

BERTIE WEST FIELD



♥Fun ♥ Adventure ♥ Nature

Bertie West Field

A wild space for informal outdoor play

A small field located in the heart of the village, behind the scouts hut to the south of Littleworth Path. Bertie West Field provides a place for children to explore, discover and enjoy the natural environment.

What You Will Find Here

- A large area of rough grassland for open play which includes the scouts' and guides' camp fire
- A wilder area beyond the grass, ideal for dens and hideouts
- A new hedge planted along the NE boundary and a little copse being created in the northerly corner - shade in the future
- Expansive patches of nettles and brambles, with small trees and shrubs around the boundaries to feed wildlife
- An old willow, arched and propped up, providing shade on warm days
- Near the entrance, a wildflower garden where children can learn about wild pollinators.

Technical Summary

Habitat: an area of rough grassland with semi-wild scrub beyond and around the perimeter, providing habitat and food for wildlife. A large stump of an old willow, recently felled; several smaller trees. Play and recreation value: high

Management Summary

Designated as a Local Green Space and located within the Conservation Area of Benson village. Bertie West Field is managed for the benefit of the children of the parish as a natural space for outdoor, informal and unsupervised play. A dog-free zone.

Next Steps

- Regular mowing of paths and central area of the field to keep an open grassy area.
- Care of new hedge and saplings - eg watering in dry weather, and replacements where gaps arise
- Any blackthorn regrowth in the centre of the field will need removing
- Annual scything of the scrubby areas is planned - trainees welcome!
- Planning for replacing the elderly willow, the main source of shade at the site
- Natural seating from tree trunks are to be sought for the area near the ramp
- Interpretative signage as part of Benson Nature Group's circular parish walk is to be installed
- The pollinators project is to extend its area of wildflowers, reducing management required.