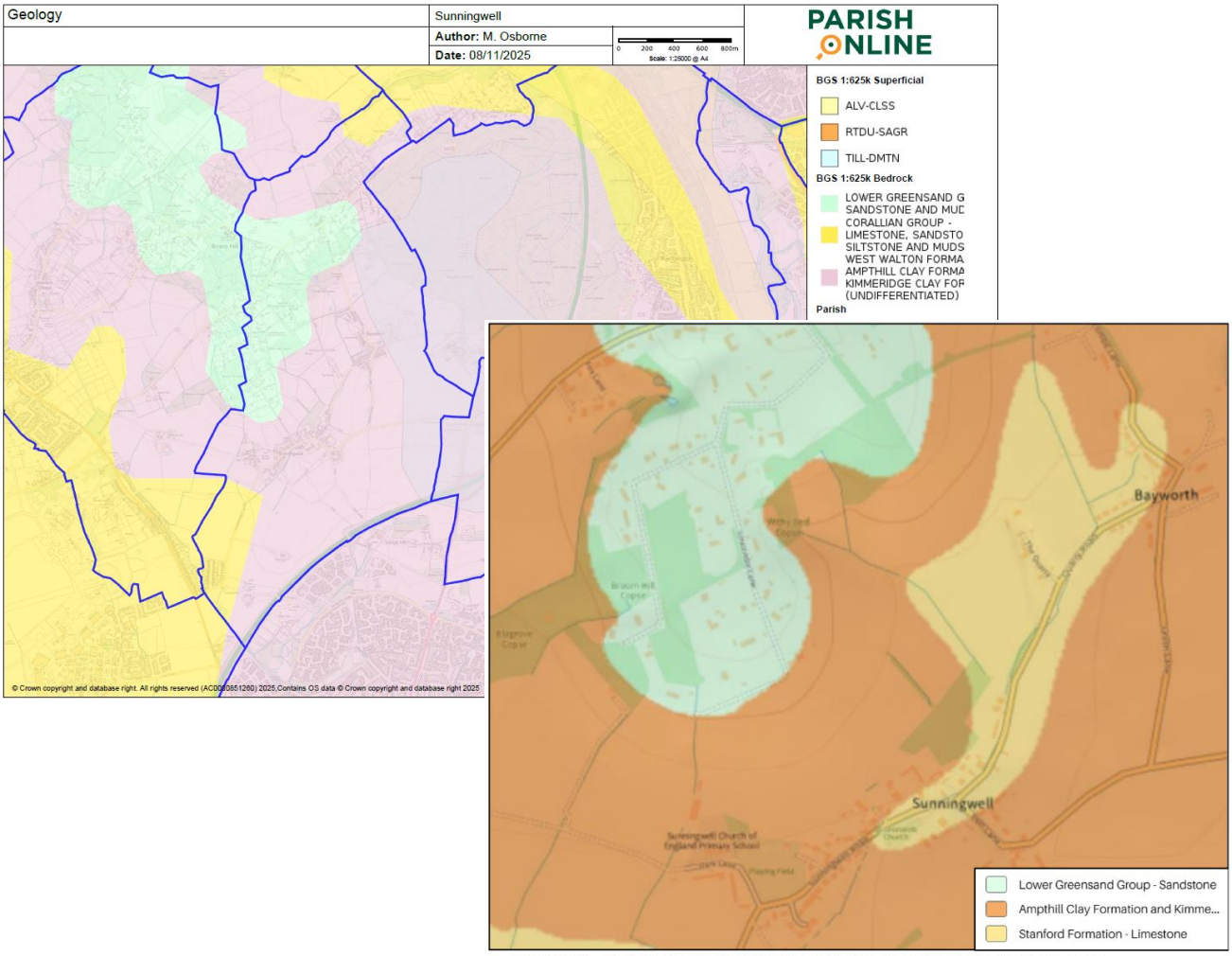


Figure 3 - British Geological Survey (BGS), Geology of Britain viewer

Geology of Sunningwell Parish

4. Parish ecological context

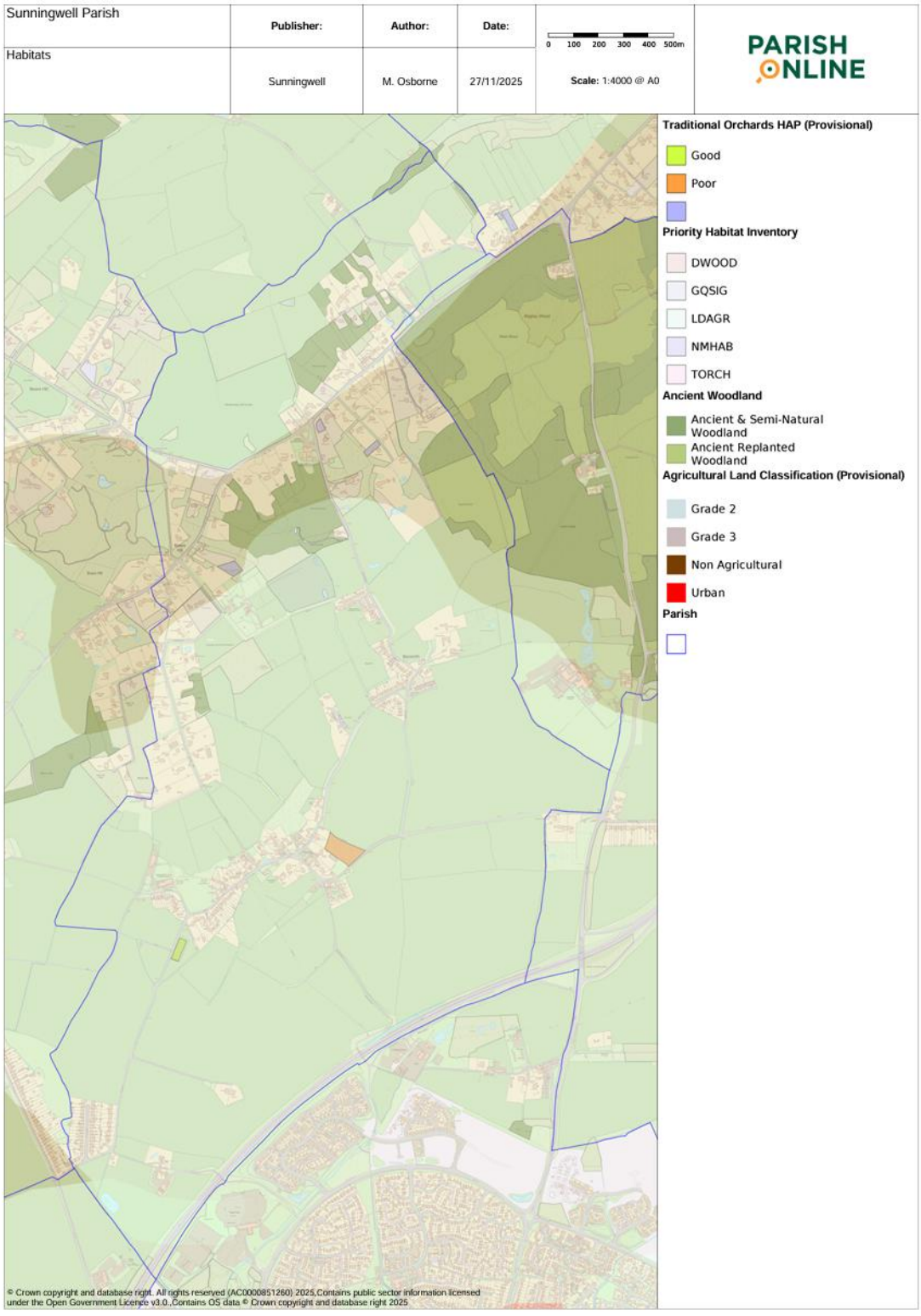
Sunningwell parish lies within the Oxford Green Belt and is characterised by a mosaic of farmland, wooded edges, green lanes, village greens and ponds. The parish forms part of an important ecological corridor between Cothill Fens, Boars Hill, Bagley Wood, Radley Lakes and the wider Vale and Thames Valley landscape.

The environment supports a rich diversity of wildlife, including multiple bat species, badgers, wild deer, barn owls, red kites, amphibians and a wide range of pollinators. Mature trees, veteran specimens and hedgerows form essential wildlife corridors, while ponds and drainage ditches provide water habitats that require careful protection.

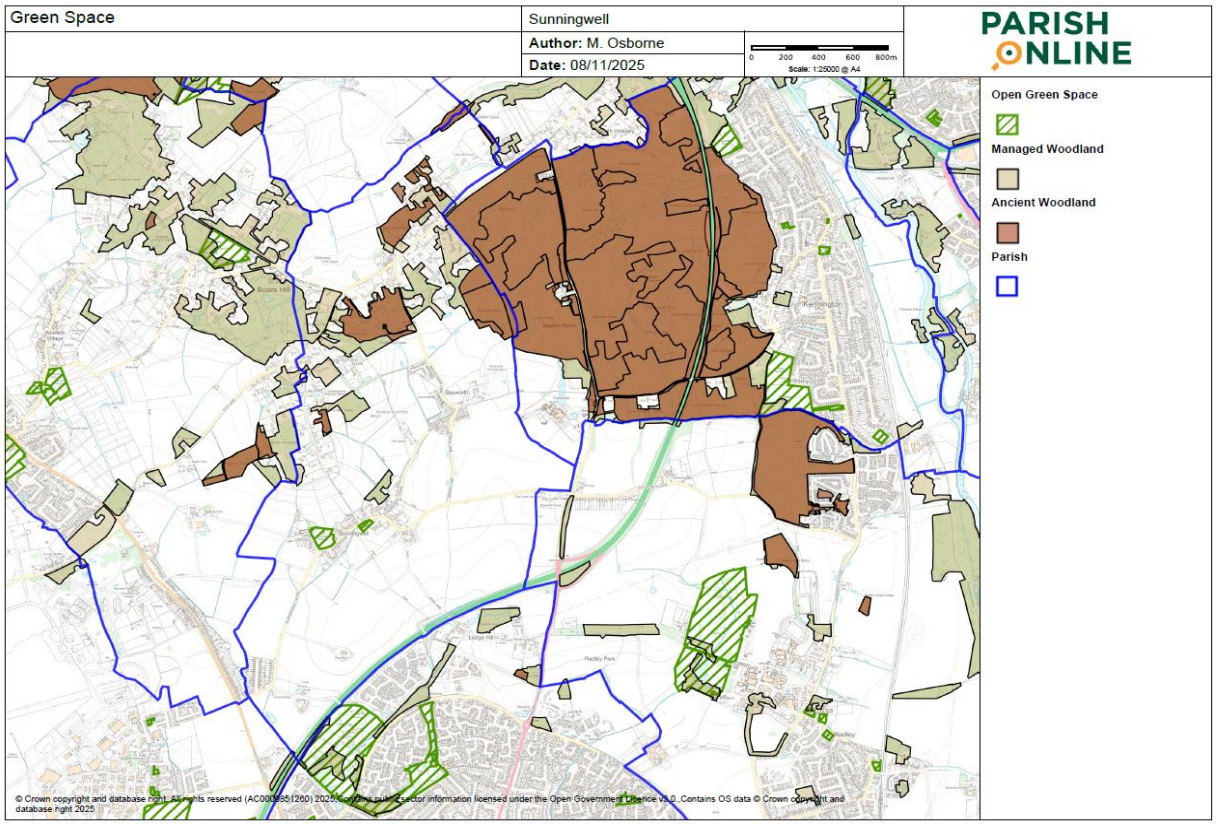
The rural character and environmental value of the parish are integral to its identity and community wellbeing.

