



Local Climate and Nature Action Plan

2023-2028

Photo by Colin Sheppard

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Background of the Parish	3
Objectives of the Plan	3
Our past work	4
Partnership	5
Stakeholders	6
Stakeholders interest grid	6
Communication and Engagement Plan	7
Monthly communication topics	10
Point-based award scheme	11
Mapping	12
Service Searches	12
Ecological Survey	12
Tree Survey	12
Funding	13
5-Years Work Programme	14
References	19

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the Thornbury Local Climate and Nature Action Plan (the Plan). As a community, Thornbury Town Council (TTC) recognize the importance of taking action to address the climate and nature challenges that impact biodiversity and the well-being of everyone.

One of the four headline priorities of the Thornbury Town Council Strategy for 2023 to 2028 is to 'Implement Thornbury's Local Climate and Nature Action Plan to deliver the council's commitment to tackle the Climate Emergency'.

TTC had declared a Climate and Nature (Ecological) Emergency in 2021, resolves to:

- 1. Declare a Climate and Nature (Ecological) Emergency.
- 2. To work with South Gloucestershire Council, neighbouring Town and Parish Councils, the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and partners across the area to help us deliver our 2030 target.
- 3. Pledge to provide the leadership to work with the Community to aim to make Thornbury carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4. To set up and work with a group of local experts as an advisory committee to Council to develop a strategy to tackle Climate Change in Thornbury.
- 5. To develop a Climate and Nature Emergency action plan for Thornbury to deliver our commitments.
- To substantially increase tree cover and biodiversity in Thornbury by 2030.
- 7. To inform and support local residents, organisations and businesses to play their part.
- 8. To request an initial progress report to the meeting of Council in May 2022 with at least an annual report on progress to full Council thereafter.

This Plan will build on TTC's existing initiatives while introducing new ones to help achieve a more sustainable future for Thornbury. It includes campaigns targeting energy and watersaving, waste reduction, greenhouse gas reduction and enhancement of green spaces. The primary focus of the Plan will be on TTC's assets where we can exert the most influence.

We hope that the Plan will inspire individuals, communities and businesses across Thornbury to take action and work together to create a sustainable future for generations to come. Let us come together and make Thornbury an even better place for all of us.

BACKGROUND OF THE PARISH



Total area	1687.614ha
Town council owned and managed land	Approx. 22.66ha (Approx. 1.34% of total land)
Population	14,496 (as of 2021 census)
Unitary authority	South Gloucestershire
Facilities	Town Hall, Playgrounds, Playing Fields, Cemetery

Our Vision

To be a local leader as Thornbury expands; deliver high quality, affordable services; work positively in partnership with local and public sector organisations, local businesses and the community throughout Thornbury.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

To MINIMIZE our carbon footprint and PROMOTE sustainability

To SUPPORT

climate & nature proposals while ensuring operational feasibility, e.g. health & safety, accessibility

To INCREASE biodiversity & ENHANCE green spaces



To CONNECT & ENGAGE with local residents, organizations and businesses to encourage their participation

To COLLABORATE with the wider community to maximize our efforts

OUR PAST WORK



- Retrofit of lighting
 - Town Hall
- **9** Boiler replacement
 - Town Hall
- Heater replacement The Pavilion
- Selected green electricity provider
- Solar panels installed





Waste Commenced waste recycling



- **Declared a Climate and Nature** (Ecological) Emergency
- **Convened a Climate and Nature** Committee
- Recruited a dedicated climate and nature officer
- Allocated more budget for environmental projects for 2023/24



- **Commenced using environmentally friendly products** in TTC buildings
- Introduced environmental/sustainability impact assessments at the end of TTC policies and reports
- Included and increased the scoring weight for conservation and biodiversity in the New **Grant Awarding Policy**
- Displayed hedgehog warning stickers on strimming equipment



PARTNERSHIP

The Plan will be led by Thornbury Town Council (TTC) with support from the following key partners that share our goals and values. Through these partnerships, we can leverage our collective expertise, resources and influence to achieve meaningful progress towards a more sustainable future.

