Welcome to the Queen Thorne Nature Watch Group

20th October 2022

QTNWG Aims:

- To protect and promote biodiversity in the Queen Thorne area
- To provide a research and monitoring facility which will help enable effective, environmentally considerate decision making
- The group is underpinned with an ethos of kindness, to nature, to each other and especially to those with whom we disagree

The parish council's response to the decline of wildlife and habitat pressures in Queen Thorne:

The council was pleased to hear of the success of the first meeting of the Queen Thorne Nature Watch Group which took place in Sandford Orcas Village Hall and was well attended. The aim of the group is to protect and promote biodiversity in Queen Thorne. The structure of the group will be decided at their next meeting in October. The parish council supports the aims of the group. It was decided to extend the council's climate emergency declaration. The council therefore agreed to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency which will be taken into account in future decisions and actions of the council.

What's needed…

- A board of trustees (including a chair and treasurer) who take the decisions of how the group progresses
- People from the community who would enjoy becoming involved in local, nature based events and take part in monitoring or feel they would like to offer specific knowledge or skills in another way
- A secretary for administration
- Income for monitoring equipment/ maintenance/ venue hire and other running expenses
- Website for interactive monitoring and record keeping, as well as providing information, news and research freely to the public

Potential group structures:

- Unincorporated association
- Charitable Trust
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation(CIO)
- Company limited by guarantee
- Charitable company
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Community Benefit Society
- Cooperative Society
- https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/routemap/

[Resource Centre (2018): *Legal structures for community groups and not-for-profit organisations*]
Available: https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/legal-structures-for-community-and-voluntary-groups/

Bank account

- Will allow us to receive grants and donations from organisations and individuals
- Will require multiple, unrelated signatories to ensure accountable spending.
- Co-op offers free banking to community groups but proof of charity status is required.

Possible Funding Options:

- QTPC (When group has official structure and bank account)
- National Lottery Community Fund (on-going)
- Wessex Water (February)
- Co.op (March)
- Individuals - set up a ‘just giving’ page (when group has bank account

“**Glyphosate Use, Toxicity and Occurrence in Food**” (2021) - includes details as to how difficult it is to test for glyphosate contamination due to the complex molecular structure, suggests the difficulty in achieving scientific consensus due to much research being funded by those who have a financial incentive, and concludes ‘several studies have shown that both glyphosate and its metabolites have the capacity to accumulate in soils as well as contaminate aquatic ecosystems’.

Soares D, Silva L, Duarte S, Pena A, Pereira A. Glyphosate Use, Toxicity and Occurrence in Food. Foods. 2021 Nov 12;10(11):2785. doi: 10.3390/foods10112785. PMID: 34829065; PMCID: PMC8622992. Available: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34829065/ [accessed: 18/8/22]

“**Herbicide Glyphosate: Toxicity and Microbial Degradation**” (2020) discusses the solubility and mobility of glyphosates ‘leading to contamination of groundwater and accumulation into the plant tissues’ and says ‘A study reveals that this herbicide alters the soil texture and microbial diversity by reducing the microbial richness and increasing the population of phytopathogenic fungi’ , going on to suggest ‘Glyphosate strongly disrupts soil biology as it is toxic to beneficial microflora and earthworms.’ as well as detailing other harmful effects in all life forms. Singh S, Kumar V, Gill JPK, Datta S, Singh S, Dhaka V, Kapoor D, Wani AB, Dhanjal DS, Kumar M, Harikumar SL, Singh J. Herbicide Glyphosate: Toxicity and Microbial Degradation. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Oct 15;17(20):7519. doi: 10.3390/ ijerph17207519. PMID: 33076575; PMCID: PMC7602795. Available: https:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7602795/ [accessed: 18/8/22]

“**Meta-analysis of glyphosate contamination in surface waters and dissipation by biofilms**” (2018) looks at the seasonal contamination of water courses by glyphosate based herbicides, the link with harmful eutrophication, and factors which may improve or diminish the waters ability to recover from contamination.

Carles L., Gardon H., Joseph L.,Sanchís J., Farré M., Artigas J. Available: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412018323286 [accessed 19/8/22]

Toxic Legacy: How the Weedkiller Glyphosate Is Destroying Our Health and the Environment (2021) Stephanie Seneff PhD Chelsea Green Publishing

DEFRA's stance on environmental protection:

"Nature is in decline worldwide, with this decline projected to continue or worsen. We need to take urgent action to halt biodiversity loss to meet our commitment to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it. Our future target to halt the decline in species by 2030 embodies that commitment."

