

**Bridport Town Council  
Green Lane and Slades Green,  
Bothenhampton  
Management Plan 2026-2031**



**DRAFT DOCUMENT June 2026**



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## **1. Background and vision statement**

The land begins from the junction of Crock Lane leading onto Green Lane and Slades Green, Bothenhampton. The area is made up of several grassed verges some of which are on a sloping bank or tree lined. The area also includes a Right of Way which is accessible from Crock Lane.

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency all management plans for Bridport Town Council's green spaces are being reviewed. This area has not previously had a management plan. This review is to formalise this and hopefully work with a residents or a volunteer group to manage different parts of the area. The review considers current uses and looks to improve the area for wildlife, and community use.

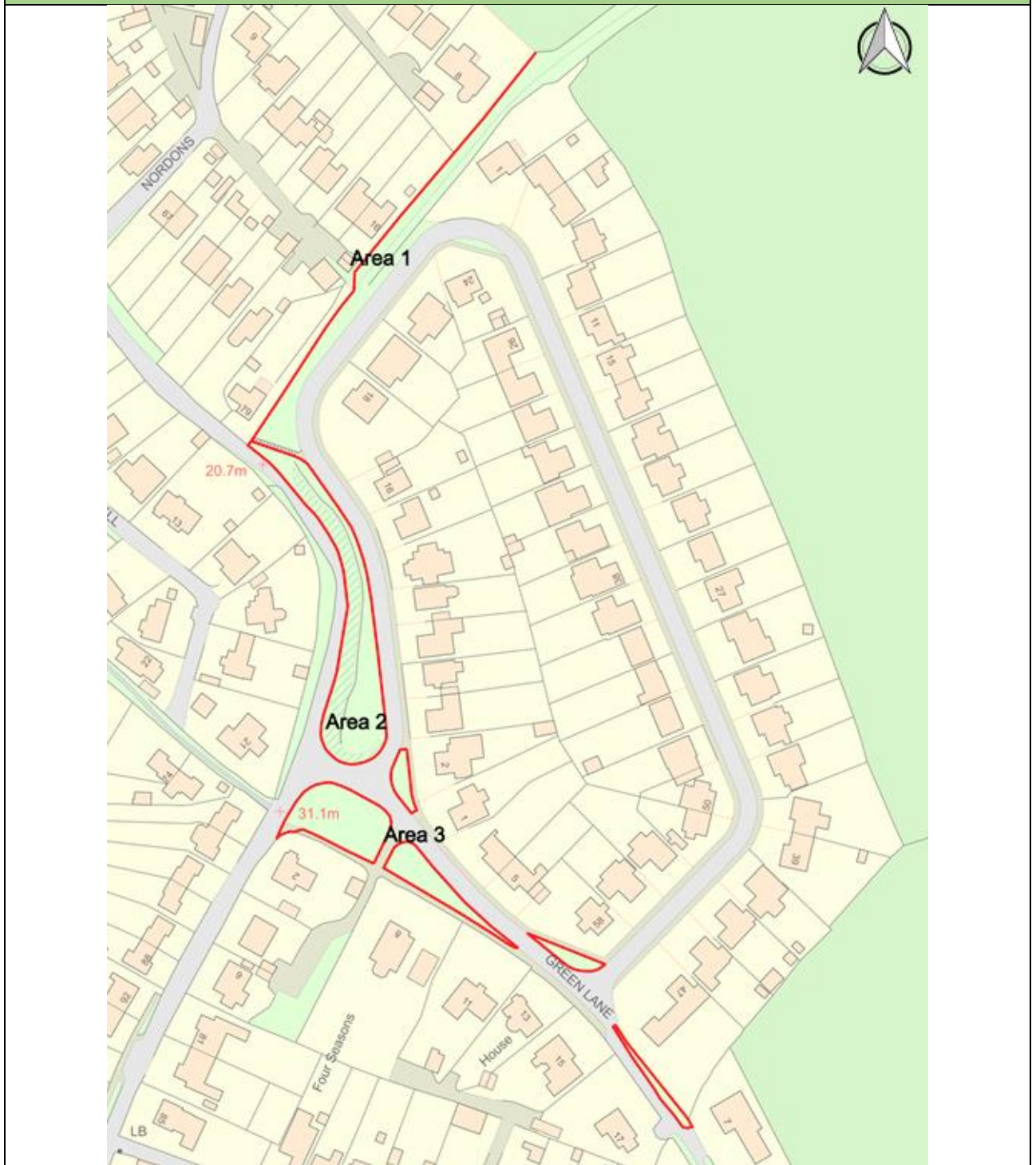
The management plan process is to include a community consultation looking to define the aims, objectives and actions for the next 5 years.