4.1 Habitats

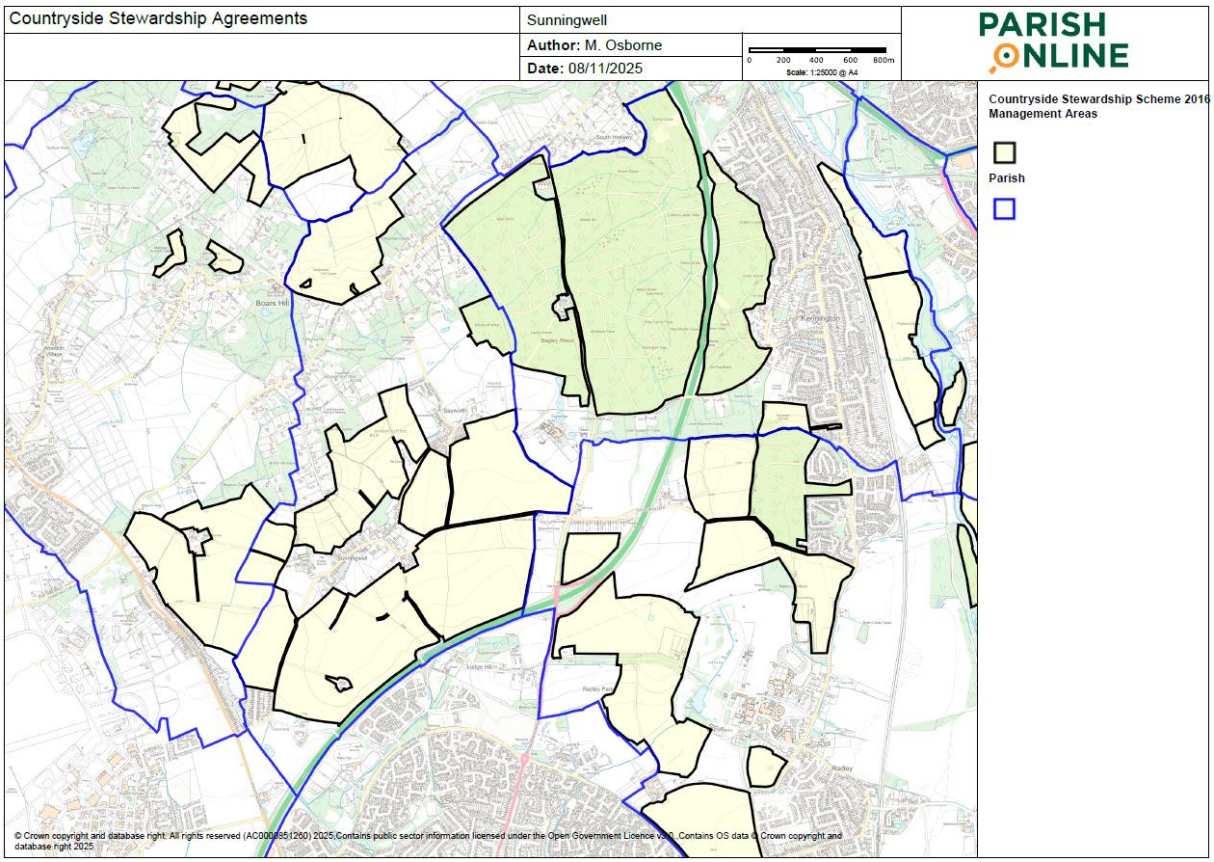
The Parish is rural in nature, with no urban areas.



There is ancient woodland, and re-planted ancient woodland stretching from Bagley Wood in the East across the parish towards Wootton.



Almost all of the farmland in the parish is managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme 2016.



5. Biodiversity and environment

5.1 Protection of priority habitats

Priority habitats including ancient woodland, hedgerows, species-rich grassland, mature/veteran trees, ponds, wetlands and watercourses must be protected and enhanced.

- Development affecting such habitats must submit a proportionate Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA).
- A minimum 50m buffer is required around ancient woodland.
- Loss or degradation of priority habitats should not be supported unless wholly unavoidable and compensated with locally delivered ecological enhancements of greater value.

5.2 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Biodiversity Net Gain is defined as an approach to development that ensures the natural environment is left in a measurably better state than it was before the development took place. In practice, this means developers must improve the quality and quantity of habitats so that biodiversity increases rather than declines.

All development must deliver a minimum 20% measurable BNG, using the latest DEFRA Metric, secured for at least 30 years.

BNG should prioritise:

1. On-site habitat enhancement, including new hedgerows, trees, meadows, ponds and native planting.
2. Ecological connectivity to existing habitats.
3. Local off-site delivery within the parish, where on-site gains are not feasible.

BNG statements must clearly demonstrate delivery, management and monitoring.

5.3 Wildlife corridors and green infrastructure

Ecological networks must be protected, restored and expanded. Development must:

- Retain and enhance all existing wildlife corridors, including hedgerow networks linking Boars Hill and Bagley Wood with farmland.
- Provide minimum 10–20m habitat buffers along corridors.
- Maintain north–south bat commuting routes and east–west green lanes.
- Integrate connected green infrastructure into site design.

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Proposals that result in fragmentation of habitats or severance of wildlife corridors should be resisted.

5.4 Private gardens

Although the area occupied by private gardens is relatively small, they are recognised as an important asset for wildlife within the parish. Gardens support a significant proportion of pollinators, and parishioners are encouraged to plant and manage their gardens with nature in mind. In addition, gardens play a vital role as wildlife corridors, helping to connect farmland, hedgerows, and woodland habitats. Actions could include:

- Planting trees and hedges to absorb pollution and attract birds, small mammals and insects.
- Making small openings in fences and walls to create corridors for hedgehogs.
- Not using insecticides, slug killer and artificial fertilizer. This will encourage healthy micro-organisms, necessary for a balanced eco system.
- Encouraging composting and leaf mould making. This not only makes good use of vegetable waste, but makes great fertile compost. Leaf mulch added to soil or compost creates a good soil structure.
- Leaving lawns longer and creating a wild area will encourage native plants and beneficial insects.
- Planting as much native flora as possible will encourage native wildlife. Planting one third evergreen, mostly perennials and leaving seed heads for insects and birds, into the winter months, makes for a balanced eco system.
- Creating a pond can attract all sorts of wildlife. Just wait and see.
- When building hard landscaping, make sure it is permeable. This is better for both wildlife and the environment.

5.5 Trees, hedgerows and woodland

All mature and veteran trees must be retained wherever possible, recognising their significant ecological and landscape value. Where tree loss is unavoidable, development proposals will be required to provide native replacement planting at a minimum ratio of three new trees for every tree lost, located within or adjacent to the site. Development should also contribute to the long-term objective of increasing overall tree canopy cover across the parish by 20% by 2050. Existing hedgerows must be maintained, restored, or strengthened using a diverse mix of native species, and new development should incorporate native hedgerow boundaries in preference to close-boarded fencing, unless exceptional circumstances can be clearly demonstrated.

A two to three year hedgerow trimming cycle is recommended to boost biodiversity by encouraging blossom and berries, while maintaining hedges at about 2.0 m high and 1.5m

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wide, and avoiding over-pruning. Allowing occasional small trees to grow and varying hedge height is encouraged. Trimming every three years should still provide safe road visibility and access to crops, with late-winter trimming being the preferred timing.

5.6 Pollinators, wildlife features and native planting

To support pollinators and small wildlife, all planting within public spaces and development sites must use native, pollinator-friendly species. Verges, greens, and other open spaces should be managed using a reduced mowing regime and without the use of pesticides wherever possible. New development should incorporate integrated biodiversity features such as swift bricks, bee bricks, bat boxes, hedgehog highways, and other wildlife-friendly boundary treatments. In addition, at least 30% of soft landscaping within new developments should be specifically designed to prioritise and enhance biodiversity.

5.7 Farmland, soil health and nature-friendly land management

The parish strongly encourages farming and land management practices that enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and support long-term environmental resilience. This includes the adoption of regenerative agriculture techniques, such as reduced or zero tillage, which help to protect soil structure, increase organic matter, and improve water retention. The retention and expansion of field margins, buffer strips, and uncultivated wild corners are encouraged to provide vital habitats for pollinators, birds, and small mammals.

Farmers are also encouraged to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides through the use of integrated pest management approaches, promoting natural predators and healthier ecosystems. The preservation and protection of carbon-rich soils and permanent grassland is essential in supporting carbon sequestration, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and maintaining landscape character. Achieving these objectives will require close collaboration between the parish, landowners, and farming communities to deliver shared environmental and agricultural benefits.

A significant proportion of the farmland within the parish is made up of the 135-acre red deer farm at Church Farm. Since acquiring the farm in 2017, extensive work has been carried out to restore and improve the land. This has included removing dead trees and invasive brambles and replacing them with over 300 newly planted trees and almost 6,000m of new hedgerow over a three-year period, with further planting planned for the future. These efforts have greatly increased biodiversity, improved soil health, and encouraged a wider variety of wildlife to flourish. Notably, new bird species have settled on the farm, including Britain’s smallest owl, the Little Owl, which has made Church Farm its home.

In 2020, Church Farm expanded its operations by acquiring an additional 35 acres of land to enable the farm to grow all its own forage, removing the need to purchase and transport feed from elsewhere. Significant work was needed to clear and restore this land, improve soil quality, and return it to productive and environmentally responsible agricultural use. Through

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the application of environmental land management practices, this area is being developed to resemble a wildflower meadow, promoting biodiversity, creating valuable habitats, supporting pollinators through the production of pollen and nectar, and acting as a natural soil conditioner alongside its core purpose of providing forage for the deer throughout the year.

Using careful land stewardship and participation in community-focused environmental schemes, Church Farm plays an important role in enhancing biodiversity and supporting the long-term health of the local landscape.

The remaining farmland in the Parish is used for arable farming under tenant farmers who work land both inside and outside the parish. This arable farm land surrounding Sunningwell and Bayworth is an integral part of the biodiversity of the area.

Arable farming can play a positive role in supporting the biodiverse environment in which it sits by managing land in ways that balance food production with nature. Practices such as maintaining hedgerows, field margins, and buffer strips provide habitats and wildlife corridors for birds, insects, and small mammals. Thoughtful crop rotations, reduced tillage, and careful timing of operations help protect soil health and support beneficial organisms, while flowering margins and cover crops encourage pollinators and natural pest control. By integrating these measures into everyday management, arable farms can enhance biodiversity, improve landscape resilience, and contribute to a healthier, more connected rural ecosystem.

5.8 Water, ponds and sustainable drainage (SuDS)

To strengthen biodiversity and manage surface water:

- All development must utilise Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as swales, rain gardens, permeable surfaces and attenuation ponds.
- Watercourse and pond buffer zones of 10–15m must be maintained free of development.
- Ponds must be protected, restored or newly created using wildlife-friendly design (gentle banks, native planting, no fish stocking).
- The use of pesticides or chemical treatments within watercourse buffer zones is prohibited.
- The stream running through the village is highly susceptible to sewage pollution. During periods of heavy rainfall, the existing sewerage infrastructure experiences hydraulic overload as a result of stormwater ingress. This leads to sewer overflows, and in some cases untreated sewage is discharged directly into the stream and associated watercourses. Given that the sewerage network is already operating beyond its designed capacity, it is imperative that any further development within the parish does not exacerbate these conditions or place additional strain on an already failing system.

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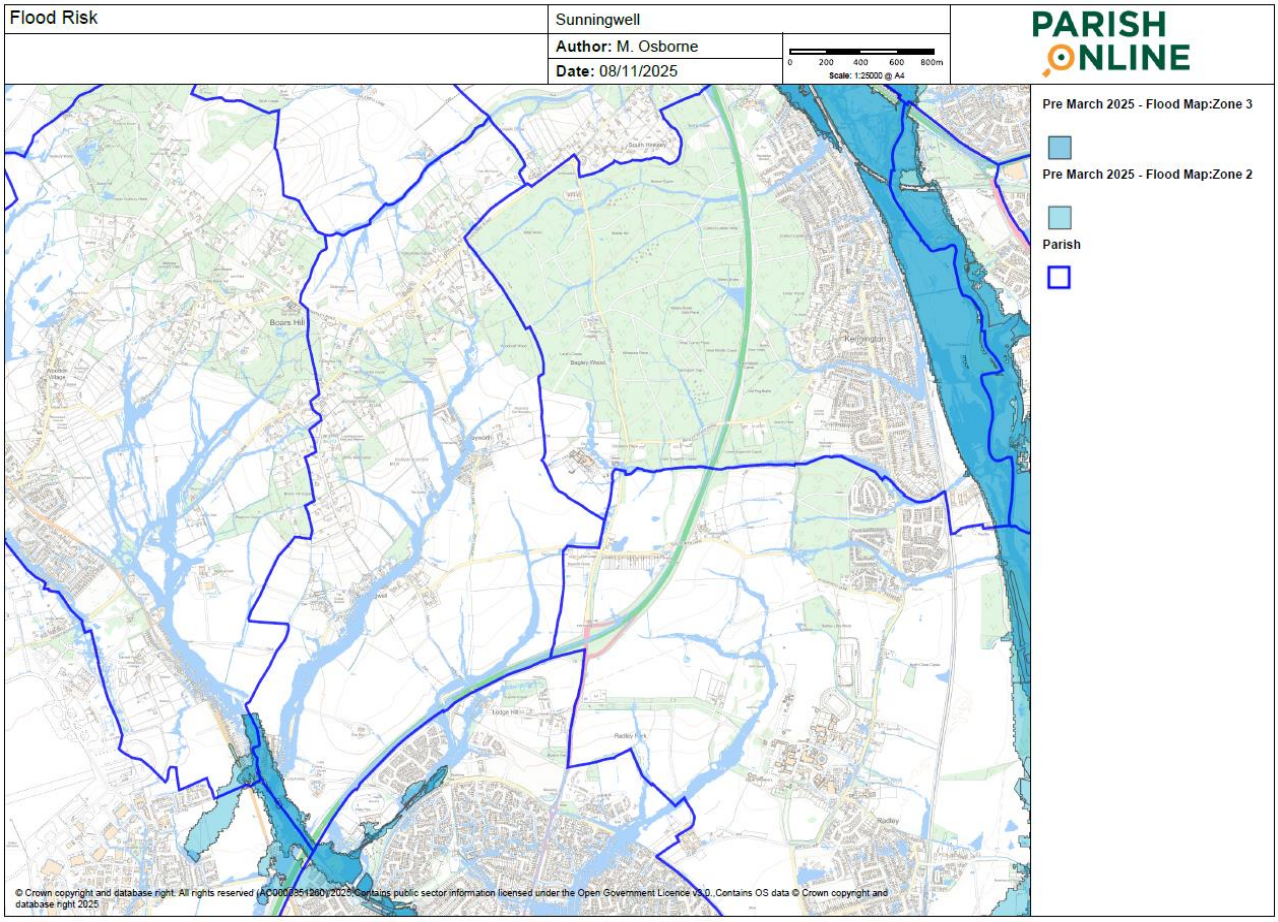
5.9 Flooding

