

# Chew Valley Nature Recovery Network

Guy Norfolk

# Who Are We?

- ▶ Evolved from the Nature Group of the CVAF's former Climate & Nature Emergency Working Group
- ▶ Steering Group of 13 members - including representatives from local nature groups, parish councils, CVAF, farmers and local volunteers
- ▶ Meet bi-monthly
- ▶ Aims and objectives set out in Terms of Reference

# Our Aims

- **Halt** and reverse biodiversity loss in the Chew Valley
- **Protect** and restore existing habitats, as well as creating new habitats.
- **Increase awareness** and provide education about the importance of protecting our local biodiversity.
- **Tackle** the climate emergency with nature-based projects that stabilise and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to global warming.
- **Signpost** volunteering opportunities for people to get involved in taking action for nature.
- **Assist** existing and prospective nature-based projects by identifying resources and expertise.
- **Maximise** the impact of community groups and individuals engaged in nature-based projects by facilitating partnership working and avoiding duplication.

# How do we plan to meet our aims?

- ▶ Linking up the many groups and individuals already active in nature recovery throughout the Chew Valley
- ▶ Identifying and pooling:
  - ▶ resources
  - ▶ expertise
  - ▶ project opportunities
- ▶ Avoiding unnecessary duplication.
- ▶ Facilitating two-way communication with parishes and the unitary authority

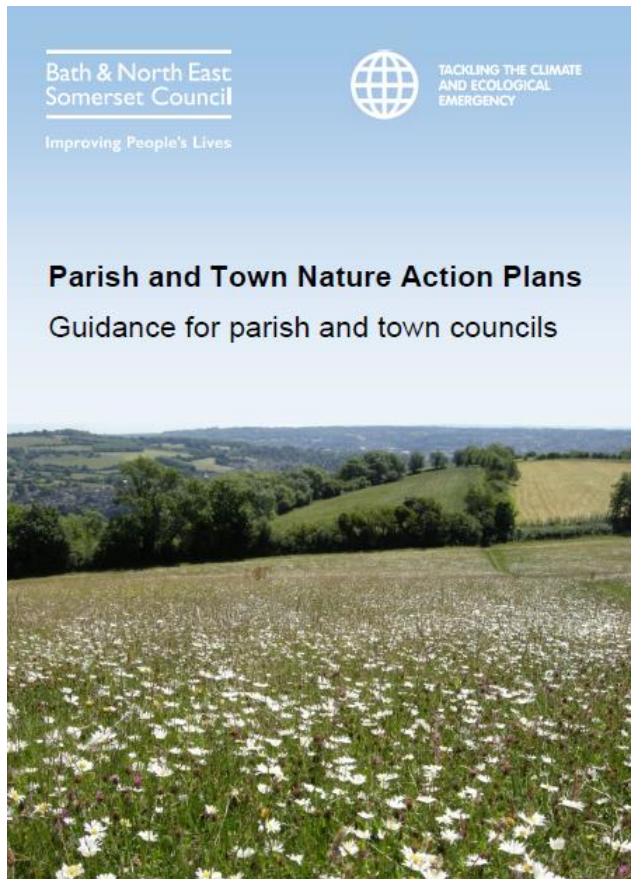
# Focus on 3 current projects

- ▶ Website
- ▶ Local nature recovery toolkit
- ▶ Chew Valley NatureFest

# Website

- ▶ Need to have a strong on-line presence
- ▶ Commissioned professional website design service
- ▶ Sought funding from local parish councils
- ▶ With thanks too:
  - ▶ Stowey Sutton PC
  - ▶ Norton Malreward PC
  - ▶ Compton Dando PC
  - ▶ Chew Magna PC
- ▶ Watch this space [www.cvnrn.org](http://www.cvnrn.org)

# Local Nature Recovery Toolkit



- ▶ Environment Act 2021
- ▶ Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- ▶ B&NES ahead of the curve and has already published guidance
- ▶ Guidance provides a framework for how parishes and town councils can produce local nature recovery plans

# CVNRRN's Local Nature Recovery Toolkit

- ▶ Designed to provide practical step-by-step guidance
- ▶ First step is mapping local wildlife habitats, identifying where the most important places for nature are and why they matter
- ▶ Using the map, you can then mark where you want to create or improve habitats
- ▶ Important role for volunteers to assist PCs



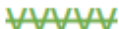

# Hedgerow survey questions

- ▶ Is the hedgerow *intact* and more-or-less stockproof or *defunct* (with gaps and no longer stockproof)
- ▶ Is the hedgerow *species-rich* (5 or more native woody species in a 30 m length or fewer woody species but a rich variety of herbaceous plants at its base) or *species-poor*?
- ▶ Are there trees in the hedge?
- ▶ Does this hedgerow require restoration, gaps to be re-planted or further tree planting?
- ▶ Is this hedgerow within 15m of another hedgerow or woodland that it could link up to?
- ▶ If forming the boundary to an arable field, is there a field margin alongside the hedgerow?



# Hedgerow symbology

## SUGGESTED SYMBOL / LEGEND



### Intact hedge

Native species rich   
Species poor 

### Defunct hedge

Native species rich   
Species poor 

### Hedge with trees

Native species rich   
Species poor 

# Chew Valley NatureFest

a day of family fun and nature recovery

- ▶ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- ▶ Chew Magna School
- ▶ Focussing on what we can all do to help restore nature
- ▶ Aim is to create a fun and educational environment
- ▶ Morning of stalls and exhibits tailored at children & families
- ▶ Afternoon session of key-note presentations followed by Q&A