

Arreton Parish Council Biodiversity Policy with attached inventory

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 introduced a duty for all public authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity. Section 40 of the Act states: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". The duty affects all public authorities and aims to raise the profile and visibility of biodiversity.

Arreton Parish Council will aim to enhance, protect and raise the profile of biodiversity within the Parish in the following ways:-

1. Communicate and raise awareness of biodiversity within the community
2. Show support for local projects that enhance biodiversity
3. Make biodiversity an integral part of all parish council decision making
4. Consider a budget allocation to support local nature projects
5. Where practicable consider grounds maintenance work contracts and their potential impact on biodiversity

Arreton Parish Council will review its responsibilities by considering an inventory of:-

- Historic boundaries (ancient and species rich hedges)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Parish Tree Preservation Orders

The scope of the Biodiversity Policy is to consider:-

1. Green spaces valued by local residents such as village playing fields, cemetery, public rights of way network (Local Green Space designation)
2. Creating new green spaces for wildlife and recreation.
3. Noting the current capacity of the cemetery and estimating its lifespan.
4. Protecting existing "historic trees" (some of which may lie outside the Arreton Conservation Area), identifying them. (Arreton Parish Tree Preservation Orders and 69 woodland parcels in the parish 90.98 hectares)
5. Supporting the planting of further trees.
6. Protecting high grade agricultural land (in line with the National Policy)
7. Protecting people, property and roads from flooding (highlighting any local knowledge of flooding which may not be clear from the flood risk maps).
8. Recognising the air quality and the local low levels of pollution
9. Recognising the dark night skies and general tranquillity of the area
10. Promoting and supporting sustainable energy initiatives (including new buildings)

Inventory of Arreton Parish

Arreton is a large rural parish covering 19.33 square kilometres, sparsely inhabited with approximately 1,000 residents. IW Records Office hold a vertebrate and invertebrate species record for the area. Lichens were last surveyed in 1971.

Arreton Conservation Area Boundary Map designated 14th July 1983 (Listed buildings, green and open spaces, trees and waterways).

The Isle of Wight Natural Landscape includes:-

C115A – Redway

C116A - Arreton Withey Bed East (part of Broadfields Farm)

C118A - Arreton Withey Bed West (adjacent to Naturezones at Blackwater).

C119a - Gatcombe Withey Bed (borders Parish Boundary at Blackwater).

C121A - River Medina (borders Parish Boundary opposite West Standen).

C122A - 29.77 hectare **Arreton Down SSSI** (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

Scrub. St George's Down Scarp is non-intervention – no evidence of recent clearance and trees present on site.

C123A / C123B - 5.47 hectares **St George's Down West & North SINC** (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)

C124A - 2.63 hectare **Standen Copse SINC** (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)

C133C - Fen, marsh & swamp Great Budbridge; scrub is non-intervention but lack of access prevented condition assessment of fen. Citation states management programme has been implemented in 2009.

C250A / C250B - 8.29 hectare **Perreton Down & Marsh SINC** (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)

C304A - 0.18 hectare **Merstone Verges SINC** (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)

0.4 hectare & 1.72hectare Standen Copse Ancient Woodland Inventory Site

1.84 hectare Perreton Farm Wood Ancient Woodland Inventory Site

For the record, within 10 kms of Arreton Parish are the following European designated sites:-

The Medina River flowing directly into **Solent Maritime SAC**. (11,243.12 hectares)

South Wight Maritime SAC -Southern Water have an abstraction licence which permits abstraction of ground water from boreholes in the Blackwater Area for transfer to the River Eastern Yar as part of the **Medina-Yar Augmentation Scheme**. Therefore the two rivers are hydrologically connected to the SAC. (19,866.12 hectares)

Solent & Southampton Water SPA & Ramsar (Medina River) (5,505.86 hectares)

Solent & Dorset Coast pSPA (Medina River) (89,078.02 hectares)

Isle of Wight Downs SAC (458 hectares)

Bridlesford Copses SAC (Special Area of Conservation)165.44 hectares

Biodiversity Action Plan -BAP consultations 2002-2012 included:-

- Horryngford Withybed
- Perreton Down & Marsh

- Redway Farm
- Great Budbridge and Moor Farm
- Bohemia Bog
- Upper Yar Valley

UK BAP species in Arreton include Watervole, Lapwing, Skylark, and wetland birds.

BAP target opportunities include water vole habitat, water level management and wetland habitat restoration.

Biodiversity Action Plan -BAP habitat in Arreton

- acid grassland, lowland deciduous woodland, wet woodland, floodplain grazing marsh.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan -BAP plan includes the following, these might be relevant to Arreton:-

- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Meadows
- Reedbeds
- Rivers and Streams
- Ancient & Species rich hedgerows
- Cereal field margins
- Arable & Horticulture
- Gardens, Allotments,
- Local Private Nature Reserves.

Gift to Nature Sites include:-

Merstone Station (notable for Cowslips and Community Orchard)

Gift to Nature presently manage the invasive species Himalayan Balsam within the parish

Ecosa.co.uk were commissioned by IWCouncil to undertake vegetation surveys of wetland sites on the Island. The work was funded by the Environment Agency. The main purpose of the study was to provide ecological data that could be used to assess the effects of potential changes in hydrology to sites and to identify sites that would benefit from conservation management.

Wild on Wight

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan revised species audit July 2013 (can be found on their webpage)

Ancient Tree Inventory reported by John Brownscombe, "Wild on Wight" May 2014.

Arreton parish gained 0.13% area classification of ancient woodland.

69 woodland parcels in Arreton parish = 90.98 hectares

Arreton Parish Tree Preservation Orders (circa 1947 and 1955 schedules), woodland at:-

- Old Marl Pit, Burnt House
- Old Chalk Pit, Downend
- Stone Farm, Blackwater
- OS 412 and pt 391 near Birchmore, Blackwater
- OS 414 near Birchmore, Blackwater

- Birchmore Farm, Blackwater
- Horryngford Farm
- Short Copse, Newbarn Down
- Group of 15 Elm Trees in hedgerow at Longdown, Blackwater
- Also individual T10-12 Elms in Arreton Street,
- T23-32 and T33-42 and T44-48 Elms, T43 Ash in Merstone
- Little East Standen - the several trees of whatever species numbered on map
- Little and Great Budbridge – ditto
- TPO /1983/15 - a line of trees and adjoining land at *Brooklyn* at Blackwater.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Natural Enterprise (IW Economic partnership and Island 2000 Trust)

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership 2010

Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society

Environment Agency holds the records of a large number of wells and boreholes in the parish.

DEFRA / Magic Maps show land areas classified in the parish as Drinking Water Source Protection Zones 1-3