

Moreton in Marsh

Basic Goal

The ERDF Wild Towns Project will enhance current greenspaces in Moreton in Marsh through management and creation of wildflower meadows along with the installation of accessibility features into them.

Vision Statement

ERDF Wild Towns will improve Moreton in Marsh's greenspaces for both wildlife and people. Interventions will take place in two parks in the town, Queen Victoria and Blenheim, along with two of the town's cemeteries and one of the allotment sites.

Queen Victoria Gardens will have various habitats created within it. The grassland will be enhanced in areas through seeding various areas and plug planting to create wildflower meadows. Scrub species such as hawthorn and blackthorn will also be planted along the treeline to provide further habitat for birds and species that live in woodland edge habitats. The stream running through the gardens will have marginal planting areas created along its back to encourage waterside invertebrates and other species using the stream. These works will create a mosaic of habitats within the garden for people to come and enjoy. As such, new sections of accessible path will be installed to allow access to all to Queen Victoria Gardens.

The neighbouring greenspace, Blenheim Park, has a variety of wet meadows, balancing ponds and streams within it. These habitats will be enhanced through management and creation of new features to create better structure within the existing features. Meadow areas will be supplemented with plug plants and seeding of areas to diversify the species found within them. The neighbouring balancing ponds will have the scrub within them rotationally managed to provide a more diverse age structure along with marginal planting will provide habitat for birds, mammals and amphibians which reside there. Along the stream that flows through the park, two inline ponds will be dug. These will create alterations in the flow of the stream and provide another habitat dimension.

Hedges provide excellent sanctuaries for wildlife and corridors in which they can move. As such ERDF Wild Towns will be enhancing and protecting some of the hedges within two cemeteries and Croft Allotments. This will be through fencing some to prevent damage from neighbouring recreational grounds and through supplementary planting to restore them.

The Chapel of Rest has been recognised for its potential for a substantial summer breeding roost for bats. As such the project will explore the possibility of installing features to the structure and creating access.