



Ross-on-Wye Town Council Riverside Management Plan 2023 - 2028



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1. Introduction

“Riverside Management Plan” is not a phrase that has been widely used in Ross-on-Wye Town Council until recently. Our town’s beautiful riverside is at the heart of the town’s residents’ daily life and visitor attractions and one of its greatest natural assets. This Management Plan sets out how the Town Council, working with its partner organisations and volunteers will ensure that its biodiversity, environmental & ecological impact is developed and enhanced.

The River Wye forms the western boundary of the town of Ross-on-Wye and plays an integral part of the town’s green space areas. They include the Rope Walk to the north and Long Acre to the south, covering approximately 1 kilometre in length. Investment and hard work over the last few years has seen more of the riverside become accessible to all and enhanced with planting, ensuring that it has become a major focus for amenity, leisure and relaxation.

This Riverside Management Plan sets out the aspirations on how the Town Council will oversee the riverside and amenity areas between now and 2023-2028. The Town Council will uphold the standards, management and maintenance within the Plan and allocate the appropriate resources necessary to implement the Plan.

2. Strategy

2.1 Purpose of the Riverside Management Plan

The purpose of the Riverside Management Plan is:

- To identify aims and objectives specific to the Riverside and Amenity areas (Rope Walk & Long Acre) which will form an ongoing action plan. (**Appendix A**)
- To ensure compliance with regulations in relation to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and/or Conservation Areas.
- To ensure alignment with the statutory Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan (2021-26)
- To provide continuity, visibility and accountability.
- To protect the biodiversity, environmental impact and ecology and to enhance the natural habitat.

The Riverside Management Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Town Council’s Amenities Sub-Committee

2.2 Development & Implementation

The Riverside Management Plan identifies the aims and objectives for the effective and efficient management of the Town Council’s asset. Once these have been agreed an action plan will be produced in conjunction with all stakeholders and partners.

This consultation will ensure that all relevant regulations relating to the River Wye SSSI/SAC and Ross-on-Wye Conservation Area are factored into the action plan, the lands sitting within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and aspirations of

residents and stakeholders outside of the Town Council are considered and an informed decision can be made in the production of the action plan.

2.3 Description of area covered in the Riverside Management Plan

The riverside encompasses the Town Council's two main recreational areas, The Rope Walk and Long Acre and is approximately 1 kilometre in length. These areas are located along the banks of the River Wye in and around the town centre, they are free to access for residents and visitors. The river flows in a southerly direction along the western boundary of the Town. The parks are popular with walkers, runners, families and people of all ages and abilities.

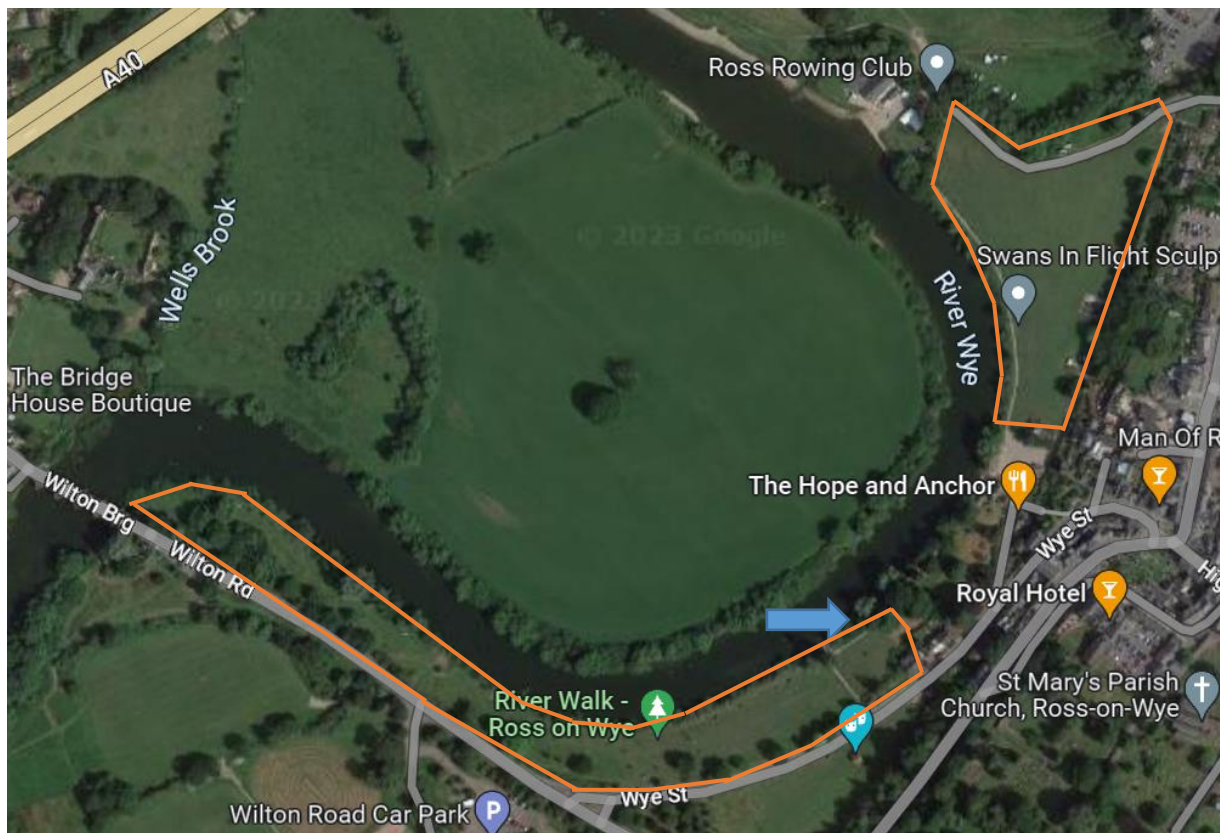
The riverside falls within the Wye Valley AONB and the Ross-on-Wye Conservation Area. The River Wye is designated as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the site is also designated a and must be managed in line with the regulations that protect these areas. This Public Open Space forms an important green corridor connecting wider farm lands to the north and south of the Town, Public Rights of Way, and countryside beyond. The entire area comprises of both built and semi natural and rural habitats along with recreational areas. In addition to the leisure value these corridors have, the area has a major biodiversity value for wildlife for both the Town and the countryside, with meadow areas, mature and semi-mature trees, grassland and areas managed as more natural habitat and recreational areas. The river is also an ecological corridor connecting important wildlife and breeding sites up and down stream.

