

The Slade
Local Nature Reserve



Management Plan
2019 - 2023

Marie Jones

Updated 27th February 2019

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1 Document History

Version	Date	Author	Details
1.0	27/2/19	Marie Jones	Initial publication, rationale updated.

2 Introduction

We need to manage nature reserves because, left to themselves, they would change as a result of natural processes. If a field of grass is not cut or grazed, tall vigorous grasses overshadow and smother the smaller plants including many wildflowers. Seeds from neighbouring woods and hedgerows will be dispersed by wind or animals and some of those landing in the grassland will germinate and grow; the area will firstly become scrub and eventually woodland. This change from grassland to woodland is an example of the natural process called SUCCESSION; the woodland is the CLIMAX vegetation. The field of grass was probably created many years ago by clearing ancient woodland to provide food for livestock and it represents a SUB-CLIMAX vegetation held in check by a constant management regime.

The aim of conservation management is to maintain a wide variety of appropriate habitats and species and to ensure that the natural habitats of the local area continue to survive. The difference between how we manage the site now and how it was managed in the past is that we are now managing it in order to conserve the wild species that live there as a result of historic practices in forestry and agriculture.

3 Policy Statements

3.1 Aims:

- To manage the reserve in accordance with the management plan.
- To carry out management in such a way as to make children aware of the practicalities of nature conservation and at the same time to use and develop the reserve as an outdoor educational resource.
- To encourage children to observe and record the reserve's flora and fauna and to teach them how to monitor the changes brought about by the management plan.
- To encourage the formation and maintenance of as many different habitats as possible within the reserve, in a gradual and sensitive manner, so as to cause minimum disturbance to the existing wildlife.
- To form a community conservation group for young children which will meet once a month to maintain a nature diary.

3.2 General principles:

- To protect the existing wildlife interest.
- To achieve all above using local volunteer labour, particularly local schools and youth groups.

4 General Description

4.1 General

The Slade Reserve is a 5.5 acre (2.23 hectares) wetland site. The land was acquired by Bloxham Parish Council in 2015. Prior to this date the site was owned by Oxfordshire County Council since 1969. For the majority of time since 1969 The Slade has been managed as a nature reserve and used as an educational resource. It is the intention of Bloxham Parish Council to maintain The Slade as a local nature reserve indefinitely.

The reserve can be accessed on foot via a footpath that leads across a playing field from the A361 on the south-west side of the village of Bloxham. There is no vehicular access to the reserve.

