14 Saints

Layout and Connectivity

This is one of the older areas in the development of West Bletchley with the majority of the housing dating from the 1950s and 1960s. The area is predominantly residential with 3 small parks and two schools. The area benefits from wider than average road verges but many of the street trees are overmature small trees in imminent need of replacing.

The wide frontages to many properties mean that off street parking has been obtained whilst still in general retaining front gardens. Properties in the area also benefit from generally long rear gardens some of which accommodate large trees and shrub planting. There are some garage courts.

The area contains a variety of small incidental green space. The small triangles of planting at each junction along St John's Road and St Catherine's Avenue are a distinctive part of the character of the area and these and other green spaces offer opportunities for habitat enhancement.

The three parks vary considerably in their connectivity and existing habitats. The first park in the south west corner is the eastern part of Chepstow Park and is predominantly grass and woodland areas and benefits considerably from its connection to the rest of Chepstow Park and the wildlife corridor along the railway line. The Buckingham Road park benefits from the strong high hedgerow along its western boundary but is predominantly amenity grassland with a few trees. The other park in the south east of the area is between housing on Newton Road and Whiteley Crescent this small area of open space is hidden from the surrounding roads and may have originally been allotments, similar to those in Warwick Place.

Notable Existing Habitats

- Woodland in Chepstow Park
- Planting adjacent to railway line.
- Small tree groups and notable trees with gardens
- Historic hedgerow along St Clement's Drive

Key Biodiversity Enhancement Opportunities

The list below gives an indication of the areas considered to have greatest scope for biodiversity enhancement in the area. The Vision Section – Chapter 5 provides information and ideas about how projects to implement these ideas might be progressed.

Within Parks and Open Space:

- The three parks may provide an opportunity for new small woodland areas aiming to increase tree cover significantly - all parks to have a 20% for nature strategy.
- Review management of park boundaries to look at opportunities to create habitat enhancement areas and small meadow areas. At St. Clements Park in the short term consider leaving more grass unmown adjacent to the boundary hedgerow to encourage hedgerow grassland habitat to expand.
- Whitely Crescent Park between Newton Road and Whitely Crescent has large areas of amenity grassland which are providing limited recreational benefit consider a habitat enhancement plan for the whole park perhaps aiming to give 75% of the area to habitat enhancement projects.
- New street tree establishment especially along Newton Road.
- Consider strategy to refurbish all small incidental open spaces with diverse mix of locally occurring native trees and shrubs, this could be done as a community engagement activity.

Homes and Gardens:

- Promote connectivity between gardens and parks especially for hedgehogs.

Other Land:

- Work with schools to explore opportunities for projects to engage with the natural environment and enhance the habitat value of school grounds.
- Work with schools particularly in this area to manage existing hedgerows for greater biodiversity value and look at opportunities for additional hedgerow establishment.
- Garage Court investigate existing habitat value of garage courts and explore opportunities to enhance.

Open space with play area behind housing with potential for habitat enhancement.

A strong group of street trees and shrubs within the housing layout.

Woodland and Woody Vegetation

- Deciduous Small Woods / Woodland Strips
- Recently Planted Woodland
- Mixed Woodland Mainly Conifer
- Strong Hedgerows
- Historic Hedgerows
- Scrub
- Notable Trees and Tree Groups

Grassland

- Amenity Grassland - Parks and Roadsides
- Amenity Grassland - Managed as Meadow
- Other Amenity Grassland
- Bankside Vegetation
- Farmland - Arable

Wetland

- Ponds
- Stream/Wet Ditch

Other Habitat Types

- Built Structures Potentially Providing Habitats
- Allotments
- Historic Churchyard

Figure 22. Saints