

Service Level Agreement

Between

Witney Town Council

And

Wild Witney

Agreement Date:

Witney Town Council:

Wild Witney:

This agreement dated **1st May 2022** is made between **Witney Town Council** of 51B Market Square, Witney OX28 6AG and **Wild Witney**

1. Definitions

- 1.1. "Council" - Witney Town Council
- 1.2. "Volunteer Group", "Volunteers" - Wild Witney
- 1.3. "Agreement" is this user agreement between the council and volunteer group
- 1.4. "Land"- Land defined in Appendix 1
- 1.5. "Re-Wilding" – The project and agreed purpose of the land
- 1.6. "Project" – Rewilding'

2. Purpose of Agreement

- 2.1. The purpose of this agreement is to clearly define the extent of control, support and review process for the project Wild Witney is undertaking on council land in the vicinity of the Lake & Country Park (see Appendix 1).

3. Volunteers groups role

- 3.1. To manage the land for the sole purpose of Re-Wilding.

4. Support

The concept for the project is to allow the Volunteer Group to manage the designated land with limited support from the council.

- 4.1. The main point of contact from the council will be the Park Ranger. Contact details of the group will be required and kept by the council in accordance with data protection legislation
- 4.2. Information will be provided on the exact boundaries of the land for Re-Wilding.
- 4.3. Support from the council to promote the Volunteer group.
- 4.4. There is no predefined material or labour support.
 - 4.4.1. If the volunteer group do ask for tools, material, or support from the council this will come at the agreement of the Head of Operations or Town Clerk.
- 4.5. Any relevant land information including biodiversity studies, tree reports and risk assessments.

5. Financials

- 5.1. There is no agreed budget to support the volunteer group however they may apply for grant funding from the council under its normal grant-aid terms.

6. Safety

- 6.1. The area is included in the Council's Annual 5 yearly tree survey and any findings that pose a risk to volunteer activities will be shared with the volunteer group.

6.2. The volunteer group will need to supply a completed risk assessment for review yearly by the Council, or before if they are commencing a different activity, or there is a change in circumstance not covered by the existing risk assessment.

6.2.1. Volunteer supervisors must familiarise themselves, and convey to other volunteers at the start of each volunteer session to act in accordance with the recommended mitigating measures identified in the risk assessment at all times.

6.3. The volunteers will be covered by the Town Council's insurance.

7. Responsibilities of the Council

Are to include the following but at no increased support from what is currently performed on the land.

7.1. Tree works so far as powered equipment is needed

7.2. Maintenance of any gates

7.3. Maintenance of paths and steps

7.4. River management including bank reinforcement and removal of debris

8. Responsibilities of the Volunteers Group

8.1. To carry out the rewilding process

8.2. To provide feedback to council officers to help with communication of the project

8.3. Management of all H&S for the project

8.3.1. Accidents & Incidents including any H&S concerns must be reported to the council's Health & Safety Officer.

9. Restrictions

The following restriction applies to the land and the volunteer groups' activities. Contact must be made with the council for agreement to carry out any of the restricted items.

9.1. Building of any structures.

9.2. Introduction of any wildlife through unnatural means.

9.3. Planting of tree species

9.4. Creation of new habitats

9.5. Disassembly/removal of any fences, hedgerows or gates.

9.5.1. The removal of barbed wire along fence lines bordering the river Windrush is permitted.

9.6. The planting of any trees within 3 meters of the powerlines.

10. Review & Termination of agreement

10.1. The agreement will be reviewed yearly by both the Council and the Volunteer Group to ascertain progress and future progression.

10.2. Causes for review and possible termination of the agreement.

10.2.1. If under a period of review Council officers deem the project does not have its desired impact .

10.2.2. involvement from the volunteer group has fallen.

10.2.2.1. the volunteer group will be invited to review the project which could involve the possible termination of the agreement.

10.2.3. A breach of any of the restrictions in point 9.

10.2.4. Volunteer group communicated with the council that they no longer wish to continue.

Appendix 1:

Area designated for Re-Wilding to Wild Witney from Witney Town Council.

