



Olveston Parish Local Climate and Nature Action Plan 2024-2028

Olveston Parish Council



Making Space for Wildlife Committee
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Images: Paul Godwin 2023

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1 Introduction

Olveston Parish Council recognises the importance of addressing the world's climate and ecological crises, and the need to act locally to protect biodiversity and reduce the impact of climate change.

All public authorities, including South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) and town and parish councils, have a legal duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity while conducting their activities (Section 40 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006). Action at the local level is essential to the UK meeting its legally binding target in the Climate Change Act 2008 to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 100 % by 2050 (compared with 1990 levels). This target requires the UK to bring its GHG emissions to "Net Zero" by 2050. A significant proportion of the GHG emission reductions needed rely on people and businesses taking up "low-carbon" solutions, and many of these decisions are made at a local and individual level.

The Making Space for Wildlife (MSFW) committee has developed this Local Climate and Nature Action Plan (LCNAP, the "Plan"). The MSFW committee is a working group of Olveston Parish Council (OPC) that reports directly to the Council. With support from SGC's Local Climate and Nature Action Plan Guidance¹, the committee has created this four-year plan to engage with and provide opportunities for individuals, families, businesses, organisations, landowners and community groups within Olveston Parish to contribute towards climate action and create a place for wildlife to thrive.

1.1 Background

In 2017, OPC launched the MSFW initiative to promote and deliver projects to improve biodiversity in Olveston Parish. A successful children's logo design competition was held for local school children as part of the initiative launch. In keeping with the concept of "biodiversity", there are twelve logos featuring local wildlife.



Project launch with the children's logo design competition participants and guest speaker, Mike Dilger, December 2017.

¹ South Gloucestershire Council. Local Climate and Nature Action Plan toolkit: guidance for town and parish councils, <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/local-nature-action-plans/>.

In 2020, SGC produced a step-by-step guide (toolkit) to help town and parish councils develop, consult on, and deliver an LNAP. Subsequently, the MSFW committee aligned the project's objectives with those of the toolkit, publishing the first Olveston Parish LNAP 2021 – 2023 in 2021.

1.2 Adding Climate to the Plan

In July 2019, SGC declared a climate emergency, recognising that the global climate is in a state of breakdown, and this is an emergency, and that biodiversity and the natural systems on which all life depends are in crisis. The two issues are closely linked. SGC expanded its toolkit to encompass action on climate change, in recognition of the great opportunities Parish Councils have to connect and engage with local people and businesses in climate and nature action as well as making changes to their operations, land and buildings to support better outcomes for people and planet.

In March 2024, OPC agreed to expand the scope of its LNAP to become an LCNAP. This Plan is intended for the period 2024 - 2028.

1.3 Aims

The aims of this Local Climate and Nature Action Plan are to:

- **Highlight** the climate and nature emergency;
- **Reduce** our local carbon footprint²;
- **Improve** the quality of existing habitats, **create** new areas of habitat and **enhance** biodiversity by managing land so that it can better support wildlife;
- **Increase** connectivity through creation of wildlife corridors and habitats;
- **Engage** with people and help them to reduce their personal carbon footprint and understand and value nature, thereby inspiring and empowering them to take positive action;
- **Provide** access to green space, due to the benefits this offers for our health and well-being at a time of increasing mental ill health, cardiovascular disease and an ageing population;
- **Understand** current species and habitats across the parish; and,

² "Carbon footprint" is a catch-all description for the sum of all greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted by an individual, business or community, described in terms of "carbon" due to the main GHG being carbon dioxide (CO₂).

- **Ensure** climate and nature issues are incorporated into the Parish Council decision-making process.

To help communication and implementation of these aims, both climate and nature aspects are organised around several main themes, which are:

- **Nature:** Species, habitats, community spaces and data collection; and,
- **Climate:** Energy, food/water, transport and waste.

1.4 Completed Projects

Under the LNAP 2021-2023, the following wildlife-focussed activities were initiated or completed:

1.4.1 Habitats

- Tree cover – winter tree planting carried out in early 2022, 2023 and 2024; in conjunction with SGC, tree planting on private property promoted; 34 locations for the SGC-managed tree planting program identified.

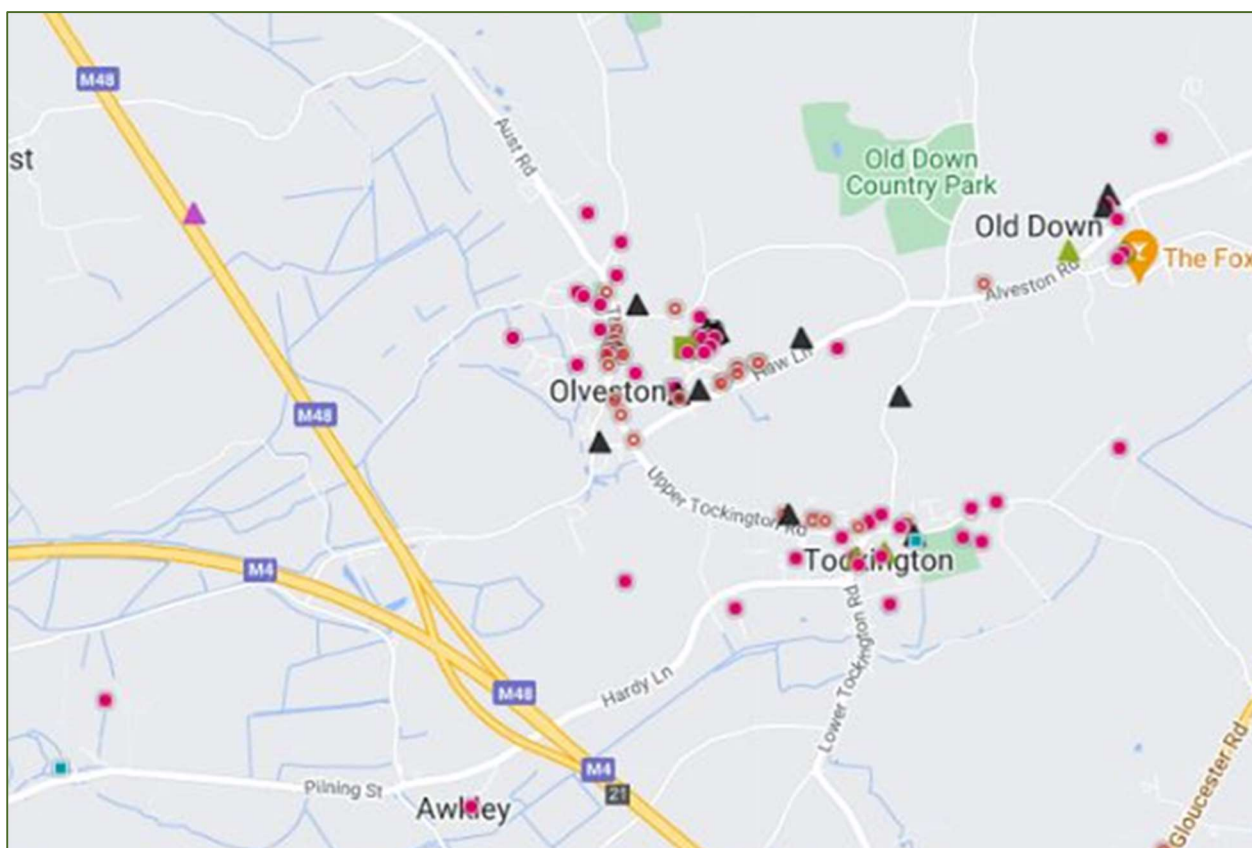


Community tree planting day, Vicarage Lane Playing field, January 2020

- Meadows – several mini meadows established in Vicarage Lane Playing field and the Old Down Sports Ground area; plug planting undertaken on Aust Road verge and Old Down Hill Road verge.

1.4.2 Species

- Hedgehogs – conduct “citizen science” project mapping hedgehog sightings in the parish; encourage residents to create hedgehog highways in their fences; provide information about hedgehog-friendly actions; participate in SGC’s Hedgehog Heroes project 2023.



Citizen science hedgehog monitoring project results, extract from the [Big Hedgehog Map \(https://bighedgehogmap.org/\)](https://bighedgehogmap.org/), February 2024

- Swifts – in collaboration with the Olveston Parish Hall committee and St Mary's Church GreenForce committee, install swift boxes on the Parish Hall in Tockington and St Mary's Church in Olveston; provide information about installing swift boxes on private dwellings.

1.4.3 Community Spaces

- Old Down Quarry – engage ecologist to conduct Preliminary Ecological Assessment and prepare a wildlife management plan for the site; prepare OPC management plan for the site. A copy of this report can be provided on request.



Swift boxes on Olveston Parish Hall and St Mary's Church, April 2022

1.4.4 Governance

- Ongoing communication of activities with the wider community via local community magazine (Meeting Point); sharing information about species seen in the parish, and what can be done to help wildlife, including articles in Meeting Point, and exhibits at local events; continued engagement with associated volunteer group; collaboration with local organisations (churches, allotments, Scouts).



Garden Ponds

Paul Godwin

All types of ponds have a significant benefit to wildlife, no matter what their size. They provide habitats where amphibians can breed, where insects can live or visit, and a place where birds and mammals can drink or feed. It is said that a pond in your garden is the single best wildlife habitat that you can create, and I believe that to be true. It is also true that many people say how much they would like a pond, but for many good reasons do not quite get to the point of creating one! So, this



Making Meadows - the continuing story

Angela Hague

In support of the Parish's Making Space for Wildlife endeavour, in spring of 2022, a team of volunteers scarified areas of grass to sow a mixture of meadow flower seeds in the Vicarage Lane playing field and by the Old Down football pitch. In collaboration with the Parish Council's mowing team, the plan was to spare a larger area around these seeded areas from grass cutting to create mini-wildflower meadows.

Swift Progress



If you happen to be passing either St Mary's Church or Olveston Parish Hall, please look up, you might be lucky enough to see some new temporary residents in the Parish. We are delighted to report we have been able to install several swift boxes on both the Church and the Hall. Now all we need are some swifts!



The Making Space for Wildlife project is focussing its efforts for now on these incredible but threatened species. Once fledged, Common or European Swifts (*Apus apus*) spend practically their entire life in flight. They feed, sleep, mate

Making Space for Wildlife

Melinda Evans



As readers of Meeting Point may recall, the Making Space for Wildlife project has decided to focus on two species for now. One of them is swifts (more on this in future editions) and the other is the much-loved hedgehog.

As many people will know, hedgehog numbers have decreased significantly in recent years. There are a few reasons for this but, in residential areas, major factors include being killed on roads and fences that restrict their movement. The good news is that there

Some of the many articles published in Meeting Point in recent years



*The Making Space for Wildlife
display at the Olveston Parish
Jubilee celebrations, June
2022*

2 Partnerships and Stakeholders

2.1 Making Space for Wildlife Committee

The MSFW committee is the project lead working under [terms of reference](#)³ with OPC. The members of the committee are:

- Cllr Tony Turnbull;
- Melinda Evans, Chair;
- Richard Lloyd;
- Paul Godwin; and,
- Lin Bisheuvel.

