

Subject:	Land & Nature Group
From:	Peter Kenrick
Date:	22/05/2023
For information/discussion/decision/action [please delete as appropriate]	
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve expenditure for Species & Habitat Data for Charlbury parish from TVERC as below • Agree to include collaboration on nature recovery planning within discussions with neighbouring parishes • Support for establishing formal contact with Cornbury Estate. 	
Financial implications: [please explain any costs associated with decisions or actions, and whether these have already been budgeted for]	
£143 + VAT – Species & Habitat Data for Charlbury Parish from TVERC – from LNG map/database allocated reserves	

Nature Recovery Plan (NRP)

- **Scope & Structure of the Plan.**
 - A small team including Graham Terry & Mark Gregory is working to define the structure and scope of the plan with reference to guidance recently issued by DEFRA in March 2023.
 - The intended scope for the NRP is the 4 parishes of Charlbury, Fawler, Finstock and Cornbury & Wychwood. To facilitate this, the LNG needs to approach the Cornbury Estate to invite collaboration on the NRP. The LNG is seeking town council support for establishing this contact.
 - Neighbouring parishes (including Chadlington & Shipton) have expressed interest in our work on the NRP and we are keen to establish closer links with them to exchange ideas and information. This should form part of the wider town council initiative to increase co-operation between parishes.
- **Mapping.**
 - Mapping of species, habitats and opportunities using LandApp is central to the development of the NRP and work on this is now underway.
 - Species and habitat data is available from TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) hosted by OCC. A small fee is payable for this information as indicated above (under Financial implications). The figure quoted above incorporates the discount applicable to councils. NOTES:
 - The data requested relates to Charlbury parish only. Funding for other councils will be sought from other sources.
 - A report of this type was commissioned by the town council from TVERC in 2017 for the Neighbourhood Plan but a revised version is now required to update the species information, to add habitat data and to provide the data in a form that can be readily entered into LandApp.
 - **Ground Truthing.** Verification of the accuracy of records is vital to the credibility of NRP and this can be achieved by a process known as Ground

Truthing. To this end, Geoff and Peter took part in a very informative exploratory walk with four trained and very knowledgeable ecologists.

HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) Funding

- Work is progressing to formalise an HLF bid to fund support with the production of the NRP. Geoff & Frances are leading on this work.
- An online meeting with representatives from the Mid-Cherwell parish cluster has been arranged for Wednesday 24th May as they are seeking similar funding. Consideration may be given to working on a joint bid.

Hedgerow Surveys

- Further hedgerow survey sessions have been arranged for the 26th & 27th May to be led by Christine Beausire. The Ditchley Estate has granted permission for these sessions to survey hedges on its land but within Charlbury parish.

Earth Day (Citizen Science Saturday)

- Very successful event. Over 200 people attended and participated in activities including water quality monitoring, dam building, butterfly monitoring, plant identification and weaving willow bird feeders.
- Kick-sampling for invertebrates in the Wigwell stream revealed a larger than expected range of species within the area in the vicinity of the leaky dams.
- The event was covered Witney Radio for its weekly "Science on the Radio" show and can be heard at <http://www.witneyradio.co.uk/science/> (Episode 3)

Big Help Out

- Peter manned a stall for the LNG at the Big Help Out on 8th May. There was a good level of interest shown in our aims and two people completed forms as potential volunteers.