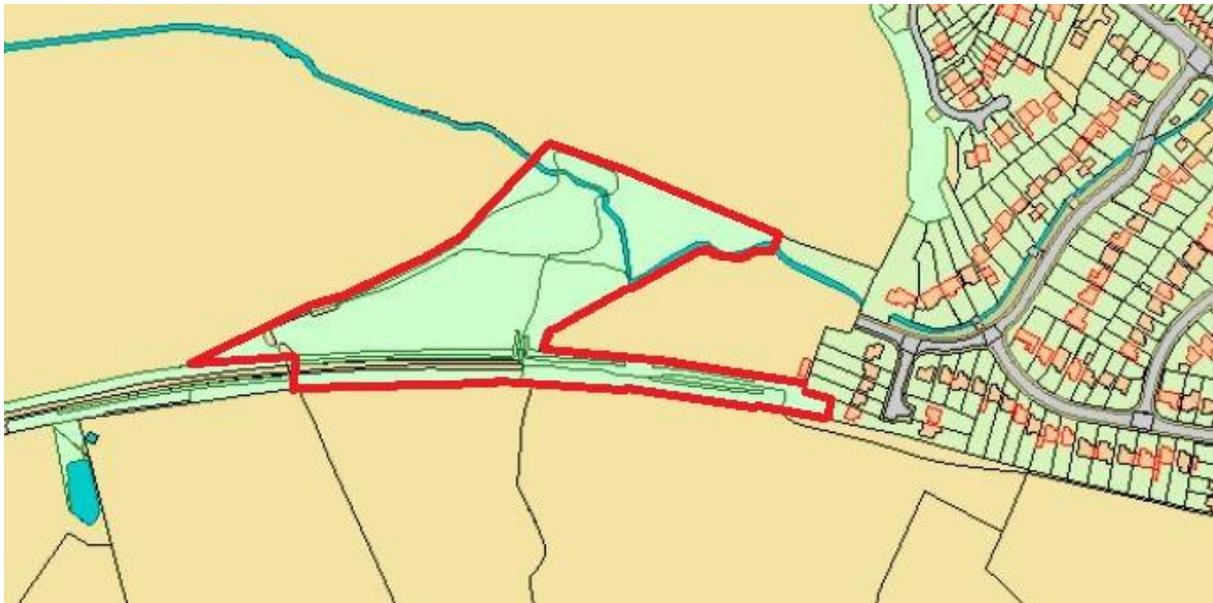


Figure 4-1 Location and boundary of The Slade Nature Reserve

4.2 Environmental

The reserve is a microcosm of what could have been found in the surrounding countryside until recent times. It includes a stretch of disused railway line and wet meadow with woodland on its northern side. Two small streams meet in the middle of the reserve and flow out at the north-east corner. Over 170 higher plants have been recorded and the site is also a haven for common birds and butterflies.

4.3 Cultural

The reserve has good variety of habitats in a small area and so is very suitable for educational visits.

The site of a former pest house has historical interest.

4.4 People – Stakeholders, local communities

Interested party	Description
Bloxham Parish Council	Legal owners of the land and responsible for funding the work outlined in this management plan.
Miller Homes	Development company for the land on the north east boundary. Proposing using the land as a country park.
Mr Coles	Neighbouring land owner on the west, north-west and north-east boundaries. Currently agricultural use.
Mr Bush	Neighbouring land owner on the southern boundary. Agricultural grazing is the primary use. Access to the reserve is along a public footpath on this land.
Mr Cleaver	Neighbouring land owner on the south-eastern boundary with the stream. Livestock grazing.
Bloxham Village Community	Will be encouraged to use the reserve as an educational resource to improve environmental awareness.
BBOWT	Local Wildlife Trust charitable organisation. Leased land previously for 25 years and will offer advice, training and voluntary workforce labour.
The recreation ground	Access to reserve is across the recreation ground.
Mr Taylor	Neighbouring land owner on the eastern boundary with the stream.
Marie Jones	Voluntary warden of The Slade. Agreed to long term management of the site and wants to set up a youth organisation based there.