ORGANISATION	ROLE	CONTACT
TTC Climate and Nature Committee	Lead, funding, committee structure	Yan Cheung Climate and Nature Officer 1014 5441 2103 Climateandnature@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk Town Hall, High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AR
South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)	Guidance	Climate.Emergency@southglos.gov.uk
Sustainable Thornbury	Volunteer, work, reviewing plan	https://www.sustainablethornbury.org/index.php?mylink=Home
Thornbury In Bloom	Volunteer, work, reviewing plan	https://www.facebook.com/thornburyinbloom/?locale=en GB
Holy Mowers	Volunteer, work, reviewing plan	Mr. Guy Rawlinson
TTC Tree Warden	Volunteer, work, reviewing plan	Ms. Judith Hurford
TTC Volunteer Programme – EcoThornbury Guardians	Volunteers, reviewing plan, tree plantings	Yan Cheung Climate and Nature Officer 1014 5441 2103 Climateandnature@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk Town Hall, High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AR

STAKEHOLDERS

It is essential to identify stakeholders who can be affected by or have an impact on the Plan's outcomes. The stakeholders can vary from individuals to groups to organizations. We have identified the stakeholders below and will approach them in a manner that best meets their interests and needs (see <u>Communication and Engagement Plan</u>).

EXTERNAL	INTERNAL
Residents	Staff
Community groups	Thornbury Town Council (TTC) Councillors
Local schools	
Neighbouring Town & Parish Councils	
Churches	
Local businesses	
Site users	
Local landowners	
Developers	
Regulators	
Local press	
South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)	

STAKEHOLDERS INTEREST GRID

We have categorized our stakeholders into a stakeholder interest grid that highlights their likely level of interest and influence in the Plan. This grid enables us to identify the key stakeholders that we need to engage more intensively to ensure the smooth implementation of the Plan.



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The communication and engagement plan, outlined in the table below, takes into account the likely communication preferences of stakeholders and identifies the most effective channels to reach 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.

In addition, we have compiled a list of monthly communication topics that aligns with national or global climate and nature awareness days. By participating in these larger global conversations, we aim to create a sense of shared responsibility and collective action towards addressing climate change as global citizens.

Community involvement is crucial to achieving our objectives. To encourage and inspire individuals to take an active role in our projects, we will introduce a community programme called EcoThornbury. It aims to foster a sense of responsibility for the environment in Thornbury by encouraging people to get involved in TTC's climate and nature projects. There will be a <u>point-based award scheme</u> under this programme called EcoThornbury Points to recognize positive environmental action and sustainable behaviours among individuals. Through an annual award ceremony, we will celebrate the collective effort of individuals towards the EcoThornbury community and cultivate a sense of accomplishment and pride within the community.

Stakeholder	Objectives (actions)	Message content	Delivery method	Timeline
EXTERNAL				
Residents	Residents • Keep informed of proposed projects/campaigns projects/campaigns projects/campaigns projects/campaigns progress proposals • Projects/campaigns progress projects/campaigns		 Facebook, TTC's website, E-mail TTC's notice board Pop-up stands Town Hall 	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
	projects/campaignsGain access to volunteer labour	paigns days/targets	'Green Corner' in TTC's newsletter	Quarterly
	Raise sustainability/environmental awareness	Committee meetings (Formal or informal online session)	 Six times a year (Formal session) Every other month (Informal online session) 	
			 Workshops/Seminars +/- guest speakers 	See monthly communication topic OR as and when relevant projects/campaigns is taking place

Stakeholder	Objectives (actions)	Message content	Delivery method	Timeline
			 Game/promotion booth in community event 	 Yearly OR as and when relevant event is taking place
Community groups	Find collaboration opportunitiesKeep informed of relevant proposed	Projects/campaigns proposalsProjects/campaigns details	 Committee meetings (Formal or informal online session) 	 Monthly
	 projects/campaigns Receive feedbacks on relevant projects/campaigns proposals Gain access to volunteer labour 		Email/LetterPresentation	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
Local schools	Find collaboration opportunitiesKeep informed of relevant proposed	Projects/campaigns proposalsProjects/campaigns details	Email/LetterPresentation	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
	 projects/campaigns Gain access to volunteer labour Raise sustainability/environmental awareness through relevant projects/campaigns 		 Workshops/Seminars +/- guest speakers 	 As and when projects/campaigns is taking place
Neighbouring Town &	Find collaboration opportunitiesShare ideas on projects/campaigns	Projects/campaigns proposalsSuccessful projects/campaigns	Email/Letter	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
Parish Councils		demonstration	Roundtable +/- site visit	• Yearly
Churches	 Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/campaigns Receive feedbacks on relevant projects/campaigns proposals Gain access to volunteer labour 	 Projects/campaigns proposals Projects/campaigns details 	• Email	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
Local business	 Find sponsorship opportunities Find collaboration opportunities Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/campaigns Gain access to volunteer labour 	 Projects/campaigns proposals Projects/campaigns details 	Email/LetterPresentation	 Prior to relevant projects/campaigns beginning
Site users	Ensure users understand TTC's commitment	New guidelines/policy/management	• Email	As and when necessary
	 on Climate and Nature Emergency Raise sustainability/environmental awareness Gain access to volunteer labour 	plansGood practice in siteProjects/campaigns details	Notice boardReminder stickers	Throughout the year

