

MIDDLE MARCHES

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

View from the Chair

Like most people we are desperately waiting for the temperatures to rise and for the birds, insects and wildflowers to be able to reproduce successfully after a long winter.

Over winter the MMCLT held a number of events, usually with other organisations, which many of you attended. 13th October saw a repeat of 'Hedges, Verges and Waterways,' a collaborative event with Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) aimed at the network of Town and Parish Councils in the county. At the follow-up event on 17th November, we were fortunate to get the support of Baroness Natalie Bennett, vice chair of the National Network of Local Councils and member of the House of Lords, as a speaker. Both events were oversubscribed indicating the level of public interest in Nature Recovery across Shropshire.

Shropshire Council has been selected by national Government as the lead agency for the production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, which has to be completed by March 2025 and form part of a national strategy. This is a great opportunity to influence the major priorities in these

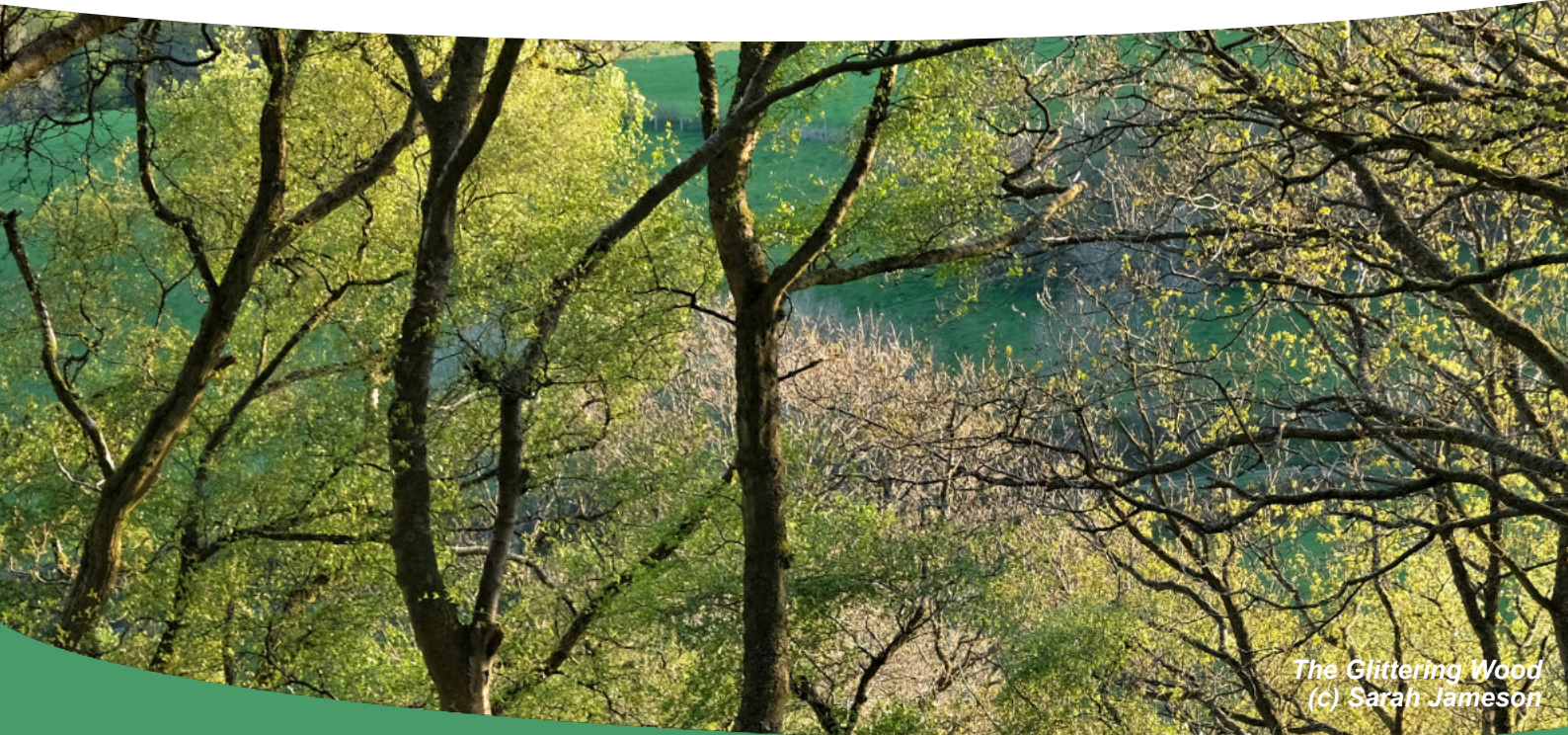
areas, and to help ensure better outcomes for nature where you live. We intend to run more events and produce more materials to assist Parish Councils in this work over the next year.