Environment Agency data does not identify a high risk of flooding in the overall parish, as shown below.

However certain areas of the parish and several properties are now classified as being at high risk following recent flood events. Oxfordshire County Council issued an S19 Flood Investigation Report following the flooding of houses in 2023. An addendum to this report was added in November 2024 following further flooding in January 2024. The recommendations from these reports are reproduced in Appendix 1, which also summarises the mitigation actions that have since been taken.

Flooding is a significant and ongoing issue within the parish, posing risks to property, infrastructure, and the well-being of residents. It is therefore essential that all existing flood alleviation measures, as well as those that are planned or proposed, are fully implemented, safeguarded from compromise, and properly maintained over the long term. Furthermore, any new development within the parish must be carefully designed and managed to ensure that it does not exacerbate flood risk or increase the likelihood of flooding to neighbouring land or properties, either directly or indirectly. Robust flood risk assessment and sustainable drainage solutions should be a fundamental requirement of all development proposals.



Environment Agency flood risk map

5.10 Dark skies and nocturnal wildlife protection

External lighting must be carefully designed to protect dark skies and minimise disturbance to nocturnal wildlife. Lighting schemes should use warm-colour lighting below 2700K, incorporate fully shielded, downward-facing fixtures, and avoid any upward light spill. The use of timers or motion sensors is required to limit illumination to essential periods only. In addition, lighting should be avoided altogether along key bat commuting routes, woodland edges, and other sensitive habitats.

Any lighting scheme near sensitive habitats must be accompanied by a lighting impact assessment.

5.11 Climate resilience and nature-based solutions

The parish is committed to preparing for a changing climate by working with nature wherever possible. This means planting more trees and expanding woodland areas, which help clean the air, store carbon, and create richer habitats for wildlife. Healthy soils are also a priority, so the parish will support efforts to restore soil structure and increase the amount of carbon stored in the ground.

Managing water naturally is another key focus. Wetlands, swales, and buffer zones can help slow and absorb excess rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding. Regular maintenance of ditches, gullies, and streams will also help keep water flowing safely through the landscape. As temperatures rise, the parish will encourage features that offer shade and cooling, benefiting both people and wildlife during hotter weather.

The parish also recognises the need to help local species adapt to a changing climate by protecting and improving the habitats they rely on. Wherever it's practical, nature-based solutions will be chosen over engineered ones, as they often provide wider benefits for the environment and the community.

5.12 Community engagement, education and stewardship

Sunningwell Parish Council is committed to encouraging active community involvement in caring for the local environment. This includes supporting community projects such as bird counts, bat surveys, and hedgehog monitoring, which help residents contribute valuable information about local wildlife. The parish could also promote 'adopt a tree, verge, or pond' initiatives, giving individuals and families the chance to take responsibility for small areas of nature within the community. Schools could play an important role too, building on the existing work at Sunningwell Primary School, which already maintains its own wildlife area and takes part in environmental activities.

To help residents connect with the environment, the parish could develop nature trails, interpretation boards, and a programme of educational events. Collaborative habitat-restoration days will also be encouraged, strengthening the work already carried out by the

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village green working party, which meets monthly but would benefit from wider community support. Ultimately, active participation from local people is essential to achieving the parish's long-term biodiversity goals and ensuring that Sunningwell's natural environment thrives for future generations.

6. Implementation and monitoring

Delivery should involve:

- Sunningwell Parish Council and volunteer working groups
- Local landowners and farmers
- Environmental organisations and advisory partners
- Developer contributions and BNG funding
- National and local grant schemes

An annual parish biodiversity report could:

- Monitor habitat creation, tree planting and species data
- Track progress toward BNG commitments
- Review lighting, SuDS, and habitat connectivity
- Highlight community involvement and successful projects

This ensures transparent, continuous improvement in the parish's ecological health.

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7. Identified sites

The working group has identified several key sites that play an essential role in the parish's biodiversity, environmental and wildlife network. Much of the parish is made up of farmland, including both arable fields and a commercial deer farm, all of which shape the local landscape. For the parish's plan to succeed, it will be vital to work closely with these landowners and tenant farmers, building strong partnerships that support the protection of nature.

7.1 Sunningwell village green

Sunningwell village green is a 10.2 acre site that was once two separate fields: Upper and Lower Bury Close. As part of the historic open-field system, the land still shows traces of its past, with areas of ridge and furrow visible today. The parish council purchased the site in 2017, and it is now officially designated as a village green.

Today, the green is a largely open landscape framed by mature trees, offering an important space for both people and wildlife. Recent planting of native species has helped to increase biodiversity, and the site is cared for by the village green warden. At the lower edge of the green, a small stream provides valuable habitat and supports a variety of local wildlife, adding to the ecological richness of the area.

Sunningwell village green

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Sunningwell village green

7.2 Sunningwell pond

The village pond has been a defining feature of Sunningwell since Saxon times. Its size and depth have changed over the centuries: early maps, including one sketched by J.M.W. Turner around 1820, shows it appearing much larger than it is today. The pond is fed by a natural spring, very slightly warm in temperature, with a catchment area extending to the far side of Boars Hill. Historically, this spring, or one close to it, was believed to have healing properties. Over the years, the pond has served many practical purposes, including providing water for the local smithy and for horses, and has helped to support duck and fowl breeding.

Sunningwell Pond

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The pond continues to play an important ecological role. Its water vole population fluctuates and is monitored by Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT); activity was particularly strong in 2022–23, though sightings have since become more occasional. A wide range of wildlife depends on the pond, including mallards, moorhens, sticklebacks, herons, and the occasional kingfisher and grey wagtail. Active management, such as periodic dredging and careful vegetation pruning, helps maintain and improve the habitat, ensuring the pond remains a thriving part of the village's natural environment.

7.3 Pilkington Pocket

Pilkington Pocket is a small piece of woodland beside Sunningwell village hall. Although currently overgrown and unused, it has the potential to become a welcoming public space. With some careful management, such as clearing a path to the gate, opening up the bramble-covered areas, and creating a small wooded glade, the site could offer a peaceful spot for residents, perhaps with a bench for quiet enjoyment. Planting native bluebells and snowdrops would add seasonal colour and support local pollinators.

Pilkington Pocket

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7.4 Bayworth Triangle

The Bayworth Triangle functions as a small village green, offering open space with a handful of trees that attract birds and provide habitat for pollinators. Though modest in size, it contributes to the parish's network of green spaces.

7.5 Church Farm Wood

Church Farm Wood, once part of the historic Church Farm, was planted in 2005 with a mix of ash, oak, maple, and willow. It is managed alongside Foxcombe Wood, which lies just beyond the parish's north-west boundary. Access is by permit through an annual subscription, and the woodland supports a range of wildlife including wild deer, rabbits, and game birds. Plans for the future include a wetland area.

7.6 Old Berkeley Golf Course

Owned and managed by the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT), the old golf course has a long and distinctive history. The private course was originally created around 1900 by the 8th Earl of Berkeley, and in 1927 it became the first site purchased by the OPT to prevent development. The area has since been expanded to include a lowland field to the north and the neighbouring Abraham Wood. Its landscape consists of rough grassland, small boggy areas, hedges, and two copses that have bluebells each spring. Current work, supported by the Abingdon Green Gym, is focused on restoring the lower section of the site to fenland.

Old Berkeley Golf Course

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7.7 Lincombe Lane Field

Lincombe Lane Field, also owned by the Oxford Preservation Trust since the late 1930s, is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The upper section is a grazed field, while the lower area contains a small valley fen that is currently undergoing restoration to improve its ecological value.

Lincombe Lane Field

7.8 Lime Kiln Copse and valley

Lime Kiln Copse and its adjoining valley lie partly within Sunningwell parish, with the remainder in South Hinksey and Cumnor. Also designated as a Local Wildlife Site, it is the most easterly of the five valley fens on the north side of Boars Hill. The land is privately owned and unmanaged, but it includes a secluded and attractive pond at the Sunningwell end.

7.9 Brumcombe Copse and Ducklings Copse

Together covering around 14 acres, Brumcombe Copse and Ducklings Copse form a dense woodland area with a large pool and a history of being managed as a woodland garden. Classified as semi-natural ancient woodland, the presence of ridge and furrow suggests the land was cleared in medieval times. Although the whole area holds ancient woodland status, different sections vary considerably, with some areas recently cleared and regenerating with a mix of species, including some invasive plants.

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7.10 St Leonard's churchyard

St Leonard's churchyard contains several trees and hedgerows along two of its boundaries as well as an ancient, still very vigorous yew. Introducing a patch of medium-length grassland could allow more wild plants to flower, providing additional pollen and nectar for insects while enhancing the churchyard's natural character.

St Leonard's Church and churchyard

7.11 Sunningwell School

Sunningwell School sits within a mature landscape of trees and hedgerows that offer valuable habitat connectivity. The grounds include a small nature reserve managed exclusively for pupils, giving children hands-on opportunities for outdoor education and engagement with wildlife. The nearby deer farm and surrounding green fields further enhance the site's ecological value, linking it to wider wildlife corridors. The school grounds already support birds, pollinators, and small mammals, and there is scope for further biodiversity improvements. Managing boundary hedgerows, maintaining the nature reserve, and adding items such as bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog highways, and insect habitats would all help guide future enhancements.

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7.12 Sunningwell cricket field

Sunningwell cricket field is a large open grassed area kept short throughout the year. It is bordered by roads on two sides and the deer farm on another, with trees and hedgerows on its perimeter. Biodiversity could be further enhanced by managing existing hedgerows, exploring the creation of wildflower patches or corridors outside the playing area, installing bird and bat boxes on suitable boundary trees, and considering pesticide-free management practices.

Sunningwell cricket field

8. Suggestions from the working group for the parish to consider

The working group has identified sites that they consider are vital elements of the biodiversity, environmental and wildlife landscape.

Much of the parish is farmland and a mixture of arable farming and a commercial deer farm. The parish should work alongside these landowners and tenant farmers if the plan is to succeed.

Sunningwell Parish Council should adopt a proactive, landscape-scale approach to biodiversity, environmental protection and climate resilience, ensuring that nature is central to all planning and land-management decisions.

8.1 Biodiversity and development

All development should safeguard priority habitats, wildlife corridors and dark skies, and deliver a minimum 20% Biodiversity Net Gain, secured for at least 30 years. Early ecological assessment should be required to avoid harm rather than rely on mitigation. On-site biodiversity enhancements should be prioritised, with any off-site delivery located within the parish wherever possible.

8.2 Ecological connectivity

The working group believes the parish plays a critical role as an ecological corridor linking Cothill Fens, Bagley Wood, Boars Hill and Radley Lakes. Hedgerows, green lanes, watercourses and bat commuting routes must be protected, buffered and enhanced. Development that fragments or severs these connections should be resisted.