Stakeholder	Objectives (actions)	Message content	Delivery method	Timeline
Local landowners	 Find collaboration opportunities Find sponsorship opportunities Keep informed of relevant proposed projects/campaigns 	Projects/campaigns proposalsProjects/campaigns details	Email/LetterPresentation	 Prior to relevant projects/campaigns beginning
Developers	Find sponsorship opportunitiesFind collaboration opportunitiesGain access to volunteer labour	Projects/campaigns proposalsProjects/campaigns details	Email/LetterPresentation	 Prior to relevant projects/campaigns beginning
Regulators	 Keep informed of relevant projects/campaigns Receive feedbacks/permits on relevant projects/campaigns proposal 	 Projects/campaigns proposals 	• Email	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
Local press	 Provide updates on current projects/campaigns Promote TTC's effort on addressing Climate and Nature Emergency Help TTC to engage with a wider audience 	 Projects/campaigns performance and progress 	Community's newsletterEmail	 As and when newsletter is published
SGC	Provide updates on current	 Projects/campaigns performance and 	 Progress report 	Yearly
	projects/campaignsGain access to SGC knowledge bank	progressProjects/campaigns proposals	• Email	 Prior to relevant projects/campaigns beginning
INTERNAL				
Staff	 Ensure staff understand and support TTC's commitment on Climate and Nature 	 New guidelines/policy/management plans 	 Environmental trainings +/- workshops 	Yearly
	EmergencyAcquire technical opinions on relevant	Current projects/campaignsProjects/campaigns proposals	Internal e-mailInternal notice board	As and when necessary
	projects/campaignsRaise sustainability/environmental awareness	Good practice in workplace	Workgroup meetings	 Prior to projects/campaigns beginning
			 Reminder stickers 	 Throughout the year
TTC Councillors	 Gain support for proposed projects/campaigns Receive feedbacks on projects/campaigns proposals Provide updates on current projects/campaigns Help TTC to engage with all residents and businesses 	 Projects/campaigns proposals Projects/campaigns performance and progress Resources needed for proposed projects/campaigns 	Committee meetings	 Six times a year (Formal session) Every other month (Informal online session) Full Council Meeting when necessary

Note: +/- = with or without

MONTHLY COMMUNICATION TOPICS

		ENGAGEMENT				
MONTH	TOPIC	Talk/Seminar/ Webinar	E-activities	Workshop/ Events	Promotion post	Cleanup Day
JAN	Big Garden Birdwatch	-	-	Bird/Bat Box	-	-
FEB	World Wetlands Day	-	-	-	✓	√
MAR	Earth Hour	-	Turn off non- essential electric lights, for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.	-	-	-
APR	Earth Day	-	-	-	✓	✓
	City Nature Challenge	-	City Nature Challenge [iNaturalist]	Bat Walk	-	-
MAY	No Mow May	-	-	-	√	-
	World Bee Day	-	-	Bug Hotel	-	-
	Hedgehog awareness week	-	-	-	✓	-
JUN	World Environment Day	-	-	-	√	✓
	World Oceans Day	-	-	-	√	-
	Great Big Green Week	+/- Guest speaker	-	+/- Green Event with EcoThornbury Awards Ceremony	-	-
JUL	Love Parks Week	-	Nature Hunt	-	-	-
AUG	National Allotments Week	-	-	Wildflower meadow planting	-	√
SEP	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	+/- Guest speaker	-	Fruit enzyme cleaner	✓	-
ОСТ	World Animal Day	-	Hedgehog Home	-	-	-
NOV	National Tree Week	-	-	Tree planting	-	✓
DEC	Green Festival	Green Festival	+/- Eco-friendly decoration	-	-	-

Note: +/- = with or without

POINT-BASED AWARD SCHEME

"EcoThornbury Points" is a point-based award scheme, under the community programme EcoThornbury, that recognizes the efforts of individuals who make a positive impact on the environment and are devoted to achieving the goals set out in the Plan. It also incentivizes people to participate and contribute to the community.