A conference held with Natural England and the Stepping Stones Project at Norbury in February on Species Action Plans was particularly successful offering many opportunities for people to get involved in their local area. We also made our first foray into North Shropshire with an event in Oswestry on Meadows and Verges. Details of all our events, past and future, are on our [website](#).

During the winter we were involved in bidding to purchase an important wildlife site. If successful we will launch an Appeal to fund the purchase; so watch this space!

We continue to look for volunteers for a wide range of tasks, especially that of Treasurer, so let us know if you can help?

**Richard Keymer,
Chairman**



*The Glittering Wood
(c) Sarah Jameson*

Middle Marches Community Land Trust

Web: middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk / Email: info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

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MMCLT Events 2024

We are working hard on a schedule of events and visits for 2024.

The events below are available to book now. There will be more to follow! Click on the posters for more information.

Mini event – Hedges, Verges & Waterways

Saturday 27th April, Clun Memorial Hall, 9.30 to 12.30

A Shropshire Wildlife Trust event about hedges, verges and waterways held in conjunction with the Restoring Shropshire Verges Project, Middle Marches Community Land Trust and CPRE Shropshire. Bookings via [Mary Eminson](mailto:Mary.Eminson@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

Walk, Talk, Plant and Bird-spotting walk on Norbury Hill

Wednesday 8th May, 10.00 to 1.30

Join local expert Dave Pearson and MMCLT board member, Rob Rowe for a walk, talk and picnic on Norbury Hill, the large stepping stone for nature between the Long Mynd and Stiperstones. See also our [Norbury Hill video here](#).

Dragonfly Safari

Thursday 11th July, 10.00 to 3.00
(fallback date if weather unsuitable is Thursday 25th July)

Join Shropshire Dragonfly Recorder Sue Rees Evans for a walk in the wilds at Pam's Pools. See the [Pams Pools website](#).

The aim of the day is to identify and record as many different species of dragonfly and damselfly as we can whilst taking the opportunity to learn about their fascinating lifecycle. This is a great opportunity to hear about the lifecycle of these fabulous fliers and practice your dragon/damselfly ID skills around the pools.

You can find more information about all of these events on our website [here](https://www.middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk).

Bookings via conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk



**SHROPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
CLUN & BISHOP'S CASTLE BRANCH**
MINI EVENT – HEDGES, VERGES & WATERWAYS
SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024, CLUN MEMORIAL HALL, 9.30 – 12.30

9.00 am Registration – tea & coffee
9.30 am Peter Carty – Branch chair:
Welcome, introductions and outline of the day
9.45 am Mike Kelly:
Importance of waterways as habitats
10.15 am Rob Rowe/Sarah Jameson, CPRE Shropshire:
Shropshire Hedgerow Heroes project
10.45 am Christie Verduyn & Rowena Bowles:
Clun Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project and Clun Memorial Hall Project
11.15 am Janet Cobb:
Bespoke Nature Recovery plans for Parish Councils
11.30 am Pete Carty:
Go Wild in Bishop's Castle project
12.00 noon Cake, tea, coffee & chat
12.30 Close

To book, email Mary Eminson: Clunandbc@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
Mary Eminson, Secretary, Clun & Bishop's Castle Branch, Shropshire Wildlife Trust
01588 640921

A donation of £10 requested to cover the cost of this event




WALK, TALK, PLANT & BIRD SPOTTING ON NORBURY HILL

Wednesday 8th May, 10am to 1.30pm

Norbury Hill is home to a huge variety of birds as well as many other species and an important stepping stone for nature between Stiperstones and the Long Mynd.

Join Middle Marches Community Land Trust and local experts, Dave Pearson and Rob Rowe, for a walk, talk and picnic.

The walk will be around 2.5 hours, some of which will be uphill. Please wear appropriate footwear and have raincoats and suncream at the ready!

Programme:
10.00am: Meet Norbury Village Hall car park (or Bishops Castle, SY9 5DX). [Link here](#).
12.30pm: Picnic on the hill (or in Norbury Village Hall if weather inclement!)

