

# Climate Action Addingham: Hoffman Wood Field proposal to the Parish Council

## Background

The Parish Council and Addingham Environment Group have been working together since 2019 to improve the margins of the field for wildlife. The current agreed management plan is attached.

CAA working group members visited the field in the Spring to consider further ideas for enhancing the wildlife value of the space, and its use for recreation, to help meet CAA objectives for biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

This land was bequeathed to the village for children's play (Appendix 3). In the green space consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan this was the least well used village green space, and one where respondents considered there was potential to make improvements both for wildlife and people – children in particular.

## Climate Action Addingham proposals

### **1. Develop a plan for creating a more interesting, wildlife friendly space for informal children's play and recreational activity.**

The field is currently little used by local children. The cricket nets are very well used, and there is occasional use for playing rounders, otherwise the field is used by some regular dogwalkers.

The CAA working group considers that there is potential to enhance the value of the space for informal children's play, alongside moving to more environmentally friendly, sustainable management.

***CAA seeks APC approval to work with CAA partners, user groups, residents, children and parents to work towards a longer-term vision for this village green space, with input from a landscape designer to assist with creating a plan.***

### **2. In the short-term, and whilst the longer-term plan is being developed, further enhance and develop the margins as wildlife corridors and habitat for birds, pollinating insects, and hedgehogs by:**

- widening the uncut margin on the eastern boundary from 1 m to 2 m to create more habitat
- plant a mixed native hedgerow on the western boundary alongside the existing garden boundary hedge line, in 3 phases, starting at the Main St and Church St ends, giving time to liaise with the Sycamore Drive residents. With the first phase to be planted in winter 2024/25
- plant a native standard tree in the corners at either end of the western boundary and allow the area behind to re-wild. Addingham Allotments & Gardens Association have expressed interest in sponsoring the planting of an oak tree to mark the Association's 50th Anniversary.
- delay the first cut of the field until towards the end of May, to provide pollen and nectar supplies for bumblebees in the early part of the season.

***CAA seeks APC approval to implement these additional enhancements, which are shown on the plan in Appendix 2.***

## Appendix 1

### HOFFMAN WOOD FIELD – Current management agreement with Addingham Parish Council (approved May 2019)

Management  
Plan to increase:

- Wildflowers
- Pollinators
- Hedgerows
- Tree cover

*and reduce emissions  
& sequester carbon.*

By:

- Hedge planting
- Tree planting
- Dock removal
- Plug planting
- Reduced mowing
- Zero herbicide



**A** Bank, along length of Church St boundary actively managed by AEG since 2019 to increase wildflower populations (one cut late summer, arisings removed, plug planting with native wildflowers)

**B** One metre grass margin left uncut to protect hedgerow

**C** New mixed native hedge planted by AEG to extend existing mature hedgerow, autumn 2019/late winter 2020. One metre grass margin left uncut to protect hedgerow

**D** South-east corner actively managed by AEG, trees/shrubs planted at the back, one late summer cut, arisings removed plug planting with native wildflowers

**E** Active management of margin along Main St/Ilkley Road boundary (one cut late summer, arisings removed, plug planting with native wildflowers)

**F** South-east corner actively managed by AEG, trees/shrubs planted at the back (2021), one late summer cut, arisings removed.

#### Monitoring

- Plant survey of margins June 2019
- Bee & Butterfly Transect of Margins - annual

## Appendix 2



### HOFFMAN WOOD FIELD: additional biodiversity enhancement proposals – March 2024

#### SHORT TERM: continue to develop the margins as wildlife corridors:

**A** widen the uncut margin on the eastern boundary from 1 m to 2 m to create more habitat.

**B** plant a mixed native hedgerow on the western boundary alongside the existing garden boundary hedge line, in 3 phases, starting at the Main St and Church St ends, giving time to liaise with the Sycamore Drive residents.

**C & D** plant a native standard tree at the edge of these corners and allow the area behind to re-wild. Addingham Allotments & Gardens Association wish to sponsor the planting of a tree to mark the Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**E** delay mowing until into May, to provide pollen and nectar supplies for bumblebees in the early part of the season.

#### MEDIUM TERM: develop a plan for creating a more interesting, wildlife friendly space for informal children's play and recreational activity.

### Appendix 3

#### Extract from the will of Mr Hoffman Wood (dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 1931)

*“.....To the Addingham Rural District Council or others the competent local authority of such district, the sum of five hundred pounds for application but them in the acquisition and future upkeep of a piece of land at Addingham for the purpose of thus **providing a playground for the children in that neighbourhood** and I declare that the receipt of the treasurer for the time being of such council shall be sufficient discharge to my permanent Trustees in respect of this bequest\_\_\_\_\_”*