The Town Council is committed to reinstating and developing their Floodplain Meadow as a culturally and environmentally rich part of our riverside. This area provides an array of benefits to the Town, such as carbon and water storage, an abundance of wildlife and an increase in biodiversity. Floodplain Meadows are rare and important habitats supporting diverse wildflower species as well as providing environments for many species of invertebrates, amphibians, and mammals.

The parks and river attract residents and visitors from across the Town and further afield. The areas are well used for recreational purposes and the river is used for a number of leisure activities including rowing, canoeing, and fishing.

2.4 Location and Ownership

The Riverside Management Plan is centred on Ordnance Survey Grid reference SO 59528 24081



The Riverside Management Plan will cover areas located along the banks of the River Wye, riparian margins, and amenity areas. Adjacent land use is a mix of recreational, educational, residential, light commercial and sewage works.

2.5 Legislation affecting the Riverside Management Plan

The Town Council has various duties under the following acts to ensure that the area covered in the Plan are maintained for the benefit of all:

- **Open Spaces Act 1906** – To maintain and keep local authority space in a good and decent state
- **Open Spaces Act 1906 and Public Health Act 1925 & 1961 (in conjunction with Local Government Act 1972)** - To maintain and acquire land for open spaces and plant, light, provide with seats and otherwise improve it
- **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005** – powers regarding litter, graffiti, fly tipping and nuisance vehicles
- **Litter Act 1983** - Councils obligation to regularly empty and clean bins
- **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** – permits local authorities to make a ‘public spaces protection order’, which include control of dogs and cleaning up their mess

- **Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007/806** – granting of Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Orders (was replaced with a Public Space Protection Order in 2017)
- **Environmental Protection Act 1990** – To keep all relevant land (public space) clean and clear of litter and refuse
- **Highways Act 1980** – To plant trees and shrubs along the highway
- **Housing Act 1985** – To provide recreation grounds in connection with accommodation
- **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976** – To take action to deal with dangerous trees
- **Equality Act 2010** – To provide easy access to public land and ensure no discrimination on basis of any of the Protected Characteristics
- **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)** – Section 85 establishes a general duty of public bodies in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty
- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** (as amended) - SSSI/ASSIs (A Site of Special Scientific Interest / Areas of Special Scientific Interest) are the basic building blocks of site-based nature conservation legislation and most other legal nature/geological conservation designations in the United Kingdom
- **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990** – Sections 69 - 80 establish a general duty with respect to conservation areas. This is particularly with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, in that special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area
- **The Localism Act 2011** - Neighbourhood Development Plan introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development and promote better land use in their community
- **Environmental Act 2021** – to encourage the drawing up of Local Nature Recovery Strategy

3. Vision, Aims and Objectives

The Town Council's vision is to build and maintain a successful biodiversity, environmental and ecological future for the area covered in the Riverside Management Plan.

To deliver this vision, a number of aims and objectives have been identified:

- To provide a **Welcoming Place**
- To provide an area that promotes **Health & Wellbeing** and is **Safe and Secure**
- To provide an area that is **Well Maintained and Clean**
- To provide effective and sustainable **Environmental Land Management**
- To provide effective management and improve **Biodiversity and Landscape**
- To provide strong connected **Community Involvement**
- To provide an **Educational Facility**

3.1 Welcoming Place

The Town Council recognises a Welcoming Place is one that invites and draws people into it. This means creating an area which, through its visual appearance, range of facilities, standards of maintenance and ease of access, make residence and visitors feel that they are in a cared for place.

The area is well used by residents as well as many visitors to the town. The areas covered in the Riverside Management Plan are open to the public and it is not possible to close the site to those on foot. There are official access points to the site at Wye Street, Wilton Bridge, Metcalf Close and the Hope & Anchor Car Park (**Appendix B**). In addition, it is possible to access the site at many points along Wye Street and from Caroline Symonds Garden and Wilton Road. The only official access point which is suitable for users with restricted mobility is the main access on Wye Street and Metcalf Close or via Homs Road Car Park. Dogs are currently allowed on the riverside if kept under control/on a lead. Public rights of way cross the riverside area and link to the wider countryside beyond. The site is well connected to the wider Public Right of Way network (**Appendix C**). In order to keep the riverside accessible to all users and to balance their needs there are various mowing strategies in place. Mowing alongside the riverside takes place more frequently to allow recreational use as well as providing views of the River Wye. Areas of natural grassland and floodplain meadow are maintained to a lesser extent to improve biodiversity and cater for visitors that wish to observe nature in a natural maintained habitat.

Objectives:

- Every entrance should be appropriate, innovative, and practical.
- Equal access for all.
- To allow informal public use and enjoyment

3.2 Health, Wellbeing, Safe and Secure

This aim is to encourage both residents and visitors to enjoy healthy activities, experience the benefits of being outdoors, and to feel safe and secure.