By completing different tasks such as volunteering or participating in TTC's climate and nature projects, people can earn respective EcoThornbury Points.



EcoThornbury Points for different tasks:

These points will accumulate over the year and individuals will be eligible for different awards based on their total accumulated points. An annual award ceremony will be held to reward the awardees with certificates and prizes. It gives us a great opportunity to unite and celebrate the progress we make towards an eco-friendly community.

25 EcoThornbury Comrade
Tribe

EcoThornbury Buddy

EcoThornbury Points award categories:

MAPPING

The main features in Thornbury that are relevant to the Plan have been mapped, including assets of Thornbury Town Council (TTC), open spaces management proposals, habitats and lands managed by South Gloucestershire Council (SGC).

TTC manages and maintains the following sites and assets (mapped in the 'Town Council Asset' layer):

BUILDING

- Town Hall
- •67 High Street
- Bakery annexe
- •The Pavilion

GREEN SPACE

- Thicket Walk
- Oakleaze Green
- Mundy Playing Fields and play area
- Chantry Playing Field

CEMETERY

- Thornbury Cemetery
- •St Mary's Church closed churchyard

AMENITIES

- Chantry Road Play Area (off Tilting road)
- Osprey Park Play Area
- •Eastland Avenue Play Area
- •Streamleaze Play Area
- Public Tennis Courts
- •Thornbury Skate Park

In this Plan, we focus on optimizing locations where TTC has the most influence. Some of the SGC-owned land in Thornbury is mapped in the 'South Gloucestershire Council Managed Land' layer. However, private land has not been mapped. Opportunities in these areas will be explored in later phases.

Visit the link below to see the map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=16yo55iqpLjniK19BflqdulQlf6n8xPg&ll=51.61537438173854%2 C-2.510942549999986&z=13

SERVICE SEARCHES

For projects that may involve soil excavation, service searches will be conducted in advance to ensure that the work does not affect any existing underground infrastructure.

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

In 2022 summer, an ecological survey was conducted to assess the state of 7 green spaces owned by TTC. The report proposed a grassland management plan, tree/hedge/wildflower planting, and installation of wildlife habitats to enhance the biodiversity of each space. The officers' recommendations on the implementation of the ecological surveys were agreed in March 2023 in the Open Space Committee. And the proposals have been incorporated into this Plan and mapped in the 'Opportunities' layer. For detailed information, including the specific recommendations, please refer to the reports available at the following link: https://www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2023/03/Agenda-and-Papers-Open-Spaces-Committee-21.03.23.pdf.

TREE SURVEY

A tree survey is carried out regularly, usually every 2-3 years, to ensure that any issues are identified and addressed promptly. It provides a valuable insight into the current state of the trees, including any potential hazards or areas where additional care may be needed, which will help to reduce any losses before it is too late. The most recent survey was conducted in 2022, and a detailed report can be found in the link below: [link]

FUNDING

Thornbury Town Council (TTC) has allocated a budget of £7,500 for green projects. In addition to this, we have funding from other sources such as the open space committee and tree planting. Moreover, whenever relevant projects arise, we will pursue additional funding through various applications and proposals. We believe that adopting this diverse approach will provide us with multiple avenues to support and expand our projects beyond the initial funding.

SOURCE	AMOUNT	TIMELINE	SPECIFIC PROJECT OR GENERAL
TTC Budget	£7,500	Yearly	Green projects

5-YEARS WORK PROGRAMME

The programme aims to address five main categories relevant to local climate and nature needs: Water, Energy, Waste, Greenhouse Gas (GHG), and Nature. The objective is to maximize our positive impact on the environment.

- Reduce energy consumption
- Improve energy efficiency
- Transition to renewable energy sources
- Seek opportunities to exemplify best practice for retrofitting exisiting buildings
- Projects include retrofitting older equipment with energy-efficient models, improving building insulation etc.