### **Vision Statement**

Bridport Town Council's vision for the area is to maintain the area by working with local residents and Bridport Tree Group.

- To develop a grass cutting scheme for all to follow, including tree maintenance ensuring the long-term health of the trees. This is to include watering.
- To maintain the hedgerows and cut back when required.
- To introduce more wildflowers to the greens.
- To keep the Right of Way accessible.

## Management Plan Area:



The permitted use of the land includes grass verges. Bridport Tree Group have carried out tree planting in certain areas. It is noted that Bridport Town Council currently cut the verges on contract from Dorset Council. The road is owned by Dorset Council. There is also a steps leading from Crock Lane into Slades Green located between areas 1 and 2. Area 1 is the Right of Way.

## 2. Management Plan Consultation

It is important that the management plan for area ensures that the interests of wildlife and the many users are balanced, and mitigations are put in place to address community concerns.

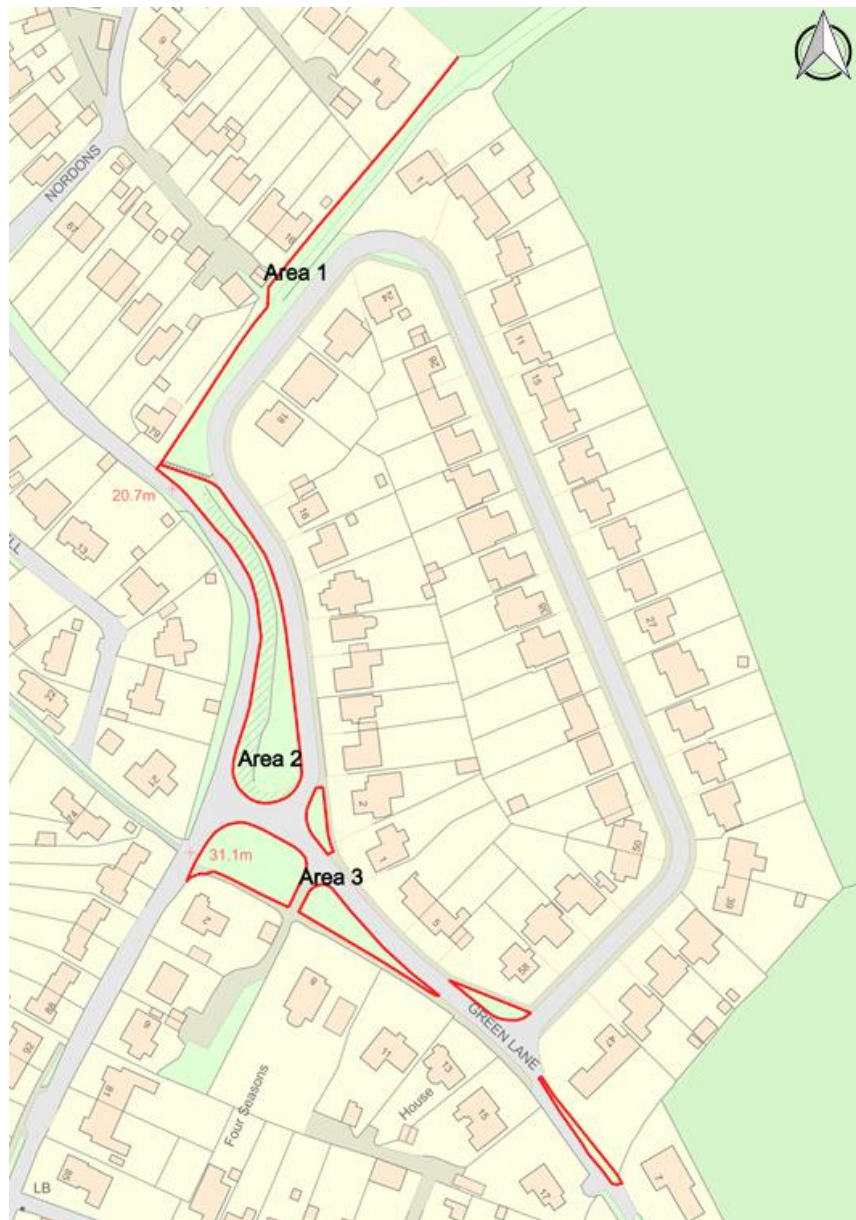
The draft management plan is to be presented to the Bothenhampton and Walditch ward meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 for consideration. Following this the plan will be presented to Bridport Town Council for information at the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026 and Full Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 to be ratified. It is important to note that the meeting will be open to members of the public.