The area covered under the Riverside Management Plan has a number of adjoining Public Rights of Way and circular walks, which are used by walkers and joggers. Public Footpaths run the full length of the river bank covered by this plan, and along the tarmac path at the eastern edge of the Rope Walk. Regional walking routes the Wye Valley Walk and Herefordshire Trail also cross the site. The Town Council has adopted and invested in two walking routes to encourage residents and visitors to explore the local area and foster outdoor physical activities. The Buggy Route is a 4-mile circular walk which takes in part of the riverside and has been improved with investment in grass matting to aid those with less mobility and pushchairs. The John Kyrle Walk also passes through both the Ropewalk and Long Acre following the River Wye southwards.

The River Wye is a source of a range of sporting activities including being used by Ross Rowing Club, local canoe hire companies as well as Ross-on-Wye Angling Club who have fishing rights within the area covered. The area also offers play facilities for families and young people to explore and challenge themselves, additionally the parks provide space to relax and enjoy the natural environment as well as offering educational opportunities.

Objectives:

- The equipment and facilities provided on site are safe to use and are managed safely.

3.3 Well Maintained and Clean

For aesthetic, as well as health & safety and environmental impact, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- Litter and waste management must be effectively dealt with
- Grounds, play facilities, and other features must be well maintained

Objectives:

- Ensure that litter, fouling, and waste disposal is under control including how incidents are dealt with.
- Good quality standard of horticultural and countryside maintenance across all areas of the site.
- Good arboricultural or forestry practice should be evident across the site, including regular monitoring of trees and tree health and duty of care to visitors and staff through regular inspections and tree surveys.
- Play areas, fences, benches, life buoys, paths and roadways on site should be well maintained including regular inspections.

3.4 Environmental Land Management

The Town Council seeks to ensure that the way that the area covered in the Riverside Management Plan is managed has a positive impact on the environment, locally and on the wider area, both now and in the future.

Where choices can be made to enhance the areas biodiversity and landscape, they should aim to benefit the local and global environment. Horticultural and arboricultural decisions should reflect the understanding that they will have on the local ecosystems. In 2019 Ross-on-Wye Town Council declared a climate emergency and is working towards reducing its carbon emissions to zero.

Objectives:

- Ensure minimised use of pesticides.
- Aim to reduce peat use in horticulture to zero, to the development of ethically and practically suitable alternatives.

3.5 Biodiversity and Landscape

Attention should be paid to the appropriate management and conservation of natural features, wildlife, flora and fauna, landscape, and trees. The Town Council aims to conserve the landscape and its natural features as well as the wildlife which depends upon them. The area covered in the Riverside Management Plan is a rich asset with large areas of open green space, set on the floodplain and with areas managed as Floodplain meadow. The riverside is a complex zone with the river and its banks designated as a SSSI and SAC and set within a Conservation Area and the Wye Valley AONB. Natural England must be consulted and consent secured in advance of any work taking place within the SSSI/SAC, Planning Permission is required for work on trees within the Conservation Area, a felling licence may be required from the Forestry Commission before managing larger trees or trees in volume, and the Town Council must have regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB in exercising or performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the AONB.

3.5.1 Floodplain / Semi-natural Grassland

The land covered by this plan is situated on the floodplain of the River Wye, within Flood Zone 3. Following the testing of soil to assess suitability and using donor seed from the Sturts SSSI (Herefordshire), work to create an area of floodplain meadow habitat was undertaken in 2019. This is a rare and special habitat found on land susceptible to winter flooding. The floodplain meadow habitat and their associated species face a number of pressures and threats within the Town, which conservation initiatives by the Town Council are trying to address. The area where floodplain meadow restoration efforts has taken place, as well as other areas of amenity grassland are being allowed to grow until flowers have set seed. This is followed by the cutting and, most importantly, collection of arisings, to reduce nutrient levels within the soils, reducing the vigour of more competitive grass species and encouraging wildflowers to compete, as well as providing habitats for wildlife throughout the year. An initial survey found little of value to nature conservation in the main areas of amenity grassland; the grass sward has been used as amenity grass areas in the past resulting in low species diversity.

The aim of encouraging this area to return to a more semi-natural species rich grassland is to not only increase the extent of a once far more widely found habitat, but also increase the floristic diversity of the site for the benefit of pollinator species, other wildlife and the health, wellbeing and enjoyment of the general public.

3.5.2 Floodplain Meadow

The planting of a floodplain meadow aims to extend the range of this rare and important habitat, enhance biodiversity, and provide enjoyment to the public. It provides long-term, low-maintenance native wildflower cover on dedicated areas. In conjunction with partners, Herefordshire Meadows we continue to seed and plant these areas with native wildflowers. Various attempts have been made to diversify the sward in the area designated as wildflower meadow with limited success. It is likely that past intensive flooding limits the potential for diversification in the short term. Management will now focus on a longer-term strategy to gradually reduce limited introductions of more competition tolerant wildflower species when funding allows. (**Appendix D**)

3.5.3 Tree Management

There is increased awareness of the possible risks related to tree failure by members of the public and with increasing attention given to personal and organisational responsibility, legal proceedings have become more common. With this in mind, it is necessary for the Town Council to proactively manage their tree stock and it is the intention to produce a Tree Management Plan. (**Appendix E**)

Managing trees proactively, as opposed to reactively is not only cost-effective but the safest way to conduct long-term tree management.