5 Nature Conservation Features of Interest

5.1 Diverse mix of habitats in small manageable area.

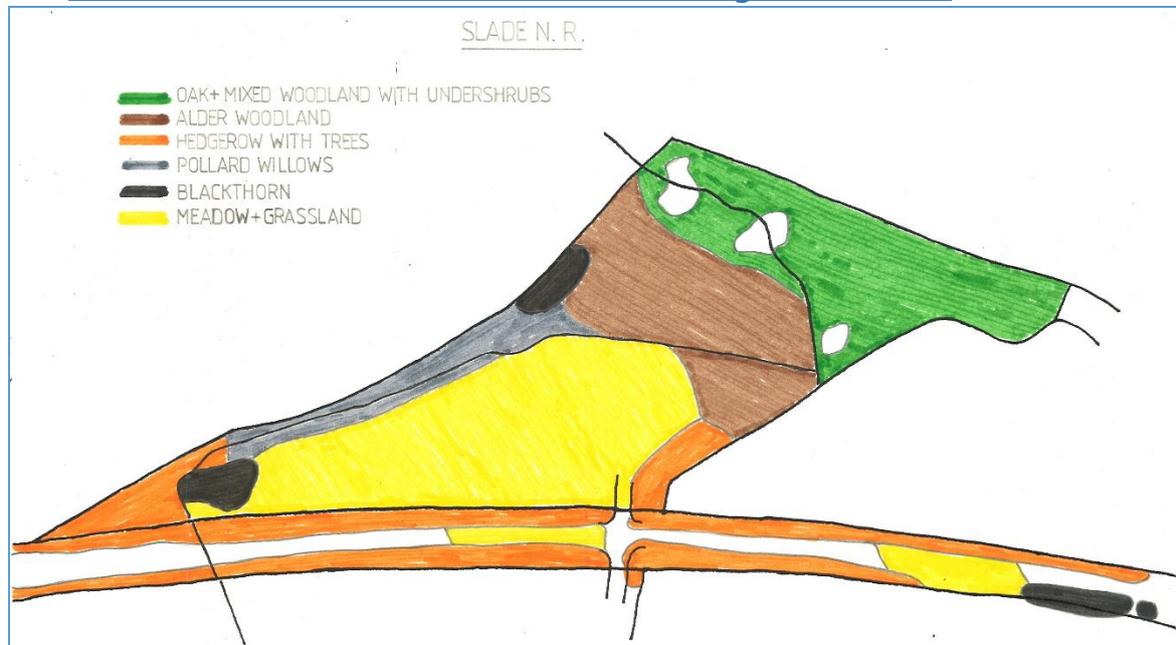


Figure 5-1: Detailed Habitat Divisions

Railway

An important wildlife rich corridor through the agricultural and housing landscape. Includes south facing slopes with a potential for clearing to small grassland areas, various broad-leaved tree species including blackthorn, hawthorn, ash, elm, oak and hazel.

Wet meadow

This is a priority habitat in terms of UK biodiversity. Dominated by meadowsweet we have a management strategy in place that will improve the diversity in the meadow. This is great habitat for dragonflies and nesting birds.

Wet woodland

This is a priority habitat in terms of UK biodiversity. The woodland is mainly alder and willow. Notable flowers are ragged robin and common spotted orchid.

5.2 Education resource.

Habitat

The Slade includes incredibly varied habitats in a small geographical area, which has great educational value. Within walking distance from the local primary and secondary schools the site offers a fantastic resource for outdoor practical learning.

Local history

The railway line itself has historical interest, stretching from Banbury to Cheltenham it was originally used to transport ironstone. The line was opened in 1887 and closed in 1962. The Slade also includes the site of a Pest House that was built to isolate members of the Bloxham parish with infectious diseases. The earliest record of its use is 1765 and it was last used in the 1890s.

Cherwell District Council undertook a wildlife site survey of The Slade on 3rd July 2015. The following species were recorded:

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	R
Clustered Dock	<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	R
Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	O
Three-nerved Sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	R
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	R
Ragged-Robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	R
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	LD
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	R
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	R
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	LF
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	O
Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	R
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	O
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	R
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	R
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	LA
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	R
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	LF
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	R
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	LD
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	O
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	LA
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	LD
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	LA
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	R

Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	LA
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	O
Field-rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	R
Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	O
English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	R
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	LA
Soft-rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	O
Hairy Sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	R
Giant Fescue	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	O
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	LA
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	R
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	O
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	O
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	R
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	O
Reed Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	O
Lesser Soft-Brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	R
Barren Brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	R
Hairy-brome	<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	O
False-brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	LF
Bearded Couch	<i>Elymus caninus</i>	R
Red Currant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	LF
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	R
Wavy Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	O
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	O
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	R
Marsh Horsetail	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	F
Male Fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> agg.	R
Broad Buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	R
Black Bryony	<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	R
Common Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	VLF
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	O
Marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	LF
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	O
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	O
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	O
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	LF
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	R
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	R
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	R
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	R
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	LF
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	LD
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	R
Grey Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i> x <i>tremula</i> = <i>P. x canescens</i>	R