ENERGY



- Minimize waste generation
- Improve waste management
- Promote recycling and composting
- Projects include recycling more materials, reducing the use of single-use plastics/papers and cleaning up local open spaces etc.

WASTE



• Minimize greenhouse gas emissions

 Projects include transitioning to electric vehicles, utilizing low carbon heating (heat pumps) and implementing green purchasing practices etc.

GHG



- Increase water efficiency
- Projects include installing waterefficient fittings and toilets, reducing water use in irrigation systems and 'Refill' Thornbury scheme etc.

WATER



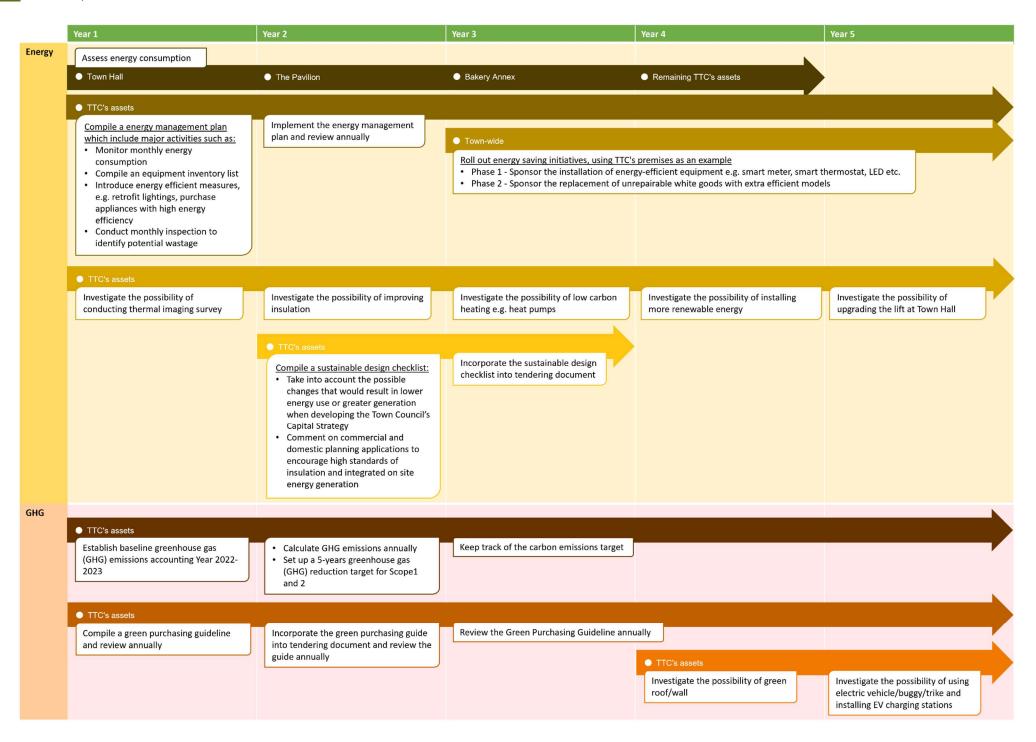
Preserve and restore natural habitats

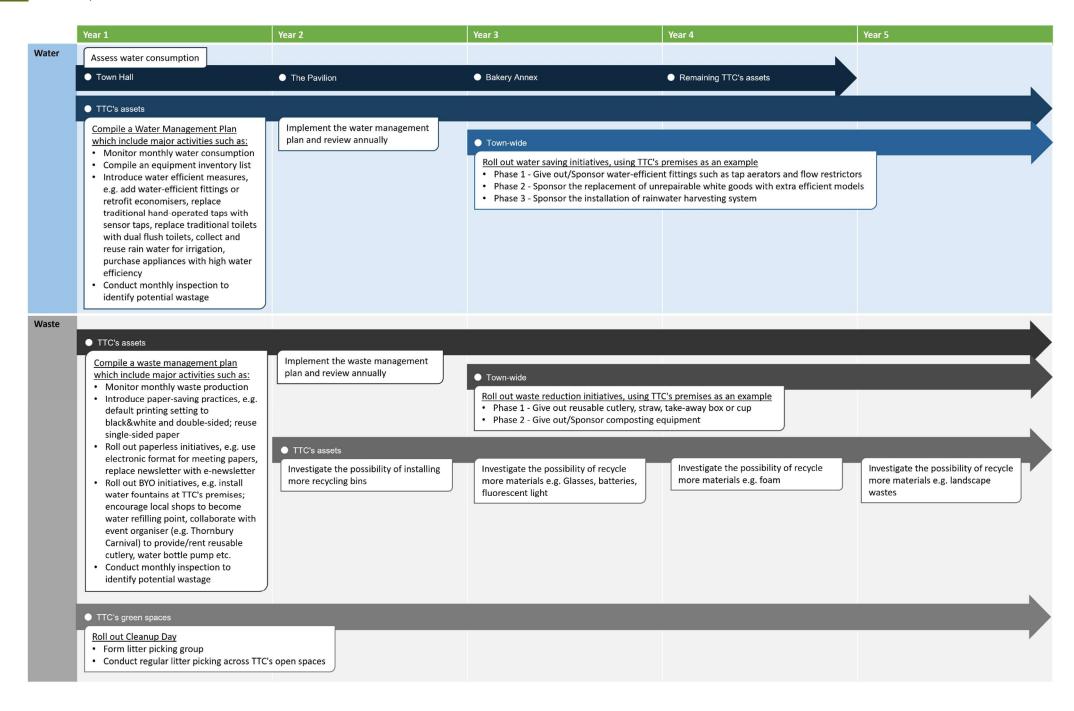
- Enhance biodiversity
- Projects include adjusting the mowing regime, planting native plants, flower and hay meadows and installing bug hotels etc.