Further information about Norbury Hill is [here](#) and see our short Norbury Hill film [here](#)



Booking essential. NB: This is a free event and includes picnic lunch but a donation of £20 will ensure we can hold events like this again in future. Thank you. Book your place through: conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk



Middle Marches Community Land Trust

DRAGONFLY SAFARI
Pam's Pools Wildlife Reserve,
Bridgnorth, WV16 6TY
Thursday 11 July*, 10-3

Join Shropshire Dragonfly Recorder Sue Rees Evans for a walk in the wilds at Pam's Pools. The aim of the day is to identify and record as many different species of dragonfly and damselfly as we can whilst taking the opportunity to learn about their fascinating lifecycle.

The reserve is fairly large and so the full day will cover a distance of around 4km, partly over rough wet ground.

An opportunity to hear about the lifecycle of these fabulous fliers and practice your dragon/damselfly ID skills around the pools.

Find out more about Pam's Pools at www.pampools.co.uk

Picnic provided. This event is suitable for adults & older children. No dogs – sorry. Appropriate footwear needed.

*Please note since weather conditions need to be right for dragonfly spotting, if the forecast is not suitable for 11th, we will revert to a fallback date of Thursday 25 July.



Donation of £20 per person are requested. Booking is essential via conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk
Photo: Emma @ dragonfly and Emerald damselfly (c) Tim Walter LSPS

Garden plants for wildlife

As Spring gets underway, it's the perfect time to be thinking about choosing or generating new plants for the garden. This is an ideal opportunity to boost the wildlife value of our plots and this Spring, we have got a few pointers to help you choose some great plants to support the wildlife in your patch ...



Garden plants for wildlife

As wildlife gardeners, it's always really beneficial to focus our efforts onto supporting pollinating insects. Pollinators are crucial to wildlife networks – generating fruit, but also becoming food themselves during both their adult and larval stages. By filling the garden with nectar rich, pollinator friendly plants you'll inadvertently also be supporting countless birds, small mammals and amphibians, plus the larger birds and animals that predate on them.

Nectar Rich Plants

Choose single flowers, with obvious pollen-topped anthers in the centre, for guaranteed nectar. Pick plants with a mass of flowers, to provide a really attractive stopping off point for local insects.

Great plant choices include blossoming trees or shrubs and plants with clustered flowers in spikes, panicles or umbels, for example, such as phlox, foxglove, veronicastrum, fennel, sedum and yarrow. Plants in the daisy family have many flowers worth of nectaries in each floral structure, making them another very attractive choice. Shasta Daisies, Helenium, Echinacea or Michaelmas daisies are all good options.

Diversity and Abundance

A diversity of plant families amongst your choices will cater for a diversity of insect species. Butterflies, moths and bees, each with a long proboscis for feeding, are the only insects who can reach the nectar in tubular flowers, such as Salvias, Foxgloves and Buddleia. Hoverflies, beetles and other pollinating flies all have shorter mouth parts and so need smaller flowers – Parsley, Lady's Mantle and Daisies, for example.

It's worth aiming to include repeats of each type of plant in the garden. Insects have a keen sense of smell and often a preference for particular plants. Providing an abundant, floral feast of each plant variety, rather than small, isolated individuals, will really draw the crowds. Remember, of course, to provide a good variety all year round.