8.3 Climate resilience and flood risk

All existing and proposed flood alleviation measures must be fully implemented, safeguarded and maintained. Development must not increase flood risk elsewhere and should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and nature-based solutions such as wetlands, swales and buffer zones in preference to engineered alternatives.

8.4 Key sites and local assets

The parish's green and wildlife assets, including Sunningwell village green, Sunningwell pond, woodland copses, valley fens, churchyard, school grounds and recreational spaces, should be actively managed to enhance biodiversity. Priorities include native planting, reduced mowing

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regimes, wetland and fen restoration, woodland management and the installation of wildlife features.

8.5 Farming and land management

Long-term biodiversity gains depend on collaboration with landowners, tenant farmers and the commercial deer farm. The parish should encourage hedgerow restoration, wider field margins, soil protection, reduced pesticide use and participation in agri-environment schemes.

8.6 Community involvement and monitoring

Community stewardship is essential. Volunteer working parties, school engagement and 'adopt a green space' initiatives should be expanded. An annual parish biodiversity report should monitor habitat creation, species trends, BNG delivery and community participation, ensuring transparency and continuous improvement.

Together, these actions will protect Sunningwell's rural character, strengthen ecological networks, enhance climate resilience and secure a healthier, more biodiverse environment for future generations.

9. In summary

The working group has attempted to discover and record Sunningwell Parish's existing biodiversity, environment and wildlife assets (there will be more to discover). The working group has looked at the existing policies and guidance information and mapped these into a document that will assist the parish council in writing their Neighbourhood plan. We hope that this document establishes a strong, proactive framework for protecting the parish's natural heritage. It aims to support sustainable development, enhance ecological networks, strengthen climate resilience and empower the community to work together for a greener, richer and more biodiverse future. We consider this to be the best effort of a small group of parishioners and welcome support, amendments, additions and feedback from the wider parish.

Appendices

1. Flood alleviation works: 2023-2026
2. Bird species
3. Green assets register
4. Green assets details

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Appendix 1: Flood alleviation works 2023-2026

History

Flood events noted in Sunningwell Village in 2001, 2007 and 2012.

A drain-link under the cricket pitch was installed in 2006.

Three check dams were installed adjacent to the road between Sunningwell and Bayworth, the last being constructed in 2015. These are owned and maintained by Sunningwell Parish Council (SPC).

Recent Flood Events

Floods occurred on 31 March–1 April 2023 and 13 October 2023.

A Flood Investigation Report on the March 2023 event was prepared by VOWH, dated September 2023.

A Section 19 Flood Investigation Report was generated by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) based on the VOWH report issued 31st October 2023.

A flood occurred on 4 January 2024 which resulted in an addendum to the above report being issued on 18 November 2024.

SPC has a copy of these S19 reports, and their recommendations (reproduced in full in this Appendix) are the basis of actions taken to date and planned.

Recommendations from S19 Report: Maintenance

The importance of keeping water management assets clear and de-silted is emphasised and the specific responsibilities of the following groups detailed:

- Communities and residents
- Lead Local Flood Authority (OCC)
- Highway authority (Oxfordshire Highways)
- Water authority (Thames Water)
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Environment Agency
- Land owners and developers

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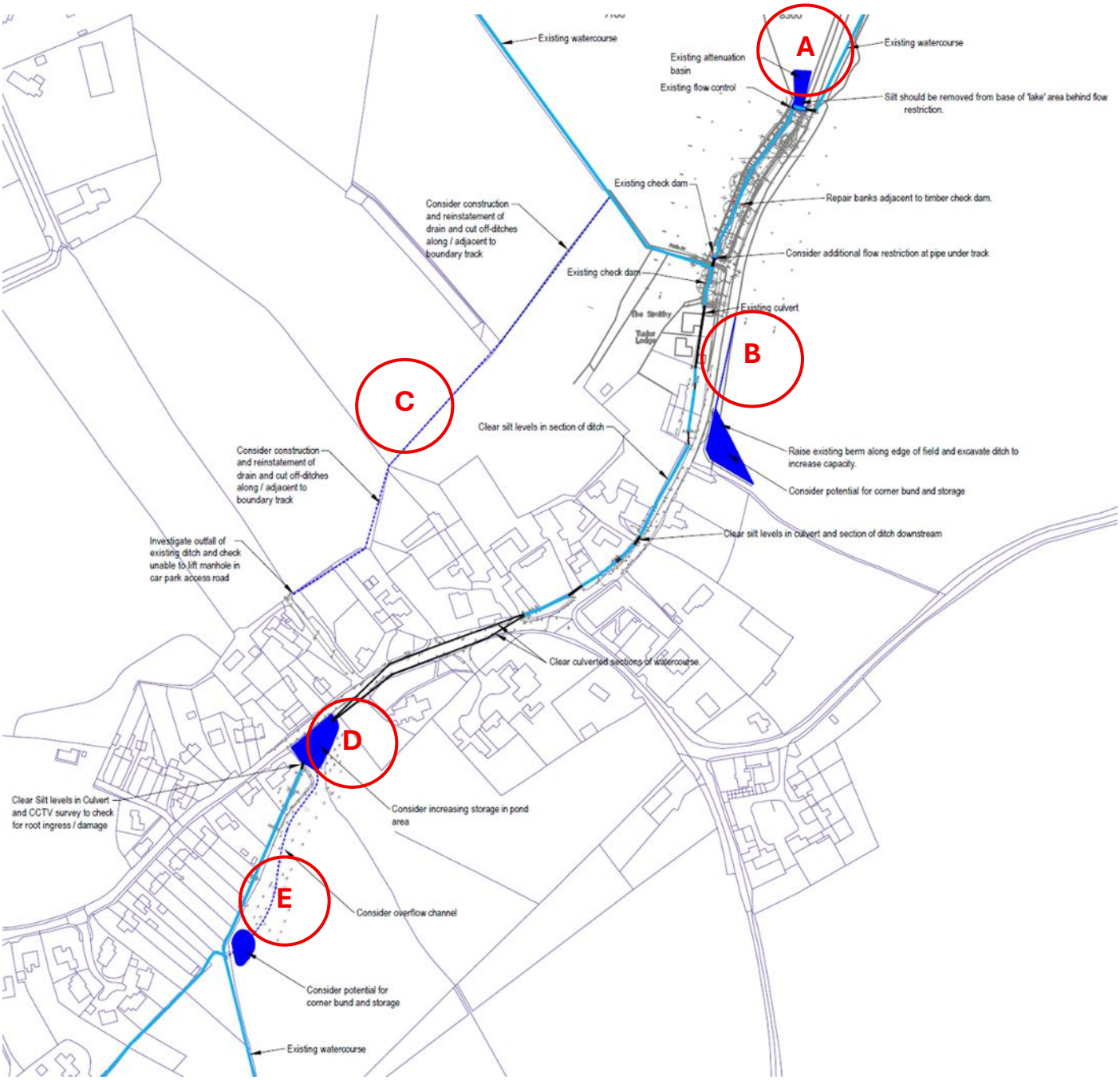
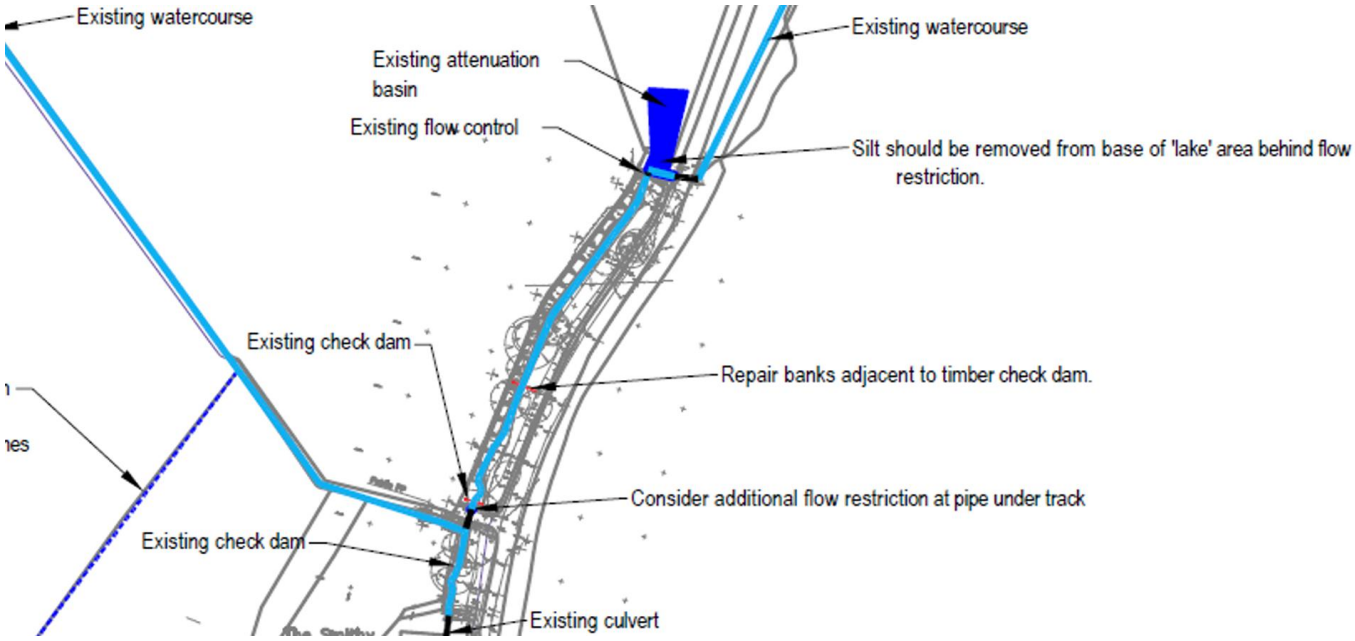
Recommendations from S19 Report: Improvements

The S19 report suggested several improvements that would be of benefit if funding could be secured. The locations of these initiatives are indicated below.



Location of recommended/suggested flood alleviation works

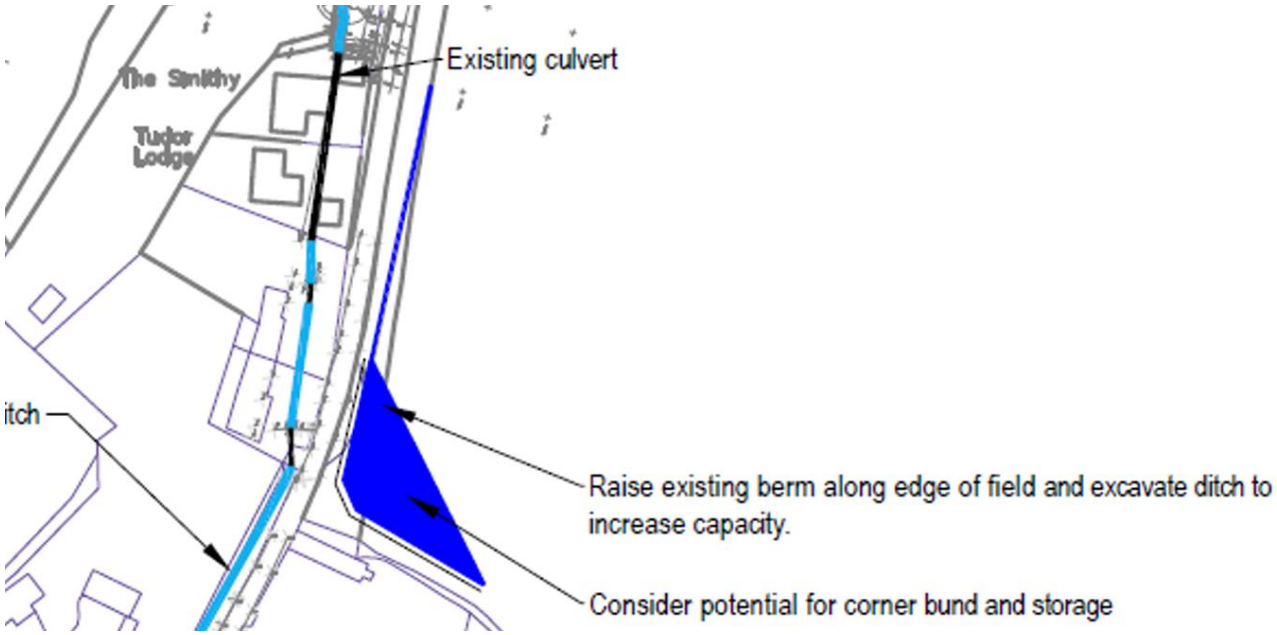
Quarry canal: Area A



SPC successfully secured a grant from OCC for the clearing of the old 'canal' which runs to the west side of the Sunningwell–Bayworth road to greatly increase its water holding capacity and to expose the existing check dams. It is planned to do this in the first quarter of 2026.

