



Why do we need a nature recovery plan?

The 2019 State of Nature report found that the abundance and distribution of the UK's species has, on average, declined since 1970. Continuing centuries of decline caused by human pressures. The report stated that **there has been no let-up in the net loss of nature in the UK.**

Hedgehogs in Britain are declining so rapidly that they are now on the Red List, classified as vulnerable to extinction. Tragically, in Britain we have lost over half of our Swifts in just the past 25 years. Insect numbers are plummeting – insects are vital to wildlife food-chains, pollination and healthy ecosystems.

Our Nature Recovery Plan is all about what we, the Bainton and Ashton community, can do in our patch to help nature to thrive and reverse biodiversity losses.

Our parish: The civil parish of Bainton and Ashton covers an area of roughly 7 square kms from the Maxey Cut flood alleviation channel and the Old River Welland in the north, all the way up to the Ufford to Marholm road in the south, and rising from 12 metres to 36 metres above sea level. There's a wide range of countryside – meadows, arable fields, gardens, hedgerows, woodland, wetland, drainage channels and streams, two nature reserves and a nature conservation area. We have special historic features like our Buttercross, stone walls and village church, stone-built farmhouses, two medieval moated sites, an old sheep-wash and medieval ridge and furrow. There are even traces in the landscape left by the people who lived here thousands of years ago.



You can read the full **Bainton and Ashton Parish Council Phase One Nature Recovery Plan on the B&A Parish Council Website** - follow the 'Nature Recovery' Link. Or contact Cliff Stanton for a printed copy. **News and updates will go out in newsletters, on the Parish Council website and our Nature Recovery Facebook group.**

There are lots of ways to get involved:

Volunteering for occasional work parties, survey teams or on the team co-ordinating our local efforts.

Posting your wildlife sightings and photos on 'Bainton & Ashton Nature Recovery' Facebook group.

Joining in with our 2021/2022 activities discovering and celebrating our local nature and landscape and exploring how we can make things better for wildlife and people. Could you volunteer to help on the team organising these activities?

Taking part in the Garden Wildlife Questionnaire. Offering to install a swift nest box on your home.

Please contact: Cliff Stanton, Bainton & Ashton Parish Councillor **01780 749123**
Susie Lucas, Chair of Bainton & Ashton Parish Council **01780 740159**



This flyer has been produced by Bainton and Ashton Parish Council, February 2021

Bainton and Ashton Nature Recovery and the John Clare Countryside Project



John Clare Countryside Project

In January 2020 Richard Astle, chair of the Langdyke Countryside Trust talked to residents and the Parish Council about the John Clare Countryside (JCC) Project. **The Project aims to create an extensive and accessible nature recovery area across the landscape north and west of Peterborough.** The Project is designed and led by residents, parish councils, landowners, farmers and businesses, supported by the Langdyke Countryside Trust, Peterborough City Council, Natural England and the Wildlife Trust. You can read about the JCC Project at <http://langdyke.org.uk/projects/john-clare-vision/>