2.2 Partnerships

The MSFW committee will lead the Plan with support from the following key partners:

Organisation	Role	Contact
Current Partnerships		
Olveston Parish Council	Funding, committee structure, governance. Various sub-committees with roles that overlap with the MSFW project Land and property owner Social media account holder (Facebook: Olveston Parish Council, X: @OlvestonPC1, Instagram: olvestonparishcouncil)	Malcolm Evans (Clerk) E: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk
South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)	Guidance and support	Daisy Finnear, SGC Climate and Nature Officer. E: nature@framptoncotterell-pc.gov.uk Matthew Lipton, Biodiversity Assets and Commons Manager E: nature@southglos.gov.uk Lucy Rees, Climate and Nature Emergency Officer E: lucy.rees@southglos.gov.uk
MSFW Volunteer Group	Support for projects and assist at events	If you would like to volunteer, contact clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

³ Olveston Parish Council website: <https://www.olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk/document-type/documents-and-policies/>

Organisation	Role	Contact
St Marys Church Green Force Group	Environmentally focussed committee from St Mary's Church, Olveston.	Green Force is contacted via members of the MSFW committee.
Olveston Parish Allotment and Gardeners' Association (OPAGA)	Collaboration on wildlife and climate initiatives	Corner of Aust Road and Elberton Road. E: olvestonallotments@gmail.com
Avon Wildlife Trust – Team Wilder Ecological Advisory Service (TWEAS)	Support in the development and implementation of a wildlife action plan for Old Down Sports Ground and Old Down Quarry	Amie Cook, Ecologist E: tweas@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk
Wild Service, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Support in the preparation of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Old Down Quarry	Elizabeth Pimley, Principal Ecologist E: info@wildservice.net
Olveston Parish Hall Committee (also Olveston Pre-School)	Collaboration on wildlife and climate initiatives	Upper Tockington Road, Tockington, Bristol BS32 4LQ T: 07780 515317 E: enquiries@olvestonparishhall.co.uk
Linking the Levels Project (SGC project)	Work in collaboration with SGC and other project partners to improve, restore and create habitat in the Severn Estuary	Sally Pattison, Project Manager for Linking the Levels, SGC E: sally.pattison@southglos.gov.uk
Potential Partnerships		
1st Olveston Scout Group	Potential collaboration on wildlife initiatives	1st Olveston Scout Hut, Old Down Hill, Old Down, BS32 4PA
Old Down Sports Club	Collaboration on wildlife and climate initiatives for Queen Alexander Memorial Pavilion (QAMP)	Alveston Road, Old Down, BS32 4PH
Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board	Maintains local rhine system	Matthew Riddle (Board member) matthew.riddle@southglos.gov.uk

2.3 Stakeholders

The following stakeholders have been identified who can be affected by or have an impact on the Plan's outcomes.

Stakeholders				
Parish Councillors / Clerk	Parish Council Sub-Committees (Recreation and Leisure, Planning)	Residents / parish community	Local MP	SGC (Biodiversity Officers, Climate and Nature Action Plan Officer, Climate and Nature Emergency Officers)
Making Space for Wildlife Volunteers	Olveston Parish Hall Committee (and Olveston Pre-School)	Schools (Olveston Primary School, Tockington Manor School)	Churches (St Mary's Church, Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church, The Oasis Old Down, The Vine Awkley).	SGC Ward Councillors
Local organisations (OPAGA, Women's Institute, Old Down Toll Rides, etc)	Local businesses (e.g. Stores/Post Office, Green Lane Garage, Linela, Yasmine's Hairdressing, Beauty at the Barn, Vicarage Farm Beauty & Holistic Therapy Centre, Origin Butchers, Public Houses)	Sporting clubs (Olveston Football Club, Olveston Bowls Club, Old Down Cricket Club, Olveston Tennis Club, Olveston Netball Club, Sports and Social Club, Tockington Archers)	Local youth groups (Guides, Scouts, Young Farmers Club)	Site users
Local landowners	Meeting Point	Housing developers	Parish Council contractors	Neighbouring Parish Councils
Local press	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board	TWEAS, Wild Service	Linking the Levels Project	

2.4 Stakeholder Interest Grid

Stakeholders have been categorised into a stakeholder interest grid that highlights their perceived level of interest and influence in the LCNAP. This grid helps identify the key stakeholders and thus those that warrant more intensive engagement to ensure the plan is implemented effectively.

POWER	High	Engage, Inform and Keep Satisfied • Site users • Landowners	Close Links • Residents/Parish community • Parish Councillors/Clerk • Parish Council sub-committees • MSFW volunteers • OPC contractors • SGC officers • Linking the Levels project • Olveston Parish Hall committee
		Monitor • Schools • Local businesses • Churches • Local youth groups • Local organisations • Sporting clubs • Housing developers • Neighbouring Parish Councils	Keep Informed • SGC Ward Councillors • Local MP • St Mary's Church GreenForce committee • OPAGA • Meeting Point and local press • Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board • TWEAS/Wild Service
	Low	Low	High
		INTEREST	

3 Communication Plan

3.1 Stakeholder Communication

The communication plan is outlined in the table below. The plan considers the likely communication preferences of stakeholders and identifies the most effective methods of reaching them. It aims to ensure that our messages are well-received and understood by different stakeholders, helping us build trust, strengthen relationships and achieve our objectives.

Communication Plan				
Stakeholder	Action	Message Content	Delivery Method	Timeline
Residents	Provide regular updates on local activities or climate and nature projects Raise awareness of climate and nature issues Seek volunteers Obtain feedback Participate in events Keep informed	Proposed or upcoming projects and events Reports on completed actions Requests for help National/ international theme days Sales pitch: bring on board, engage residents with initiatives and specific projects, explain importance of this work	LCNAP Social media OPC website OPC notice boards Meeting Point OPC Annual Parish Assembly Open day / exhibition in Parish Hall	Monthly posts or updates as needed (social media, Meeting Point)) Annually (APA) Ad hoc (website, events)
Parish Councillors / Clerk / Sub Committees	Obtain and maintain support / funding for activities Provide progress report and keep informed Obtain feedback on projects Provide advice where requested for OPC duties.	Progress reports on existing projects Information and/or approval request for proposed projects and events Requests for help/funding.	LCNAP Standing agenda item for Full Council meetings, distributed to sub-committees as needed. Clerk copied into key email communications	Monthly updates as required

Communication Plan

Stakeholder	Action	Message Content	Delivery Method	Timeline
SGC Officers	General support for project Technical advice Keep informed of actions proposed and taken	Updates on LCNAP progress Request for support for proposed projects and events Advice on funding	LCNAP Meetings Email	Annual LCNAP reporting Ad-hoc as required
Ward Councillors / MP	Garner general support for projects Keep informed	Requests for support (resources, funds, importance of this work) Provide information about projects	LCNAP Meetings Email	Ad-hoc as required
Making Space for Wildlife Volunteers	General support for project Gain access to volunteer labour Keep informed	Explanation of opportunities and support needed Upcoming climate and nature projects and actions proposed Highlight importance of this work	LCNAP Email OPC Website Social Media	General updates every three months Specific project information as needed
Linking the Levels Project	General support for project Find collaboration opportunities Participate in events Technical advice Keep informed of actions proposed and taken	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Request for support for proposed projects and events Upcoming climate and nature projects and actions proposed	LCNAP Meetings Email	Specific project information as needed Ad-hoc as required
Olveston Parish Hall Committee, including Olveston Pre-School	General support for project Find collaboration opportunities Maintenance of swift boxes Energy efficiency/ generation /Electric Vehicle (EV) project	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Highlight importance of this work	Email Meetings Presentations for Pre-School children if needed	Ad hoc as required

Communication Plan

Stakeholder	Action	Message Content	Delivery Method	Timeline
Sports and Social Club (QAMP)	General support for project Find collaboration opportunities Energy efficiency/ generation /EV project	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Highlight importance of this work	Email Meetings	Ad hoc as required
St Mary's Church/ GreenForce	General support for project Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/campaigns Find collaboration opportunities Maintenance of swift boxes Wildlife-friendly site management	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects	Email Meetings	Ad hoc as required
Olveston Primary School / Tockington Manor School	General support for projects Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/ campaigns Find collaboration opportunities New swift boxes (TMS) Tree planting (TMS) Wildlife-friendly site management	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Highlight importance of this work	Email Meetings Presentations/ guest speakers for pupils if needed	Ad-hoc as required

Communication Plan

Stakeholder	Action	Message Content	Delivery Method	Timeline
OPAGA	General support for project Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/campaigns Find collaboration opportunities Initiate wildlife-friendly practices Participate in events Support allotment management practices	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Highlight importance of this work	Formal discussions with appropriate committees Meetings Email Attend events	Ad-hoc as required.
Local Businesses, Youth Groups, Churches, Sports Clubs, Organisations (e.g. WI)	General support for initiatives and specific projects Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/campaigns Gain access to volunteer labour Find collaboration opportunities Raise awareness Support businesses/clubs/churches in making eco-friendly changes	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Highlight importance of this work	Meetings Email Social media Attend events	Ad-hoc as required.
Site Users (i.e. users of OPC facilities)	Ensure users understand OPC's commitments on climate and nature Raise awareness General support for initiative and specific projects. Gain access to volunteer labour Obtain feedback	Sales pitch – bring on board, engage them with initiative Project details Highlight importance of this work Relevant guidelines/policies/management plans	LCNAP Social media OPC website OPC notice boards Meeting Point Posters at site Provide email address for concerns	Before work or activity commences and upon completion

Communication Plan

Stakeholder	Action	Message Content	Delivery Method	Timeline
OPC contractors	Ensure contractors understand OPC's commitments on climate and nature Raise awareness General support for initiative and specific projects Obtain feedback	Sales pitch – bring on board, engage them with initiative Relevant guidelines/policies/management plans Project details Highlight importance of this work	LCNAP Email Meetings Contracts	Before work commences and upon completion
Landowners	General support for initiative and specific projects. Find collaboration opportunities Raise awareness Support landowners in making eco-friendly changes	Collaboration and engagement on existing and potential projects Highlight importance of this work	Email Meetings Social media OPC website OPC notice boards Meeting Point	Ad-hoc as required.
Housing developers	Comment on proposals Ensure developers understand OPC's commitments on climate and nature Support developers in making eco-friendly changes	Relevant guidelines/policies/management plans Highlight importance of this work	LCNAP Email Meetings Formal discussions with appropriate committees	Ad-hoc as required.
Local press/Meeting Point	General support for initiatives and specific projects Keep informed of projects and initiatives Help communicate OPC's commitments on climate and nature and reach wider audience	Information about upcoming and completed events and initiatives	Email Meeting Point	Ad-hoc as required.