Native Plants

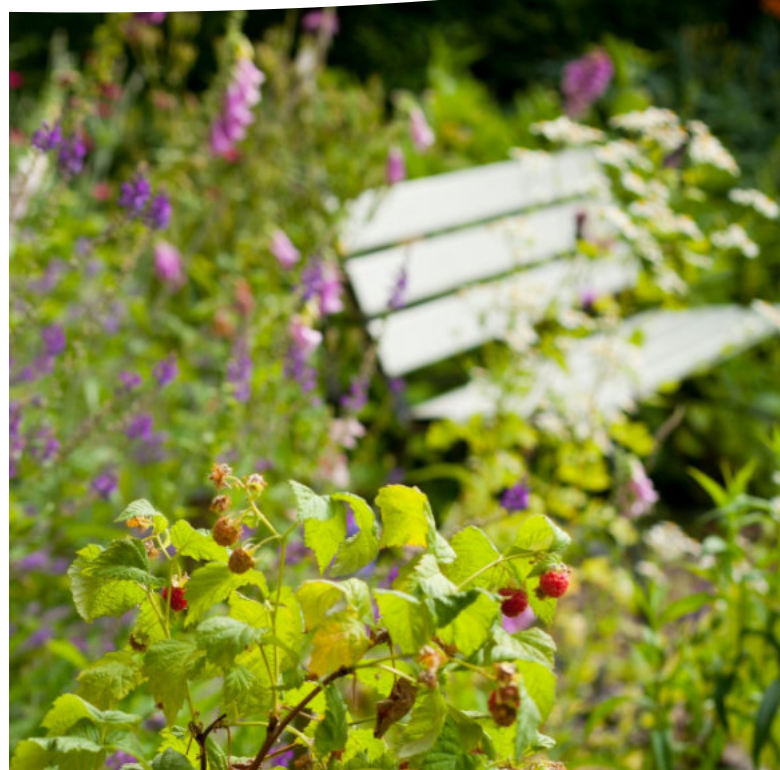
Native plants are particularly beneficial for insect larvae or caterpillars, many of which are entirely dependent on specific species or families of native plants. In flower beds, try Dame's Violet/Sweet

Rocket, Honesty and Jack by the Hedge to attract the Orange Tip Butterfly.

In garden meadow areas, mimic local wildflower rich grassland, such as the Minsterley Meadows, by planting wildflower plugs such as Bird's Foot Trefoil and White Clover for Common Blue Butterfly caterpillars, Common Sorrel for larvae of the Small Copper Butterfly. Other pollinator-friendly plants from this meadow mix include Selfheal, Knapweed, Pignut and Yarrow.

Whether you have the chance to buy in new plants or perhaps the time and enthusiasm for lifting and dividing existing plants, by following these tips, your efforts are sure to be rewarded with an increased presence of buzzing and flittering insects and hopefully more sightings of larger wildlife community members too, seeking out a free meal from your plentiful garden. And if this is the case, you can be sure your garden is providing a valuable stepping stone, a nurturing little haven, for the benefit of wildlife all around.

Nancy Lowe,
Gardener and gardening consultant
www.thenaturalgardener.org.uk



News from High Leasowes

Since the last newsletter (September 2023) our volunteers have worked really hard at High Leasowes to carry out a range of activities in accordance with our management plan agreed with the Middle Marches Community Land Trust (MMCLT).

We have been delighted that the community have given tremendous support to this project, providing over 600 hours of voluntary work on the fields during the first eight months. Some of these volunteers are regular visitors from iDEA, a design company at Longnor and also from Shropshire Wild Teams, which supports people with mental health problems. We are also grateful for the continuing support that we receive from the Stepping Stones team, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust.

High Leasowes Hedgerows

One of our projects was to restore an internal hedgerow, in which some of the trees had died and the gaps filled by brambles. Although this was a good source of blackberries we decided it was more important for the longer term to restore the hedgerow. Several work parties helped with this, including a team from Stepping Stones who carefully removed the surrounding barbed wire fence to allow safe access, and teams from iDEA at Longnor and Shropshire Wild Teams who did sterling work removing the brambles and replanting the gaps.

Another project was to add 600 tree saplings, which were mostly planted along our eastern boundary where there used to be a small wood. All the tree species were chosen from species typically found within the Shropshire National Landscape, such as rowan, hawthorn, oak and small-leaved lime. Tree planting is always a popular activity with volunteers and we were fortunate to be able to plant on days when it wasn't raining.

The National Trust kindly loaned their rangers to work with our volunteers to install a new fence. This enabled other volunteers, this time led by

CPRE Shropshire, to plant a new 70 metre hedge alongside. This has subdivided our large L-shaped field, thereby improving connectivity on High Leasowes whilst also improving the habitat.

During the winter months we invited our supporters to sponsor a bird box and were delighted that all 32 small bird boxes and two kestrel boxes were sponsored. All the boxes were made over the winter and installed before Valentine's Day, and we are now hoping that some of the boxes will be used this summer.

Our final task as we approached the end of the winter, was to dissolve the High Leasowes Management Committee and replace it with a newly formed Charitable Incorporated Organisation, The High Leasowes Trust (registered charity number 1207101). The High Leasowes Trust will continue to liaise closely with MMCLT as we work towards improving the biodiversity of the site, whilst facilitating public access.

Over the coming months we will be having regular work parties to control invasive species and have many exciting plans for 2024.