The Town Council has a statutory, legal obligation to ensure that the public is not put at any foreseeable risk. The fundamental objective is to ensure the tree or trees are retained and protected whilst ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of the public. The Town Council as part of the Riverside Management Plan will undertake a comprehensive survey on the health and safety of the trees covered in the area plan. (**Appendix F**) This survey will list additional works that might be required, planned routine maintenance, future tree removal and planting locations. The thorough nature of this survey means the Town Council can avoid tree-related issues and future unplanned spending.

The Town Council's vision for the Riverside trees is a healthy and valued tree population in perpetuity, which is sensitively managed and enhanced to protect its fundamental role in making the Riverside a place which people love to visit. The overall aim is to protect the existing tree asset through appropriate management; meet our legal obligations for tree risk and safety and ensure the tree population is maintained for future generations to enjoy. (**Appendix G & H**)

Tree planting

The Town Council manages its tree stock to ensure that it is sustainable in the long term and not just the here and now. To achieve this, it is vital to have a tree population that represents a diverse age range as well as a broad spectrum of tree species that are appropriate not only in the surrounding area, but also in the wider landscape. The Town Council understands that within a conservation area and an AONB & SSSI the role that trees play should be central to the tree planting strategy.

Tree planting represents significant financial investment and requires a vision of the future landscape. The success of tree-planting is essential, not just from a financial perspective, but

also from an environmental standpoint: the decline or death of planted trees creates a landscape that appears unhealthy and unappealing.

When the Town Council is considering planting of any new trees, replacement of dead trees or restocking as a condition of a felling license in the area covered by the Riverside Management Plan it will:

- Look at the existing landscape and current tree stock
- Consider the impact that the new planting will have both short and long term
- Review how the new planting will link with other vegetation
- Consider the visual and physical effect
- Ensure appropriateness for the ground and growing conditions
- Consider the creation of natural habitat and the bearing on biodiversity
- Abide by all regulations and legislation covering Conservation Areas and SSSI areas

Prior to planting the Town Council require that a map showing the exact location of the proposed planting must be produced. This map will also show the existing trees within the planned location, other planting and vegetation and expected canopy size after 5 years. The Genus, Species & Cultivar must be submitted for approval and be appropriate for the area and in line with the Town Council's recommended tree list (**Appendix I**).

Coppicing of Erosion Control Planting

One of the two most important habitats covered in the Riverside Management Plan at present is that associated with the banks of the River Wye. The River Wye is designated as a SSSI and SAC, the designation covers the river and its banks. A detailed map can be seen on <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> (**Appendix J**). This is also the area that receives most pressure from users of the site, river users, natural erosion and the use by residents and visitors. The riverbank is currently used by local anglers, canoe hire companies and for informal recreation. Anglers use the whole of the riverbank with dedicated river platforms at various locations. The canoe hire providers and the individual canoeists have a designated canoe launch area with direct access to the river.

The site, being adjacent to the River Wye, is subject to frequent flooding during the winter months, and occasionally during the summer as well, during which time access becomes impossible.

The area covered in the Riverside Management Plan comprises approximately 1 Km of riverbank riparian corridor. This corridor is managed to link the riverside to the wider countryside and provides good habitat connectivity for wildlife. Within this area sections of actively coppiced "windows" are cut into the corridor on a rotational basis to rejuvenate and regenerate new growth and also open up sections of the river views for residents and visitors. A Coppice Plan is to be produced and it is anticipated that the rotations will be based over a 3-to-5-year basis and contain more in-depth details.

The coppice programme will have a number of objectives which are interdependent, and the various needs have to be balanced within the Riverside Management Plan:

- Landscape – to provide continuity with the traditional landscape
- Biodiversity – to support the rich flora and fauna associated with coppicing

- Heritage – to provide opportunities for the interpretation of the historical forms of management practices
- Community - to provide meaningful and sustainable river views for residents and visitors
- Thinning operations on rotation to remove dead/dying trees where they are considered to present a health and safety risk.
- Established, erosion control willow plants shall be coppiced to maintain vigour, form, and function of plants to provide long-term erosion control

The Ross-on-Wye Angling Club, with consent from Natural England and the Environment Agency have installed fishing platforms in designated areas to encourage their members to reduce damage to the corridor and riverbank. In these areas willow spiling (woven willow hurdle into the riverbank following the original line of the bank) and willow bundles have been put in place behind to trap silt and help to build up the bank again. This has been very successful and additional platforms are being proposed.

3.5.4 Amenity Areas

Amenity Grass Areas

The overarching objective is to produce a smooth, even and hard-wearing sward, with the appropriate ground cover of acceptable species, and adequate control of weeds, pests and diseases, for each type of grass area. Naturalised bulb areas: Mowing of these areas will be delayed until 6 weeks after flowering of the bulbs has finished, after this, the grass will be maintained as recreational turf (**Appendix K**).

Furniture

Furniture should be cleaned by washing with water and weak detergent unless the suppliers' instructions recommend otherwise. The cleaning of seats, litter bins, signs and noticeboards are included in the overall cleaning programme for the area. All furniture will be inspected annually during the winter, so that repairs and general refurbishment can be done at a time that will cause least inconvenience to residents and visitors.

The management of memorial benches are covered in the Town Councils Memorial Bench Policy (**Appendix L**).

Play Areas

The play area in the Rope Walk provides a wide range of activities for children aged 1–14 years. It has a weekly inspection carried out by the Town Council's Amenities Team. (**Appendix M**)

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of unique natural fauna and flora and its setting
- Ensure the tree stock is maintained and documented.
- Maintain and enhance the natural landscape
- Improve the floodplain grassland and wildflower habitat
- Ensure we meet our legal obligations for tree safety
- Prevent excessive erosion of the riverbank

3.6 Community Involvement

The Town Council provides opportunities for active participation in the management and development of the riverside areas, it proactively involves the community that it serves and ensures that there is appropriate provision of recreational facilities and activities for all sectors of the community.