- A letter and consultation postcard will be delivered to all properties adjacent in Slades Green and Green Lane in late June.
- A consultation postcard is to be available for user groups, residents and members of the public to complete.

The consultation postcard is available to collect from the Bridport Town Council office at Mountfield and Bridport Tourist Information Centre with drop off points at both of these locations. Councillors and Officers to attend Bridport Food Festival (13<sup>th</sup> June 2026) and Melplash Show (27<sup>th</sup> August 2026) where copies of the Management Plan and consultation postcard will be available to be completed on the day or taken away.

The final plan is to be presented to Bridport Town Council's Full Council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 for adoption. Bridport Town Council with input from the local residents and users will review the delivery of management plan.

### 3. Vision for the area



**Key:**

Area 1 – Begins from the steps on Crook Lane leading along the Right of Way.

Area 2 – From the junction joining Crook Lane a banked verge on the left-hand side that transitions into a flat area leading to the steps.

Area 3 – From the junction joining Crook Lane on the right-hand side along Green Lane. The area is made up of five smaller grass verges.

### 3.1 Objectives/actions of the Bradpole green areas Management Plan:

(Section 4.1 (page 10) includes further objectives for the area)

**Manage the habitats adjacent to and ancillary to the area appropriately to maximise the value for biodiversity and provide an attractive environment for users.**

Actions to help achieve this objective might include:

- Undertaking surveys to understand the wildlife and botanical interest.
- Additional planting of trees and wildflowers.
- Managing vegetation where necessary for the safety and amenity of users.
- Provide interpretation to highlight any wildlife interests and engage users with the biodiversity of the site and the role of management undertaken.

**Cut back any overgrown vegetation**

Actions to help achieve this objective might include:

- Bridport Town Council staff and volunteers working together to maintain a clear route along the verge and down the steps.

**Tree planting, verge cutting and management**

Actions to help achieve this objective might include:

- Bridport Town Council to carry out a first cut of the area where possible and visibilities display's to be cut.
- Bridport Town Council staff and volunteers to work with Bridport Tree Group to plant new saplings.
- Ensure that the cutting/strimming of the verges does not destroy any new saplings. Protective sleeves to be installed to help protect saplings.
- Work with residents to ensure that areas with wildflowers are not cut.

**Establish a Management Group to carry forward objectives with the help of volunteers**

Actions to help achieve this objective might include:

- Bridport Town Council staff, volunteers and where necessary other organisations working together to carry out the year-by-year action plan for the area.

### **3.2 Other groups for consultation during the second stage consultation**

- **Bridport Tree Group**
- **Dorset Wildlife Trust**
- **Dorset Council Highways**
- **Dorset Council Rights of Way**

## 4. Slades Green and Green Lane Management Plan 2026 - 2031

<p><b>4.1 Overall Plan</b></p> <p><b>Management plan objectives in priority order:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access for all</li> <li>• Extended areas for tree planting and wildflowers</li> <li>• Maintain wildlife and bird species</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.2 By Habitat Type:</b></p>	
<p><b>Access/paths/boundaries</b></p>	<p>To maintain the hedgerows and cut back when required.</p> <p>To keep the Right of Way accessible.</p> <p>To cut visibility displays and cut a 1m strip along the verges.</p>
<p><b>Trees/tree planting</b></p>	<p>Manage safety issues through a 5 yearly insurance arboriculture survey. Deal with dangers, remove dead wood either standing or on site.</p> <p>Homeowners and or tenants to be advised that for any trees that are encroaching properties, all requests for tree works be sought through Dorset Council's Planning Portal. If Dorset Council's Tree Officers approve the request the applicant must pay for the works to be carried out. <a href="https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/trees-in-conservation-areas">https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/trees-in-conservation-areas</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trees are checked against the 5 yearly reports. Bridport Town Council carry out on all trees for insurance purposes.</li> <li>• If the reports show no works, we the inform the applicant of this. The applicant can then seek approval from Dorset Council to carry our works through the Tree Officer.</li> <li>• The Tree Application will go through the normal application process, advertised and consulted on, cost to be met by the applicant</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Planning is granted Bridport Town Council would agree to the works, but the cost to be met by the applicant.</li> <li>• The works will also only be approved if the applicant uses a contractor agreeable to Bridport Town Council.</li> </ul> <p>Working with Bridport Tree Group on tree planting.</p> <p>Trees should enhance the existing biodiversity.</p>
<b>Wildflower Areas on verges</b>	<p>Work with residents to ensure that areas with wildflowers are not cut.</p> <p>To avoid cutting wildflowers along the verges.</p> <p>Encourage birds, butterflies and planting of native plants.</p> <p>Dorset Wildlife Trust can provide additional advice when necessary.</p>
<b>Management</b>	<p>Liaise with residents and users to understand which areas are left uncut due to Wildflowers.</p> <p>Cut grass and strips on a monthly basis when necessary.</p> <p>To ensure checks on all trees are carried out and to take appropriate actions when advised.</p> <p>Cut back hedgerows where necessary outside of the bird nesting season (March – August).</p>