Hybrid Black-poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> x <i>deltoides</i> = <i>P. x canadensis</i>	R
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	R
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	O
Common Sallow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	O
Crack-willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	LF
Hybrid Crack-willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i> x <i>alba</i> = <i>S. x rubens</i>	O
Violet	<i>Viola</i>	O
Sweet Violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	R
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	R
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	O
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	LA
Hoary Willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	O
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	LF
Enchanter's-nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	LF
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	O
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	R
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	LF
Marsh-bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>	LF
Vinca	<i>Vinca</i>	R
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	R
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	R
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	O
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	R
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	R
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	O
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	R
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	R
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O
Guelder-rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	R
Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	O
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	LA
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	LA
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	R
Ground-elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	LA
Lesser Water-parsnip	<i>Berula erecta</i>	R
Fool's-water-cress	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	LF
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	LF
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	O
Field Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	R
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	LF
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	P
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	P
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	P
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	P

Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	P
Blackbird	Turdus merula	P
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	P
Great Tit	Parus major	P
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	P

6 Operational Objectives of Management

6.1 Rationale

Following the successful installation of new bridges and extensive boardwalk the accessibility of The Slade is now a matter of maintenance of existing features. Existing boundaries must also be monitored and maintained. The priority for the next 5 year period must be measuring biodiversity and community engagement. Habitats must be managed in accordance with the management plan so as to maximise biodiversity and the community must be involved in a series of surveying events.

6.2 Objectives

A. Conservation of features.

A1. Maintain and increase diversity of habitats and species, any changes made gradually.

A1.1. Produce a mosaic of vegetation in the meadow and grasslands.

To increase the number of habitats for insects, the meadow and grasslands should be split into several management sectors to create a mosaic effect. One third of the meadow should be cut annually. In addition bare patches of earth should be created both for the insects and as basking spots for the common lizard. The remainder will not be cut. The mowings should be stacked.

A1.2. Prevent succession in the meadow.

Saplings of alder and other trees should be removed to prevent succession in the meadow. These can then be replanted in the woodland. Willow saplings should be removed, the material can be used to create a bird watching screen or stacked to form habitat piles.

A1.3. Maintain “willow walk”.

The willows have previously been re-pollarded in rotation, one each year, to maintain the trees by traditional methods. The trees should be evaluated and this work should continue. The work should be done with children for educational purposes. Several other trees, ash and willow, in the same area will need pollarding.

Remove any tree saplings that are not along the line of the willow walk.

A1.4. Enhance diversity of woodland.

The woodlands are maintained with only minimum interference through aiding natural regeneration by planting saplings. Alder saplings are planted in the alder woodland and other saplings in the mixed woodland. In addition some of the hawthorn understorey of the alder woodland, except around the boundaries of the sector should be removed and planted in the mixed woodland. The bird and bat boxes should be checked each year before nesting.

In the NE part of the woodland an area of coppice has previously been set up as an educational feature. This contained young trees, mostly hazel, but also holly (forming a barrier to the East boundary), hawthorn, ash and wayfaring tree. This project will be re-established.

A1.5. Maintain and diversify aquatic habitats.

To encourage the species of dragonflies which visit and breed on the reserve, the watercourses must be maintained and enhanced. The pond in the meadow has been important for encouraging both dragonflies and newts and so it should be enlarged laterally.

The stream along willow walk has a tendency to silt up and therefore requires redefining to prevent it spreading into the pathway.

A1.6. Enhance railway hedgerows.

The tree and shrub growth of the northern embankment of the railway requires clearance to produce a coppice with standards. Clear scrub and reduce hedgerow height to develop "scalloped" areas of the south facing embankment. This will let in light and increase biodiversity.

A1.7. Reinstate pest house moat.

The ordinance survey map of 1881 indicates a moat around the pest house which was found as a depression along the ground followed by a line of willows. This was a project previously and could in the future be picked up again.

A1.8. Install and maintain bird and bat boxes.

Replace any broken bird or bat boxes with new ones made by local youth groups.