Volunteers also help with the day-to-day maintenance of the park these are drawn from community groups, youth organisations as well as litter picking groups.

Objectives:

- To provide facilities and activities that reflects the needs of the users, and the diversity of those requirements.

3.7 Participation and Learning

Ross-on-Wye is known as the birth place of British Tourism when Georgian visitors first came to explore the river on the Wye Valley tour from 1770 onwards. And it was all down to a local clergyman who wrote a pamphlet extolling the natural beauty of the Wye valley. The Town Council considers tourism to be an integral part of the town and riverside and aim to make it a popular destination.

Ross-on-Wye's popularity continues to grow, and the riverside attracts more visitors each year. Our continuing popularity and the number of visitors we welcome each year, provides a unique opportunity to engage people on the importance of the riverside, grasslands, wildflower meadows, trees and the environment and biodiversity.

Far from being something carried out by 'management experts' in isolation, management of the landscape can be done in a manner that engages people fully; enabling them to participate actively in the process through consultation, interpretation, and volunteering, so that the decisions we make are made in partnership with the public (wherever they may be).

The riverside has been used on an irregular basis for education purposes. There have been occasions when youth groups and schools have undertaken field visits to the site as part of wider projects. However, the use of the site for educational purposes is ancillary to the primary role to ensure that the biodiversity, environmental and ecological, and amenity impact is preserved. Nevertheless, in an increasingly urban and technologically advanced society, people are becoming more and more disconnected with the natural environment. As this change happens, they start to lose appreciation of all the critical environmental and social benefits that areas like the riverside have to offer.

With this loss of appreciation people are less able to act to support the environment and countryside.

The riverside and amenity areas are a living, evolving landscape. As the Town Council faces the future and a changing world, both environmentally and socially, it's critical that it is ready to tackle challenges and harness opportunities that these areas can offer.

There remains a large potential for developing the riverside's value for education, health, and wellbeing promotion:

- Increase people's connection with nature, to help them understand the value of their surroundings
- To encourage positive action for the future

The area covered in the Riverside Management Plan is an important resource for all aspects of education, where education for all ages and abilities could be accessed, together with cultural activities and events for a wide audience. With its rich resources - historical, arboricultural, botanical, horticultural, biological, environmental and landscape the Riverside area has huge potential for education and training of all kinds including school age education, lifelong learning, practical courses for amateurs and professional training.

Objectives:

- Install interpretation panels
- Provide information that will be clear and concise in a language that is accessible to all
- Raise public awareness of the riverside's main features and its significance for biodiversity
- Educate residents and visitors on the code of conduct when visiting the riverside area
- Encourage outdoor learning

4.0 Environmental Sustainability

Ross-on-Wye Town Council seek to manage Riverside and amenity areas in the most sustainable way. The key issues relevant to the sustainable management of the area are:

- Biodiversity protection and enhancement
- Sustainable procurement
- Carbon reduction
- Waste management

One of the key aims of site management is the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Section 3.5 of the management plan sets out how this, along with the other key objectives, will be achieved.

The management of the site does not require large scale or regular procurement of goods or services; however, we will always seek to obtain goods and services from local, sustainable sources. Examples of this include the purchase of timber products from local suppliers, the use of wood chip from the council's tree works contracts for mulching of trees, etc

The main factors contributing to carbon emissions are the use of contractors for regular maintenance such as the mowing and travel to and from the site by visitors. The contractors visit the site twelve times annually and combine visits with other work on sites. The level of carbon emissions from contractors is therefore relatively low. Town Council Officers are based locally and travel to the site mainly by foot. Travel to and from the site is therefore minimal in carbon terms. In order to reduce the carbon footprint, we seek to reduce emissions where this is possible

Currently litter bins are provided on site, these are monitored and regularly emptied to ensure that they do not overflow, and residents and visitors have the opportunity to utilise them. This is a deliberate stance to encourage riverside users to act responsibly and persuade usage of the bins. Experience over the management of the area suggests that this policy works very well as the level of littering is generally very low. Where problems have occurred, this is as a result of unauthorised gatherings, in this case it is unlikely that the presence of bins would make any material difference. The litter situation is continually monitored and if there is any significant change then this policy will be reviewed. Any litter that is left on the site is collected by Town Council staff on a daily basis.

5.0 Adoption

Once the Town Council has accepted the Riverside Management Plan and embraced its Aims and Objectives, the Plan will become a “Live” document and supersede any preceding management documentation relating to the areas covered in this Riverside Management Plan.

Signed as accepted and approved.....

Appendix B - Access Points



Appendix C - Public Rights of Way



Appendix D – Plant Species List (tbc)

Appendix E – Tree Management Plan (tbc)

Appendix F – Annual Tree Inspection (extract)

Visual Tree Assessment						
Ross on Wye Town Council						
Long Acre						
Number	Species	Height (M)	Canopy width (M)	Circ. At base (M)	Fungus / fruiting bodies	Age
1	Lombardy Poplar	30	6	3.5		M

Condition:

Path at 1m (N) and at 1m (W). Slight lean towards (E) exposed roots, buttress. Heavily ribbed fissured stem, shear cracks at base. Probe test at (S/E) shear crack, depth 200mm. Performed percussion test on ribs, resulting in different in tone on test. Indicating an internal crack (possibly hollow). Active increment strips on ribs throughout. Multiple shear cracks with bark inclusions. Multiple rubbing/kissing limbs throughout. Bark buckling present on underside of limbs, which are long and slender. Minor/major dead wood, moss throughout. Suckers at base

Recommendation:

Given its location it is advisable to reduce the height to prevent natural breaks/snaps of limbs, which are long, slender and brittle being a poplar. This tree will only continue to grow taller, as they are considered fast growing. In general trees that grow quickly also die quickly. The Lombardy is considered the weakest, short lived and most prone to disease, and rot to its soft spongy wood. It would therefore advisable to reduce height by a quarter, to prevent any limbs blowing/snapping out, this would also alleviate weight and stress at the forks.

