

Wildlife Area Management Plan

BROMPTON, NORTHALLERTON

April 2024



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MP Brompton Wildlife area 2024

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Site: Brompton – Water End

Date: April 2024

Client: Brompton Parish Council

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1 Introduction

Brompton Parish Council manage the village green areas on both sides of the Beck in Brompton. These areas are seasonally inundated and fairly species-poor. The area is heavily used by dog walkers. The village would like the site to be managed more effectively for wildlife and have put forward the following objectives

- Encourage the area to be a 'wildlife meadow' through appropriate and achievable management
- Enhance wildlife in the area; providing habitats for all species esp protected species eg birds - owls, water vole, bats etc
- Have some areas of colour for the villagers to appreciate.



The management plan was written by Ione Bateau MCIEEM of MAB Environment and Ecology Ltd

The site comprises an area of grassland with trees running along Brompton Beck .

The site location is shown on Figure 1.

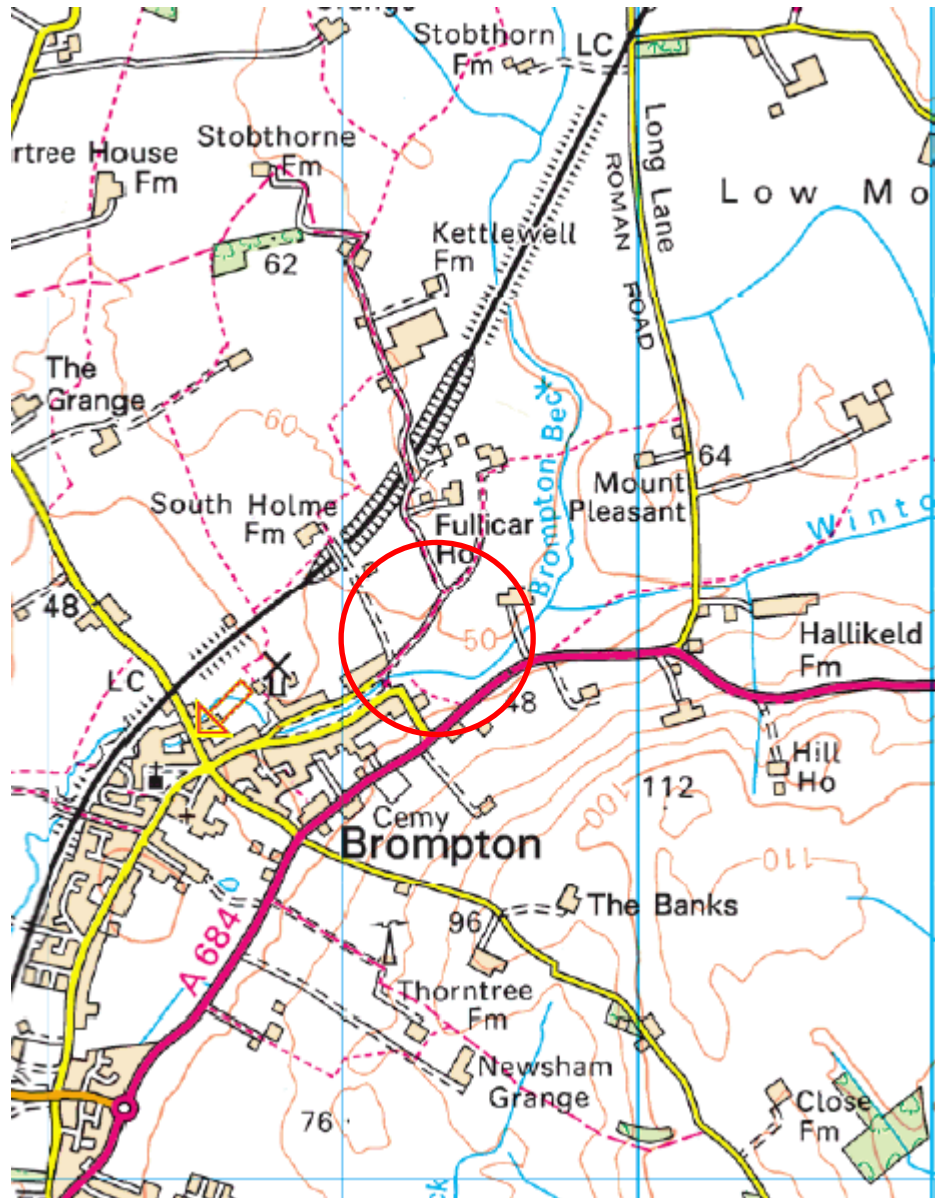


Figure 1: Site location 1:5,000.