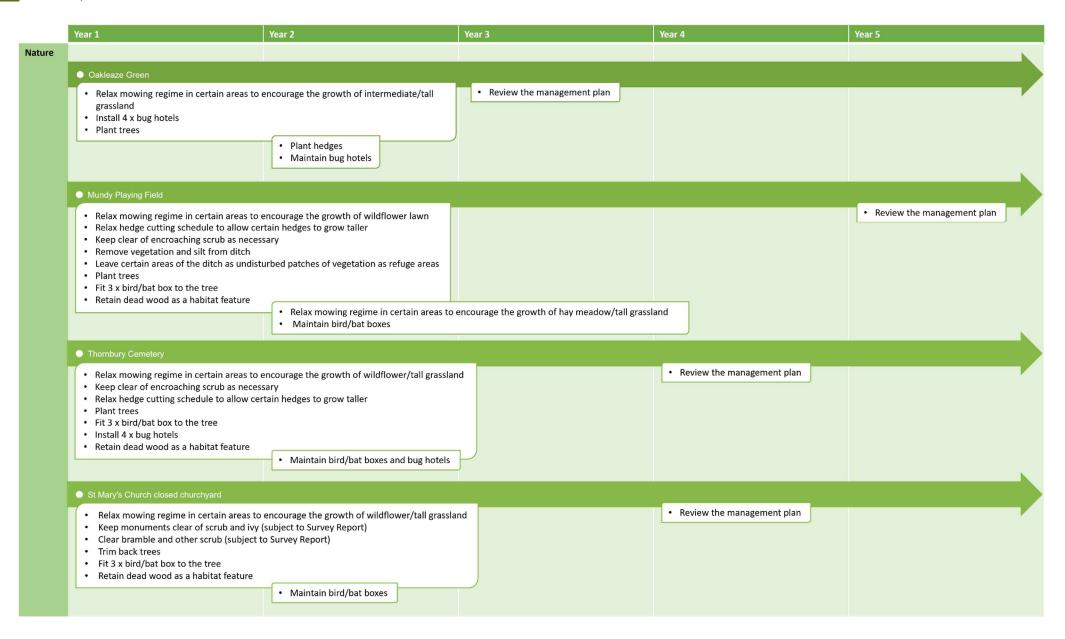
NATURE



Initially, projects under this programme will take place at TTC's assets on a small-scale and then will expand town wide. It is important to note that individual projects are subject to change based on the needs of TTC and the community. Detail timeline is illustrated in the following pages:







REFERENCES

https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx

https://www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk/facilities/

https://bighedgehogmap.org/

https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/local-nature-action-plans

 $\underline{https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca955e64abfb9762d7780dba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-and-Nature-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/Local-Climate-Action-beta.gov.uk/static/d466e89cca956ba/$ Plan-toolkit.pdf