Communication Plan

Stakeholder	Action	Message Content	Delivery Method	Timeline
Neighbouring Parish Councils	General support for initiatives and specific projects Keep informed of projects and initiatives Find collaboration opportunities	Information about upcoming and completed events and initiatives	Email Meetings	Ad-hoc as required.
Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board	General support for initiatives and specific projects Keep informed of projects and initiatives Find collaboration opportunities	Information about upcoming and completed events and initiatives	Email Meetings	Ad-hoc as required.

3.2 Monthly Communication Topics

Monthly communications on national/global climate and nature awareness days, more general themes and planned activities are proposed, as shown in the schedule. The aim is to create a sense of shared responsibility and collective action. Social media will be the main delivery method, whilst the OPC website and Meeting Point will be used alongside where appropriate.

Communication Topic	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Big Garden Birdwatch Energy Savers Week <u>Green travel</u>												
World Wetlands Day <u>Connecting with nature</u> <u>Greener businesses</u>												
Earth Hour World Wildlife Day The Big Plastic Count												
Earth Day Stop Food Waste Day <u>Wild gardening</u>												
No Mow May World Bee Day Hedgehog Awareness Week												
World Environment Day Great Big Green Week National Insect Week												
Plastic Free July The Big Butterfly Count Love Parks Week												
National Allotments Week Earth Overshoot Day <u>Food growing and waste</u>												
Organic September World Rivers Day Second hand September												
Unblocktober Walk to School Month <u>Eco Halloween/Bonfire</u>												
National Tree Week Buy Nothing Day <u>Wild your garden</u>												
World Soil Day Carbon Literacy Action Day <u>Eco Christmas</u>												
Local action/opportunities												

Key:

National/International Awareness Day

Theme

4 Biodiversity in Olveston Parish

Background information about important sites for wildlife, key habitats, recorded species and strategic nature recovery plans for Olveston Parish is provided here, to help establish and determine priorities for the Plan.

4.1 Designated Sites⁴

There are no statutory designated sites for nature conservation in Olveston Parish.

4.2 Locally Important Wildlife Sites

Sites designated at a local authority level include Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs). Those designated in the parish include the following sites. Important habitat and species features of each SNCI are also listed.

- Olveston Mill rhine (alongside M4) – a rhine with diverse flora and standing water, hosting Common Marsh Bedstraw, Common Water-plantain, Fools Water-cress, Floating Sweet-grass, Water Forget-me-not and Potamogeton sp. (pondweed);
- Field North of Whatleaze Wood – a species-rich grassland and damp woodland hosting Dyer's Greenweed, Bluebells, Burnet Saxifrage, Salad Burnet, Field Scabious, Betony, Black Knapweed, Restharrow, Quaking Grass and Brooklime;
- Tockington Hill and Quarry (known locally as Old Down Hill and Quarry) – calcareous grassland hosting Dropwort, Small-flowered Crane's-bill, Dwarf Mallow, Crested Hair-grass, Harebell and hedgehogs. Butcher's Broom and Glow Worms also known to be present;
- Sheepcombe Brake and field - calcareous grassland and ancient woodland hosting badgers. Glow Worms also known to be present;
- Tockington Park Wood – a diverse secondary woodland on an ancient site, hosting Woodruff, Sanicle, Hornbeam, Ash, Field Maple and Hazel coppice, Wood Anemone, Primrose, Bugle, Meadowsweet, Tufted Hairgrass and Pendulous Sedge;
- Lower Hazel Down – a calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland, shared with Alveston Parish;

⁴ Designated sites include internationally important wildlife sites (Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas), or nationally important wildlife sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Local Nature Reserves).

- Vineyards Brake – mixed woodland shared with Aust Parish, hosting Wood anemone, Wood spurge, Giant fescue and Snowdrops;
- Harnhill – a site shared with Aust Parish with species-rich grassland, ponds, wetlands, mature trees and scrub, hosting invertebrates and snakes; and,
- Hortham Wood – an ancient broadleaved woodland and scrub site shared with Almondsbury Parish, hosting Ragged Robin, Aspen, Oak, Ash, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Red Currant, Guelder Rose, Wood Anemone, Yellow Archangel and Primrose.

The locations of these areas are shown in Figure 1 and are also mapped on the OPC LCNAP Map (refer to Section 6 for more detail). Larger scale maps of each area are included in Appendix A.

Figure 1 – Sites of Nature Conservation Interest in Olveston Parish

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council)



4.3 Protected Roadside Verges

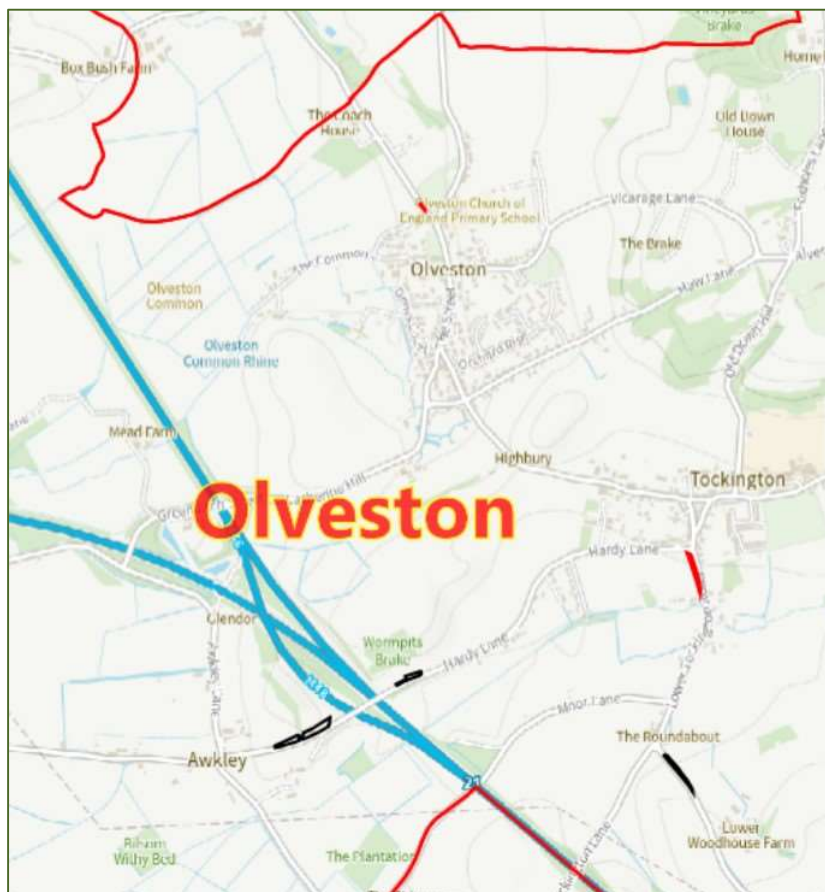
There are five protected roadside nature verges in the parish, all maintained by SGC. The locations of the verges are shown in Figure 2 and are also mapped on the OPC LCNAP Map (refer to Section 6 for more detail). Larger scale maps of each area are included in Appendix B. The verges are:

- Lower Tockington Road (south of the junction with Hardy Lane);
- Fernhill (lower part of hill from Tockington towards Woodhouse Park/A38);
- Hardy Lane, Awkley (verge by field);

- Hardy Lane, Awkley (verge by motorway); and,
- Aust Road (next to allotment gardens).

Figure 2 - Protected Roadside Verges in Olveston Parish

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council)



4.4 Other Sites

Other locally important sites include Olveston allotments, Olveston Common, Strode (Stroud) Common, St Mary's churchyard, Olveston Primary School and Tockington Manor School grounds, Awkley Green, Wild Acre Wood, and the rhine and ditch system, located predominately in the west of the parish (maintained by the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board).

4.5 Habitats of Principle Importance

The following priority habitats have been recorded in the parish. These are the most important habitats for wildlife and a focus for conservation action⁵. The habitats are mapped in Figure 3.

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh;
- Lowland Meadows;
- Wet Woodland;
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland;
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland; and,
- Traditional Orchards.

4.6 Species of Principle Importance

The following priority species have been recorded in the parish, identified using records from Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)⁶:

4.6.1 Insects – Butterflies

Small Blue, Small Heath, Wall.

4.6.2 Insects – Moths

Blood-vein, Buff Ermine, Cinnabar, Lackey, Large Nutmeg, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Shoulder-striped Wainscot, Small Emerald, Small Square-spot, White Ermine.

4.6.3 Insects – Other

Grasshopper

4.6.4 Birds

Bullfinch, Curlew, Dunnock, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Lapwing, Lesser Redpoll, Linnet, Marsh Tit, Reed Bunting, Skylark, Song Thrush, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, Tree Sparrow, Warbler, Yellowhammer.

⁵ Sources: [SGC Olveston Biodiversity Action Plan 2016](#), <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/fc210847d125427e4634110f713ab07f/Olveston-BAP.pdf>, and [DEFRA MAGIC map](#) (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>)

⁶ Source: [SGC Olveston Biodiversity Action Plan 2016](#)



4.6.5 Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians

Brown Hare, Common Toad, Grass Snake, Hedgehog, Polecat, Slow-worm, Water Vole.

Figure 3 – Habitats of Principle Importance in Olveston Parish (Source: DEFRA MAGIC database, <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>)