On inspection, these timber dams would benefit from remedial work and being made higher than they currently are. This is pending.

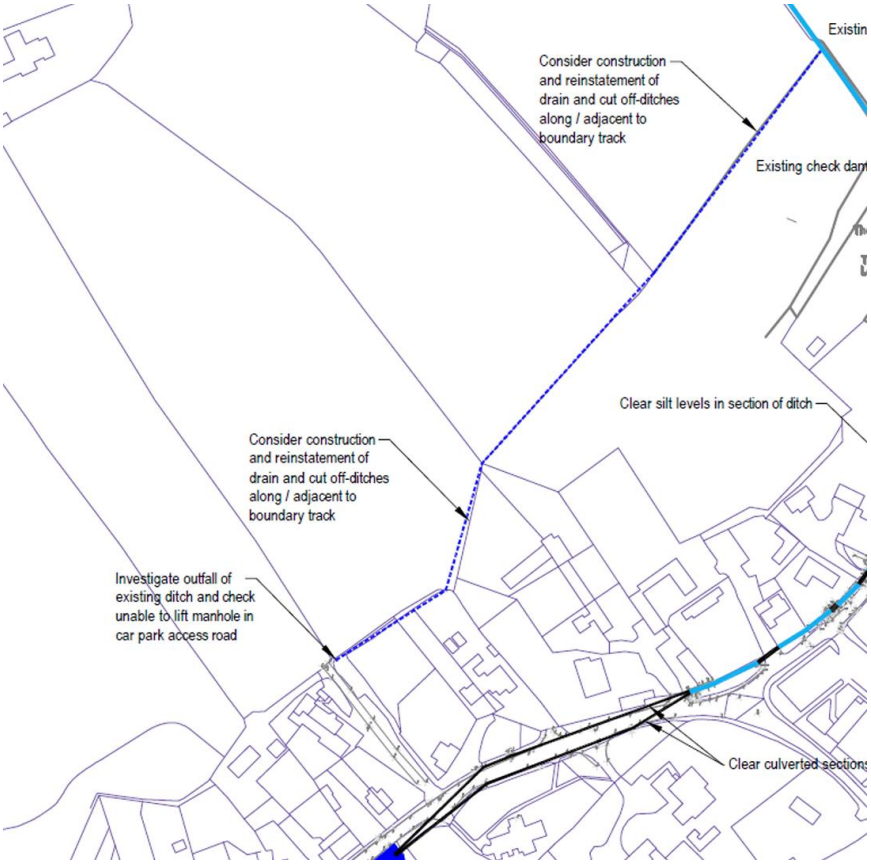
Sunningwell Road: Area B



The berm and ditch to the east of the Sunningwell–Bayworth road have been created as recommended to prevent run-off directly onto the road. The landowner has carried this out and borne all costs.

At the date of this report the suggested corner bund has not been actioned.

Land drain: Area C



SPC has successfully secured a grant from OCC to install a land drain across the bottom of the fields directly to the north of Sunningwell village, and to connect this to the main flow through the village via an existing underground drainage channel that runs under the village hall car park.

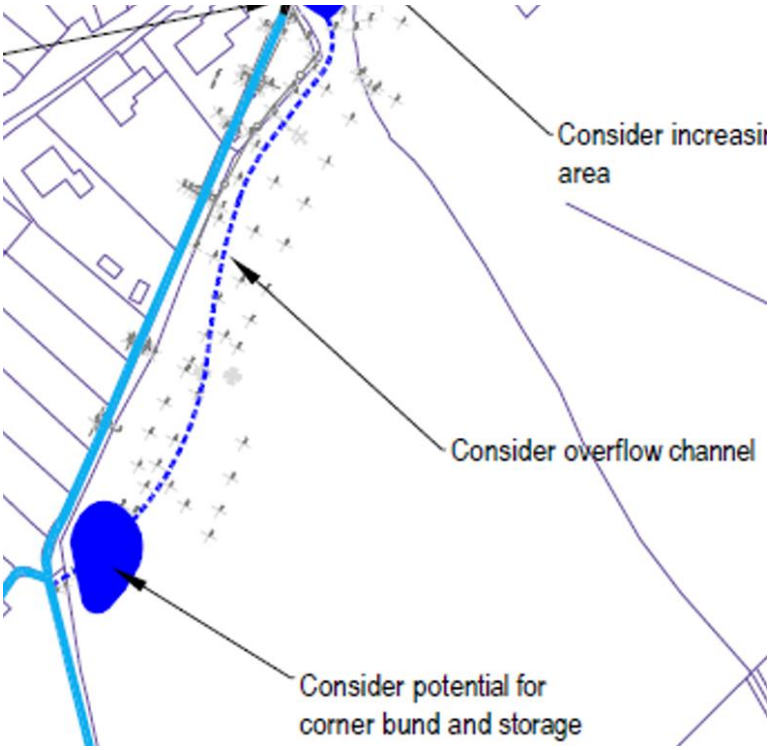
This work was completed in August 2025.

Village green swale: Area D

SPC contributed £5,000 of parish funds to carry out emergency works, removing tree roots and other obstacles that were blocking the drainage channel in April 2023.

SPC secured a grant to implement the suggested storage pond on the village green which was completed in September 2024.

Overflow and bund: Area E above



The suggested overflow channel from the village green to a new corner bund has not been actioned.

Copy of recommendations from OCC Section 19 Flood Investigation Report (Oct 2023)

#	Recommendation	Lead Stakeholders	Consulting stakeholders
1	Raise and discuss the issues and recommendations within this report at the periodic multi-agency meetings. Invite the Parish Council and flood working group along to specific meetings to discuss issues in more detail	LLFA	All Authorities
2	Review the frequency of maintenance of highway drainage assets, and look to increase the frequency of cleansing, in line with the current Countywide Highway Maintenance Programme and funding.	OCC Highways	
3	Review grip positions and install additional grips as required to drain the highway. OCC Highways to review culverts and ensure clear to accept flow.	OCC Highways	
4	Work with landowners to look at opportunities for schemes to manage flows upstream to slow the flow such as nature based solutions (natural flood management) through partnership working.	LLFA, VWH	Landowners, Parish Council
5	Sections of watercourses and culverts are cleared of silt as highlighted in the hydraulic considerations section by riparian landowners. The District Council can assist with informing the riparian landowners of their duties as the land drainage authority.	Landowners	VWH
6	Clear Silt levels in Culvert outfall at the village green pond and carry out CCTV survey to check for root ingress/damage	OCC Highways	Landowner, Parish Council
7	The uppermost banks either side of the check dam are repaired by the Parish Council to increase the storage potential of the check dam to pre-flood levels	Parish Council	VWH
8	Investigate the potential to re-install cut off drainage to the north of the village and link this to drainage in the village hall car park area and through to the village green area.	LLFA ,VWH	Parish Council, Landowners
9	Look at the potential to improve flows through the village green pond by installing a bypass/ overflow channel to take the pressure off the watercourse through the existing properties on Sunningwell Road.	LLFA ,VWH	Parish Council
10	Look at the potential to increase the capacity of the Village Green pond	LLFA ,VWH	Parish Council
11	Look at the potential to increase storage in a field ditch to the east of Sunningwell Road to maximise storage and reduce flow connecting under the main road via a 375mm diameter culvert.	VWH	Landowner
12	Modelling study of the existing drainage systems and catchments to fully understand the issues and required mitigation.	LLFA, VWH	Parish Council

13	Property flood resilience (PFR) measures which improve the resilience of the community before a flood occurs. Many properties have already carried out measures on their properties, but further funding and support may be available to help more people	Homeowners	VWH, EA, OCC
14	Local community volunteer approaches to improve the community's ability to plan, respond and recover from flooding; link to local community emergency plans	All	Communities and Residents
15	VWH to use their powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to ensure Riparian owners carry out required maintenance.	VWH	Landowners
16	Foul sewers to be checked for surface water connections, blockages and capacity issues. Remedial works to be carried out as necessary to minimize surface water entering the system and increase capacity. Ensure the existing foul system is not compromised from future development proposals.	TW	LLFA
17	Thames Water to liaise with property owner to reinstall non-return valve in correct chamber to prevent backflow into property close to Penn Lane / Sunningwell Road junction.	TW	LLFA
18	Flood storage assets to be added to the local flood register	LLFA	
19	LLFA to contact Parish with regard Flood Warden Scheme. Parish Council to consider to sign-up and set-up a flood group.	Parish Council	LLFA

Copy of Additional Recommendations from the Addendum (Nov 2024)

#	Recommendation	Lead Stakeholders	Consulting stakeholders
20	Further opportunities to improve storage in the area of the 'old canal' should be explored	Parish Council	LLFA, VWH
21	Village drainage assets should be monitored by the village Flood Wardens, with any works required by the Highway Authority reported to fixmystrees.com	Parish Council	OCC Highways

Appendix 2: Bird species

These two species sightings lists below derive from observations of local birds by Roger and Maggie Wiggins over many years. One records the breeding birds of Bagley Wood, on the edge of Sunningwell parish, in the 1980s. The other documents some interesting and significant sightings across the parish (but with a focus on Sunningwell village) during a four-year period more recently, just before the Covid outbreak. They complement each other, and together provide some evidence of the state of our avian wildlife and its changing fortunes.

The statistics for Bagley reveal its rich biodiversity forty years ago. The numbers for some species seem amazing by today's standards: e.g. 25 pairs of turtle doves and 19 pairs of spotted flycatchers, birds which have now almost disappeared from Oxon. Neither marsh tits (34) nor willow warblers (23) would often be encountered in Bagley now. Still, the wood continues to be managed in a nature-friendly way for the most part. There have been gains as well as losses, most spectacularly with the spread of red kites and buzzards, which leaves hope for the success of measures to support the recovery of species currently under threat.

The Sunningwell figures are revealing of abundance, at least pockets of it. They show some peak numbers, both for resident (or locally migrant) birds like house sparrow, blackbird and goldfinch and for winter and summer visitors like redwing, fieldfare and blackcap. They show that endangered farmland birds such as yellowhammer can be supported, especially by targeted feeding. Much has been lost from the village and its environs, even during the few years chronicled by the Wiggins's – the retreat of house martins and swallows being particularly painful – but there are still resilient populations of what we think of as common birds, as well as occasional records of nowadays all too rare visitors like barn owl and lapwing, to provide a springboard for conservation efforts.