A2. Maintain and enhance access to the reserve.

A2.1. Maintain paths.

Most of the paths on the reserve require only limited maintenance. The railway is walked regularly and the vegetation along the sides is not cut back too much to allow the children to feel their environment. To this end slight pruning occurs twice a year. These paths are also deliberately made to follow a curved route. The blackthorn patches are thinning as dead wood falls. It is necessary therefore to prune back these areas which are important for the birds of the reserve.

A2.2. Maintain stiles, bridges and gates.

Existing boardwalks, bridges, steps and gates must be kept clear of vegetation and maintained to ensure safe access to the reserve.

B. Legal and other obligations

B.1. Notify Bloxham Parish Council and local land owners.

B.1.1. Copy of work plan to Bloxham Parish Council.

It is essential that all of the relevant parties are informed of work that may affect them. This is in the form of an annual work plan which is sent to Bloxham Parish Council with forecasts of financial requirements. A proposed plan for the financial year is required by mid-January.

Additional liaison with Bloxham Parish Council for both financial and management purposes may be required.

B1.2. Liaise with land owners if work affects them.

Miller Homes, Mr Coles, Mr Cleaver, Mr Bush. Warden to notify Bloxham Parish Council of any structural work on the reserve e.g. brick work on the culvert. Ongoing liaison will be required with the adjacent Miller Homes country park site to ensure a suitable boundary is maintained. Miller Homes have committed to providing new stock fencing and to plant dense impenetrable shrubs.

B2. Maintain and enhance boundaries

B2.1. Southern boundary of railway (East end)

Survey and maintain stock proof fencing on the eastern end of the southern boundary.

B2.2. Northern boundary of railway (East end)

No immediate repair work is necessary. The boundary must be monitored over the 5 years of this management plan and any future maintenance requirements noted for future plans.

B2.3. Eastern boundary with stream

Inspect banks of stream for stability and make repairs as necessary.

B2.4. North-east boundary.

This is the boundary with the new Miller Homes development site. Miller Homes have agreed to construct new stock fencing on their side of the existing hedgerow. Formal access from the country park into the reserve has been rejected by the Parish Council. Thick, impenetrable hedgerow plants should be encouraged in the country part to discourage people to enter the reserve.

B2.5. North-west boundary

Maintain fencing and repair gate in the western corner.

B2.6. Western boundary with railway

Inspect during 5 years of management plan for future maintenance requirements.

B2.7. Southern boundary of railway (West end)

Inspect during 5 years of management plan for future maintenance requirements.

B2.8. Ensure culverts remain structurally sound.

Remove stumps on top of culvert to reduce weight and risk to structural stability. Complete brickwork on the faces of the culvert. Ensure water is free flowing through culvert.

B2.9. Create bird watching screen.

Create a screen at the entrance to the meadow using offcuts from willow pollarding.

B3. Participate in Village Flood Prevention

B3.1. Water flow

Ensure that all watercourses are cleared of any obstructions and always run smoothly. Look into conducting a test to determine if it may be advantageous to purposefully leave blockages in stream to slow down water flow in times of flooding.

B3.2. Ensure banks of all watercourses are solid

The banks of the streams must be monitored to ensure they are solid and do not pose a risk of blocking the flow of the water.

C. Provision of facilities

C.1. Information and Education

C1.1. Information for the general public.

Build a more robust and permanent housing for the entrance sign. Additional information signs for each habitat area and the pest house would also be required.

Publish leaflets to promote the site.

C1.2. Education for children.

The Parish Council should promote the use of the reserve as an educational resource for local schools and youth groups. The use of the reserve should be monitored to ensure that increases levels of usage do not have a detrimental effect on the habitats.

Utilise the site for Forest School activities for local schools and youth groups.

Ensure public liability insurance always covers the activities planned.

C2. Collect data and maintain in accessible form.