MAGiC

Olveston Parish - Priority Habitats

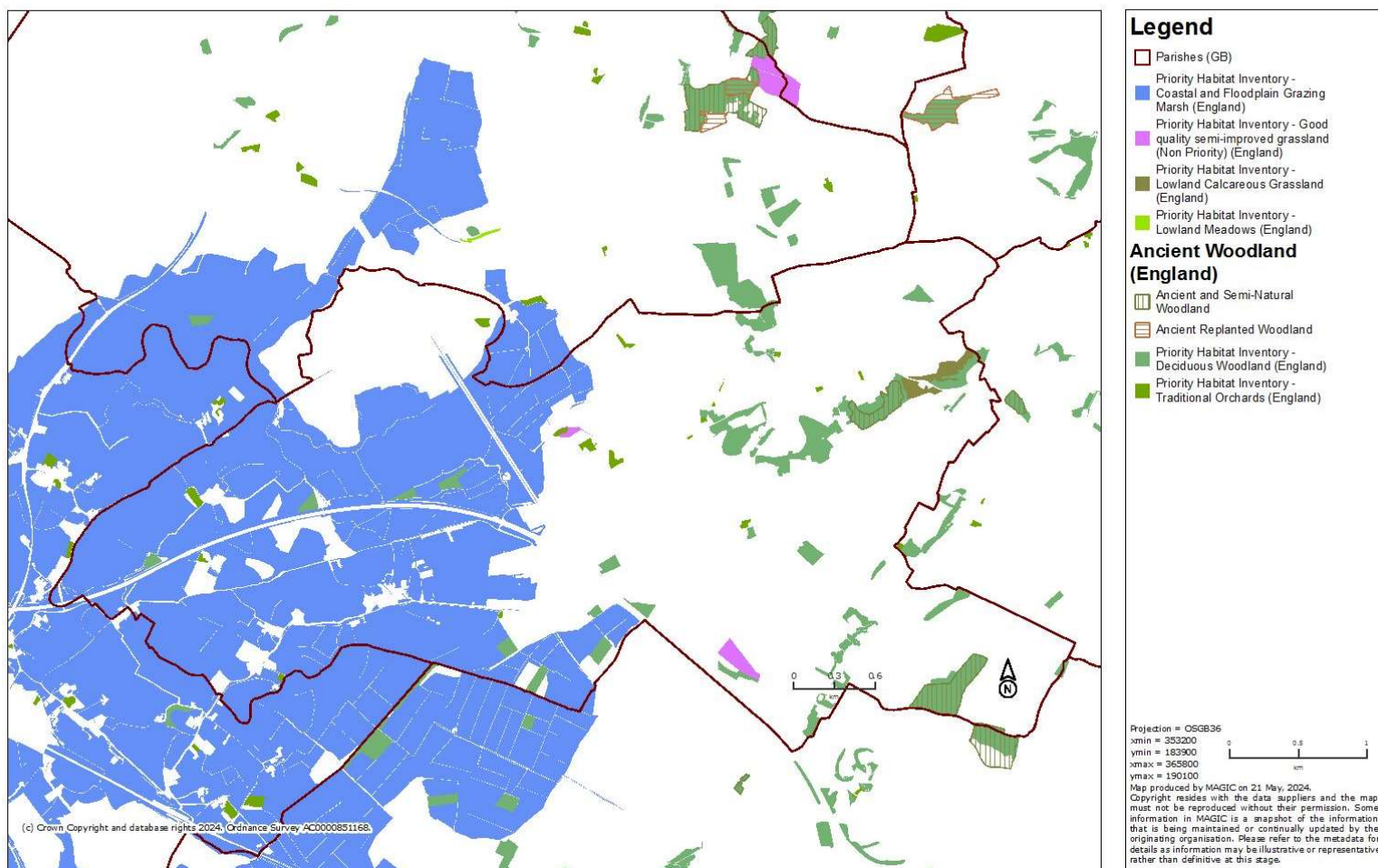


Figure 4 – Nature Recovery Network for Olveston Parish (Source: WENP, <https://wemp.org.uk/nature-recovery-network/>)

Olveston Parish Strategic Nature Recovery Network

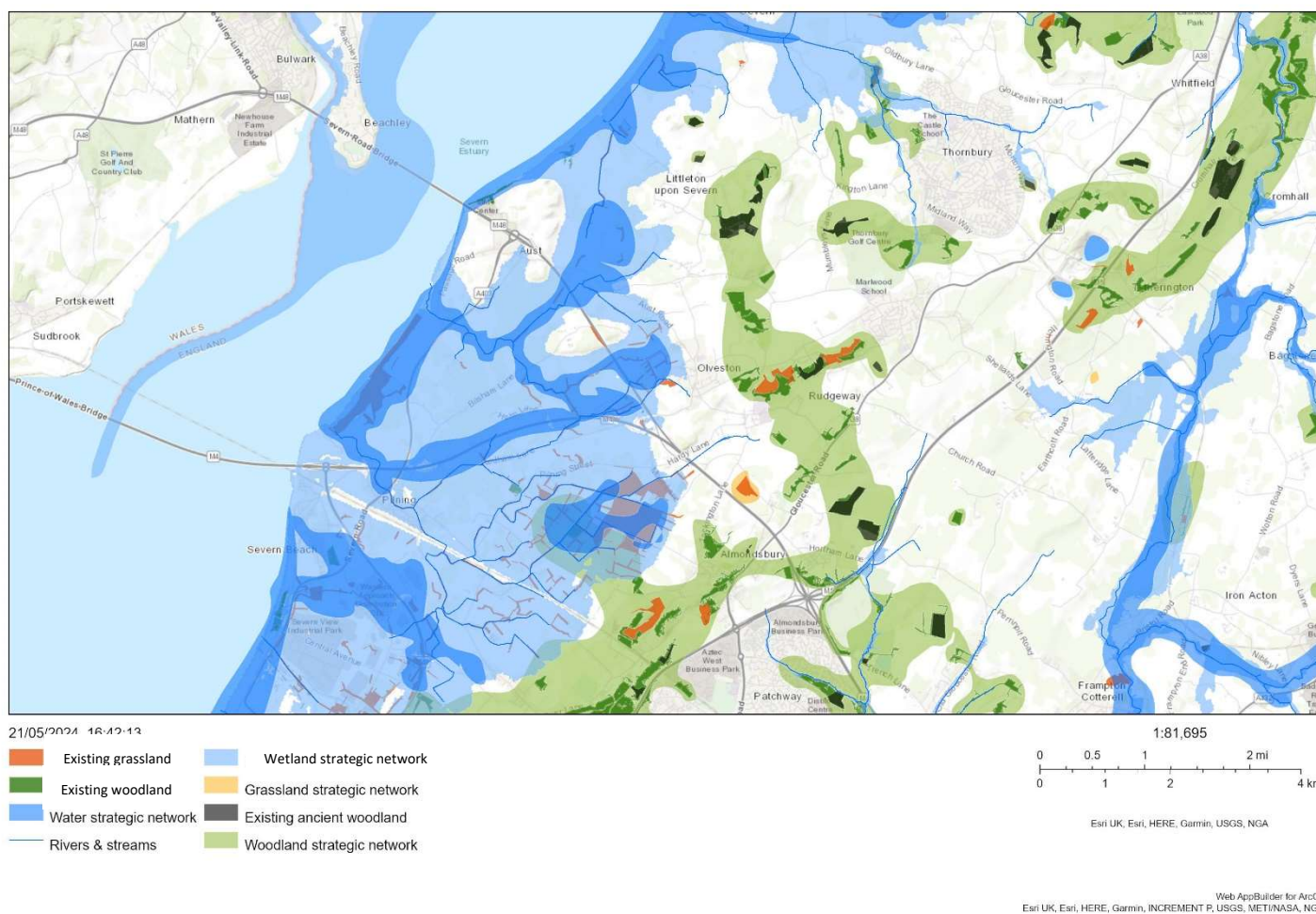
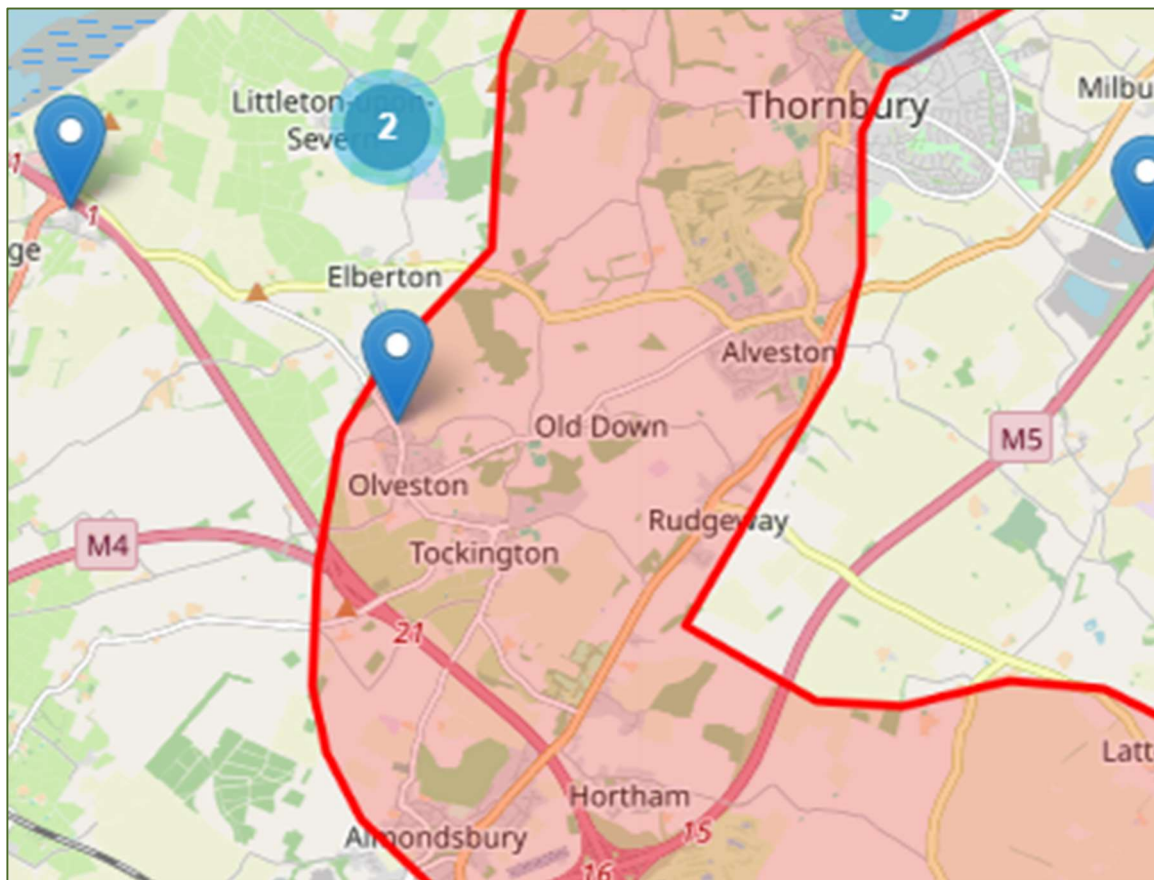


Figure 5 – the B-Lines Network Across Olveston Parish (Source: Buglife, <https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/>)



4.7 West of England Nature Recovery Network

The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) is a national strategic spatial planning framework to deliver nature's recovery. It is a national network of wildlife-rich places, supported by green places to buffer and connect these sites. The NRN uses existing habitat, species and site data to identify core woodland, grassland, and wetland habitat areas, locate the best connections between them, and highlight existing gaps in ecological connectivity. The mapping aims to identify priority areas for the creation and enhancement of habitat, leading to the creation of a robust and dynamic ecological network.

The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)⁷ has developed a map to show where these networks are situated across the region. A copy of the map covering Olveston Parish is included here (Figure 4), to help identify opportunities for OPC to contribute to this work.

As Figure 4 shows, most opportunities within Olveston Parish are for creating woodlands and wetlands, with some smaller areas dedicated to improving grasslands.

4.8 B – Lines

Since the 1930s, over 97% of all flower-rich grasslands have been lost in England, reducing pollen and nectar sources and leading to a serious decline in the wildlife depending on wildflower-rich habitat. To help address this, the national charity Buglife has created "B-Lines" which are a series of 'insect pathways'. Similar to the Nature Recovery Network, they are a system of wildflower-rich pathways running through the countryside and towns that aim to help connect existing habitats supporting pollinators as well as to create new ones. In the west of England, the aim is to link wildflower-rich areas from the west to the east, and from the north to the south, linking the Cotswolds with the Mendips, cities to the countryside, and the coast to the hills.

Figure 5 shows the B-Lines extend across much of Olveston Parish. Plans to improve grasslands and provide opportunities for pollinators and other insects to flourish locally will support broader efforts to restore habitats necessary to sustain and restore these incredibly important species.

