Bath and North East Somerset Council –   
Newbridge Open Space

Baseline Ecology Report Summary

The ecology surveys, undertaken in July 2023, consisted of a habitat survey and an invertebrate survey to identify the current habitats and species present, with a particular emphasis on pollinator invertebrate species.

The habitats identified within the project site included:

* Modified grassland (i.e., a commonplace grassland)
* Other neutral grassland (i.e., a commonplace grassland)
* Other woodland, broadleaved (i.e., mainly broadleaved species)
* Line of trees
* Priority hedgerows (i.e., a hedgerow that qualifies as a priority habitat under the [UK Biodiversity Action Plan)](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/ca179c55-3e9d-4e95-abd9-4edb2347c3b6/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-17-Hedgerows.pdf)
* Standing water (pond)

Invertebrate survey results:

* Overall, the site was considered to be interesting for invertebrates due to the range of habitat features, despite the small size. Such habitat features included flower-rich grassland, wood-chip piles and old trees with well-developed dead wood habitat features (with The Dryad’s Saddle bracket fungus and the Chicken-of-the-woods bracket fungus).
* Nationally Scarce rove beetle *Medon apicalis* was identified in the wood chip piles, with a local dead wood specialised beetle *Bitoma crenata* found in the dead wood.
* Pollinator species recorded included:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Common blue butterfly | * Red Admiral butterfly | * Red-tailed bumblebee |
| * Meadow brown butterfly | * Comma butterfly | * Willughby’s Leafcutter bee |
| * Large white butterfly | * Brown Angus butterfly | * Common Furrow bee |
| * Small white butterfly | * Buff-tailed/ white-tailed bumblebee | * Hoverfly |
| * Speckled wood butterfly | * Common carder bumblebee |  |

Recommendations

Some outline recommendations for the Newbridge Open Space project site are provided below, these should be considered in line with existing management plans to ensure their success.

* + - * It is recommended that the existing grassland management of the areas of other neutral grassland is continued as it is providing a rather diverse grassland in places. It would be desirable to extend this form of management into some of the modified grassland areas.
      * The creation of a pond within the modified grassland, or between areas of other neutral grassland, would be beneficial to the overall biodiversity within the site.
      * The site contains many mature trees that are considered important. It is recommended that these features are afforded protection in any future management within the site, if they require management (for example on health and safety grounds), this should be undertaken sensitively to ensure their long-term health (for example through pollarding). Any deadwood arising from management should be retained within the site as stacked piles, providing additional invertebrate habitat.