DEFRA (6 May 2022) *Consultation on environmental targets*

Available: www.gov.uk/government/publications

Other updates:

- Great Village Wildlife Survey

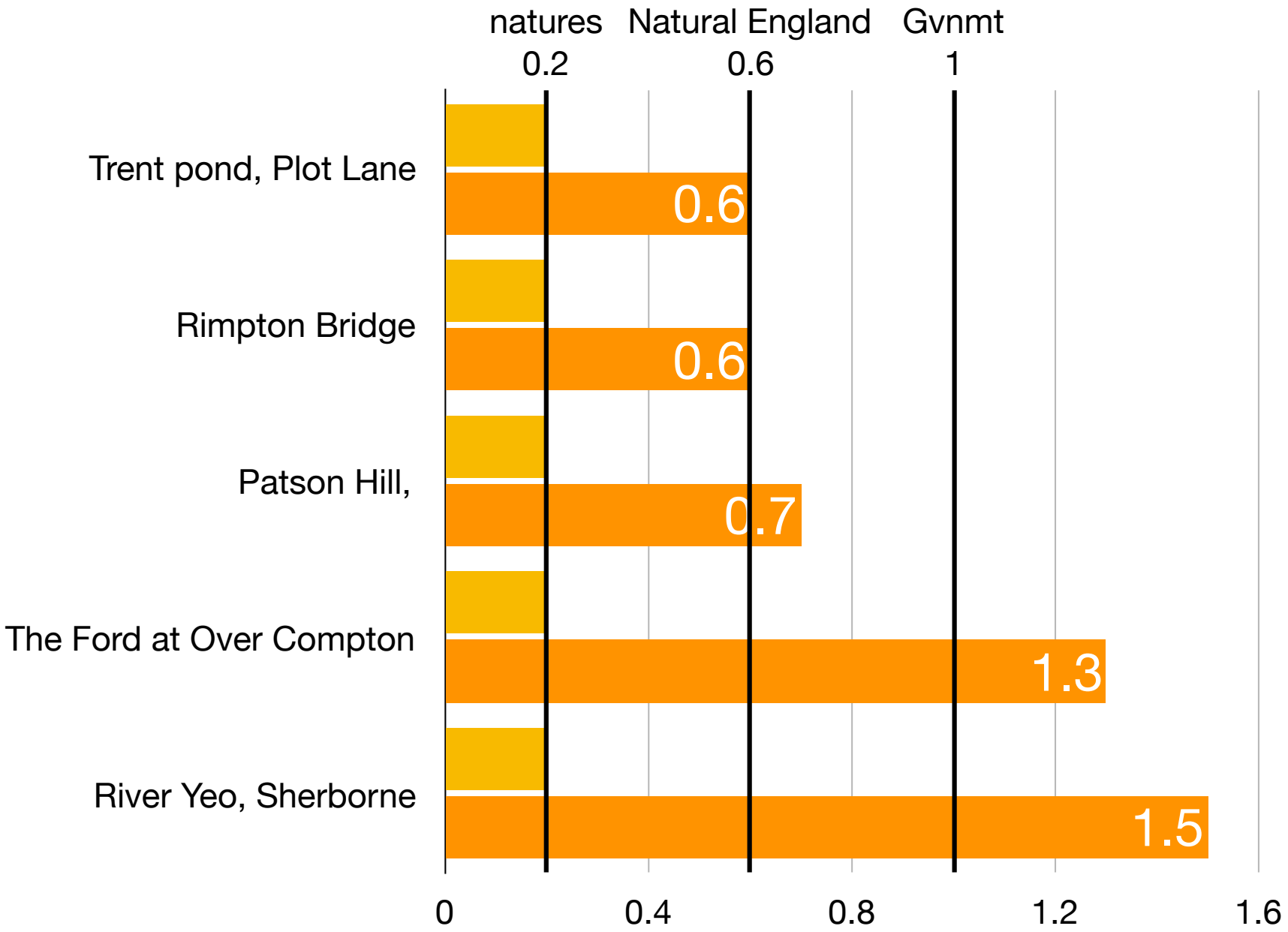
- Water monitoring: West Country Rivers Trust - Citizens Science Testing

- Water monitoring: Dorset Wildlife Trust - Water Guardians

- Proposed method(s), timescale, data collection of water testing - something to think about by the next meeting

27th September -
water monitoring equipment demonstration

11th October -
Water testing practise run


natures
0.2
Natural England
0.6
Gvnmt
1
Trent pond, Plot Lane
0.6
Rimpton Bridge
0.6
Patson Hill,
0.7
The Ford at Over Compton
1.3
River Yeo, Sherborne
1.5
0
0.4
0.8
1.2
1.6

Sources of phosphorus in freshwaters:

"The main sources of phosphorus in rivers and lakes are sewage effluent (primarily from water industry sewage treatment works) and losses from agricultural land. Food waste, food and drink additives and P dosing of drinking waters all contribute to sewage P loadings. Septic tanks and package sewage treatment plants are small sources nationally but can be important sources locally, particularly in the headwaters of catchments. Leaking water mains are a newly identified P source entering ground and surface waters."

Environment Agency (October 2021) *Phosphorus and freshwater eutrophication: challenges for the water environment*

[Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phosphorus-challenges-for-the-water-environment]

Actions:

- Next meeting February
- ASAP: Form and submit constitution for charitable incorporated organisation
- Set up bank account with at least three trustee signatories
- Have grant applications in place

Open forum