If you would like to know more please sign up for our regular newsletter by emailing highleasowes@gmail.com.

Sandra Whitlock
High Leasowes

*Photo: Hedge planting at High Leasowes with CPRE Shropshire in December 2023
(c) Rob Rowe*



Spring Equinox on Norbury Hill

Low cloud, cold south westerly. Land of high circling buzzard and kite and close above the slow passing woof-woof-woof of a raven's wing beat.

Surprisingly the bleak open hilltop here is the busiest place, full of small brown upland birds... skylark climbing high on its tide of song and meadow pipits rising everywhere to parachute again nearby. The snipe interrupted from their wet rushy feeding spots rise zig-zagging away.

The hill looks like a badly-cut scalp with brown swathes of last year's bracken, cut and uncut, interspersed with fresh green grass. A solitary Roe deer grazes on the old rabbit warren.

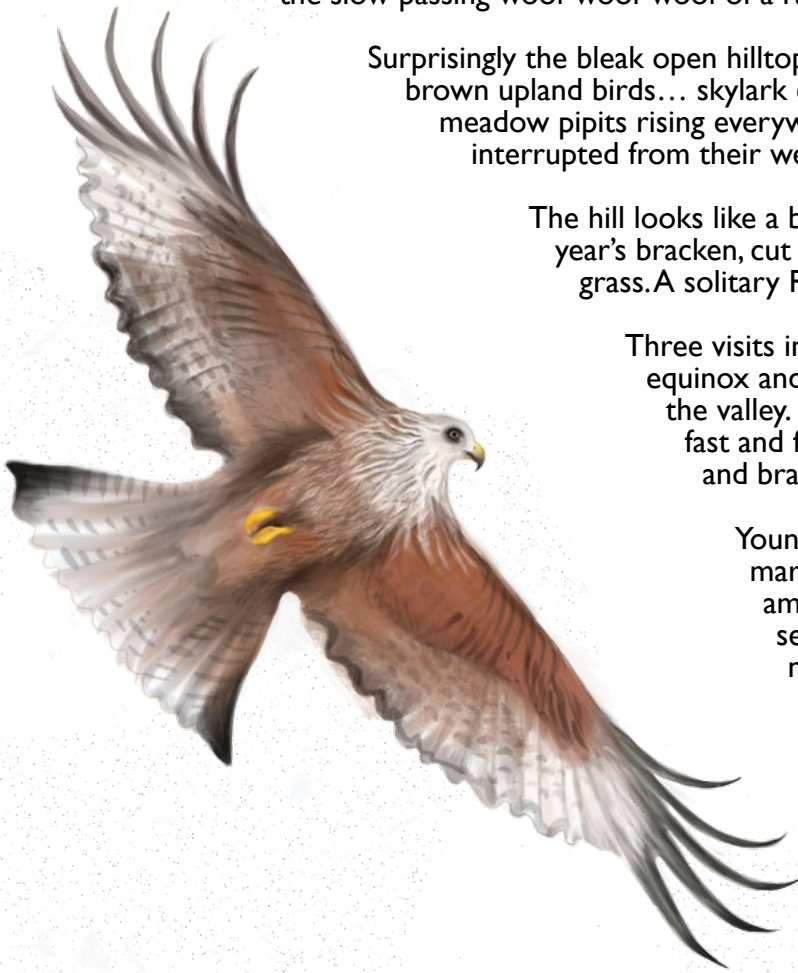
Three visits in a week and now only two days before the equinox and the migrating chiff chaff has just moved up the valley. Disturbed, a solitary woodcock lifts away, fast and furious. Stonechat call from stands of gorse and bracken. "This is mine, this is mine."

Young shoots of marsh valerian and marsh marigold are the vanguard of the wetland plants amongst fresh rush shoots and although I search for young marsh violet, the leaves are not yet appearing.

Although there is no wish to rush time away there is still a silent pleading.

Come on spring!

Rob Rowe



Photos (c) Rob Rowe

[More on Norbury Hill on the MMCLT website here](#)

Background note: Cudwell Meadow, a three acre site south of Church Stretton, was acquired in 2020. A collaborative venture between the Stretton Wetlands Interest Group and MMCLT, this site is a mix of rough grassland with rushes and swampy areas. The meadow and adjoining wetlands are home to water voles, visiting otters, invertebrates and amphibians.