### 4.3 By Management Block:

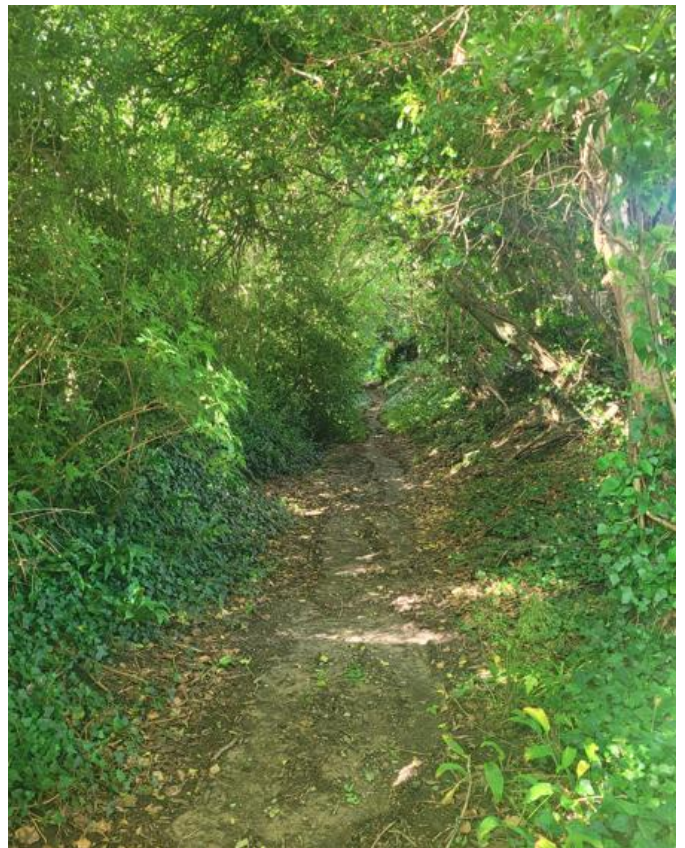
**AREA 1** – Begins from the steps and along the Right of Way W1/51