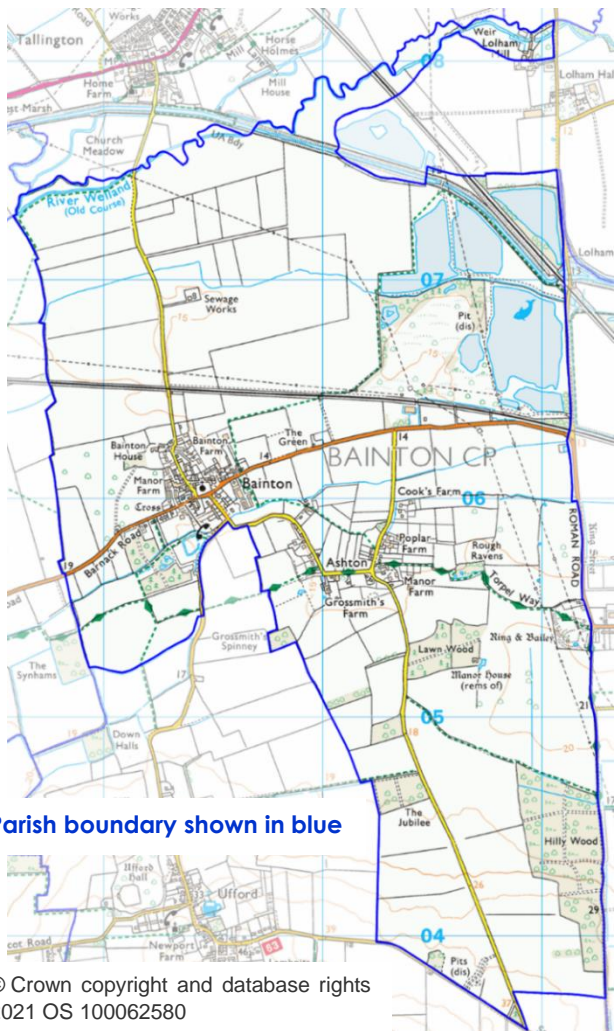
Bainton and Ashton Parish Nature Recovery Plan

A key feature of the John Clare Countryside vision is **local community involvement, recognising the part local residents and communities can play in helping nature to recover and thrive in their area.** All the Parish Councils in the JCC area have agreed to develop parish nature recovery plans. A small team has been working on this for Bainton and Ashton Parish Council with team leader Parish Councillor Cliff Stanton. A Phase One Plan has been agreed by the Parish Council with the intention of adding to the plan in late 2021/2022 to incorporate what the community would like to do to help nature flourish over the next ten years.

Thank You Nature Projects

Access to nature helps improve our health and wellbeing. Nature has been really important for many people during the Covid lockdown restrictions. JCC is promoting the idea of 'Thank You Nature' projects for each community during 2021.

In Bainton and Ashton we would like to look after the Washdyke/Sheepwash area as a mini 'Thank You Nature' reserve, find a location for a 'Thank You' oak tree and install swift nesting boxes to expand a small existing swift colony. Watch out for more news on volunteering to get involved with these projects.



Parish boundary shown in blue

© Crown copyright and database rights
2021 OS 100062580

Garden Questionnaire

During the spring we will all have the opportunity along with other parishes in JCC to take part in a Garden Wildlife Questionnaire, to help us discover how nature is getting on in our gardens in Bainton and Ashton.

'Bainton & Ashton Nature Recovery' Facebook group for B&A villagers. Join to keep up to date with nature recovery news and activities and to share and see sightings and photos of nature and the countryside in our parish.



What's happening in 2021?

Sharing and gathering information about our local landscape and nature to inspire and inform how the community can help nature to flourish in our parish, create more nature rich habitats and tackle biodiversity loss. We plan to hold events, activities and walks in 2021 (Covid restrictions permitting) and 2022.

Roadside verges and green spaces management – developing more sympathetic cutting regimes and increasing wildflowers. B&A Parish Council plans to continue the new mowing regimes in the centre of Bainton which were introduced last summer. The Washdyke verge and Sheepwash green space will be managed for nature and local enjoyment. Cutting regimes in parts of Ashton will be reviewed to increase wildflowers and make the verges more resilient to vehicle damage. Liaison has begun with Peterborough City Council to explore how verges outside the village envelope could be managed to increase wildflowers.

Promoting action for nature in gardens. Garden Wildlife Questionnaire for householders. Locally filmed videos on gardening for wildlife released throughout 2021 on the Langdyke Website. Helping swifts by seeking suitable sites on buildings in Bainton for swift nest boxes.

Encouraging the development of wildlife corridors to link up good wildlife habitats across the parish and wider area.

Seeking input and involvement of the community to add more projects and recovery targets to the Plan.

Read the full Phase One Plan at <https://baintonandashtonparishcouncil.org.uk/nature-recovery/>