C2.1. Biological

Warden to arrange monthly visits to collect data. Children should be encouraged to participate. Surveys should be conducted annually to record use of bird and bat boxes, stream fauna, small mammals, birds, invertebrates and flora.

C2.2. Photographs

Regular photos should be taken to provide information and education resource for local residents. Use Parish Council website for news and updates, and possibly create social media page.

C2.3. Historical

Collate and publish all historical records that exist for the Slade.

6.3 5 Year Project Register

Objective	Project	Task	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
A. Conservation of Features							
A1. Maintain and increase diversity of habitats and species, any changes made gradually	A1.1. Produce a mosaic of vegetation in the meadow and grasslands	A1.1.1. Cut a third of the meadow annually	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A1.1.2. Cut middle third every 5 years	✓				
		A1.1.3. Cut end third every 10 years					✓
	A1.2. Prevent succession in the meadow	A1.2.1. Remove saplings and re-locate to other areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A1.3. Maintain "willow walk"	A1.3.1. Pollard one willow tree each year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A1.3.2. Clear tree saplings from stream and pathway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A1.4. Enhance diversity of woodland	A1.4.1. Move hawthorn saplings from alderwood to mixed woodland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A1.4.2. Coppice hazel and ash in eastern tip of woodland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A1.4.3. Move alder saplings to alderwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A1.5. Maintain and diversify aquatic habitats	A1.5.1. Redefine stream in willow walk			✓		
		A1.5.2. Redefine pond in meadow					✓
	A1.6. Enhance railway hedgerows	A1.6.1. Coppice areas on the northern facing embankment		✓		✓	
		A1.6.2. Create "scallops" of light on the south facing slopes by clearing scrub and reducing hedgerow height	✓		✓		✓
	A1.7. Reinststate pest house moat	A1.7.1. Dig out gully in front of pest house. Possible future project					✓
	A1.8. Install and maintain bird and bat boxes	A1.8.1. Inspect and replace broken boxes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A2. Maintain and enhance access to the reserve	A2.1. Maintain paths	A2.1.1. Cut vegetation adjacent to willow walk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A2.1.2. Cut vegetation along railway track	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A2.1.3. Collect litter at fire site	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A2.1.4. Monitor and maintain boardwalk along willow walk		✓	✓	✓	✓
		A2.1.5. Keep pathways clear of falling trees and dangerous overhanging branches	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A2.2. Maintain stiles, bridges and gates	A2.2.1. Maintain raised walkway through woodland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Objective	Project	Task	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
		A2.2.2. Maintain bridges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		A2.2.3. Maintain steps at end of railway leading to willow walk	✓			✓	