MAGiC

Wildlife area Brompton



Figure 2 Site boundary



Figure 3 Aerial View

2 Site survey

2.1 Flora

The grassland is dominated by common species such as Yorkshire fog and cock's-foot. Some trial areas have been set up by locals where they have plug planted and sown herbaceous species in strips and in a larger square area. Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) have successfully colonised these areas.

Annual species eg poppies, corncockle have also been sown but failed to flourish as these are annuals and need the soil turning for the seeds to germinate.

Trees are scattered throughout the site – many mature and some newly planted.

Non native daffodils and Spanish bluebell occur throughout the site.

The beckside has typical tall ruderal species: great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), ground-elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and water figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

Aquatic vegetation in the water includes Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). This list is not complete and should be updated in the summer when vegetation is apparent.

2.2 Riparian species

No evidence of water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) was seen, though the beck provides good potential habitat for them and historically water vole were found on site. They are recorded on the Wiske which is in the same water catchment .

Otter are likely to use the Beck though they have not been specifically surveyed for.

2.3 Ponds

There are no ponds within 250m of the village green , though amphibians are likely to be on site from garden ponds.

2.4 Designations

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the area.

3 Current management of the area

Verge areas are mown regularly due to highway issues. The main part of the site has been mown annually with arisings left on site. Dog walking paths are self-maintaining throughout the site.

3.1.1 Habitats on site.

Phase 1 survey

The habitats found on site are highlighted within the Brompton Wildlife Area Management map Figure 5. Target notes (TN) are included in Table 1.