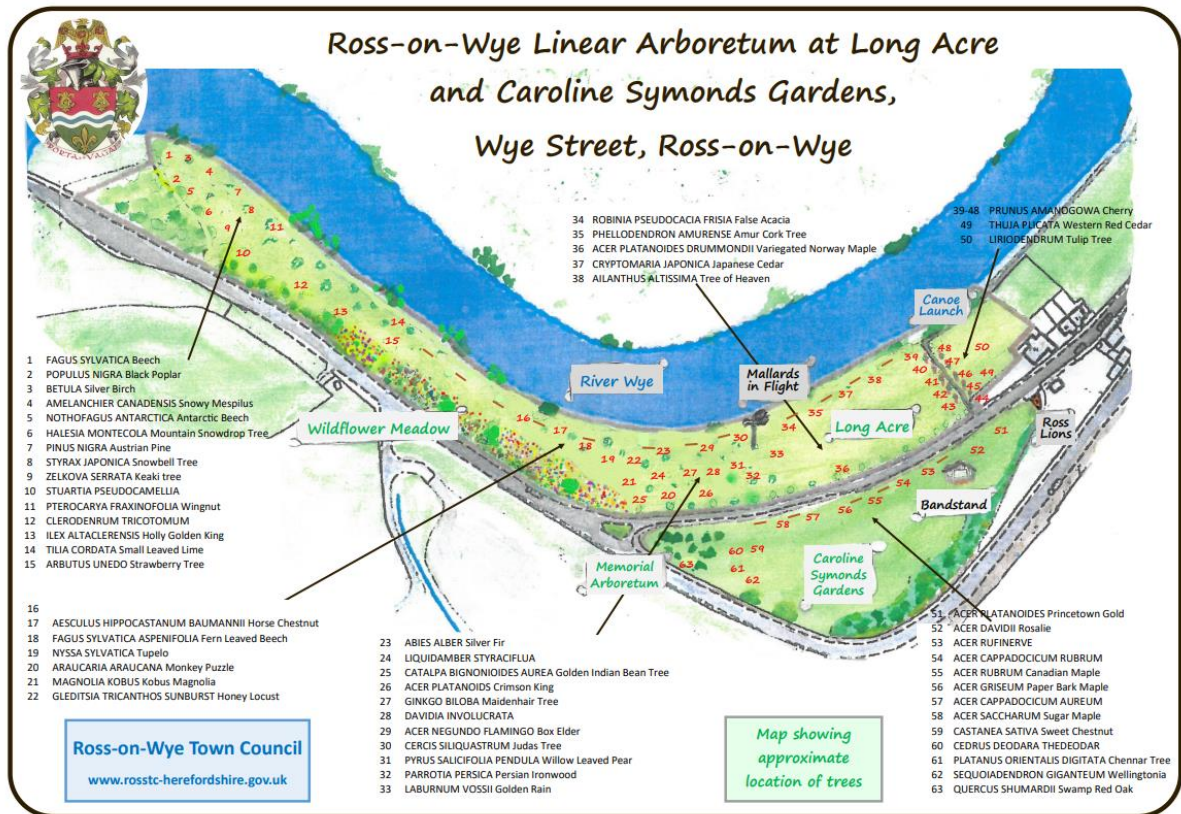
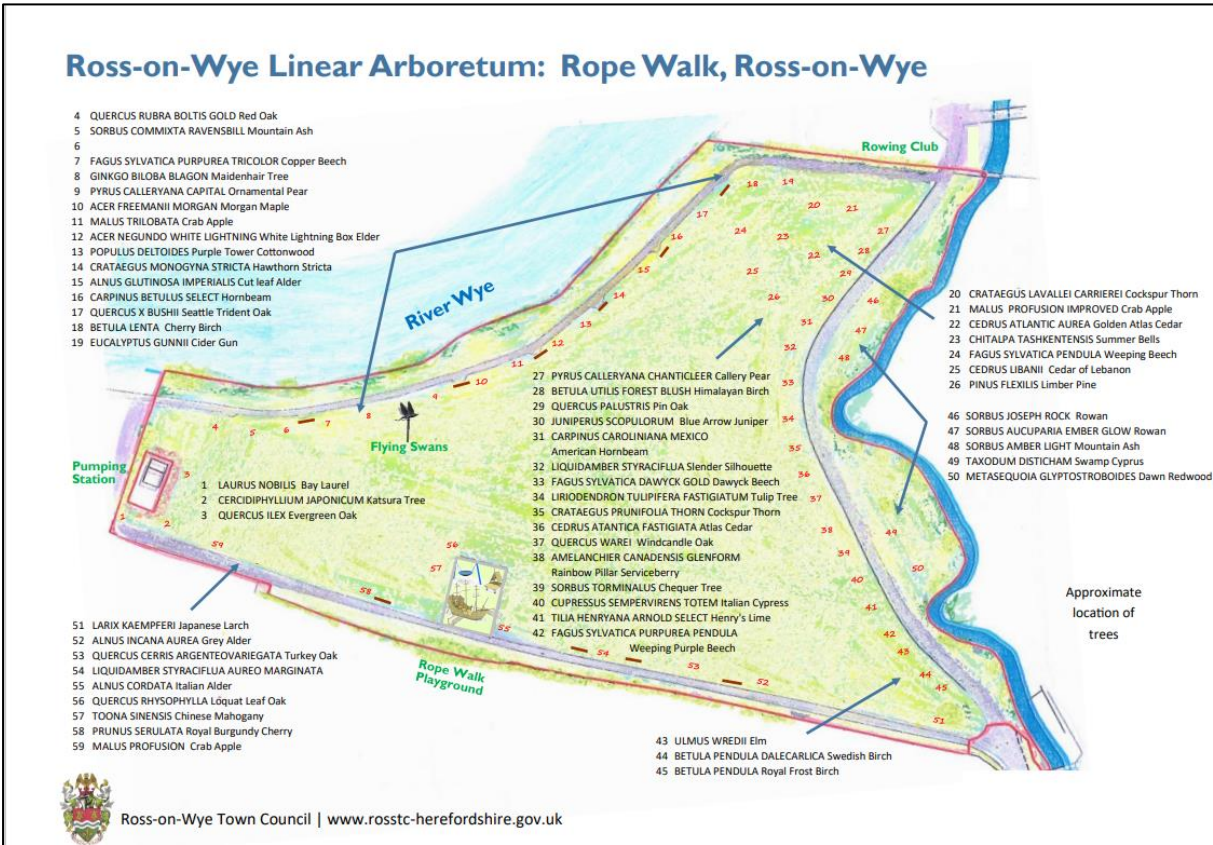
Priority: High

