



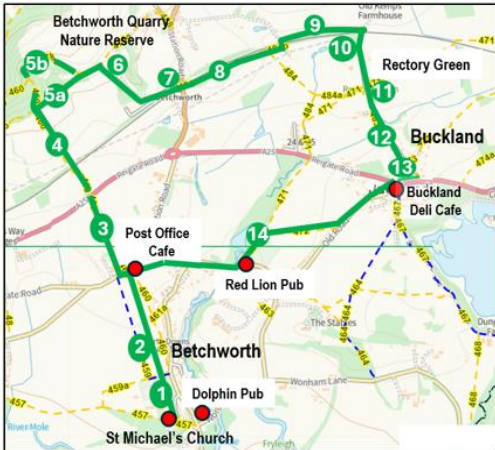
Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail Briefing Note & Signage

Betchworth Parish Council is supporting the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative through its grants to Re-Betchworth Charity. We are very grateful for this support. Our substantial project this year is to establish a Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail and I attach a short Briefing Note to explain the progress we are making.

Over the last few months we have created a new website to provide essential information to users of the trail. We now need to publicize the trail and provide information so that users can access the information. In the first instance our intention is to organise a small number of strategically placed A4 signs. BPC has kindly agreed to post signs on its noticeboards at the Hamilton Room, Post Office and The Coombe. We are also placing A5 card holders with information about the trail at the Red Lion Pub, Betchworth Post Office and Dolphin Pub. All these businesses are on the trail map.

Request: The Nature Trail starts at St Michael's Church Car Park and the entrance to the car park is an ideal place for a sign so that users of the trail can access information as they leave the car park. We understand that the Car Park is owned by the Hamilton Estate and, on the advice of Cllr Martin Higgins, and if BPC supports the idea, we request that it seeks permission from the Hamilton Estate to erect a sign on behalf of the Nature Trail initiative. The sign does not need to be more than A4 in size and it can contain information on the Countryside Code alongside the QR Code to access the website as shown below.

Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail



Welcome to the Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail — a circular 6km, 2 hour walk from the valley of the River Mole to the chalk cliffs of the North Downs and back..

Our dedicated website provides information about each location on the trail. Use your smartphone to scan the QR code and connect to the website.

Click on the drop-down menu for information about each location.

We expect those who use the trail to behave responsibly, keep to the pathways and respect the rights of landowners and farmers.





Norman Jackson Re-Betchworth Trustee & 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative Lead

Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail

Progress Report Betchworth Parish Council 02/07/26

This note outlines progress made to date in establishing a Betchworth & Buckland Nature Trail and developing the information infrastructure to support the trail.

Concept

The trail is being created by the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative to raise awareness of local wildlife and habitats, and to provide a focus for study and conservation. It follows existing paths, lanes and roads, and visitors are asked to follow the Countryside Code — respecting nature, keeping to designated routes, and being considerate of landowners and their livelihoods. One complete circuit, starting and finishing at the car park by St Michael's Church in Betchworth, is approximately 6.5km and takes a reasonably mobile person about two hours at a leisurely pace, with brief stops at each noteworthy location. The trail map includes 4 businesses (2 cafes and 2 pubs) that could potentially benefit by attracting trail users.

Figure 1: Nature Trail Map and website link



Noteworthy features on the trail

Sixteen points of interest are marked along the route, six of them within Buckland Parish. The trail can be entered at any point and walked in any direction. For the purpose of organising information on the map and website, the starting and finishing point is St Michael's Church car park, Betchworth.

- 1a Betchworth village orchard
- 1b Goulburn Green community wildflower strip
- 2 Common Field wildflower strip cultivated by Hamilton Estate
- 3 Hawthorn hedge by the path; adjacent field planted with trees, and the A25 green corridor
- 4 Parkland pasture, railway green corridor and arable field
- 5a Lower path — ancient woodland rich in yew trees
- 5b Upper path — a narrow valley rich in ferns, including hart's tongue fern, also scrub near landfill site
- 6 Chalk grassland on highly disturbed chalk waste from the quarry above

- 7 Pyramid and spotted orchids visible in the grassy verge during summer
- 8 Beech, hazel and ash woodland and copse adjacent to the railway footpath
- 9 Tree-lined lane with a large oak tree nearly 300 years old
- 10 Marshy area with bog plants — reeds and rushes
- 11 Species-rich acid grassland with wildflowers on Rectory Green
- 12 Wildflower-rich grassy verges and woodland on Rectory Lane
- 13 Buckland Village pond
- 14 Tranquil Wood — ancient woodland and Georgian/Victorian landscaped woodland and wetland

Information infrastructure

Website

A new website dedicated to the trail is being constructed <https://bbnaturetrail.uk/> Every location on the map has its own web page with supporting information. Users of the trail will be able to access the website and the relevant page with the QR code shown in Figure 1. Fieldwork has been undertaken by the team to provide the basic information for each webpage and this will be augmented with information from professional ecological surveys (see below).



Signs & information cards

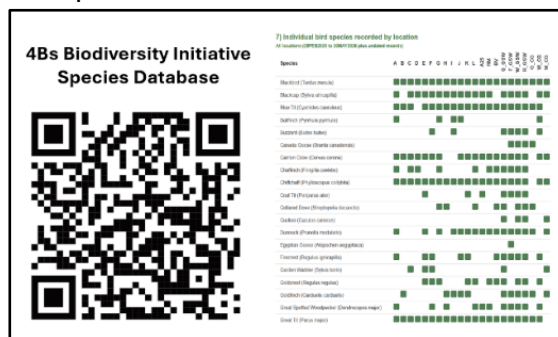
Physical signs are being kept to a minimum. In the first instance they are being installed on Betchworth Parish Council noticeboards. A map will be provided to Buckland PC if it would like to do the same. There is a small sign in Buckland Deli and A5 cards showing the trail and QR code are available at Betchworth Post Office, the Red Lion Pub and Dolphin Pub.

Ecological surveys and data stewardship

aLyne Ecology Ltd is undertaking a baseline ecological survey of the trail. Establishing this baseline at the point the trail comes into existence creates a reference point and a record of what was present when the trail was created, against which future change can be measured.

Figure 2: QR code link to the online biodiversity database.

Alongside this, we have begun developing an online biodiversity database which can be accessed by smartphone or laptop via the QR code (Figure 2). Each recorded sighting adds to a living archive, building a picture of seasonal change and recovery over time. The database and website will be maintained by the 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative team.



The 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative Team thanks Betchworth Parish Council for its financial and practical support for the Nature Trail and invites Council to consider whether the Nature Trail might be included in the Amenities and Services section of the Parish Website.

Norman Jackson 02/07/26:
Re-Betchworth Trustee & 4Bs Biodiversity Initiative lead