⁷ WENP is the designated Local Nature Partnership for the West of England, part of the UK Government's Nature Recovery Network. More information is [here \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network#legislation-supporting-nature-recovery\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network#legislation-supporting-nature-recovery):

5 Carbon Footprint of Olveston Parish

Climate change is the long-term shift in global temperatures and weather patterns. Since the 1800s, human activities such as the burning of coal, gas and oil have been the main drivers of these changes. The foremost greenhouse gases (GHG) causing climate change are carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane. Climate change negatively impacts the economy, our health and well-being, agriculture, wildlife and our wider environment. This Plan aims to reduce GHG emissions within Olveston Parish.

The starting point for reducing Olveston Parish's GHG emissions is to understand their sources and quantities, or the "carbon footprint" of Olveston Parish. The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE's) Impact Community Carbon Calculator⁸ has been used to give an estimate of Olveston Parish's carbon footprint.

The Impact tool estimates two footprints called "territorial" and "consumption-based" footprints. The territorial carbon footprint includes all emissions produced within the Olveston Parish geographical area, regardless of whether residents create or use these services. For example, vehicle emissions from the two motorways crossing the parish are included in this footprint. Conversely, the consumption-based footprint includes all emissions created by Olveston Parish residents, regardless of where they are created geographically. The tool also gives estimates for district and national averages to enable comparisons.

The footprints are intended to raise awareness and improve understanding of the types of activities that contribute to emissions and to stimulate individual and collective action. The consumption-based footprint is more useful for helping residents identify where they can reduce individual emissions. Whereas the territorial footprint can help identify where OPC may be able to work with the relevant stakeholders to reduce emissions of major activities within the parish.

OPC aims to work in collaboration with residents, community groups, businesses and other stakeholders to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the parish.

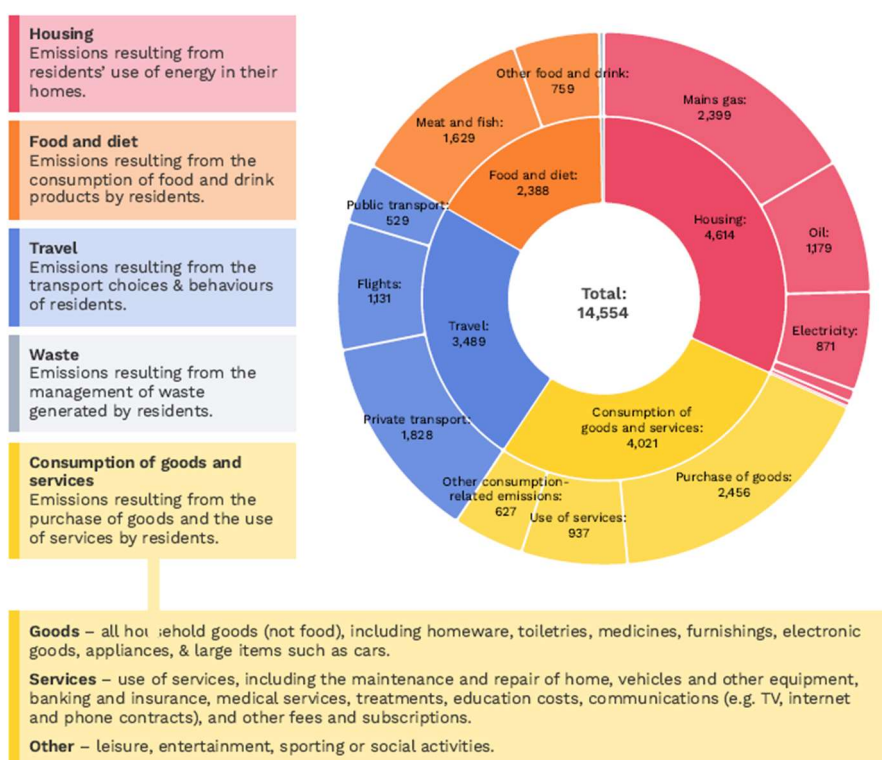
⁸ Source: [CSE Impact Carbon Calculator \(https://www.cse.org.uk/impact-community-carbon-calculator/\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/impact-community-carbon-calculator/). A copy of the report generated for Olveston Parish can be provided upon request.

5.1 Consumption-Based Carbon Footprint

The Impact tool has estimated Olveston Parish's total annual consumption footprint as 14,552 tonnes CO₂ equivalent ("tCO₂e"⁹), or 16.7 tCO₂e per household. Figure 6 shows this is comprised of (in descending order): housing (4,615 tCO₂e, or 32 %), consumption of goods and services (4,021 tCO₂e, or 28 %), travel (3,489 tCO₂e, or 24 %), food and diet (2,388 tCO₂e, or 16 %) and waste (42 tCO₂e, or < 1 %).

Figure 6 – Estimated Total Annual Consumption Carbon Footprint of Olveston Parish

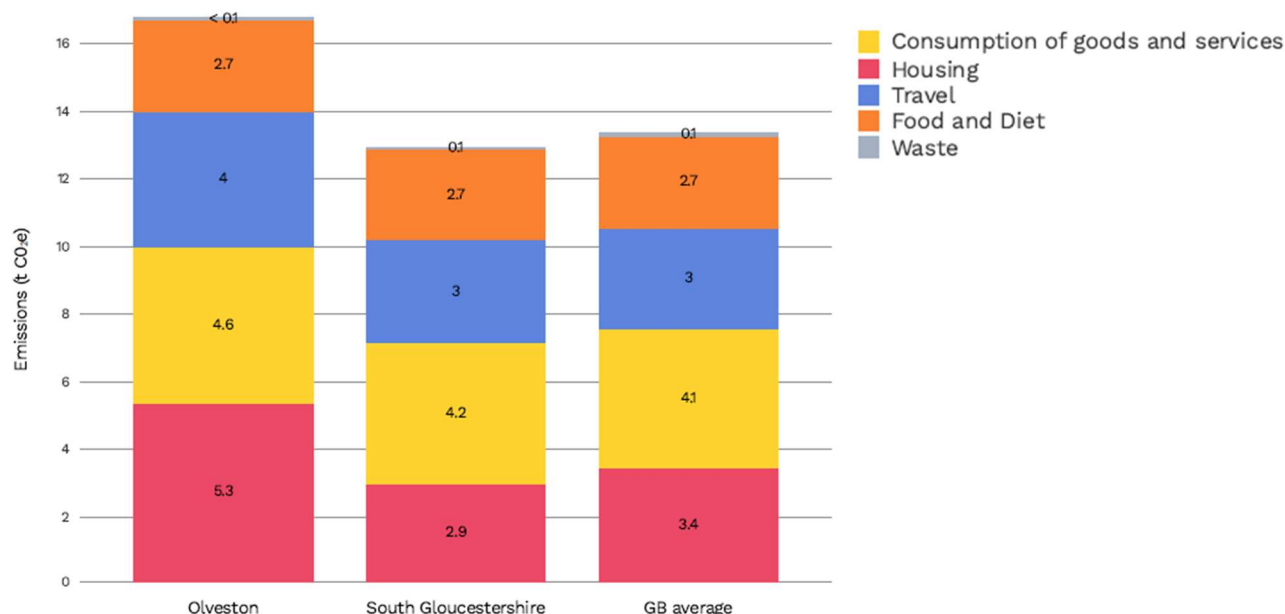
(Source: CSE, 2024, <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>)



In comparative terms, Figure 7 shows households in Olveston Parish (16.7 tCO₂e per year) emit greater quantities of CO₂e than either the average South Gloucestershire (12.8 tCO₂e per year) or national households (13.3 tCO₂e per year). Amongst all the factors, Olveston Parish households have a relatively high proportion of housing-related emissions (heating and electricity).

⁹ CO₂e stands for "carbon dioxide equivalent" and is a standard unit of measurement in carbon accounting. It expresses the impact of several GHGs collectively as a common unit.

Figure 7 – Comparison of Olveston Parish with District and National Consumption (annual averages, per household) (Source: CSE, 2024, <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>)



5.2 Territorial-Based Carbon Footprint

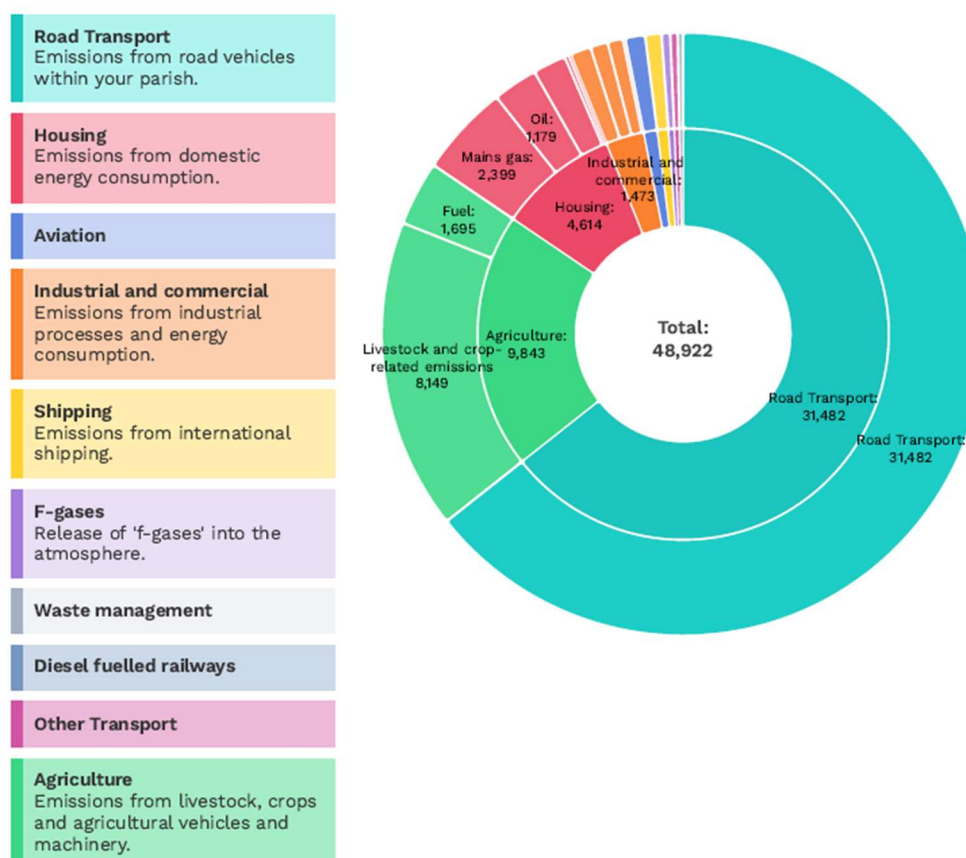
The territorial footprint includes all emissions created within the geographical boundary of the parish. As previously mentioned, this includes emissions from vehicular traffic on local motorways, for example, which means this footprint does not exclusively originate from the actions of people living and working locally.

