

REPORT FROM THE BIODIVERSITY GROUP, May 2024

- How lucky we are to have such great wildlife around the village associated with the grassland habitats, river corridor, gardens and old Cotswold buildings including rare bats, otters, water voles, kingfishers, swifts, barn owls etc.
- While all this great British wildlife is here, owing to the surrounding intensive farming management, higher value habitats are fragmented and species interests are dispersed and reduced compared to the old days.
- Keen to celebrate and engage locals with our amazing wildlife and work on initiatives to enhance biodiversity.
- First up, we're working with representatives from the other villages (Katie Zoraida /Quen and Chris McClaren Hatherop, amongst others) to review the already drafted and adopted biodiversity strategy for Quennington and see how this can be improved upon to ensure tangible outcomes.
- We're looking to build upon this for both Hatherop and Coln strategies to ensure a consistent and overarching strategy across this villages
- This will include actions such as habitat and species mapping, landowner collaborations/stakeholder groups, habitat restoration and creation to increase connectivity by working with landholders, protected species enhancements (e.g. bird and bat boxes), monitoring and community initiatives (e.g. annual swift counts /garden bird watch and wildlife walks), identifying grants etc.

Watch this space and let us know of any interesting wildlife sightings in the interim!