An update from Cudwell Meadow

Goodness it has been a wet, wet winter and early spring. Much of the meadow has remained a lake for a full five months now – with unknown implications for fauna and flora. In the past it has regularly flooded but never for such a continuous length of time.

Much of the water is run-off from the surrounding hills though occasionally the brook has been breached and formed a continuous lake. There also appears to have been a slow sewage leak into the meadow (the town sewers run under the meadow). Severn Trent and the Environment Agency have been notified. This may explain why instead of last year's overwhelming numbers of frogs and toad spawn, this year there is none. Fortunately the Quinny brook, which runs alongside the meadow and feeds the scrape, seems unaffected.

On a more positive note we have been donated a barn owl box. This was erected with much effort at the recent work party and we await potential inhabitants. Barn Owls have been heard calling locally and there were definitely Tawny Owls calling in the area of the other owl box but alas no

confirmation of usage as yet. The work party also recued some of the log benches which had been washed down to the end of the meadow courtesy of Storm Babet.

The young trees are now establishing well. This year a number of them look set to really take off with vigorous growth – all that watering and weeding has paid dividends as only one has been lost! The blackthorn are flowering and others trees budding and shooting.

Recent wildlife sightings include Kingfisher along the brook, Sparrowhawk, visiting Siskins and a well established family of Pheasants. Warmer days have seen a few queen Buff-tailed Bumblebees foraging for nectar.

Work parties (first Thursday of each month 1.30 to 3.30) have now begun again. New volunteers are always welcome. When possible, we hope to spend the last 30 minutes enjoying the wildlife and surveying invertebrates such as bees and butterflies.

Isabel Carter



Conservation Covenants: A new way to legally protect land in perpetuity

On 30 September 2022, Part 7 (sections 117 - 139) of the Environment Act 2021 came into force. This means it will now be possible in England to enter into a “conservation covenant”.

But what are conservation covenants? When might they be needed and what do they mean for you?

What are conservation covenants?

Conservation covenants are private, voluntary agreements between landowners and a “responsible” body for the purpose of delivering lasting conservation benefit for the public good. Conservation covenants help to achieve this by creating both positive and restrictive obligations in respect of the land. These obligations will then bind all subsequent landowners either until the specified term of the conservation covenant expires or in perpetuity.

English law has so far lacked a legal mechanism which is specifically designed to give individuals or communities, corporations, developers and public bodies the means by which they can both protect land in perpetuity from harm as well as ensure that it is positively managed for the benefit of conserving and enhancing nature. This is a significant step and reflects the growing need to protect habitats and species in the face of steep declines in biodiversity either on a voluntary basis or as part of a legal or planning policy requirement.

Situations in which conservation covenants may be used

Now that they are in force, conservation covenants may be used in a number of scenarios. The 2019 Defra consultation document on conservation covenants suggested the following situations when they might be used:

- **Payment for ecosystem services** - An area of woodland upstream of a river which passes near homes has helped to mitigate localised flooding. After negotiations, the landowner agrees to continue with current land management practices, restoring and maintaining the woodland in return for a yearly payment. The obligations for land management and annual payments are set out in a covenant between the landowner and the “responsible” body.
- **Altruistic uses** - A landowner who has inherited extensive moorland which includes a crag much used by rock climbers. The landowner intends to leave the land to his children. They use a conservation covenant to ensure that the moorland is properly managed and that the public continue to have access to the crag.
- **An alternative to land purchase by conservation organisations** - A wildlife charity identifies a plot of land as containing the habitat of a native bird species. It makes a financial offer to the



landowner in return for the land being maintained as a habitat. The landowner agrees. The conservation covenant sets out the obligations that the landowner has to undertake to receive the financial offer.

- Disposals of land by conservation organisations - A heritage group has invested funds in buying and restoring a Victorian house. The organisation wishes to sell the land but ensure that the work it has undertaken, and the heritage value of the property, are preserved. A conservation covenant ensures that future owners of the property maintain the conservation improvements made through the restoration work.

Conservation covenants are also important mechanisms for realising Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), carbon credits, and nutrient neutrality or water neutrality requirements. See link to full article at the end of this piece.

How will conservation covenants work in practice?

As mentioned above, a conservation covenant is an agreement between a landowner and a responsible body. The responsible body effectively regulates and enforces the promises made by the landowner under the agreement.