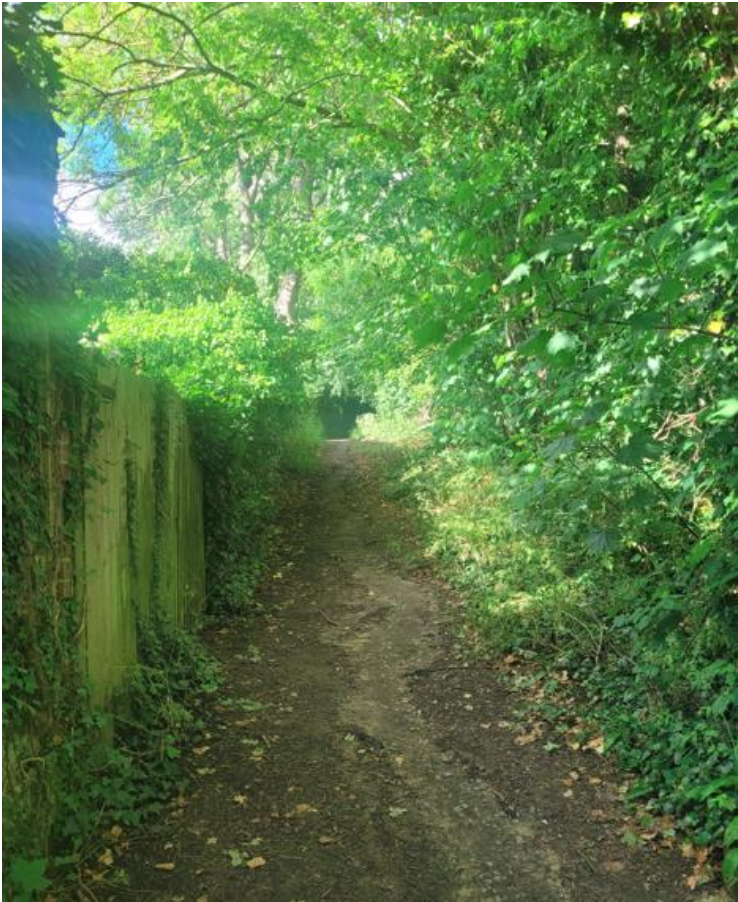


The Right of Way W1/51 and open footpath. This is accessible from Crock Lane. Dorset Council is responsible for the maintenance of the surface of rights of way.

Dorset Council's Greenspace Management Teams investigate reports received from members of the public and user groups and carry out practical work.

Steps located between areas 1 and 2 leading from Crock Lane into Slades Green.





**AREA 2 – From the junction joining Crock Lane a banked verge on the left-hand side that transitions into a flat area leading to the steps.**



Verges owned Dorset Council and cut on contract by Bridport Town Council.

Maintain area by mowing and removing cuttings with frequent cuts in the summer period where agreed with residents.

Work with Bridport Tree Group to plant saplings along the bank and ensure the ones which are established are not damaged when grass cutting.

Work with residents to understand how the area is used.

The lower part of the verge (towards area 1) along Slades Green forms the banking along Crock Lane.

The trees are checked against the 5 yearly reports. Bridport Town Council carry out on all trees for insurance purposes

To work with residents to cut round tree saplings.



**AREA 3 – From the junction joining Crock Lane on the right-hand side along Green Lane. The area is made up of five smaller grass verges.**



Area owned by Dorset Council and cut on contract by Bridport Town Council.

Maintain area by mowing and removing cuttings with frequent cuts in the summer period where agreed with residents.

Work with Bridport Tree Group to ensure that the tree saplings already established are not damaged when grass cutting.

Work with residents to understand how the area is used.





## 5. Action Plan - Actions Year by Year:

As below is a list of actions for the next five years. This is subject to change.

### 5.1 2026/27 Actions

What	When	Who
<b>Trees</b> Maintain new tree planting, watering and removing growth competition	Summer	BTC, Volunteers and Bridport Tree Group
<b>Wildflower Area</b> Plant native spring bulbs and wildflower plugs in natural sweeps Carry out a wildlife, flora and bird survey	Autumn Spring/Summer	BTC and Volunteers Work with Dorset Wildlife Trust
<b>Grassed Areas</b> Mow grass verges Cut wildflower and tree planting areas	First cut April/May, followed by visibility displays and 1m from the kerb. Verges to be cut once wildflowers have finished and in agreement with residents.	BTC BTC and residents
<b>Roadside Boundaries</b> Create opportunities to diversify planting with native shrubs	Winter/Spring	BTC

### 5.2 2028/29 Actions

What	When	Who
<b>Trees</b> Maintain new tree planting, watering and removing growth competition	Summer/Autumn	BTC, Volunteers and Bridport Tree Group
<b>Grassed Areas</b> Mow grass verges	First cut April/May, followed by visibility displays and 1m from the kerb.	BTC

Cut wildflower and tree planting areas	Verges to be cut once wildflowers have finished and in agreement with residents.	BTC and residents
<b>Roadside Boundaries</b> Create opportunities to diversify planting with native shrubs	Winter/Spring	BTC

### 5.3 2030/31 Actions

What	When	Who
<b>Trees</b> Maintain new tree planting, watering and removing growth competition	Summer/Autumn	BTC, Volunteers and Bridport Tree Group
<b>Grassed Areas</b> Mow grass verges  Cut wildflower and tree planting areas	First cut April/May, followed by visibility displays and 1m from the kerb. Verges to be cut once wildflowers have finished and in agreement with residents.	BTC  BTC and residents
<b>Roadside Boundaries</b> Create opportunities to diversify planting with native shrubs	Winter/Spring	BTC