Bagley Wood sightings -1984

Species	**Bagley Wood Census Total pairs**	**Bagley Wood Density Per sq./km**
Sparrowhawk	5	2.20
Kestrel	4	1.76
Pheasant	N/C	--
Woodcock	N/C	--
Stock Dove	30/40	13.20-17.60
Wood Pigeon	140 min.	61.60
Turtle Dove	c. 25	11.00
Cuckoo	2	0.88
Little Owl	1	0.44
Tawny Owl	14	6.16
Green Woodpecker	2 est.	0.88
G.S. Woodpecker	6 est.	2.64
L. S. Woodpecker	2-3	0.88-1.32

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Carrion Crow	13	5.72
Jackdaw	10-20	4.40-8.80
Rook	43	18.92
Magpie	6	2.64
Jay	15 est.	6.60
Great Tit	79	43.76
Blue Tit	108	47.52
Coal Tit	53	23.32
Marsh Tit	34	14.96
Willow Tit	9	3.96
Long Tailed Tit	26 est.	11.44
Nuthatch	14	6.16
Treecreeper	34 est.	14.96
Wren	224	98.56
Mistle Thrush	11	4.84
Song Thrush	93	40.92
Blackbird	161	70.84
Redstart	0	0
Nightingale	1	0.44
Robin	145	63.80
Grasshopper Warbler	0	0
Blackcap	58	25.52
Garden Warbler	21	9.24
Common Whitethroat	1	0.44
Lesser Whitethroat	4	1.76
Chiffchaff	38	16.72
Willow Warbler	23	10.12
Goldcrest	181	79.64
Spotted Flycatcher	19	8.36
Dunnock	9	3.96
Tree Pipit	2	0.88
Starling	80-90	35.2-39.60
Hawfinch	3	1.32
Greenfinch	Max 30	13.2
Goldfinch	5-10	2.2-4.4
Linnet	4	1.76
Bullfinch	18	7.92
Chaffinch	193	84.92
Redpoll	0	0
Tree Sparrow	5	2.2
Total Birds (min)	2007	

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Sunningwell sightings 2015-2019

Species_Name	Common Name	Grid Ref.	Date	Comment	Abundance
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP 4900	06/11/2015		c60Individual
Streptopelia decaocto	Collared Dove	SP494003	09/11/2015		9Individual
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest	SP494003	14/11/2015		1Individual
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest	SP494003	22/11/2015		1Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP494003	26/11/2015		2Pair
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	27-8/11/2015		1Male
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	30/11/2015		1Female
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	04/12/2015		50+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	06/12/2015		c100Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494004	12/12/2015		c100Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	04/12/2015	2f,1m	3Individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP494004	04-5/12/2015		1Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP494004	08/12/2015	1pair, 3m	5Individual
Picus viridis	Green Woodpecker	SP494004	22/12/2015		4Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494004	21/01/2016	monthly max	24Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP493005	29/01/2016		c50Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP499011	04/01/2016		c75Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP499011	04/01/2016		c75Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494004	21/01/2016	2m, 1f	3Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494004	11-13/03/2016		1Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494004	23/03/2016		2Pair
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494004	08/03/2016	also later in month	1Male
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494004	08/03/2016		38Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494004	23/03/2016		35+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	19/03/2016		c150Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494004	03/03/2016		c80Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494004	22/03/2016	Green La Bayworth	c30Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494004	16/04/2016	monthly max	23Individual
Cuculus canorus	Cuckoo	SP 4900	22/05/2016		1Male
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	SP494004	11/06/2016	calling	1Individual
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	SP494004	12-18/06/2016		2Pair
Picus viridis	Green Woodpecker	SP493004	19/07/2016	1 ad, 1 juv	2Individual
Garrulus glandarius	Jay	SP494004	27/07/2016		4+individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP493002	26/08/2016		1Individual
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	SP493004	02/09/2016	pair + young	5Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP493002	11/09/2016		c30Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP500009	04/10/2016	Green La Bayworth	c30Individual
Acanthis cannabina	Linnet	SU491998	26/10/2016	Westbrook fields	c50Individual

Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP493002	19/10/2016	some migrants	6+Individual
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	SU489998	17-26/10/2016	monthly max	c40Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP493004	19/10/2016	1st of season	22Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP493002	08/11/2016	monthly max	c70Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP493002	05/11/2016	with goldfinches	3Individual
Acanthis cannabina	Linnet	SP499008	10/11/2016	Green La Bayworth	100+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP493002	14/11/2016	monthly max	30+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP493002	23/11/2016	monthly max	c80Individual
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP493002	19/11/2016	monthly max	10Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP493002	17/12/2016	monthly max	50+Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP493002	11/12/2016	1m, 2f 1st of winter	3Individual
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	SP493002	10/12/2016		1Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP493002	12/12/2016		c40Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP493002	13/12/2016	monthly max	23Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP493002	28/12/2016	2m, 1f	3Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP493002	31/12/2016		2Female
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP493002	12/12/2016		c12Individual
Columba livia domestica	Feral Pigeon	SP498011	01/12/2016	Bayworth Quarry	48Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP493002	14/01/2017	monthly max	25Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP493002	12/01/2017	and thro month	2Pair
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP493002	31/01/2017	monthly max	c50Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP493002	29/01/2017	2m, 3f monthly max	5Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP493002	01-8/01/2017	monthly max	c50Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP500008	05/01/2017		50+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SU489998	30/01/2017	Westbrook Field	200+Individual
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP493002	23/01/2025	monthly max	12Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	10/02/2017	monthly max	24Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	02/02/2017		1Male
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	09/02/2017		1Female
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	19/02/2017		c30Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SU488999	13/02/2017	on arable	c200Individual
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	SU488999	13/02/2017	on arable	c50Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	09-14/02/2017	monthly max	c60Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	20/03/2017	monthly max	20Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494003	20/03/2017		1Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	07/03/2017		20Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP501008	29/03/2017		200+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	10/03/2017		20Individual
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	SP494003	08/03/2017	calling	1Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	10-11/03/2017		1Female
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	05/04/2017	monthly max	19Individual

Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	SP494003	07/04/2017	1st of season	1Male
Pica pica	Magpie	SP498006	11/04/2017		23Individual
Sylvia curruca	Lesser Whitethroat	SP504014	19/04/2017	Manor Farm Bayworth	2Male
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	SP494003	20/05/2017	11+ juv	23+Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	20/05/2017		7Individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP501024	30/05/2017	Bagley Wood edge	1Individual
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	SP495003	21/05/2017	calling	1Individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP494003	02/07/2017		1Individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP494003	24/07/2017		3Individual
Garrulus glandarius	Jay	SP494003	04-7/07/2017		4Individual
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest	SP494003	09/07/2017		1Individual
Oenanthe oenanthe	Wheatear	SP493004	11/07/2017	f or juv; cricket field	2Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP494003	15/08/2017	1m, 1 juv	2Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	03/09/2017	also later in month	1Female
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	SP494003	23/09/2017		1Individual
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	SP494003	01/10/2017	max flock size	28Individual
Accipiter nisus	Sparrowhawk	SP494003	01/10/2017		1Individual
Phylloscopus colybita	Chiffchaff	SP494003	05/10/2017		1Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	29/10/2017		1Male
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	SU490994	06/10/2017		1Individual
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP494003	08/10/2017	1st migrants	c6Individual
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP492004	28/10/2017	with other thrushes	6+Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	08/10/2017	and for rest of month	c20Individual
Larus canus	Common Gull	SU490998	10/10/2017	Westbrook fields	1Individual
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	SU493998	12/10/2017	Westbrook fields	c45Individual
Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	SU493998	19/10/2017	Westbrook fields	24Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	03/11/2017		25Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	21/11/2017		62+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	11/11/2017	monthly max	c50Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	11/11/2017		1Male
Corvus corax	Raven	SU494002	30/11/2017	over VG	1Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	11/12/2017	monthly max	84Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP501010	15/12/2017	on arable	200+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494004	17/12/2017	cricket field	150+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SU490995	18/12/2017	Long Furlong farm	c120Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	10/12/2017	monthly max	c50Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	28/12/2017	monthly max	16Individual

Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	15-30/12/2017	1m, 1f;	2Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	23/12/2017	cricket field	c50Individual
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP494004	01/12/2017		20+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	01/01/2018		140+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494004	26-7/01/2018	flying over	150+Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	21/01/2018	monthly max	44+Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494003	20/01/2018		1Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	01/01/2018		24Individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP494003	05/01/2018	flew over calling	1Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	02-4/01/2018		1Female
Turdus merula	Blackbird	SP494004	12/01/2018	cricket field	17Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	10/02/2018	cricket field	50+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	21/02/2018		c80Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	27/02/2018	monthly max	c50Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	02/03/2018	monthly max	76Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	02/03/2018		1Female
Circus sp	Harrier sp	SP494003	15/03/2018	circling high up	2Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	18/03/2018	monthly max	40Individual
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling	SP494003	19 and 30/03/2018		1Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494003	19/03/2018		1Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	04-5/03/2018	monthly max	120+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	20/03/2018	monthly max	c180Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	10/03/2018	monthly max	100+Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494003	01-3/04/2018		1Individual
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling	SP494003	10-12/04/2018		1Individual
Delichon urbica	House Martin	SP496003	13/04/2018	over VG; 1st of season	2Individual
Cuculus canorus	Cuckoo	SP496003	21/04/2018	over VG	1Male
Corvus corax	Raven	SP493003	02/09/2018	juv?	1Individual
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	SP494003	09/09/2018	record no.	76Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	22/09/2018		c25Individual
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	SP494004	14/10/2018	cricket field	1Individual
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	SP494003	21/10/2018		1Individual
Acanthis cannabina	Linnet	SU492998	20/10/2018	Westbrook field	c25Individual
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	SU491998	22/10/2018	Westbrook field	c8Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	07/11/2018	monthly max	c70Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	09/11/2018		c30Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	15/12/2018	and rest of month	1Male
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	31/12/2018	monthly max	21Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	18/12/2018	monthly max	50+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	19/12/2018	flying over	c200Individual

Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	30/12/2018	cricket ground	100+Individual
Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	SP503008	17/12/2018	Bayworth Cleave	c40Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	26/01/2019	cricket field, monthly max	c300Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494004	01/01/2019	monthly max	c40Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	01/01/2019	also later in month	1Male
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	08-14/01/2019		1Female
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	03/01/2019	monthly max	22Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP494003	07-12/01/2019		1Female
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP494003	10/01/2019		1Male
Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	SU4999	12and15/01/2019	over fields	150+Individual
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	SP494004	07/01/2019	monthly max	63Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	03/02/2019		1Male
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	08/02/2019	also later in month	1Female
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling	SP494003	05/02/2019		2Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	10/02/2018	cricket field; monthly max	c200Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494004	10/02/2018	cricket field	c30Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP502008	06/02/2019	Green Lane Bayworth	35+Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	10/02/2019	monthly max	33Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	01-3/03/2019	also 23/03: same bird?	1Female
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	31/03/2019		1Male
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494003	05/03/2019		1Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	12/03/2019	monthly max	34Individual
Garrulus glandarius	Jay	SP494003	28/03/2019		2Pair
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494004	03/03/2019	cricket field	100+Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494004	23/03/2019	cricket field	c25Individual
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	SP494003	01/04/2019		1Male
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	SU490995	08/04/2019	Long Furlong farm	1Individual
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	SP494003	09/04/2019	monthly max	25Individual
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	SP491001	20/04/2019	arable edge	2Pair
Corvus corax	Raven	SP491021	30/09/2019	Boars Hill	1Individual
Falco subbuteo	Hobby	SP494003	14/09/2019		1Individual
Delichon urbica	House Martin	SP494003	29/09/2019		50+Individual
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit	SP491021	30/09/2019	Boars Hill	c50Individual
Delichon urbica	House Martin	SP494003	01/10/2019		500+Individual
Corvus corax	Raven	SP501024	09/10/2019	Bagley Wood edge	1Individual
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	SP492997	19/10/2019	on arable	20+Individual
Saxicola torquata	Stonechat	SP500008	20/10/2019	Bayworth	2Pair
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	25-6/10/2019		1Male

Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	25/10/2019	1st of season	1Individual
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	SP494003	24/11/2019		c30Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP504005	12and20/11/2019	Bayworth Cleave	20+Individual
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	26/11/2019		c40Individual
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	SP494003	27/11/2019	1st of winter	1Male
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	SP501028	29/11/2019	Boars Hill	20Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	30/11/2019	1st of winter	1Female
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	01/12/2019	also 17/12 and 28/12	1Male
Corvus corax	Raven	SP494003	02/12/2019	flying over to N	11Individual
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	SP494003	23/12/2019	monthly max	48Individual
Accipiter nisus	Sparrowhawk	SP494003	23/12/2019		1Individual
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	SP494003	01/01/2020	also later in month	1Male
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	SP494003	01/01/2020		22Individual
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	SP494003	18/01/2020	monthly max	c100Individual

Appendix 3: Green assets register

Sites entirely within the parish.

Asset/location	Habitat type	Key wildlife/ ecological Value	Description and context	Management/opportunities
Sunningwell village pond	Spring-fed pond	Water vole, birds, fish	Historic Saxon pond fed by warm spring.	Ongoing weed control, vole monitoring, native planting.
Pilkington Pocket	Woodland/scrub	Birds, pollinators	Small Pilkington Trust parcel.	Light access, bench, native bulbs, tree safety advice.
Sunningwell village green (VG121)	Grassland, meadow, stream	Pollinators, birds, mammals	10.2-acre registered green; historic open fields.	Rotational mowing, scrub management, community involvement.
Hedgerows and mature trees	Hedgerows and veterans	Wildlife corridors	OWLS locally important features.	Traditional hedge management.
Public footpaths and countryside	Grassland, scrub, woodland edge	Butterflies, bats, birds	Links Boars Hill, Foxcombe, Bagley.	Sensitive access, interpretation.
Canal (east of village)	Historic water channel	Limited but potential wetland value	Industrial heritage canal dug c.1810.	Opportunity for enhancement and interpretation.
Quarry	Geological site	Geology, pioneer species	Historic stone quarry; PROW runs through.	Interpretation; assess geological value.
Churchyard	Historic grassland	Pollinators, birds, bats	Medieval site; ancient yew.	Longer grass areas, churchyard biodiversity guidance.
Bayworth Triangle	Open green space	General biodiversity	Parish-owned open space.	Low-intensity wildlife-friendly management.