Conservation covenants can only be entered into if they are of a “qualifying kind”. This means that they must either require the landowner to do or not do something on their land or require the responsible body to do something on the land. The conservation covenant must also be for a “conservation purpose”. This means it must conserve, protect, restore or enhance:

- the natural environment of land or the natural resources of land,
- land as a place of archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest, or
- the setting of land with a natural environment or natural resources or which is a place of archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest.

Delivering biodiversity net gain on land naturally falls into the “qualifying kind” category.

Who are the ‘responsible bodies’?

At the moment, only Natural England has been recognised as a ‘responsible body’ able to set out, oversee and enforce the conditions set out in conservation covenants, but it’s expected that in the future some other bodies will become recognised by Government as ‘responsible bodies’ including Wildlife Trusts.

Conclusion

Having worked with the Law Commission in 2014 on the drafting of conservation covenants I am, unsurprisingly, supportive of their use. On a number of occasions over the past 8 years it has occurred to me that a conservation covenant could have provided a better way of securing ecological outcomes compared to other more awkward or expensive options. As they become more familiar, it is likely that conservation covenants will grow in popularity.

Richard Broadbent

(former Solicitor within Natural England, now a Director in Freeths Environmental Law Team)

Freeths is one of a number of law firms now capable of helping developers and landowners navigate the new Conservation Covenants – please speak to your own solicitor in the first instance when seeking advice.

A full version of this article, written by Richard and made available to MMCLT members and supporters, is available on this link:

[Conservation covenants for the delivery of sustainable development: \(freeths.co.uk\)](https://www.freeths.co.uk)





Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP)

Over the last 60 years 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost. This loss has had a huge impact on wildlife. There are more threatened species associated with meadows than with any other habitat in the UK.

Road verges offer a real opportunity to help reverse this loss. If managed correctly, they could form long, linear meadows, providing habitat in themselves but also helping to link up fragments of remaining meadow.

Shropshire's verges have huge wildlife potential. They could be wonderful linear meadows, providing nectar for pollinators, and food and shelter for small mammals, birds and other invertebrates. Sadly, many of them are not managed for wildlife in this way. They are regularly cut, with the cuttings dropped and left in situ, which increases soil fertility and encourages rank vegetation such as nettles, brambles, hogweed and coarse grasses to dominate. The remaining verges that do still have a diversity of flowering plants are often cut far too early, removing the flowers and preventing them setting seed.

Restoring Shropshire Verges Project (RSVP) promotes the creation of wildflower-rich meadows on Shropshire's verges. It was formed in 2018 and is run entirely by volunteers. Our main focus is the change in verge management, from a regular 'cut-and-drop' regime, to leaving the verges uncut between April and July followed by a late summer 'cut-and-collect'. We now support over 35 local volunteer-led verge projects around Shropshire.

How would RSVP like the verges to be managed?

We want to allow grasses and flowers in the verge to grow, flower and set seed over spring and early summer. A rule of thumb would be to cut and remove the cuttings from August onwards. However this is weather dependent so verges being managed as wildflower meadows may be cut slightly earlier or later than this. This removal of the cuttings is key, as over time this reduces the fertility of the verges and allows finer grasses and wildflowers to appear. In places this can be augmented by sowing wildflower seed and planting plug plants.

Will this make visibility for road users more difficult and lead to safety issues?

RSVP has the support of Shropshire Council, who we liaise regularly with. Public safety is the primary concern and any verges which Shropshire Council lists as needing to be cut short for visibility reasons will still be cut as normal. In addition to this, all 'safety cuts', where a 1.1m width of verge bordering the road is cut short, will still be carried out. Many local authorities around the country, including Dorset, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, now manage verges as linear hay meadows without any compromise on safety.

Will managing the verges as meadows mean they become full of docks, thistles and nettles?

Quite the reverse! The Council's current management regime, where verges are cut several times a year and the cuttings are left to rot down and enrich the soil on the verges, is very likely to result in thistles, docks and nettles as they thrive in

Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) (cont)

areas of high nutrients. But a change to an annual cutting and collecting regime will prevent these species from becoming dominant. Verges that have been managed as hay meadows by the introduction of species such as yellow rattle and a change to a cut-and-collect regime actually show a marked reduction in vegetation height over time, as soil fertility reduces and finer grasses and wildflowers become established.

What wildlife will the verges support?

