

St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council

Report #07.2

Corston Quarry and Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide information to enable Council to consider the need to update the Corston Local Nature Reserve Management Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Nature Reserve at Corston is owned by the Council. The Management Plan (MP) has been in place and updated since 1987, the previous 5-year MP ran out in 2021, however because of restrictions imposed by the recent pandemic it has yet to be updated.
- 2.2 Whilst not a statutory requirement it is advisable to ensure the plan is kept current, especially as it is a legally designated LNR. During the last five years there have been many changes on the site and amongst the volunteer group.
- 2.3 The present Management Co-ordinator of the LNR has offered to undertake the biological survey this summer and revise the plan during the autumn/winter to cover the period 2022-27. It is estimated that the update should take no more than two days to complete because of the previous familiarity with the site.
- 2.4 The present Management Co-ordinator, who prepared and produced the present Management Plan, is a professional ecologist with over 40 years experience. She was a Senior National Conservation Advisor with the Environment Agency for 15 years and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, a Chartered Ecologist and a Chartered Environmentalist.

3. Options

- 3.1 To decide not to update the Management Plan
- 3.2 To request the present Management Co-ordinator to undertake the update for a fixed fee of £300.
- 3.2 To employ an ecological consultant to undertake the work, who is likely to be unfamiliar with the site, at a conservative daily rate of at least £450.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Although there is no specific allocation of funds for this work in the 2022/23 budget, there is sufficient scope within it to support the approval of the proposal at the the cost identified.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Council is recommended to support Option 3.2