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'Dunstan's Pool'	Seasonal pond	Amphibians, invertebrates	Small pond linked to St Dunstan tradition.	Protect from infill; light monitoring.
Pilkington Pocket (opposite village hall)	Woodland	Birds, mammals	Small woodland parcel.	Consider wildlife management.
Spinney (by school)	Woodland and learning space	Educational biodiversity	Outdoor classroom; historic remains.	Ongoing education and habitat care.
Cricket field	Amenity grassland	Low but potential biodiversity	Donated 1915; crossed by PROW.	Enhance margins if feasible.
Lincombe Lane Farm	Smallholding, pond	Amphibians, birds	New FHT pond; Roman finds.	Support pond and recording.
Brumcombe and Ducklings Copses	Ancient woodland	Woodland species	14-acre semi-natural ancient woodland.	Manage deer, ash dieback, invasives.
Woodlands off Lincombe Lane	Ancient woodland	Woodland flora/fauna	Withey Bed, Blagrove, Broom Hill copses.	Protect ancient woodland character.
Land in front of rectory	Grass/scrub	Pollinators	Highly visible village site.	Sensitive planting and mowing.
Paddocks west of village	Pasture	Farmland species	Prominent approach to village.	Maintain open character; biodiversity gain.
Stert Stream	Stream corridor	Aquatic species	Historic watercourse linked to canal plan.	Buffer management; remove arisings.
Old Orchard (Old Manor)	Traditional orchard	Invertebrates, birds	Neglected historic orchard.	Survey and restore traditional orchard.
Church Farm Wood	Planted woodland	Birds, invertebrates	Pilkington Trust woodland c.2005.	Continue sympathetic management.

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Old Golf Course (Boars Hill)	Rough grassland and bog	Grassland species	OPT land; historic golf links.	Enhance grassland/wetland value.
Lincombe Lane Field	Fen and grassland	Fen specialists	OPT LWS; restoration underway.	Support restoration.
Lime Kiln Copse and valley	Ancient woodland and fen	Specialist species	LWS valley fen.	Protect hydrology.
Foxcombe Woods	Ancient woodland	High biodiversity	Managed Pilkington site.	Continue long-term management.

Sites only partially in the parish, or adjacent to the parish which are relevant as interlinking habitats

Asset/location	**Habitat type**	**Key wildlife/ ecological value**	**Description and context**	**Management/opportunities**
Foxcombe Woods	Ancient woodland	High biodiversity	Managed Pilkington site.	Continue long-term management.
Bagley Wood	Ancient woodland	Woodland specialists	Historic LWS; open access.	Protect ancient woodland.
Jarn Mound and Garden	Historic landscape	Mixed flora	OPT site; neglected garden.	Planned restoration.
Chilswell Valley	Fen valley	Fen flora/fauna	LWS; restored by Wild Oxford.	Ongoing fen management.
Sugworth	Geological SSSI	Geology	Early Pleistocene Thames deposits.	Protect geological exposure.
Land across A34 (Pen Lane)	Succession woodland	General biodiversity	Uncertain ownership; development pressure.	Investigate ownership; protect habitat.

Appendix 4: Green assets details

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
Sunningwell village pond	Permanent pond with reed/riparian margins and well-vegetated banks. Water voles (recent confirmed sightings), moorhens, sticklebacks, herons and occasional kingfisher/grey wagtail. The pond has been actively managed (dredging / vegetation pruning) to improve habitat. Original feature of the village since Saxon times (Sunningwell). Variable over time in extent and depth (e.g. it looks much larger on a plan drawn by J.M.W. Turner c1820). Natural (very slightly warm) spring with catchment area on the far side of Boars Hill. This (or a nearby location) was reckoned at one time to have healing properties. It served the local smithy and horses generally; presumably also duck etc breeding. Water vole population comes and goes, monitored by BBOWT: much activity in 2022-3; occasional sightings since then. Advice on file from Freshwater Habitats Trust.	Keep removing the weed as it grows too quickly due to the warm spring that feeds the pond. It's also too shallow (concrete base) and in full sun. We'd also like to ensure it's regularly dredged to avoid silting up. From Wild Oxfordshire It looked to me like there is a good mix of marginal vegetation as well as floating and submerged plants, however if you want to do some further planting then always plant native plants and buy from a trusted source. See further information on planting here: Pond doc with picture; A guide to native pond plants | WWT. Is any rotational management of vegetation carried out/required to prevent dominance of certain plants over others? Regarding de-silting or dredging, it is generally not recommended unless it is necessary and will ultimately benefit the wildlife. Freshwater Habitats Trust are the experts, and I know you have had advice from them in the past. Information on dredging here: Microsoft Word - Silted up ponds and dredging -complete new design.doc.
Pilkington Pocket	This is a patch of land next to the village carpark. It is currently inaccessible and overgrown. Overgrown patch of unmanaged woodland.	This could be managed as a small public space with a bench. A path to the gate and the area with brambles could cleared to create access and a wooded glade. Native bluebells and also snowdrops could be planted to add colour and benefit pollinators. The young elm may be OK to coppice to enable a central open area to be maintained. Advice should be sought from arboriculturist/tree surveyor re: tree safety and the walnut tree. The lower limb of the walnut could be removed, or it could be felled as it will

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
		obviously get a lot bigger. It does seem like a lot of extra work to try and be too ambitious and best to work with what you have. Turn this into a village amenity suitable for wildlife visits, picnics in the shaded wood, a chance to sit and observe in a very accessible area.
Sunningwell village green (including the ecological/ wildflower area)	10.2 acre registered village green with an area managed for wildflowers/butterflies and amenity grassland. Protected as a registered village green (VG121). Good for pollinators, nesting birds and small mammals in hedgerows. 10 acres. Originally two fields, Upper and Lower Bury Close. Part of the open-field system: preserves some ridge and furrow. From 1870 it was the church glebe, belonging to each rector in succession. In the 1970s it was transferred to Diocesan Board of Finance, which then in the 1990s sought to sell it for piecemeal development. Resisted by villagers, whose claim to commoners' rights was finally approved by the House of Lords in June 1999. Bought by Sunningwell Parish Council from church in September 2017 for £40,000. Rough species list available for plants; needs assembling for birds and animals. Small fish, beetles, etc. in stream; Some tree planting in recent years, mainly disease-resistant (we hope) elms; and central hedge extended.	Lush grass has outcompeted some of the wildflowers previously sown, although cuckoo flower grows in spring. Yellow rattle was not successful, which is not a surprise given the conditions and lush vegetation. You could consider further planting of spring flowers, e.g., cowslip on the central raised area. This may be something which school children could help with? <u>Cutting regime</u> There are limitations with adjusting mowing plans, however different areas could be added in, to ensure that margins and the area round the clump of trees (near the eastern edge of the green) are cut once every three years. Rotational cutting is a useful way of allowing margins to be more 'wild', whilst preventing them from becoming dominated by vigorous/competitive plants such as hogweed and nettle, and ultimately scrub. For example, the margin next to the central hedgerow (we looked at after the stream) could be divided into three sections, so that one stretch is cut every year. If that would make mowing plans complicated then maybe the Green Gym could do some scything? It is important to leave some long grassland margins over winter to provide habitat for overwintering invertebrates and as refuge areas for other species, such as small mammals. We discussed cutting the wildflower area earlier in the summer (i.e., mid-July) to try and remove more biomass in the arisings and hopefully reduce the soil fertility here over time.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
		Rough grassland and scrub corner This is a great 'wilder' area with tussocky grass (tufted hairgrass) and scrub. It provides habitat for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and overwintering invertebrates, as well as cover and hunting areas for larger mammals. It will also benefit birds of prey/raptors such as kestrel - and potentially tawny owls. If this area is left unmanaged it will scrub up further, and over time there will be more scrub than open areas. Again, rotational cutting management would be a way of keeping the mosaic of tussocky grassland and scrub, which is a valuable habitat. Rotational management is likely to involve a combination of mowing and/or scything and cutting/coppicing larger patches of bramble and scrub. It would be worth chatting to the Green Gym to see what they recommend on a practical level, as it may be tricky to mow with a traditional mower. The central area with the teasel Good idea to plant more trees, such as hawthorn, common buckthorn, hazel and guelder rose. You could aim to create a scrubby cope with some glade areas. It could be designed to have a path(s) through it. Perhaps the school could be involved in planting and the designs could be shared with them? Could each class take on a planting area? Orchard A good idea to plant an orchard area(s) and to diversify the range of different habitats on site. When I went back to take photos after lunch I wondered about the potential for the wide margin near the corner with Pen Lane (circled in blue below)? There may be a reason why this is kept open as next to a residential property.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
		Area with wetland plants The area with the wetland/marginal plants established from sediment which was spread there is interesting (area circled in red below)! It may be that the soil will dry over time and these species will naturally dwindle in frequency. You may want to consider cutting half of it back each year to try and maintain it as long as possible (manage as grassland) and remove the arisings. Creating some scrapes This is a great idea. Would be best to trial small scrapes, possibly in a higher area near the scrubby area with teasel. You could sow with a wildflower-only mix, e.g., a generic grassland one (such as: EM1F Basic General Purpose Wild Flowers - Emorsgate Seeds). Yellow rattle may work better here on the edges with the grassland. The stream The swale adds a good buffer area for the stream. Water starwort is native to the UK (I didn't look closely but I presume this is the species here). It can be prolific but is a good oxygenator of the water and it is also used by newts to lay their eggs on. It can be managed as necessary by regular thinning in late summer or autumn. All arisings (clippings) should be removed from the stream/stream banks. Species recording I had a look at the iNaturalist for Sunningwell and have included the links below so you can see the records for the wider Sunningwell area. You can sign up to iRecord so you can submit records and explore the maps. My understanding is that all records should eventually be mapped on the NBN Atlas (link below), although there can be various delays. You can share records directly with TVERC (the local records centre) and I have