Target Area: High



Risk: High

Appendix G – Tree Species List (tbc)

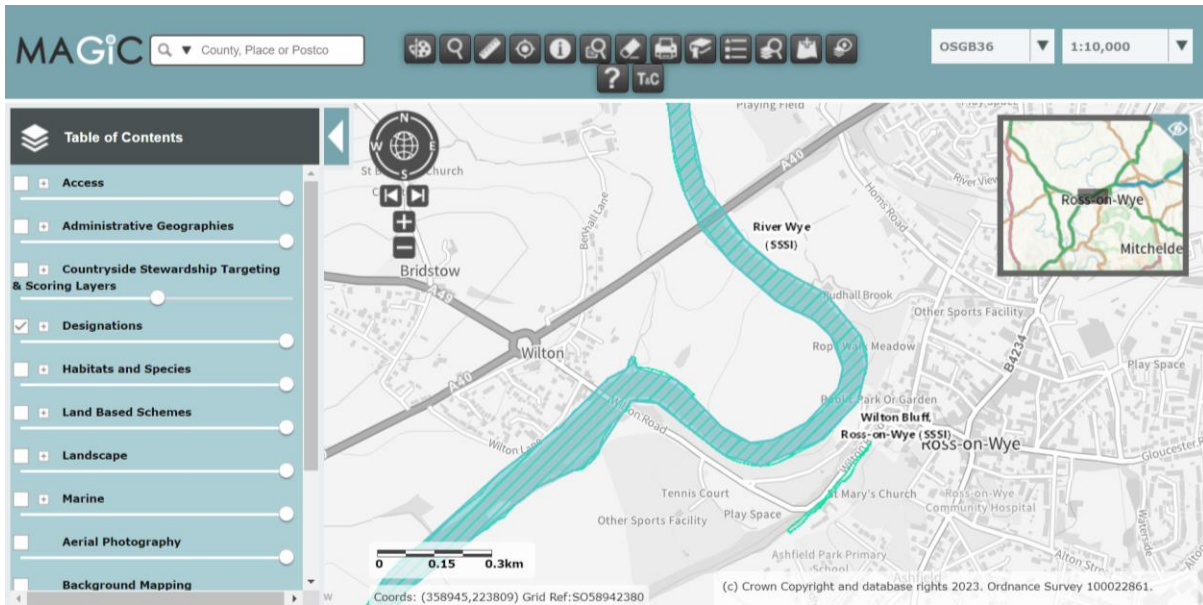
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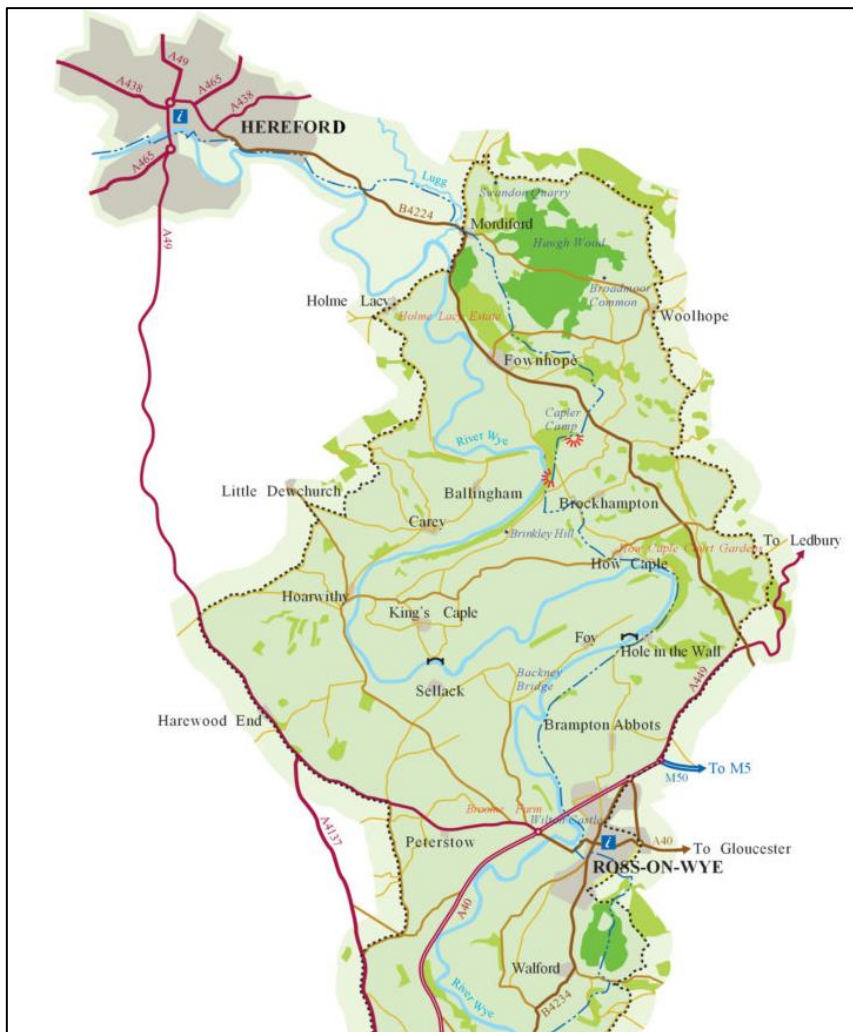
Appendix I - Tree Policy recommended trees (extract)

