

# RENATURE PLUMPTON

## Terms of Reference for the Plumpton Nature Recovery Mapping Assessment

Plumpton and East Chiltington Wildlife Group (PECWG) and Plumpton Parish Council (PPC)

June 2024

### Background

England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries globally, following historic and ongoing declines in biodiversity. To address this, the UK Government introduced several laws as part of the Environment Act 2021 including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) with a number of associated targets. East Sussex County Council has been tasked to implement a programme of changes to improve biodiversity across the county under the auspices of LNRS involving a large number of partners. Below these authorities each district, town and parish council is expected to work towards a Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP).

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is a key stakeholder in LNRS and has launched a ReNature project to fund several community-led projects to increase biodiversity as part of LNRS. Kingston Parish has initiated a nature recovery project that involved a baseline assessment of wildlife and habitats within the parish boundaries with recommendations for community-led nature recovery projects. This was funded by the SDNPA under their ReNature project.

### Purpose

Contract an ecological consultancy to produce a Nature Recovery Mapping Report for Plumpton Parish as part of ReNature Plumpton.

### Deliverables

Deliverables:

- Baseline assessment of biodiversity within Plumpton Parish based on existing records;
- Preliminary recommendations for specific community-led nature recovery projects within Plumpton Parish;
- Broad-scale recommendations for nature recovery activities by landowners, parishioners and other stakeholders;
- Ground-truthing of biodiversity records for agreed selected (priority) sites through limited field work;
- Recommendations for minimising and mitigating existing drivers of biodiversity loss, such as pollution and climate change, looking at both land and freshwater habitats, within the parish and adjacent parishes.

### Proposed Methodology

- The contractor will develop a series of GIS maps for the parish depicting habitats, species diversity, wildlife sites, protected areas, land use and other relevant factors (green and blue infrastructure);
- Biodiversity Information / data used to populate the maps will be sourced from existing records held within the parish and other sources such as those stored in the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre (SxBRC) and Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART);
- The contractor will liaise with the PECWG to access any records not currently housed in the SxBRC;
- The contractor will identify a preliminary list of sites for nature recovery projects based on the findings of the baseline assessment;
- If time (and funding) permit(s), the contractor will visit selected sites identified in the assessment as priorities for management, protection or recovery to verify their status (i.e. to confirm high biodiversity levels or the presence of rare / vulnerable species or habitats);
- The final report should make recommendations for specific nature recovery projects and broader nature positive actions for Plumpton Parish.

#### Duration

The whole period for the assessment is 3 / 6 months with expected start by September / October 2024

#### Funding

The expected remuneration for this contract is approximately £6,000. Confirmed sources of funding are the South Downs National Park (50%) and the Plumpton Parish Council (50%).

#### Application and further Information

The contractor is requested to apply in writing for the work specified above which should include an outline of how they would complete the proposed work and whether all of the deliverables (required and optional) can be achieved with the funding available (or would require additional funds).

Please send applications to the Clerk of the Plumpton Parish Council: [anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk](mailto:anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk) and to Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife Group: [plumptonwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:plumptonwildlife@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

For further information or an informal discussion about the proposed task please contact Carole Nicholson at the PECWG by email [carolenicholson3@outlook.com](mailto:carolenicholson3@outlook.com) or 07771 968179.