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
		included a link on their website regarding submitting your sightings to them.
Hedgerows, mature trees and species-rich field margins across the parish	Hedgerows and mature boundary trees provide connectivity (wildlife corridors), nectar sources for pollinators, nesting sites for birds and shelter for small mammals and invertebrates. These are recorded as locally important landscape/habitat features in OWLS guidance. Birds and small mammals.	Hedgerows perform a vital service for nature. They provide habitation and nesting, a food source, shelter and a corridor for wildlife to travel. More hedgerows could be planted; these would enhance the environment and increase the opportunities for wildlife. A 2-3 year rotation of hedgerow trimming is encouraged to promote blossom, berries and berries. The 3-year cycle in the Parish could work in favour of biodiversity with sufficient pruning to maintain optimum height at 2.0m and 1.5m wide and avoiding over pruning ('thugging'). Intermittent height changes in the hedgerows are encouraged by allowing small tress to grow. The three yearly trimming would be sufficient to allow full access to farmed crops and clear view of the roads and lanes. Hedge trimming ideally should take place in late winter which has been the case in some of the Parish.
Public footpaths and connected countryside	Mosaic of semi-improved grassland, scrub, woodland edges and ancient/semi-natural woods accessed from Sunningwell. These routes link woodland, hilltop wildflower/grassland habitats and riverine features which is good for butterflies, bats, woodland birds and spring flora. Popular walks and circular routes run over Foxcombe/Boars Hill and into Bagley/Youlbury woods.	Footpaths need to be protected and regularly cleared to maintain access. These are important for both active travel and exercise. The roads in the parish are mainly without pavements and footpaths allow safer alternatives. Footpaths link communities.
Ancient/long-established woods and woodland edges in the	Ancient semi-natural woods and wood-edge habitats (important for woodland wildflowers, fungi, veteran trees, invertebrates and specialist birds). OWLS maps and landscape character notes identify these as locally important.	These must be protected and exempt from development.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
wider parish landscape	Birds of all sizes, small mammals, deer, badgers, rabbits, foxes and fowl.	
Pocket wetlands, ditches and low-lying pasture (parish lowlands / clay areas)	Small wetlands and ditches along low-lying footpaths retain amphibians, invertebrates and provide feeding/foraging for waders and passerines in wetter months. The parish footpath's guidance notes low-lying, seasonally wet ground and the ecological value of these corridors.	Maintain and enhance. We see the benefit of the work Oxford Preservation Trust is undertaking to reintroduce fenland.
Community nature actions and working groups	Active local stewardship: plans, working groups and parish council activity (pond management, wildflower areas, Neighbourhood Plan group for biodiversity) support habitat restoration and local monitoring. These community efforts amplify on-the-ground biodiversity value.	Better support for the existing monthly working groups. The work is essential to maintain the village green and to protect both the wild planting and trees. Currently only two or three people contribute. The pond is maintained by a single volunteer. With support different assets could have working groups or sponsorship. The Green Gym is able to visit more often and it would be great to have more parishioners joining these days.
Residential gardens	With nature friendly areas and wildlife corridors, ponds and no use of chemicals, wildlife can be encouraged	Advice given in parish publications to help gardens support wildlife, whether this is less mowing or wild planting.
The local school	Re-natured areas, environmental projects, hands on gardening and woodland engagements	The school has a nature reserve and there are opportunities to enhance the biodiversity here. Bat and bird boxes could be added.
The Green in Bayworth	Small grassy area with a few trees. Re-natured areas.	
Roadside verges	Well managed roadside verges are especially important for wildflowers and have the potential to connect fragmented areas of habitat to form local refuges for wildlife. They also act as an	Considerate maintenance would allow the verges to assist wildlife while ensuring visibility for road safety.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	important 'buffer' to adjacent habitats such as hedges, ditches, shaws or meadows.	
Church Farm Wood	Devised for maximum naturalness on a cleared farmyard site, initially base vegetation, then planted in three tranches with local provenance stock under a woodland grant scheme in the late 1990s. It is managed to maximise biodiversity within a native establishing woodland. Primrose, bluebells and several indicator species have all established naturally. Forestry thinning is currently geared to maximising oak. Entrance by permit, costing an annual subscription.	A wetland area could be introduced. This has long been mooted.
Old Golf Course	Belongs to Oxford Preservation Trust. Originally the private links were constructed by the 8th Earl of Berkeley, c1900. It was the first property to be bought by the OPT in 1927, to forestall development of the site. Campaign led by Sir Arthur Evans of Youlbury (cf. below). Recently extended to include a lowland field to the north (in Sunningwell I think) and adjacent Abraham Wood (in Wootton). Rough grassland, with a little bog and some hedges and two copses; bluebells in wood. Never much managed for wildlife, but some seeding a few years ago and rabbit extermination.	Currently work is underway to create a fenland. It would be interesting to see how this develops and how OPT manage it.
Lincombe Lane Field	Belongs to the Oxford Preservation Trust. who acquired it in 1937-40. Status: Local Wildlife Site (LWS).	Maintain quality grazing of the field by resting the area from time to time and regularly removing horse droppings. Consider grazing cattle and horses together which promotes more even grazing across the field.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	A grazed field at the top; a small area of valley fen below (cf. Limekiln and Chilswell below) currently in process of restoration.	
Lime Kiln Copse and valley	Partly in Sunningwell (rest in South Hinksey and Cumnor). Status: Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Most easterly of the five valley fens on the North side of Boars Hill. Private land and unmanaged. Some mention of it in South Hinksey environmental document https://southhinksey.org/parish/nature-2 There's a secluded and pretty pond at the Sunningwell end	
Other adjacent locations just outside Sunningwell parish but relevant to our ecology and landscape	A. Foxcombe Woods Also belonging to the Pilkington Trust, a relict, private estate woodland created in three phases in the 19th century, early 20th century and 1960s. Since 1983 it has been managed for wildlife, increasingly so since 1990. Its remit as an educational resource was bolstered in 1985 with the Trust woodman's role being changed to a wildlife-sympathetic one. It has been thus managed as an educational and biodiverse resource and rewilding has taken place via non-native species control and eradication attempts, native underplanting, and a strong emphasis on natural regeneration in favour of the several plantations. It is not ancient woodland and was primarily open heathland as recently as the second half of the19th century. It is essentially a wet valley fen woodland, semi-natural and managed under a management plan to maximise wildlife benefits appropriate to its location and nature. Specialities are its birdlife, bats, herptiles, glowworms, fungi and bryophytes (including one county record), and specifically	These areas are important for our parish as wildlife doesn't follow parish boundaries. Therefore we welcome all management that enhances and protects wildlife and biodiversity on our boundary. There is an opportunity to watch and learn to see best practice and how we can use it ourselves.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	saproxylic species. Being private there are currently no designations (SSSI or LWS). There is a Forest Schools site and a thriving greenwood crafts group base. Also neighbouring grounds of Foxcombe Hall (our boundary runs through it) with a beautiful lake; permitted access. B. Bagley Wood Status: LWS. Historic woodland; extreme southeast portion (Woodcraft Wood) in Sunningwell; rest in Kennington though long was extra-parochial. Owned by St John's College since the 16th century. Controversially enclosed by them in mid-19th century, ostensibly to protect the public from highwaymen. Currently open access. C. Jarn Mound and Garden Constructed by Arthur Evans in early 1930s. Belongs to Oxford Preservation Trust. [is this the 'Memorial Garden' which is a Wootton Local Wildlife Site (LWS)?]. Originally planted up with wide range of flora, some non-native; now long neglected but with plans to restore it for Oxford Preservation Trust. Centenary in 2027. Beyond it Matthew Arnold Field, also Oxford Preservation Trust and Local Wildlife Site (LWS), and with a small area of valley fen on the far side. D. Chilswell Valley	

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	Also called 'Happy Valley'. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), owned by Oxford County Council since the 1930s. Next west of Boars Hill valley fens (cf. above: Limekiln) Recent restoration of fen habitat by Wild Oxford project. Famous in literature: Matthew Arnold's 'track by Childsworth Farm' and 'signal elm'. E. Sugworth Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). On the east side of the bridge along Sugworth Lane: 'an early Middle Pleistocene interglacial section of very great importance', i.e part of an earlier channel of the Thames. F. Land across A34 at foot of Pen Lane, between footpaths to Dunmore Road (Ab 100/35/10, formerly Sunningwell Bridleway 13) and Lodge Hill (Ab 100/34/10, formerly Sunningwell footpath 12). Does anyone know about this site and its ownership? Now surrounded by new housing. There's a patch of succession woodland with some planting beside a stream and a *de facto* footpath now hard to follow where it has been interfered with by the new construction.	
Other green asset spaces	i. Canal Short stretch carrying stream beside road east of Sunningwell village. Dug c1810 as part of a half-baked scheme to export stone and even coal from the Quarry. There are similar channels just west of the village and on the way to Radley. So basically industrial heritage (deserving a signboard?). No special wildlife features, so	

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	far as I know, but there's surely potential to enhance it. We can ask Wild Oxon. ii. Quarry A major historical asset. May well have been in use since Saxon times; supplied stone for the village and beyond, especially Abingdon. It has real geological interest. I wonder if anyone ever thought of it for an SSSI. NB there's a footpath (PROW) running straight through it, so no problem about exploring. iii. Churchyard Oldest feature of village, beside pond. Must predate present church building, which dates from 13th century onwards. Yew tree by porch probably c600 years old. Carefully maintained, including leaving flowers in bloom; but not otherwise currently managed for wildlife (as are numerous churchyards). iv. Bayworth Triangle Important open space belonging to parish council. v. Dunstan's Pool Small pond at entrance to Beaulieu Court (belongs to no 1). Often more or less dry in summer, but may support some wetland life. Seems to refer to the 10th century St. Dunstan, supposed to help cure eye ailments. vi. Pilkington land Small parcel of woodland opposite village hall also belonging to Pilkington Trust. Has been suggested for wildlife management.	iii. Churchyard 'No mow May' could be encouraged in parts of the churchyard, whilst maintaining safe access to the church and gravestones for family and visitors. Seasonal trimming of hedges and trees to allow optimum blossom, flowers and berries. Further planting of bird pollinating shrubs to enhance biodiversity. Consider placing of an owl box including a wildlife camera and other nesting boxes for swifts and/or swallows. iv. Bayworth Triangle 'No mow May' to be encouraged and consideration of sowing a wild flower meadow for pollinators. v. Dunstans' Pool Investigating the existing wildlife in and around the pond and evaluating if changes such as planting, to the pond and area, would provide further benefit for biodiversity.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	vii. Spinney Small piece of land adjoining school. Acquired by school c2005 for educational and environmental purposes. Belongs to a trust under auspices of school. Contains a wooden building and open space for children's nature study; also ruins of a historic cottage where a dig was carried out 2015-20. viii. Cricket field Donated to village in 1915 for that express purpose. Owned by a trust comprising Sunningwell rector and churchwardens Public space crossed by PROW. ix. Lincombe Lane Farm Smallholding with animals. Contains a new pond created by Freshwater Habitats Trust and newly planted trees. Site of finds of Roman pottery. Crossed by a Public Right of Way (PRoW). x. Brumcombe Copse and Duckling Copse West of Brumcombe Lane. Several private owners. Recorded as ancient woodland. xi. Woodlands off Lincombe Lane Withey Bed Copse on east side and Blagrove Copse on west side recorded as ancient woodland.	vii. Spinney Maintain and support the current field school. Encourage maintenance of the wildlife areas and minimise footfall to allocated paths and meeting spots. Include additional planting of pollinating plants and shrubs, replacing damaged and dying trees and shrubs. Optimise nesting areas and consider adding an owl box with camera for educational purposes and pure enjoyment! Include an insect hotel that the children can build. viii. Cricket field Encourage 'No mow May' around the perimeter of the pitch where appropriate and additional planting of pollinating shrubs and flowers. Consider small tree planting for shady areas to watch matches. Consider adding swift or swallow nesting boxes to the existing and/or new building.

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	Broom Hill Copse, between spur and main lane, is beechwood acquired by residents and laid out with a permissive path. xii. Land in front of Sunningwell Rectory Belongs with rectory? A small patch between road and rectory wall; grass and scrub, snowdrops etc. Very conspicuous site in the centre of the village. xiii/. Paddocks to west of Sunningwell village Very conspicuous site on approach to village. xiv. Stert Stream Runs behind houses on village street, then alongside road to Long Furlong, where it turns left along parish boundary and skirts a small pond. Once intended as part of canal venture (see above). xv Old Orchard behind Old Manor, Sunningwell. (cf. https://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside/traditional-orchard-survey/orchard-maps) Formerly part of Manor when lived in by Una Duval and her daughter Mrs Weir. Now absentee owner (who would like to sell for housing?) Very neglected. Old apple species.	xii. Avoid mowing the area when the snowdrops are growing and allow them to spread. Encourage 'No mow May' for pollinator and mini meadow area. xiii. Maintain current practices of rotating the fields for optimum grazing. Trimming hedgerows during October and March to allow for blossom, flowers and fruits whilst maintaining safe grazing for horses. Allow overgrowing of perimeter grasses especially during May and June to encourage pollinators. Consider adding swift or swallow boxes to the stable structures.
Brumcombe Copse and Ducklings Copse	14 acres of dense woodland with a large pool and was originally managed as a woodland garden. Wildlife includes deer.	

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	It is classified as semi natural ancient woodland. Ridge and furrows can be seen which indicates it was cleared in medieval times. The whole lot is classified as semi natural ancient woodland but the wood comprises very different sections, with some bits having been cleared recently and regenerated with a mixture of species often invasive. The history is as follows. The owner of the woodlands, back in the 1920s, built a large house and two semi-detached cottages. He built a large pool in the wood and managed the whole wood as a woodland garden. Remnants can still be made out. His descendants sold the large house, while the wood and cottages remained as one parcel. Over the years pieces were sold off leaving only the cottages and a 14-acre piece of land left out of the original estate. This was bought by the current owners in 2007. It's classified as semi natural ancient woodland. Ridge and furrows can be seen which indicates it was cleared in medieval times. For centuries prior to the second world war it was managed for timber and firewood via hazel and ash coppicing and oak standards. There's evidence of large trees being felled during the war as the remains of stumps are still slowly rotting away. The oldest oak is probably 200-250 years old. Since the war it has lacked any woodland management or harvesting. The whole lot is classified as semi natural ancient woodland but the wood is comprised of very different sections - with some bits having been cleared recently and regenerated with a mixture of species, often invasive.	

Asset	Habitat, wildlife and description	What could be done
	The biggest issues are deer, Ash dieback and invasive species. Overall though it is great for wildlife as it is quite a mess to look at.	
Churchyard	Ancient trees, surrounded by hedging. Birds and mammals.	Opportunities for wild areas, bird and bat boxes. A patch of medium length grassland could be considered to allow more plants to flower to provide pollen and nectar: A2-Caring-for-Grassland-2022.pdf Further resources: Biodiversity - Diocese of Oxford Nesting requirements for house martins: Nest cups – House Martin Conservation UK and Ireland Cherwell Swifts – for Cherwell area but useful info: CHERWELL SWIFTS