



NFDC Biodiversity Net Gain – Call for Projects

New Forest District Council are currently calling for projects from landowners and interested parties which enhance local biodiversity and improve the condition of the River Avon and water quality in the Solent and Southampton Water. The deadline for responses is 5 January 2021.

Members of the public can take part via this link

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/1779/Call-for-Projects-Biodiversity-Net-Gain-and-Nutrient-Mitigation>

Through national policy and highlighted in the Local Plan, developers of 'major' sites are obliged to have minimum 10% biodiversity net gain demonstrated in planning applications. DEFRA provide a tool to make necessary calculations so the measures can be quantified. This is in addition to any mitigation due from loss of species, habitats etc. The developer is expected to provide the 10% gain on the specific site, but NFDC are aware that this is not always possible so are calling for other landowners to accommodate projects, with the ability to claim from Section 106 monies to fund them. The aim is to create a list of local sites which can be called upon should the need arise.

Once details of the Environment Act are known, NFDC will finalise the project steps, consider the sites offered and then contact relevant successful landowners. The table below shows suggestions of NMTC land in our current or anticipated management. NFDC hope to consider the offered sites in February/March of 2021.

The contents of this report are result of discussions with officers including the Town Clerk, and Cllrs Blunden and Hawkins in their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Amenities Committee.

The sites in Higher Level Stewardship were considered, but as each still have around 3 years left to run and likely to have a similar arrangement afterwards, it was preferable to only name the sites as proof of connectivity, and therefore bolster selection of the new sites.

Each site will have its own special qualities and issues to be addressed that will be evident following the necessary professional surveys; currently we do not have such surveys. It is in the authority interest to have these conducted regardless of success with this call for projects. This falls under the umbrella of the Town Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan, and specifically links with the projects named in the table below.

Recommendation

That the following sites are offered and that professional surveys are instructed, which will in turn inform enhancements required.

See overleaf.

For the purposes of this report the priority order starts in Ashley and runs anti-clockwise for connectivity.

SITE NAME	CONNECTS	GREEN ROUTE / PLANT A TREE 2020	EXISTING SITU
ASHLEY LOWER FIELD	Ashley Junior, Carrick Way	Linked from Caird Avenue, Carrick Way residential to Ashley Schools, residential and Ashley allotments	
ASHLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL FIELD	Lower field, Carrick Way	as above	IN PROCESS OF HANDOVER.
NAISH	Fawcetts across A337 also connects to clifftop/coast	Plant a Tree 2020	Treelined open space includes ornamentals and end of life replacements
FAWCETTS	Old Milton, North Milton	Barton residential to Old Milton/ Plant a Tree 2020	Wooded – link provision northward
BROOK AVENUE	Ballard Lake, Water Meadow, Woar Copse, Fernhill, Hollandswood	Link from North Milton residential and train station to open spaces	Watercourse into culvert. Water quality inward not controllable.
FERNHILL north of cricket	Ballard Lake, Woar Copse, Hollandswood		Open Space with woodland boundary
HOLLANDSWOOD DRIVE	Ballard Lake, Woar Copse, Fernhill, Daneswood	Plant a Tree 2020	Woodland
DANESWOOD (Cullwood Lane)	Hollandswood and to Ashley allotments		SINC. Open space and balancing pond.
EARLSWOOD	Daneswood and Ashley Allotments	Plant a Tree 2020	Woodland and stream