

Downend & Bromley Heath Local Climate & Nature Action Plan



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To be reviewed:

Introduction

Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council is taking proactive steps to address the Climate and Nature Emergency, recognizing its impact on both local and global environments. Through the invaluable support of volunteers and guidance from the Local Nature Action Plan template by South Gloucestershire Council, we proudly present a comprehensive 3-year Local Climate and Nature Action Plan tailored for our village.

The parish aspires to minimise its carbon footprint, fostering a collective effort to safeguard the parish from the impending climate catastrophe. In tandem with the climate emergency, the decline in species and habitat loss is a pressing concern. As a parish, Downend & Bromley Heath is actively engaged in the development of a joint Local Climate and Nature Action Plan, recognising the integral connection between species decline and the climate crisis.

With the unwavering support of individuals, families, businesses, organisations, landowners, South Gloucestershire Council, and community groups, we envision transforming Downend & Bromley Heath into a haven where wildlife thrives and green spaces flourish. Join us in this transformative journey to make Downend and Bromley Heath a greener space for all. Together, let's play our part and protect and enhance the natural environment across our parish.

To get involved or to learn more, contact lcnap@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk

Aims and Objectives

Members of Common Connections and volunteers across Downend and Bromley Heath have created this Local Climate and Nature Action Plan with the aims to **protect and enhance our environment** through the following objectives:



To reduce our local carbon footprint and waste



To create more habitats and corridors for wildlife



To facilitate collaborations with local stakeholders



To increase our understanding of local species



To increase community engagement and communication, specifically working with children and younger people to ensure their voice is heard



To work with the parish council to include environmental issues in the decision making process



To protect and enhance green spaces across the parish

Stakeholders

Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council - to adopt and oversee the LCNAP - lcnap@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk

South Gloucestershire Council - to provide guidance and support to the Parish - nature@southglos.gov.uk / lcnap@framptoncottesell-pc.gov.uk