	<p><i>Alnus glutinosa</i></p> <p>common alder</p> <p>A deciduous tree to 25m, broadly conical in habit when young, with grey-purple buds and young catkins conspicuous in winter and rounded bright green leaves.</p>
	<p><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></p> <p>common beech</p> <p>Large, vigorous deciduous tree reaching 30m in height, with a broad, spreading crown. Leaves broadly elliptic, yellow-green in spring, rich golden copper to russet-brown in autumn. Small, green flowers in early spring, are followed by bristly fruits (nuts)</p>
	<p><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></p> <p>Atropurpurea</p> <p>copper beech</p> <p>Large deciduous beech trees reaching about 30m in height over time. Grown for their deep purple leaves, which become reddish copper in autumn.</p>
	<p><i>Betula nigra</i> 'Cully'</p> <p>black birch 'Cully'</p> <p>'Cully' a vigorous deciduous tree with creamy-brown, peeling bark and shiny dark green leaves turning yellow in autumn.</p>

Appendix J – SSSI (Map)



AONB (Map)



Appendix K – Annual Maintenance Plan (extract)

		May																																	
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed			
Strimming (x12)																																			
Flood plain meadow - Long Acre (hay cut x1)																																			
Tudorville Cemetery (cut & collect)						?																													
The Prospect (cut & collect)						?																													
Closed churchyard (cut & collect)																																			
Annual grass cut around trees (cut & collect)																																			
General Planting																																			
Fork boards																																			
Weed & Litter pick																																			
Mulch / pre-emergent herbicides																																			
Grass edges																																			
Pruning																																			
Summer Planting - Pole Toppers (12 @ 24" & 16 half baskets)																																			
Collect Pole topper																																			
Summer Planting																																			
Watering (RoWTC)																																			
Remove empty clean baskets																																			



Ross-on-Wye Town Council

Memorial Bench Regulations

INTRODUCTION

The Rope Walk, Caroline Symonds Gardens, William Blake Memorial Gardens, Long Acre, Tudorville Cemetery, Crossfields and Deanhill Park enjoy some beautiful aspects and Ross-on-Wye Town Council recognises the benefit and amenity provided by memorial benches.

The Council would like to help families commemorate their loved ones and create a pleasant environment for all visitors.

These guidelines have been drawn up to ensure the benches serve the needs of all users.

BENCH REGULATIONS

1. Ross-on-Wye Town Council will supply approved benches for purchase by individuals or shared ownership, and arrange installation of all benches.
2. Ross-on-Wye Town Council reserves the right to decide the type of memorial bench and reserves the right to refuse or remove any bench deemed inappropriate or unsafe for use.
3. Permission must be sought and approval granted in writing for all benches. Applications must be made in writing to the Town Clerk on the appropriate form and accompanied by the correct fee.
4. Cemetery memorial benches will be positioned for the benefit and convenience of all cemetery users. Please note that cemetery benches will not be placed next to graves.
5. Bench sites administered by Ross-on-Wye Town Council will be situated in suitable locations as designated and approved by the Town Council.
6. Only one shared ownership bench at a time will be permitted at each location. Once the maximum number of plaques are attached, a new bench will be installed subject to available space.
7. The Council shall undertake maintenance of the bench for a period of five years. The location and condition of the bench will be reviewed at the end of this five-year period and the bench will remain in situ whilst it remains in good condition. The Council reserves the right to remove the bench at the end of this period.

Appendix M – Inspection Report Parks (extract)



Safety Inspection Report

Site name: **Ropewalk Playground**
Date of inspection: **07 March 2022**
Inspector: **David Yearley**



Playsafety Ltd is licensed by RoSPA to trade as RoSPA Play Safety

Appendix O – Photographs



Ross-on-Wye – Long Acre and Riverside



Rope Walk



Riverside – riparian corridor



Community involvement in sowing wildflower seeds



Wildflower Meadow



Biodiverse Habitats



Hay cut to promote seasonal flowering



Diverse wildflowers





New tree planting



Linear Arboretum



Riparian Corridor coppiced “window”



Erosion control – Willow Spiling





Canoe launch