The Impact tool has estimated Olveston Parish's annual territorial footprint as 48,922 tCO₂e, or 58.7 tCO₂e per household. Figure 8 shows this is comprised of (in descending order, total parish and per household): road transport (31,482 tCO₂e total, 37.7 tCO₂e per household, or 64 %), agriculture (9,843 tCO₂e total, 11.8 tCO₂e per household, or 20 %), housing (4,614 tCO₂e total, 5.5 tCO₂e per household, or 9 %), industrial and commercial (1,473 tCO₂e total, 1.8 tCO₂e per household, or 3 %), aviation (519 tCO₂e total, 0.6 tCO₂e per household, or 1 %), shipping (428 tCO₂e total, 0.5 tCO₂e per household, or 1 %), and F-gases (fluorinated GHG), other transport, waste management and diesel trains (all ≤ 1 %). The results show that road transport is a major source of territorial emissions, which are mostly attributed to the two motorways that traverse the parish. Agriculture is also a large contributor, reflecting the rural nature of the parish.

In comparative terms, the geographical area of Olveston Parish emits significantly greater quantities of CO₂e than the average South Gloucestershire parish (58.7 tCO₂e compared with 18.5 tCO₂e per year). The major contributing factors are the emissions created by road transport (motorways) and agriculture in the parish.

Figure 8 – Estimated Annual Territorial Carbon Footprint of Olveston Parish

(Source: CSE, 2024, <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>)



5.3 Priorities for Climate Action in Olveston Parish

The Impact tool has identified that housing is creating a significant proportion of carbon emissions from Olveston Parish. The tool suggests the emissions from housing are higher as a result of a greater than average use of mains gas and oil for heating homes, and private car use is also higher than average. Agriculture is also a proportionally larger contributor. Where possible, the Plan will focus on these areas.

6 Mapping Olveston Parish

The main features in Olveston Parish relevant to this plan have been mapped, including OPC-owned or leased sites or assets. The OPC LCNAP Map can be viewed [here](#).

This Plan focuses on OPC-owned or managed land, as this is where OPC has the most influence. Some SGC-owned land is mapped where opportunities have been identified (mostly for tree-planting), and any work conducted here will be in collaboration with SGC. Private land including gardens has not been mapped. It should be noted that private gardens are valuable places for wildlife, and to both acknowledge this, raise awareness, and increase local biodiversity, this Plan includes a “Community Nature Reserves” project. Refer to Section 7 for more details about this.

6.1 Mapping Features

Mapped features of the LCNAP include:

- Olveston Parish Council Boundary;
- OPC Owned/Leased Areas;
- OPC Managed Mini Meadows;
- SGC Owned Areas;
- Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI);
- Opportunities for Nature; and,
- Opportunities for Climate.

6.2 OPC Owned, Leased or Managed Areas

The OPC-owned, leased or managed areas are listed following.

6.2.1 Green Spaces

- Vicarage Lane playing field, including several mini meadows;
- Old Down Sports Ground/village green including a mini meadow. Includes Scout Hut land (not building);
- Olveston Parish Hall playground;
- Old Down Quarry;
- The Crescent at Old Down; and,

- Tockington Green.

6.2.2 Buildings

- Olveston Parish Hall (managed by Olveston Parish Hall Committee); and,
- Queen Alexander Memorial Pavilion (QAMP).

6.3 SGC Owned Areas

Potential opportunities for collaboration with SGC are listed here.

6.3.1 Tree Planting

The MSFW Committee has identified 34 potential locations and species for tree planting in SGC-maintained areas. These locations will be suggested to the SGC Tree Officer for inclusion in the [SGC Tree Planting Programme](#)¹⁰.

6.3.2 SGC Road Verges

The MSFW project has previously improved two roadside verges maintained by SGC, the Aust Road verge and Old Down Hill Road verge. Separately, SGC maintains several protected road verges in the parish (see Section 4.3).

SGC is also changing how it manages road verges across its area to maximise the potential benefit to wildlife. The program is being rolled out over several years. OPC does not currently maintain any roadside verges; should this change in the future their management will be reviewed with a key objective to improve biodiversity.

6.3.3 Grass Cutting Communal Areas

SGC also maintains several areas around Olveston, notably around Bramley, Laxton and Russet Closes, and at the top of Orchard Rise and near Pump Lane in Old Down. A reduced grass-cutting regime has been implemented in these areas in recent years and is under constant review by SGC.

6.3.4 Other Assets

Other sites owned and managed by SGC, such as the SCNIs (see Section 4.2) represent potential opportunities for collaboration on various wildlife initiatives. This includes sites shared with adjacent Parish Councils.

¹⁰ South Gloucestershire Council website (<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/tree-planting-programme/>)

7 OPC Climate and Nature Four Year Action Plan

This Plan focuses mainly on land and property OPC owns or manages, where it has the greatest influence. OPC has moderate influence over SGC-owned land, and activities proposed for these areas will be collaborative and involve the SGC Climate and Biodiversity officers as needed. Since OPC has low influence over privately owned land and buildings, most efforts here will be on raising awareness and signposting of advice.

The Plan is intended to be a guide and will need to be flexible. Availability of Councillors, volunteers and committee members will change over time, whilst seasonal variations in the weather and budget restrictions may require some adjustments. The various projects within the Plan may be modified once they are each investigated, costed and discussed by both the MSFW Committee and OPC. The Plan is also not exhaustive, as additional opportunities may arise.

Funding to carry out the majority of work will come from an annual budget allowance agreed with OPC. Alternative funding sources may be required from time to time, and these will be sought as needed.

Service searches will be conducted in advance for projects requiring soil excavation to ensure works are carried out safely and do not cause damage to buried utilities.

7.1 General Actions

It should be noted that while not specifically mentioned in the Plan, these general actions will run alongside planned projects. These include:

- moving towards pesticide-free management of all OPC assets, and use of peat-free compost;
- rejecting community grant applications where negative climate and nature impacts outweigh positive impacts;
- carrying out a simple nature and climate impact assessment for OPC activities. This should not be an onerous task, but a simple review to identify negative impacts that may occur and then taking precautions to reduce those impacts (including not undertaking the activity);
- providing nature and climate-supportive comments on planning applications presented to OPC. This could include (but is not limited to): energy-efficient building design (insulation), building materials with low embedded carbon, low-carbon heating (heat pumps), renewable energy supply with battery (solar photovoltaic and/or solar thermal), electric vehicle car charging points (individual and communal), good access to public transport,

wildlife-friendly adjustments (swift bricks, hedgehog highways, drought-resistance/pollinator supportive/night-scented landscaping, biodiversity net gain, reduced lighting/use of sensors);

- emphasising the importance of good public transport links, active travel routes, energy efficient buildings, low-carbon transport options, minimising and mitigating impacts on wildlife in developments, support for appropriate renewable energy developments and nature-supportive design features when responding to SGC (or other) Consultations;
- monitoring health of trees, particularly ash trees, on OPC-owned or maintained land in conjunction with OPC Recreation and Leisure Committee; and,
- keeping abreast of developments in legislation, guidance and technology relating to biodiversity, energy efficiency and generation.

7.2 Action Plan

As indicated in Section 1.3, the Plan is organised into several themes. For nature these are species, habitats, community spaces and data collection, whilst the climate-focused themes are energy, food/water, transport and waste. The Action Plan for each theme is outlined in the following table. These actions items are mapped as “Opportunities for Nature” or “Opportunities for Climate” on the [OPC LCNAP Map](#) (unless indicated otherwise). Where relevant, this Plan includes advice received from TWEAS and Wild Service (for Old Down Quarry and Old Down Sports Ground sites).

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Species			
Insects	1. Install insect nesting aids Old Down Sports Ground, Vicarage Lane playing field, Old Down Quarry 2. Encourage key stakeholders to plant nectar rich flowers especially early and late season to attract bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insect types 3. Install stag beetle piles (Old Down Quarry, Old Down Sports Ground, Vicarage Lane playing field, and other locations as identified) 4. Install bug hotel Vicarage Lane playing field 5. Encourage residents to vary grass cutting/create mini meadows, reduce pesticide use (part of “Community Nature Reserves” project, see Habitats)	1. Installation by end of 2024 2. Ongoing from start of 2025 3. Installation by end of 2025 4. Installation by end of 2026 5. Ongoing throughout project	1/3/4. Annual check for occupation, maintenance as needed, log priority species sightings with BRERC 2. Annual feedback from stakeholders 5. Ask residents to register the location of their mini meadows, part of “Community Nature Reserves” project (see Habitats).

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Moths	1. Deploy OPC-owned moth trap on loan to residents and partner organisations to identify night flying moths 2. Encourage residents to plant night-scented plants (e.g. honeysuckle, part of "Community Nature Reserves" project, see Habitats)	1. Commence loans by end 2025 2. Ongoing throughout project	1. Request residents identify species where possible and log results with BRERC (or MSFW committee to do) 2. Ask residents to register the location of their night-scented plants, part of "Community Nature Reserves" project (see Habitats).
Garden Birds	1. Determine priority species using available data (BRERC, etc). Include starlings as these have declined rapidly locally. 2. Install species-appropriate bird boxes on OPC-managed land (Old Down Quarry, Old Down Sports Ground). Other locations as identified and appropriate, e.g. private land around Olveston Common, and along rhine system. Focus on starlings initially. 3. Encourage residents to install bird boxes (part of "Community Nature Reserves" project, see Habitats)	1. End 2024 2. Install in readiness for Spring 2025 (and ongoing sites as identified). 3. Ongoing throughout project	1. Prepare summary using BRERC data and other relevant sources. 2. Annual check for occupation, maintenance as needed, log priority species sightings with BRERC 3. Ask residents to register the location of their bird boxes, part of "Community Nature Reserves" project (see Habitats).
Swifts, Swallows and House Martins (migratory birds)	1. Maintain existing swift boxes on Parish Hall and St Mary's Church, including sound systems. Swifts are known to nest at Olveston School. 2. New swift box locations at Tockington Manor School (in collaboration with)	1. Annual maintenance in mid-April, switch on sound system 2. Install by April 2025, include sound system 3. Spring 2025 4. Ongoing throughout project	1/2/3. Periodic checks during nesting season for occupation, log with BRERC if observed. 4. Ask residents to register the location of their boxes, part of "Community Nature Reserves" project (see Habitats).