West of England Combined Authority - provides funding opportunities

Downend in Bloom

Friends of Leap Valley

Other Friends groups

One Planet Matters

Interested residents living in the Parish

Bromley Heath Junior School

Other local schools

Mud Pie Explorers CIC

Local businesses

Neighbouring Town and Parish Councils

Local volunteering groups

Local GP surgeries

Environmental groups

Local land owners

Education Providers

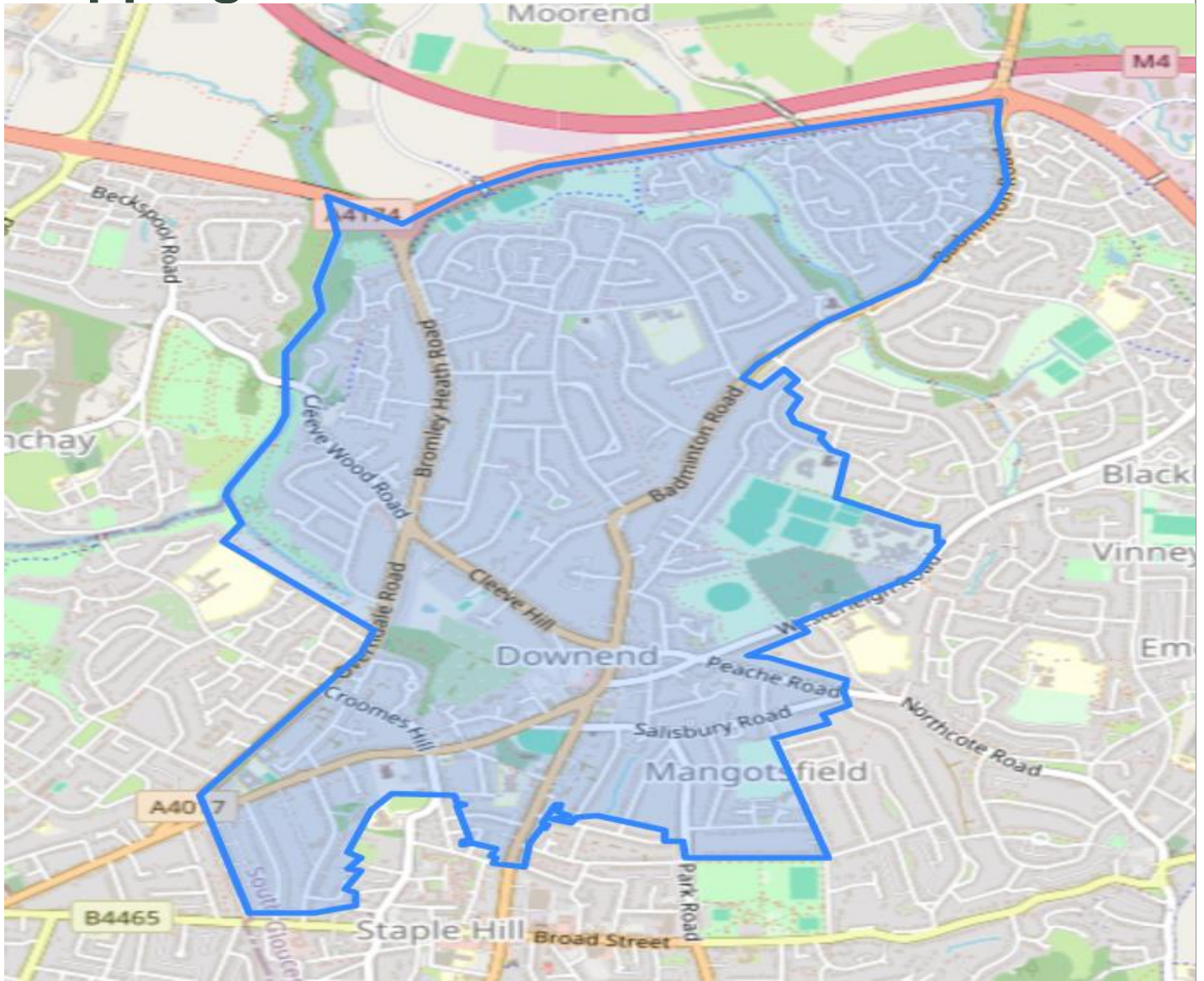
Stakeholder Communications Plan

STAKEHOLDER	ACTION	MESSAGE CONTENT	DELIVERY METHOD	TIMELINE
Residents	Regular updates on climate / nature projects	Proposed projects, feedback requests, general updates	Social media e.g Facebook, Parish noticeboards, Downend Voice, tab on D&BH Parish website	Min. monthly online updates.
Parish Council	Obtain approval of plan. Keep informed on projects	Project updates, funding requests.	Regular agenda update at parish council meetings	
Community Groups	Involve and collaborate on projects	Update on projects that connect to their group, impact, involvement, collaboration potential.	Relevant social media groups, email.	Before start of relevant projects.
South Glos Council	Keep informed of action taken	Updates on nature projects	Email and LCNAP conferences	Every 6 months
Local businesses	Support businesses in making eco friendly changes	Examples of changes that could be made e.g. creating long grass margins, reducing single use plastic.	Email, leaflets in person or social media.	Annually/project specific contact.
Local services & organisations	Keep informed of relevant projects and ask for advice	News on projects they can support, help with or inform on.	Email	Before new relevant projects begin.

Communications Topics

Each month of the year, a different theme relating to climate and nature projects may be shared with the community/schools where time allows, either via Social Media, the Parish Council website, noticeboards or schools etc. Where possible, the themes shall tie into national campaigns, such as Plastic Free July, World Refill Day and No Mo May. The purpose of this is to share knowledge and raise awareness on climate and nature issues, lifestyle changes and individual action.

Mapping



Further mapping of assets and projects will be developed over time. This may include:

- Community Nature Reserve areas of interest

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- Tree planting locations
 - New ponds
 - Wildflower meadows
 - Long grass
 - Nest box locations
 - Fauna tower locations
 - New hedgerows
 - Hedgerows needing restoration.
 - Hedgehog or other wildlife corridors, runs and holes.

Land Services Checks

It is important to consider all the services that may run under or over any land marked for improving for nature and climate. South Gloucestershire Council can carry out a service search for a fee. The cost for each service search is currently £140.70 (as of 1 April 2021).

A map of the land in question highlighted with by a clear border with co-ordinates for central point provided should be supplied with the form provided at Annex 4 in the LCNAP Guidelines. This service can take up to six weeks for all responses to be received.

Alternatively, you can organize service searches at [Home - LineSearchBeforeUdig \(Isbud.co.uk\)](http://Home-LineSearchBeforeUdig(Isbud.co.uk))

Carbon Footprint

Centre of Sustainable Energy's IMPACT carbon footprint estimator provides an approximate calculation of Downend & Bromley Heath's carbon footprint (CSE, 2023). Territorial carbon footprint relates to all emissions occurring within the parish area only. Consumption based footprints relate to all emissions caused by residents, regardless of where geographically they occur. Figure 1 shows that the average approximate territorial carbon footprint per household is 9.1 tons of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e*) for the parish. Transport, commercial, and housing appear as the top contributors to the territorial village footprint.