Verges are basically linear meadows. Meadows and species-rich grasslands support a huge diversity and abundance of fine native grasses, wildflowers and fungi. This rich habitat supports a host of bees, flies, beetles, spiders, moths, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, bats and birds.

Why does it matter?

We are in the middle of a biodiversity and climate crisis which threatens not only other species, but the health and wellbeing of future generations of people. This may seem unrelated from some small patches of verge in Shropshire, but every single patch of wildlife-friendly habitat, from a huge nature reserve to a window box, can play an important role in helping slow and stop this crisis. If all our road verges become species rich grassland they would also be able to store much more carbon, helping offset our carbon emissions.

Supporting evidence

During the 2022 UN biodiversity conference, COP15, countries reached a landmark agreement that aims to reverse the unprecedented destruction of nature.

One of the agreement's twenty-three targets, known as 30x30, aims to protect at least 30 percent of the planet's land and water by 2030.

Across Shropshire roadside verges could make a significant contribution towards this target by changing the management regime in any new highways contract.

The potential for cost savings over time is significant. Savings could be used for roadside maintenance and the development of a strategy to replace missing hedges along roadside verges and the restoration of our ditch network – all significant contributions to mitigating the effects of climate change.

There is a willingness amongst local communities across Shropshire to engage in proactive work via the numerous volunteer verge restoration projects, that facilitate the creation of long, linear flower-rich hay meadows along our roadside verges.

These projects provide the evidence base and cost benefit analysis to support a change in the future Shropshire Council contract for verge management.

Shropshire Council could also realize the value of the arisings in the production of biogas, biomethane or biochar using a process called anaerobic digestion.

Finally, Shropshire Council has the opportunity to lead the way nationally on this via its contract to proactively restore the roadside verges to native flora creating a 'win-win' situation.

You can read much more about RSVP on our [website](#).

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Janet Cobb
RSVP



CPRE Shropshire's Hedgerow Project - Spring update

Phase 3 of the CPRE Shropshire **Hedgerow Heroes** project is now complete.

Over the winter months with the help of our fantastic volunteers we have planted over 8km of new native mixed-species hedgerow in Shropshire - on smallholdings, playing fields, working farms (arable and livestock), a flower farm and a wildlife rescue centre. Our whips have been sourced from the excellent Bucknell Nurseries here in South Shropshire.

Huge thanks to all volunteers for turning out to help, many of them doing so multiple times. Thanks also go to Rob Rowe for his (as ever) invaluable assistance in assessing hedge sites, Lucy Grove (for the same) and, along with Jon Kean, for leading on the planting days. Thanks to Izzy Sinclair and Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) for running planting days for the project in the North of the county. We are also grateful to Severn Rivers Trust for funding three of our sites and the Tree Council's Network Rail community fund for their financial support.

Alongside the planting, the project has also run 4 x 2-day hedgelaying workshops at Pennerley, 3 x 2-day coppicing workshops at Westhope, 2 x 1-day hedgerow management workshops, 2 x hedgerow surveying workshops and 4 x arts/creativity workshops. Thanks also to all our excellent tutors!

We have just launched a new short film, *The Hedgelayer*, which follows South Shropshire hedgelayer Christopher Rowe as he lays a hedge at Pams Pools wildlife site, Bridgnorth. You can see the film [here](#). Let us know what you think?

We have put in a bid for Phase 4 (2024/25) - and will hear if we are successful by early May. Wish us luck!

Sarah Jameson,
Branch Manager, CPRE Shropshire &
Hedgerow project co-ordinator
www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project





Leaving money or land in your Will?

Many of us would like to be certain that after our death, some or all of our money and property can be given to the causes we wish to help. See and download our brand-new [Wills leaflet here](#) and let us know if you have any questions.

About the Middle Marches Community Land Trust (MMCLT)

The Middle Marches Community Land Trust was formed in 2019. We are a community-led Trust based in the Middle Marches committed to the promotion and development of sustainable and environmentally responsible agriculture that supports a thriving natural world.

Our Vision is to help create an ecologically healthy and sustainable countryside in the hills of the Middle Marches. To do this, the Trust acquires and manages land with current or potential high wildlife value for conservation purposes.

We also work with landowners, support local food production, collaborate with other organisations and act as an 'advice hub'.

MMCLT is a Society for the benefit of the community, which you can join by becoming a member from as little as £50. Go to the [Membership page](#) of our website for more information and to join, or contact us.

Web:
www.middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

Email:
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