Objective	Project	Task	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
B. Legal and other obligations							
B1. Notify all stakeholders	B1.1 Planning	B1.1.1. Warden to produce 5 year plan and submit to Bloxham Parish Council	✓				✓
		B1.1.2. Warden to produce annual plan and submit to Bloxham Parish Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B1.2 Ongoing notification to interested parties	B1.2.1. Warden to notify Bloxham Parish Council of any structural work that is required e.g. repair of culverts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		B1.2.2. Liaise with neighbours	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		B1.2.3. Liaise with Miller Homes to ensure suitable boundary is provided	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B2. Maintain and enhance boundaries and structures	B2.1. Southern boundary of railway (East end)	B2.1.1. Stock fencing must be maintained along southern boundary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.2. North and eastern boundaries of railway	B2.2.1. Inspect during 5 yr period to evaluate any future maintenance requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.3. Eastern boundary along stream	B2.3.1. Inspect banks of stream for stability. Make repairs as necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.4. North-east boundary	B2.4.1. Inspect country park fencing and planting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.5. North-west boundary	B2.5.1. Maintain fencing and repair gate in western corner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.6. West boundary of railway	B2.6.1. Inspect during 5 yr period to identify any future maintenance requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.7. Southern boundary of railway between culverts (West end)	B2.7.1. Inspect during 5 yr period to identify any future maintenance requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B2.8. Ensure culverts remain structurally sound	B2.8.1. Remove tree stumps above culvert.	✓				
		B2.8.2. Rebuild facing walls of culvert.	✓				
		B2.8.3. Inspect culverts once a month and after every heavy storm. Clear silt or debris if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Objective	Project	Task	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	B2.9. Improve bird watching opportunities	B2.9.1 Build screen at entrance to meadow out of offcuts from willow pollarding		✓			
	B3.3. Improve safety precautions around culvert.	B.3.3.1 Construct wooden fencing around culvert entrances to deter visitors				✓	
B4. Participate in Village flood prevention	B4.1. Ensure that all watercourses are cleared of any obstructions and always run smoothly	B4.1.1. Clear debris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	B4.2. Ensure banks of all watercourses are solid	B4.2.1. Repair banks of stream as necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Objective	Project	Task	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
C. Provision of facilities							
C1. Information and Education	C1.1. Information for the general public	C1.1.1. Maintain sign at entrance to the reserve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C1.1.2. Produce an information leaflet	✓				
	C1.2. Education for children	C1.2.1. Start a community group for children and parents to manage the Slade	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C1.2.2. Obtain Public Liability Insurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C1.2.3. Encourage local schools to use the reserve as a resource	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C1.2.4. Provide habitat information signs on railway, meadow, woodland and pesthouse	✓				
C2. Collect data and maintain in accessible form	C2.1. Biological	C2.1.1. Bat and bird box survey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C2.1.2. Stream life survey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C2.1.3. Small mammal survey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C2.1.4. Bird survey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C2.1.5. Invertebrates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C2.1.6. Botanical survey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	C2.2. Photographs	C2.2.1. Capture habitat changes and distribute to public					✓
	C2.3. Historical	C2.3.1. Collate and publish all historical records of the Slade					✓

6.4 [1 Year Activity Plan](#)

The warden and deputy warden organise at least one work party per month at The Slade. This is generally on the first Sunday of each month and between 6 and 10 volunteers from the village attend on a regular basis.

The meadow cut is becoming a family event where outdoor activities are organised for children to take part in while the adults cut the meadow. This will be an annual village event.

The 2019 Activity Plan is detailed in the following pages....

The Slade 2019 Plan

	Objective	Project	Task	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
A. Conservation of Features	A1. Maintain and increase diversity of habitats and species, any changes made gradually	A1.1. Produce a mosaic of vegetation in the meadow and grasslands	A1.1.1. Cut a third of the meadow annually							✓							
			A1.1.2. Cut the middle third every 5 years							✓							
			A1.1.3. Cut end third every 10 years														
		A1.2. Prevent succession in the meadow	A1.2.1. Remove saplings and re-locate to other areas	✓	✓											✓	
		A1.3. Maintain "willow walk"	A1.3.1. Pollard one willow tree each year	✓	✓												
	A1.4. Enhance diversity of woodland		A1.3.2. Clear any saplings from stream and pathway along willow walk	✓	✓												
			A1.4.1. Move hawthorn saplings from alderwood to mixed woodland	✓	✓												✓
			A1.4.2. Coppice hazel and ash in eastern tip of mixed woodland														✓
		A1.5. Maintain and diversify aquatic habitats	A1.4.3. Move alder saplings to alderwood													✓	
			A1.5.1. Redefine stream in willow walk														
		A1.6. Enhance railway hedgerows	A1.5.2. Redefine pond in meadow														
			A1.6.1. Coppice areas of northern embankment														
		A1.7. Reinststate pest house moat	A1.6.2. Create scallops of light on south facing railway embankment												✓	✓	
			A1.7.1. Dig out gully in front of pest house. Possible future project														
		A1.8. Install and maintain bird and bat boxes	A1.8.1. Inspect and replace broken bat and bird boxes	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	
			A2. Maintain and enhance access to the reserve														
		A2.1. Maintain paths	A2.1.1. Cut vegetation adjacent to willow walk					✓					✓				
			A2.1.2. Cut vegetation along railway track														
			A2.1.3. Collect litter at fire site and other	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			A2.1.4. Maintain raised boardwalk along length of willow walk														
A2.1.5. Keep pathways clear of fallen trees or dangerous overhanging branches			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
A2.2. Maintain stiles, bridges and gates			A2.2.1. Maintain raised walkway through woodland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A2.2.2. Maintain bridges			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		A2.2.3. Maintain steps at end of railway leading to willow walk			✓												