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
	3. Identify locations for house martins and swallow nest boxes (potentially private land, in particular around Olveston Common). Work with private landowners to place boxes on suitable outbuildings. 4. Encourage residents to install swift boxes (part of "Community Nature Reserves" project, see Habitats)		
Amphibians and Reptiles	1. Encourage residents to install ponds, log piles, stump gardens, compost piles (part of "Community Nature Reserves" project, see Habitats) 2. Create log piles (retain from tree work wherever possible), compost heaps (grass cuttings), "stump garden" (incl. planting fern species) at Old Down Quarry, Old Down Sports Ground, and any other locations as identified 3. Work with OPAGA to create safe environments on the allotment for slow worms, toads and frogs	1. Ongoing throughout project 2. Old Down Quarry and Sports Ground by end of 2025. Other locations as identified 3. Start 2025 (end of hibernation period)	1. Ask residents to register the location of their ponds (etc), part of "Community Nature Reserves" project (see Habitats). 2/3. Annual check for occupation, maintenance as needed, log priority species sightings with BRERC

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Bats	1. Install bat boxes (Old Down Quarry, Old Down Sports Ground, and other locations as identified) 2. Organise bat walk 3. Purchase bat sound detector to enable the identification and recording of bat species 4. Encourage residents to plant night-scented plants (e.g. honeysuckle, part of "Community Nature Reserves" project, see Habitats)	1. Assess feasibility and then install by Spring 2025 2. Hold an annual bat walk for residents (Spring) with support from SGC 3. Mid 2025 4. Ongoing throughout project	1. Annual check for occupation, maintenance as needed, log priority species sightings with BRERC 2. Post-event publicity (Meeting Point/social media) 3. Periodic reporting to BRERC 4. Ask residents to register the location of their night scented plants, part of "Community Nature Reserves" project (see Habitats).
Hedgehogs	1. Support SGC Hedgehog Heroes work 2. Give away hedgehog homes and "Hedgehog Highway" signs when residents install a highway. 3. Donate highway sign/home to Olveston School (for any new highways) 4. Install hedgehog house in Old Down Quarry)	1. When SGC project underway 2. Throughout 2026-2028 3. End 2026 4. End 2026	1/2/3. Use Big Hedgehog Map to track (hedgehog numbers and highways), log sightings with BRERC 4. Periodic checks / maintenance (no disturb during hibernation months)
Energy and Nature Event	1. Hold information event (wildlife and climate themes). Highlight wildlife plans under LCNAP. Invite external speakers, e.g. hedgehog rescue, Wildlife Trusts, etc. Involve volunteer group.	1. Spring 2025	1. Monitor attendance and seek feedback, assess whether a further event is required during the period 2025-2028. Promote on social media, and monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Habitats			
Meadows	1. Maintain existing mini meadows in Vicarage Lane Playing field and Old Down Sports Ground (now under OPC Grass cutting contract), twice annual cutting only. May require additional seeding/planting. Include beneficial species for insects. 2. Investigate and implement other potential meadow areas	1. Additional yellow rattle seeding Autumn 2024. Then, ongoing 2025-2028 potentially with a wider range of species including beneficial for insects. 2. Ongoing throughout project	1. Periodic checks on species and growth throughout year, particularly spring/summer. Monitor works carried out by OPC contractor. 2. As above if implemented
Tree Planting	1. Additional tree planting in Vicarage Lane playing field near play equipment (provide shade) 2. Propose 34 locations for SGC-owned land 3. Investigate the feasibility of tree planting on NRN (Nature Recovery Network) private land, in consultation with SGC. Planting on farmland could help offset high agricultural emissions noted for Olveston Parish.	1. Winter 2024-2025 2. To coincide with SGC's tree-planting program 3. 2026-2028	1. Monitor works carried out by OPC contractor. Identify volunteers to water trees. 2/3. Feasibility to be established
Community Nature Reserves (CNR). See Appendix C for more details about CNRs.	1. Determine the feasibility of the scheme. This is likely to be a combination of the following: - communicate with key stakeholders to determine the intent to develop a CNR - promote to community via social media/ OPC web site/ Meeting Point/ Notice Boards the intent - recruit sufficient volunteers to manage scheme	1. End 2024 2. End 2025	1. Feasibility to be established, feedback to OPC. 2. Suitable monitoring plan to be developed as part of the scheme.

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
	2. If feasible, the next steps likely to be: - develop a communications strategy; how the scheme will keep in touch to provide updates, and promote events - host an event to bring people together - develop a registration form - develop a welcome pack - organise a process of monitoring and review - organise future events		
Wetlands	Determine the feasibility of working with the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board on any projects, for example, tree planting, nesting habitat restoration and monitoring. Work in collaboration with the Linking the Levels Project.	2025-2028	Feasibility to be determined. Work alongside Linking the Levels Project
Community Spaces			
Old Down Sports Ground	1. Plant wildlife-friendly bulbs Old Down Sports Ground (and any other areas identified) 2. Bird/bat boxes, stag beetle/log piles, insect nesting aids, compost piles etc (as previously described, see Species)	1. Autumn 2026 2. Installation by end of 2025	1. Promote a volunteer event and/or investigate whether Scouts would like to assist. Check during the growing season. 2. Periodic checks on occupation, etc throughout year, particularly nesting season and spring/summer
Old Down Quarry	1. Plant woodland ground flora 2. Install bat boxes (as previously described, see Species)	1. Autumn 2025 2. Assess feasibility and then install by Spring 2025 3. Ongoing	1. Investigate whether Scouts would like to assist. Periodic checks on growth. 2/3/4. Monitor works carried out by OPC contractor. Periodic checks on growth/occupation.

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
	3. Keep invasive species under control (cotoneaster, lilac, Spanish bluebell). Selectively remove field maple and holm oak saplings where identified. 4. Install stag beetle pile, log piles (generated from tree work)	4. Autumn 2025/Ongoing from tree work	
Vicarage Lane Playing Field	1. Tree planting (as previously described, see Habitats) 2. Install hedgehog highways in safety fencing, add a Hedgehog Highway sign. Plant plug plants in wooded area. 3. Mini meadows (as previously described, see Habitats) 4. Install bug hotel, stag beetle pile, insect nesting aids, see Species/Habitat	1. Winter 2024-2025 2. End 2024 3. Ongoing 2024-2028 4. Various 2024-2026	1. Monitor works carried out by OPC contractor. Identify volunteers to water trees. 2/3 Monitor works carried out by OPC contractor. Check during the growing season. 2. Periodic checks on occupation, etc throughout year, particularly spring/summer.
Community Orchard	1. Investigate the feasibility of a Community Orchard	1. End 2025	1. Report back to OPC
Data Collection			
Species Recording	1. Recruit sufficient volunteers to become data recorders. 2. If scheme feasible, develop system for recording and reporting to BRERC, including aspects such as: - developing a systematic way of recording species seasonally across the parish - developing an 'index of species'	1. Mid 2025 2. End 2025 3. Spring 2026	1. Feasibility to be established, feedback to OPC. 2/3. Suitable monitoring plan to be developed as part of the scheme including periodic reporting to BRERC.

Nature			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
	- developing 'mapping' of species' - developing a record of species with outputs uploaded to the OPC website. Could be linked to the CNR scheme. 3. If scheme feasible, develop and train a volunteer group to become data recorders. Use iNaturalist (wildlife recording app) for identification if needed. Use the resources of BRERC to train volunteers.		
Trail Cameras	1. Loan trail cameras to residents to both encourage engagement on wildlife issues, and collect data on species. Offer to volunteer group first.	1. Commence loans by end of 2024	1. Request residents identify species where possible and log results with BRERC (or MSFW committee to do)
Moth Traps	1. Loan moth traps to residents to both encourage engagement on wildlife issues and collect data on species. Offer to volunteer group first.	1. Commence loans by end of 2025	1. Request residents identify species where possible and log results with BRERC (or MSFW committee to do)
BioBlitz event	1. Hold a BioBlitz (people invited to record species across the parish over a dedicated week/month, say, using the iNaturalist app. This will help increase our knowledge about local species, but also engage the community in actively recording data.	1. 2027 (aim for two events as a test?)	1. Monitor the number of participants, as well as data recorded in iNaturalist. Use social media to promote, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).

Climate			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Energy			
OPC GHG Reduction Plan	1. Establish OPC's baseline Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2024. Use to develop a 3-year Plan to reduce GHG emissions each year. 2. Calculate GHG emissions annually.	1. April 2025 2. Feb 2026, Feb 2027, Feb 2028	1. Calculation of baseline carbon footprint (Scope 1 and 2 emissions). 2. Calculation of carbon footprint each year, compared with baseline. Adjust 3-year Plan as needed to ensure emissions are reduced year-on-year.
Personal, local businesses and organisations GHG Reduction Plan	1. Identify one or two carbon calculator tools that residents and organisations may use to calculate their own carbon footprint. 2. Encourage residents, businesses and organisations to estimate and then reduce their carbon footprint.	1. End 2024 2. Spring 2025 and then periodically (reminders to do an annual estimate, for example)	1/2. Promote via website, social media. Monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).
QAMP (in consultation with Old Down Sports and Social Club)	1. Conduct an energy audit, thermal imaging survey. 2. Develop energy efficiency improvement plan, which could include insulation, LED lighting. 3. Evaluate feasibility of renewable energy, solar PV, solar thermal and battery, heat pumps, etc. Consider for community energy project. 4. Source funding to make improvement	1. End 2024 2. End 2025 3. End 2025 4. As required/if needed	1/2/3/4. Updates to OPC/Old Down Sports and Social Club at completion, request approval to progress to next stage.

Climate			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Olveston Parish Hall (in consultation with Parish Hall Committee)	1. Conduct an energy audit, thermal imaging survey 2. Develop energy efficiency improvement plan, which could include insulation, LED lighting. 3. Evaluate feasibility of renewable energy, solar PV, solar thermal and battery, heat pumps, etc. Consider for community energy project. 4. Source funding to make improvement	1. Spring 2025 2. End 2025 3. Spring 2026 4. As required/if needed	1/2/3/4. Updates to OPC/Parish Hall Committee at completion, request approval to progress to next stage.
Community Energy Project	1. Investigate the feasibility of a community energy project (potential collaboration with Sustainable Thornbury)	1. Ongoing	1. In collaboration with Sustainable Thornbury
Energy and Nature Event	1. Hold information event (wildlife and climate themes). Highlight plans under LCNAP. Invite external speakers, and expert advice on home energy efficiency, and renewable home energy (solar PV/heat pumps) to help reduce reliance on gas and oil for home heating in parish. Involve volunteer group.	1. Spring 2025	1. Monitor attendance and seek feedback, assess whether a further event is required during the period 2025-2028. Promote on social media, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).
Food/Water			
Food miles and waste	1. Encourage distribution of surplus produce and seeds from gardens and allotments. Work in collaboration with local Food Bank. 2. Encourage residents to buy seasonal food, reduce food waste	1/2. Ongoing	1. In collaboration with OPAGA and St Mary's Church. Provide information via OPC website and promote on social media. 2. Promote the minimisation of food waste on social media, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).

