

Chalford Climate Action Network (ChalCAN) was formed in 2019 in collaboration with Chalford Parish Council. The Biodiversity Action sub-group has since been very busy, adopting sites for habitat enhancement and creation throughout the Parish.

With a grant from Caring for the Cotswolds (Cotswolds National Landscape) and financial support from the Parish Council, a Biodiversity Trail was developed to highlight the areas of existing biodiversity in the Parish, and to showcase newly adopted sites. The trail is c. 10km long and is divided into smaller sections.

Please respect the Countryside Code – take your litter home, close any gates and keep dogs on a lead where livestock are present, or during the bird nesting season.

If you would like to know more about the work of ChalCAN, please contact info@chalcan.org.uk and visit our website at chalcan.org.uk.

Accessibility

This is a traditional Cotswold landscape with steep hillsides. Most of the Trail is on a Public Rights Of Way, public roads, or lanes with/without pavements. Other parts are on footpaths through fields and woods with stiles/kissing gates.

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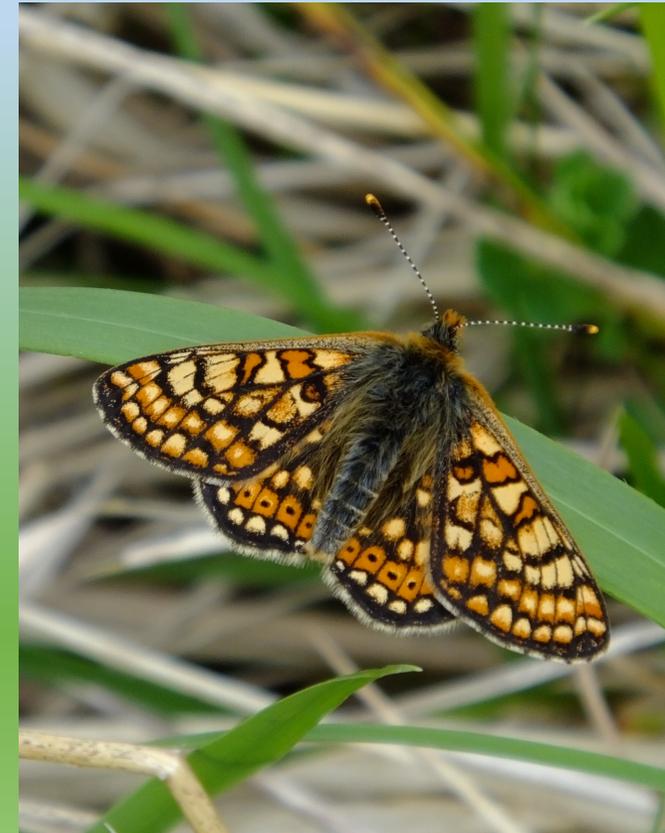
Will Swait



Lyndsey Gill

Biodiversity Trail

Chalford Climate Action Network



The ChalCAN Biodiversity Trail

Purple Trail – Blackness Banks

One of the best examples of limestone grassland in the Parish! This 0.8 km long trail can be reached off the London Road. The views of the Golden Valley are stunning, and you are surrounded by **Sainfoin**, Quaking Grass and Bird's Foot Trefoil. Listen for ravens.



Orange Trail – Frith Wood

This 2.2 km section leads to Frith Wood. A steady climb through Toadsmoor Wood will bring you out at Cowswell Lane, across Bussage Playing Field and into Frith Wood. This is an Ancient Woodland and a Local Wildlife Site. In the spring it is covered in **Bluebells**, violets and Wood Anemone.



Part of the wood is now managed by the community, bringing it to life again. Enjoy the peace and quiet in the middle of Bussage!

Light Blue Trail – Towpath

This 2.9 km trail runs along the towpath of the canal and is adjacent to the River Frome in parts. It is full of wildlife – dippers and herons can be seen regularly, and otters visit occasionally. The combination of trees and water along this flat stretch is very peaceful and always provides something new to look at.

Dark Blue Trail

Abnash Bank

Abnash Bank, one of the Parish's remarkable roadside verges, brims with life! It has a rich limestone grassland flora and attracts many insects. It has been designated recently as a Conservation Road Verge. **Dyer's Greenweed** is one of the unusual plants that grows here.



The Spinney and Hay Meadow



In 2020 The Biodiversity Action Group planted a spinney of 150 trees to offset our carbon deficit, but also to provide a haven for wildlife in the future. A kestrel regularly quarters the area now. Adjacent to it is a very special and unusual species-rich hay meadow with Downy Oat Grass.

Bee orchids, Pyramidal orchids and a parasitic Broomrape grow here.

The Pleasure Ground and Parish Bank



Much of this area was old common land and these two sites are some of its last remnants. The France Lynch Pleasure Ground is a Local Wildlife Site, with 66 plant species including Rock Rose, Harebell, Quaking Grass and **Small Scabious**. Parish bank is a continuation of this flora but in need of restoration. Biodiversity Action has been working to restore the verge, encouraging limestone grassland species to thrive.

Green Trail – Dimmel's Dale

The Green Trail (0.9 km) is a linking trail that takes you through Dimmel's Dale, a Local Nature Reserve, designated recently and owned by GWT.



It's comprised of species-rich limestone grassland, with Ancient Woodland at the top of the bank, and a brook at the bottom. Wildflowers bloom throughout from Cowslips in early spring, **Bugle** in summer and Devils-bit Scabious well into autumn.

Red Trail

Strawberry Banks



This part of the trail links into Strawberry Banks, which is Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is a stunning example of limestone grassland, and also has a stream running adjacent, which is known for its unusual calcareous deposit known as tufa.



At least five orchid species grow here including **Lesser Butterfly orchid**. The rare **Marsh Fritillary** butterfly is the star of the show however!

Parish and Oldhills Wood

This wood is an ancient woodland owned by The Woodland Trust. It has Beech, Hazel, Holly and Yew. It also has a stunning range of species in the spring such as Ramsons, Bluebell, **Hart's-tongue fern**, Woodruff and Violets.