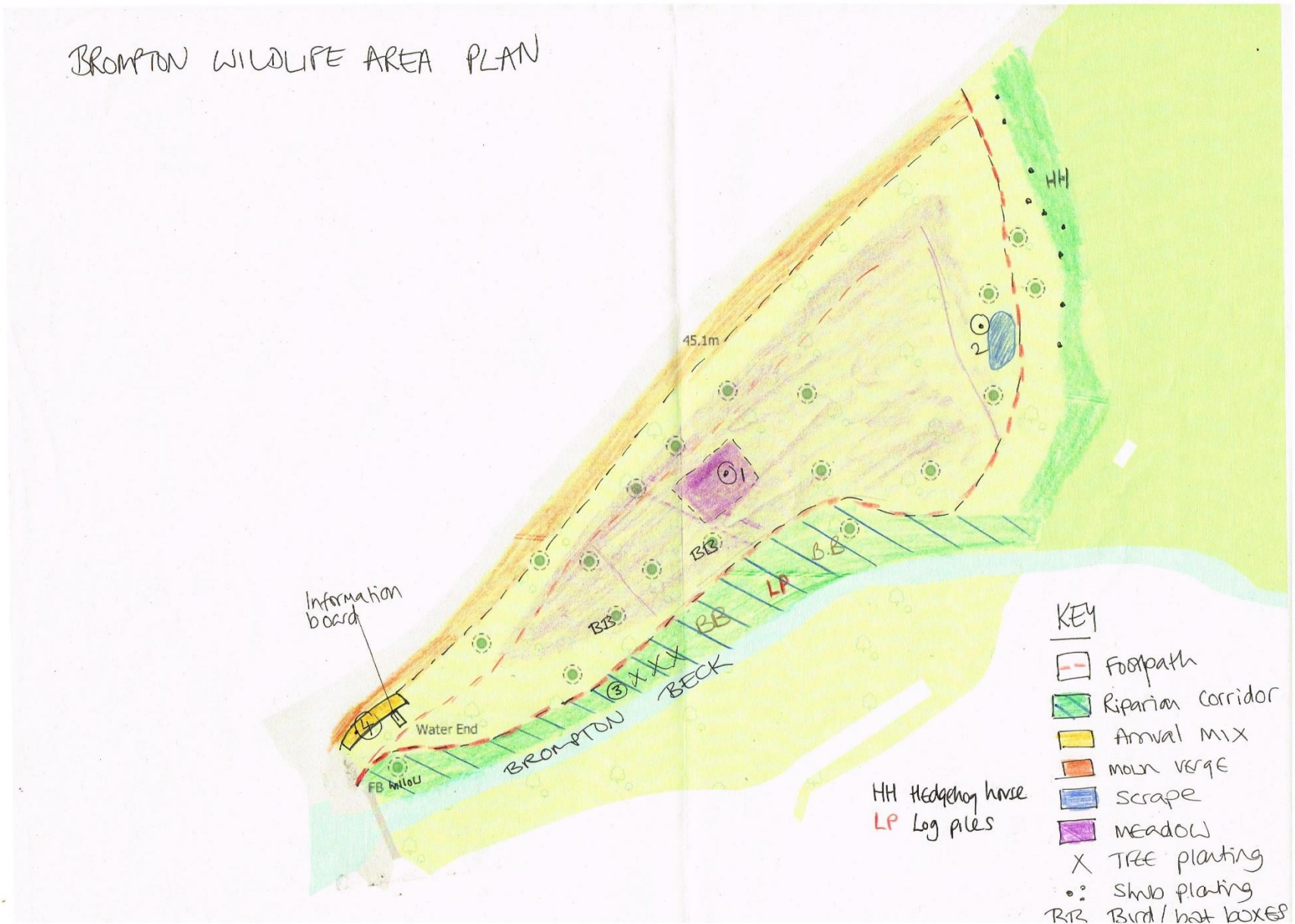


Figure 4: Management map of habitats
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Target note (TN's)	Description
1	Small area of seeded meadow with alder regeneration
2	Wet area
3	Riparian corridor with alder planting
4	Area of annual arable mix

Table 1: Target notes.

Site photographs:



Photo 1 View of area



Photo 2 Notice board



Photo 3 Verge area



Photo 4 The Beck



Photo 5 Daffodils



Photo 6 Footpath

MP Brompton Wildlife area 2024



Photo 7 Regenerating alders



Photo 8 East of the area



Photo 9 East area



Photo 10 Seeded area

4 Management objectives for the site

4.1 Enhance the meadow area to increase habitat diversity and thus species composition through appropriate management

Meadow area is coloured purple on the management map.

4.1.1 Removal of non-natives from the wildlife area e.g. daffodils , Spanish bluebell

Daffodils should be removed where possible from the meadow area and planted in the verge. If daffodils are desired for colour then native variety should be planted in the wooded areas. There are some Spanish bluebell towards the west of the site ; they should be dug up and removed.

Alder seedlings have germinated in the seeded meadow square; these should be removed.

4.1.2 Annual management regime

The meadow area should be mown annually after the 15th July and arisings removed where possible. This will lower fertility and encourage more species diversity in the sward.

Some smaller trees may need to be transplanted or removed so that the mower or tractor can navigate the site more easily. Grass should be baled if possible. If raked it should be piled at the edge of the site (to the east).

Weed species in the meadow area such as nettle, thistle or dock should be hand pulled or spot sprayed.

4.1.3 Species list of site in 2024 to compare

Carry out an annual survey of species present in the meadow to see if management is effective in increasing diversity.

4.1.4 Enhance the site by plug planting

If further meadow species are desired plug planting of MG5 neutral grassland species such as knapweed, meadow cranesbill, meadow saxifrage could be considered.

4.2 Enhance the area for other protected species eg birds, water vole, otter, hedgehog and invertebrates

4.2.1 Riparian wildlife corridor to be implemented along the beck up to 4 m wide

This buffer zone should remain unmown and provide a corridor for riparian species to travel through. It will also serve to protect water quality.

4.2.2 Bird and bat boxes in larger trees

Bird and bat boxes (BB on Fig 5) should be placed in larger trees; at least 3 of each type. A barn owl box could also be considered.

4.2.3 Provide a small scrape / wetland area to encourage different species

There is a small wet area to the east of the site. This area could be hand dug out to a depth of 10cms and would encourage wetland species and different invertebrates. It needs to be shallow enough to not cause a hazard.

4.2.4 Hedgehog house

A hedgehog house(HH) should be sited within the eastern wooded area.

4.2.5 Log pile for invertebrates

If trees are removed or coppiced pile up logs to provide a log pile (LP) in the riparian corridor for dead wood invertebrates and amphibians for refuge and hibernation.

4.3 Increase the age - class structure of the woodland areas by native planting

4.3.1 Native tree planting and subsequent management along the riparian corridor

At least 3 alders should be planted along the riparian corridor

4.3.2 Shrub/tree planting along eastern boundary

To increase the age class structure various small native trees and shrubs should be planted along the eastern hedge area with shrubs in front.

These numbers are suggestions; more is better.

3 x Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)

3 x Rowans (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

3 x Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) – good for Brimstone butterfly

2x field maple (*Acer campestre*)

6 x hazel (*Coryllus avellana*)

6x holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

6 x dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)

Plant in groups of 3 if possible.

4.3.3 Coppicing on a 10 year rotation

Some of the trees eg willows , cherry along the riparian strip should be coppiced or pollarded on a 10 year rotation to encourage the age class. Denser areas of suckers etc would encourage otters to use the bank sides.

4.4 Inform villagers on current management objectives and what a lowland meadow looks like

Information on the notice board as to what the objectives are for the site and the ongoing / proposed management.

4.5 Increase villagers' appreciation of the site

4.5.1 Area of Cornfield mixture

Small area near to the information board to be dug over annually. Initially seeded with Cornfield mixture. This should be dug over and seeds will continue to flower annually.

4.5.2 Mow dog walking paths

This could be carried out weekly to encourage dog walkers to stick to paths amongst the longer meadow grass.