Figure 1

Downend and Bromley Heath

9.1t CO₂e*

per-household territorial footprint (p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Housing	3.27
Road Transport	3.08
Industrial and commercial	1.32
Aviation	0.63
Shipping	0.52
F-gases	0.21
Agriculture	0.05
Waste management	0.03
Other Transport	0.01
Diesel fuelled railways	0

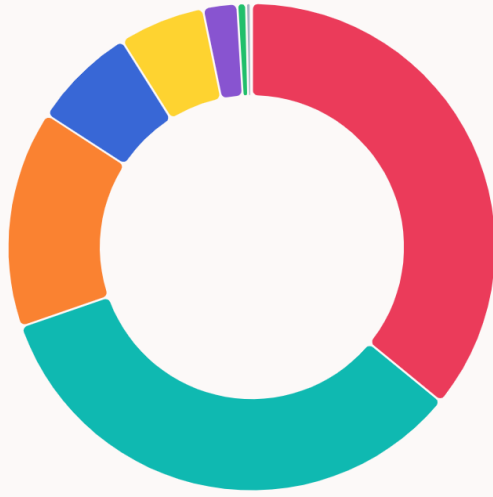


Figure 2 shows the average consumption-based carbon footprint per household of the parish, at an estimated 13.5t CO₂e*. Consumption of goods, food and housing are at the top of the list for the consumption-based village footprint.

Figure 2

Downend and Bromley Heath

13.5t CO₂e*

per-household consumption footprint (p.a.)

EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN (t CO₂e)

Consumption of goods and services	4.52
Housing	3.14
Travel	3.04
Food and diet	2.8
Waste	0.05

[Download full footprint report](#)

Download your full footprint report for detailed breakdowns of emissions in each category and resources to help you take action to reduce them. (PDF, 800kB)

[Download the data](#)



As part of this plan, volunteers and the parish council shall investigate the collaboration with residents, community groups, businesses and more to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the village and race towards zero carbon. As high levels of carbon negatively impact nature and our environment, this action plan aims to both reduce the parish's carbon footprint long term and mitigate the current impacts of CO₂ on the environment.

Previous Climate/Nature Projects

- Biodiversity report completed by South Glos Council. Link dbhparishcouncil.uk/media/attachments/2023/12/06/downend_and_bromley_heath_bap_sp.pdf

Projects: 3 Year Plan April 2024- April 2027

The initial projects in this 3-year plan can be found in the table below. The following project plan is not exhaustive as additional opportunities may arise and plans may be altered. The projects may be subject to slight modification when they are each investigated, costed and discussed.

PROJECT	DETAILS	TIMELINE	MONITORING
AIM: Reduce our local carbon footprint and reduce waste			
Reduce food waste	Investigate food waste initiatives, e.g. community crop sway (such as apple sharing, harvest).	March 2027	TBC
Reduce water waste and plastic	Investigate Refill schemes to encourage residents to reuse refillable water bottles. Encourage businesses to sign up to the refill app Home - Refill - find places to eat, drink and shop with less waste	March 2027 (Plastic Free July)	Monitor options in local area and businesses
Transport	Promote sustainable and affordable travel and transport options, and encourage behavior change	Ongoing	Feedback, patronage data from bus companies, WECA data on e-bikes and e-scooters
AIM: To create more habitats and corridors for wildlife			

Hedgehog Heroes	Get Parish Council on Board with the Hedgehog Heroes project from SGC. Work with developers in the parish to install hedgehog highways in new fencing.	Begin Autumn 2024. Ongoing.	Monitor recordings on the Big Hedgehog Map. Monitor number of hedgehog highways installed.
Free Trees	Run a free trees day and supply free trees for residents to plant. £1000 required secured	Autumn 2024	Count and map how many trees collected, record species and number.
Wildflowers	Identify areas across the parish for wildflower planting and add to Google My Maps as “areas for opportunity”	Summer 2024	Record and map potential sites.
Planting wildflowers in identified areas	Plant flowers in previously identified spots. Seek appropriate permissions. Grow wilder can supply. Include the community center and verges.	Spring 2025	Consider setting up volunteers to monitor wildflower areas annually to record species.
Hill House Park	Investigate scope to create sustainable, recreational and educational woodland.	March 2027	Establish scope and interest
Bromley Heath Skate Park	Explore opportunities for safeguarding and protecting nature and biodiversity in any agreed development	Ongoing	Establish scope and engage with development team
AIM: Facilitate stronger collaborative working with stakeholders and volunteers			
Collaborate on projects with community groups	Work with community and volunteer groups to complete projects in this plan	Ongoing	Annually review collaborations with local groups and consider where partnerships could be made on future projects.