Climate			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
Tree planting	1. With SGC, investigate the feasibility of tree planting on agricultural fields that are part of the NRN; tree planting could help offset high agricultural emissions from the parish	1. 2026-2028	1. Feasibility to be established
Water use	1. Review water use in OPC assets, consider developing a water use reduction plan 2. Encourage residents to reduce water use, water-efficient taps/appliances, install water butts, buy drought-resistant plants, watering evenings/morning	1. End 2025 2. Ongoing	1. Monitor water use after 2025 (if plan developed). 2. Promote on social media, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).
Peat	1. Encourage residents and allotment holders to reduce then eliminate the use of peat-based compost	1. Ongoing	1. Promote via social media, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).
Transport			
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	1. Investigate feasibility of EV charging points in the parish, starting with QAMP, Parish Hall (alongside energy efficiency plans for these locations). Source funding as needed.	1. Autumn 2025 (QAMP/Parish Hall, then ongoing)	1. Updates to OPC if identified. Seek views on social media regarding locations, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).
Reducing car use	1. Encourage use of car-sharing, or active travel (walking, wheeling, cycling, e-bikes) for short journeys, for e.g. to the Parish Hall, Olveston Stores, public houses, etc). Highlight physical and mental health benefits. Ask current users to "Tell my story". 2. Support wider schemes for increased active travel (SGC consultations, for example)	1/2/3/4 Ongoing	1/4. Promote on social media, monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach). "Tell my story" articles in Meeting Point and social media. 2/3. Feedback to OPC if identified.

Climate			
Project	Details	Timeline	Monitoring
	3. Advocate for better public transport in the parish 4. Advocate use of public transport, ask current users to "Tell my story". Promote use of WESTlink ("use it or lose it").		
Waste			
Single Use Plastic	1. Encourage residents to participate in Big Plastic Count and reduce their use of single use plastics. 2. Encourage residents, businesses and organisations to recycle plastics (including soft plastics) 3. Reusable items to be used at OPC events where practicable (cutlery, crockery, etc). 4. Investigate feasibility of separate recycling bins for public rubbish bins	1. March each year 2/3. Ongoing 4. End 2026	1. Residents to record data on Greenpeace website, can generate outputs as needed 2. Promote on social media and monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach). 3. Monitor successful use of reusable items 4. If installed, monitor volumes and efficacy.
Recycling	1. Update residents on key changes to SGC waste collections. 2. Provide information about recycling of items not collected by SGC waste services, e.g. printer cartages, crisp packets, pens, clothing, etc.	1/2. As required	1/2. Promote on social media. Monitor engagement (comments, likes, shares, reach).
Paper	1. OPC to use electronic communications wherever possible	1. Ongoing	1. Monitor use of paper

8 And Finally, Don't Despair, Get Active

There is much information about the harmful effects of climate change and the deterioration of our natural world, which can be overwhelming. However, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Whilst it is impossible to imagine tackling these global issues as an individual, there is much that can be done collectively, at a local level. This Plan highlights the habitats and species that are already here, as well as indicating the priorities for reducing our carbon footprint. By setting the scene in this way it then aims to engage, empower and enthuse members of the Olveston community to take what steps are possible that will be effective in restoring nature and reducing carbon emissions locally.

This is a very ambitious Plan. This is in recognition of the scale of the challenges we face in addressing climate change and restoring nature. However, with the help and support of individuals, families, businesses, organisations, landowners, South Gloucestershire Council and community groups, we can play our part in reducing carbon emissions and make our little patch of the planet a place where wildlife can thrive and green spaces flourish.

Don't forget, many parts of the Plan are mapped on the LCNAP Map which can be viewed [here](#).

8.1 Contact Details and How to Get Involved

If you have any suggestions, comments or would like to get involved in any of the projects proposed in this plan, please contact the MSFW Committee via msfw@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk.



9 Appendices

Appendix A – Sites of Nature Conservation Interest in Olveston Parish

Source: South Gloucestershire Council

Olveston Mill Rhine



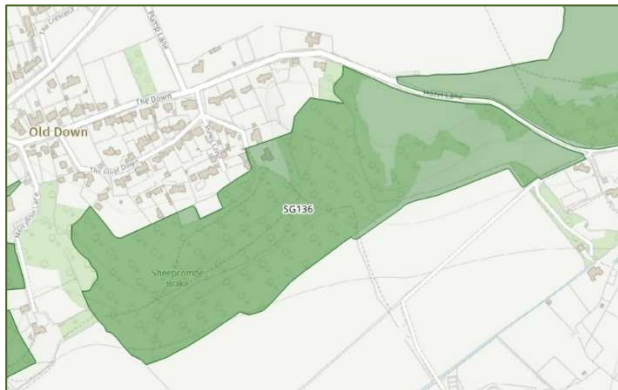
Field North of Whatleaze Wood



Tockington Hill and Quarry



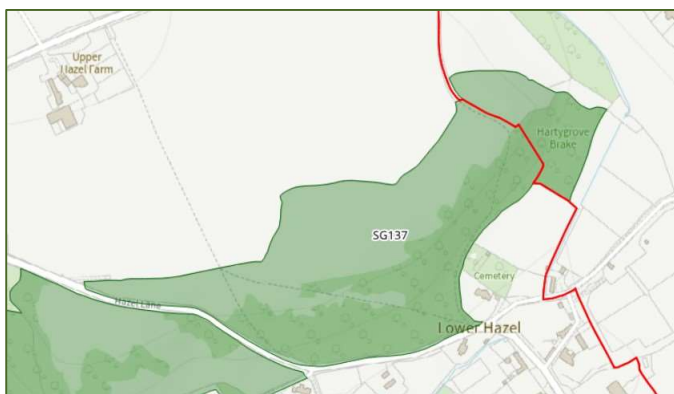
Sheepcombe Brake and field



Tockington Park Wood



Lower Hazel Down



Vineyards Brake



Harnhill

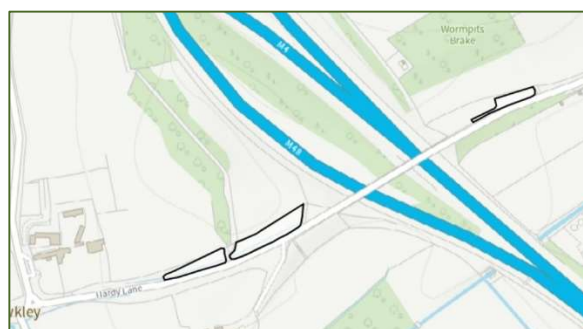
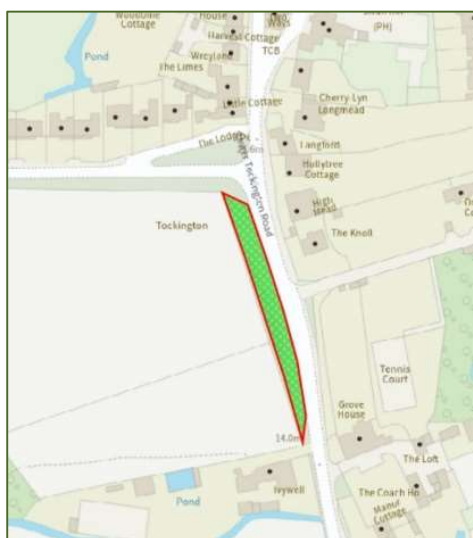


Hortham Wood

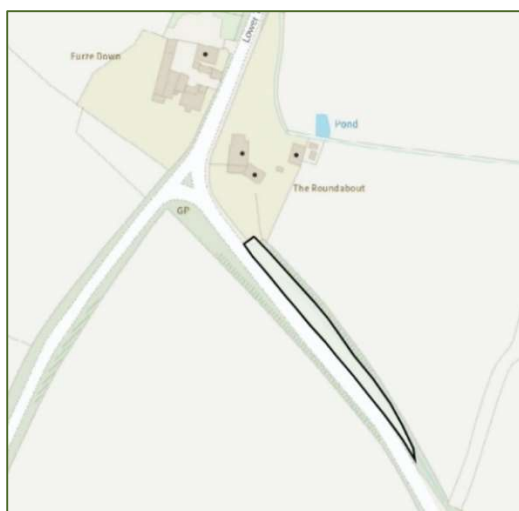


Source: South Gloucestershire Council

Hardy Lane (both verges)



Aust Road



Appendix C – Outline of Community Nature Reserves

Community Nature Reserves is a national initiative that was first set up in Felixstowe. The scheme enables individuals or community groups, whether urban or rural, to register their patch of land, regardless of size, as a 'Community Nature Reserve'. This could be a private garden, land owned by a parish council, local authority, a private landowner or local business.

In South Gloucestershire, Emerson Town Council and Frampton Cotterall Parish Council have developed this as an initiative and there are several other projects in the Bristol area. They aim to engage local people to increase biodiversity within an area and therefore increase and improve the range of wildlife habitat available.

The Vision for Olveston Parish

To connect local people and organisations in Olveston Parish to create sustainable and suitable wildlife habitats in their gardens or land for which they have responsibility. To increase local biodiversity and to educate and raise people's awareness of wildlife within the parish. The project would be known as Olveston Parish Community Nature Reserve.

The Concept

The idea behind Community Nature Reserves is easy to understand; it is where local people, councils and organisations can join together and commit to making sustainable and suitable habitats for wildlife in their own gardens or on their land. Through the development of a local initiative, these areas are then recognised as a "Community Nature Reserve".

The local initiative would present opportunities for people to work together to make their local area welcoming for wildlife by increasing the range of habitat. Community Nature Reserves recognise that gardens are potentially an invaluable resource for wildlife and are in local people's control. The development of Community Nature Reserves also acts as a significant community resource by bringing people together, some of whom may already have an interest or expertise and those people who wish to develop their space into a wildlife-friendly habitat and develop their skills and knowledge.

A Community Nature Reserve scheme will complement and develop a number of the key objectives within the LCNAP by;

- improving the quality of and creating new areas of wildlife habitat;
- enhance biodiversity and managing landscape differently;
- establishing wildlife corridors and habitats;

- engaging people in new ways, to take positive action and understand and value nature;
- providing access to green space; and,
- understanding current species and habitats across the parish.

Key benefits

- Development of wildlife habitat; the scheme will immediately have information on a greater range of habitats that exists; gardens, private land, parish or local authority or organisations. Therefore, the breadth and scope of the wildlife in the parish and the interest and skills of parishioners will be increased. This will enable the project to identify and hopefully deliver community-led projects to develop future and existing habitats.
- Community engagement; the development of a Community Nature Reserve will bring people in the parish together to both reflect and share information on their own 'nature reserve' but equally learn from other people's knowledge and experience.
- Volunteering; through the scheme, we could promote volunteering opportunities for projects that enhance wildlife such as planting, nest boxes, wildlife recorders and research.
- Recording wildlife; participants can record the wildlife that is present on their land and submit this to BRERC and/or the iNaturalist recording app. By developing a recording of the wildlife that is present within the parish we could then develop an Index of wildlife for the parish.
- Developing skills and learning; people will learn through this experience; horticultural skills, species identification and photography.
- Feeling good -achievement, aspiration and well-being; by increasing wildlife habit, through learning and coming together parishioners' sense of achievement and well-being will be increased.

Equalities

There should be no discriminatory barriers, the community scheme would seek to engage all sections of our parish from young children through to senior citizens. It will also enable members of the parish who may have either physical or mental disabilities to engage as primarily the 'nature reserve' which they would help create will be on or in their own space. Volunteer mentoring opportunities or links to support services could be created for members of the parish who may wish to participate in projects developed through this initiative and may require additional support for example Age UK, disability support groups.