The Slade 2019 Plan

	Objective	Project	Task	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
B. Legal and other obligations	B1. Notify all stakeholders	B1.1 Planning	B1.1.1. Warden to produce 5 year plan and submit to Bloxham Parish Council		✓											
			B1.1.2. Warden to produce annual plan and submit to Bloxham Parish Council	✓												
	B1.2 Ongoing notification to interested parties		B1.2.1. Warden to notify Bloxham Parish Council of any structural work that is required e.g. repair of culverts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			B1.2.2. Liaise with neighbours	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			B1.2.3. Liaise with Miller Homes to ensure suitable boundary is provided	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			B2. Maintain and enhance boundaries and structures	B2.1. Southern boundary of railway (East end)	B2.1.1. Stock fencing must be maintained along southern boundary		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
		B2.2. North and eastern boundaries of railway	B2.2.1. Inspect during 5 yr period to evaluate any future maintenance requirements		✓											
		B2.3. Eastern boundary along stream	B2.3.1. Inspect banks of stream for stability. Make repairs as necessary.		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
		B2.4. North-east boundary	B2.4.1. Inspect country park fencing and planting	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		
		B2.5. North-west boundary	B2.5.1. Maintain fencing and repair gate in western corner												✓	
		B2.6. West boundary of railway	B2.6.1. Inspect during 5 yr period to identify any future maintenance requirements			✓		✓								
		B2.7. Southern boundary of railway between culverts (West end)	B2.7.1. Inspect during 5 yr period to identify any future maintenance requirements		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
		B2.8. Ensure culvert remain structurally sound	B2.8.1. Remove tree stumps from above culvert			✓										
			B2.8.2. Rebuild facing walls using existing bricks	✓		✓										
			B2.8.3. Inspect culverts once a month and after every heavy storm. Clear silt or debris if necessary.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		B2.9. Improve bird watching opportunities	B2.9.1. Construct bird watching screen out of pollarded willow materials													
		B4. Participate in Village flood prevention	B4.1. Ensure that all watercourses are cleared of any obstructions and always run smoothly	B4.1.1. Clear debris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			B4.2. Ensure banks of all watercourses are solid	B4.2.1. Repair banks of stream as necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Slade 2019 Plan

The Slade 2019 Plan															
Objective	Project	Task	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
C. Provision of facilities	C1. Information and Education	C1.1. Information for the general public	C1.1.1. Maintain sign at entrance to the reserve				✓							✓	
			C1.1.2. Produce an information leaflet				✓								
		C1.2. Education for children	C1.2.1. Start and sustain a community group for children and parents to manage the Slade			✓									
			C1.2.2. Ensure Public Liability Insurance incorporates public use and work party activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			C1.2.3. Encourage local schools to use the reserve as a resource	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			C1.2.4. Provide habitat information signs in railway line, meadow, woodland and willow walk.												✓
		C2. Collect data and maintain in accessible form	C2.1. Biological	C2.1.1. Bat and bird box survey									✓		
	C2.1.2. Stream life survey							✓							
			C2.1.3. Small mammal survey			✓									
			C2.1.4. Bird survey				✓								✓
			C2.1.5. Invertebrates						✓						
			C2.1.6. Botanical survey							✓					
			C2.2. Photographs	C2.2.1. Capture habitat changes and distribute to public	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		C2.3. Historical	C2.3.1. Collate and publish all historical records of the Slade												