Build relationships and increase participation in projects	Communicate with schools, churches, charities, Youth organizations to open opportunities for involvement in climate and nature projects.	Ongoing	Record which organizations contacted for which project and monitor partnerships created.
Encourage businesses to be greener	To share information with local businesses on simple ways to be greener.	Ongoing	After info shared, request feedback from businesses to see if any green switches have been made.
Social prescribing	Explore opportunities for social prescribing in primary care to support projects related to LCNAP	March 2027	Establish contacts with different Primary Care Networks (PCN) and other stakeholders
AIM: To increase our understanding of local species			
Mapping	Create and continue to update Google My Maps	2024-2027 Ongoing as and when	Map to be reviewed annually and updated as and when required
Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)	Encourage residents and volunteers to share species sightings with BRERC.	2024-2027 Ongoing as and when	Check BRERC for updates on species annually
Nature Surveys including bats, birds and butterflies	Encourage residents to take part in the Bat Conservation Trust surveys – National Bat Monitoring Programme. Work with local organisations to run bat walks	2024-2027	Check National Bat Monitoring Programme sites annually to check locals are participating in the programme
iNaturalist and Garden BioBlitz	Encourage families to get involved by holding a garden BioBlitz. Encourage the use	Summer 2025	Monitor Downend area on the iNaturalist recording

	of iNaturalist for beginners but also BRERC if you want recordings to potentially impact planning decisions for those confident in using this system.		map. Note iNaturalist is not currently in sync with BRERC
AIM: To increase community engagement and communication			
Complete and share 2024 Climate & Nature Action Plan with community	To actively engage the community with the action plan, welcoming feedback and offers to help role our projects with stakeholders and volunteers.	Annual Parish Meeting 2024	Note feedback from community and consider modification to the plan. Review plan annually.
Investigate comms methods	Experiment with varied communications methods to recruit support and spread messages regarding the environment including social media, notice boards, parish website, flyers, local magazines etc.	Begin Summer 2024, ongoing.	Monitor likes and comments on social media. Consider asking volunteers and participants at events where they heard about it.
AIM: To work with the parish council to include environmental issues in the decision making process			
Environment policy	Work with and encourage the parish council to create an environment policy	Autumn 2025	Support the creation of the policy and monitor when it is approved
Climate & Nature Emergency Declaration	Encourage the parish council to declare a climate & nature emergency to include aims of reaching net zero by 2035 inline with South Gloucestershire Council, and neighboring parish councils.	Spring 2024	Monitor aims from declaration to ensure met

Tie in with planning application considerations	Consider wildlife, carbon footprint and biodiversity net gain when considering planning applications at the Parish council planning committee e.g. swiftbricks	Ongoing	
AIM: To protect and enhance green spaces across the parish			
Community Nature Reserves	Promote community nature reserves and encourage residents to sign up their gardens. Speak with Emersons Green Town Council who have completed this Team Wilder Community Nature Reserve Avon Wildlife Trust	Spring 2025	Monitor number of community nature reserved signed up and types of habitats created. Look for gaps across the parish and aim to fill them
Allotments	Work with SGC and allotment holders to promote wildlife friendly practices	Ongoing	Develop connections

Funding

Focus on grant funding. Investigate the following:

- Member Awarded Funding (whilst available)
- National Lottery Awards for All or Climate and Nature funding
- The Woodland Trust and The Conservation Volunteers for free trees
- SUEZ grants
- Section 106 monies
- Parish Council Grants or Community Infrastructure Levy
- CVS grants

Contact and Get Involved

If you have any suggestions, comments or would like to get involved in any of the projects proposed in this plan please email: lcnap@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk

References

CSE (2023). *IMPACT Tool*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://impact-tool.org.uk/> [Accessed 24/11/2021].

GOV.UK (2019). *Climate Change Explained*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained> [Accessed 12/10/2021].

IPCC (2021). *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. [ONLINE] Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Full_Report.pdf [Accessed 12/10/2021].

South Glos Council (2021). *Local Nature Action Plan Guidelines*. [ONLINE] Available at: [Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils.pdf \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://www.southglos.gov.uk/media/10000/Local-Nature-Action-Plans-guidance-for-town-and-parish-councils.pdf) [Accessed 02/12/2021].