

# The Slade Nature Reserve – Report to Bloxham Parish Council

## March 2026

### News / Announcements

The warden suffered a broken ankle in September 2024 followed by later complications requiring further surgeries. This significantly reduced the number of work parties held during the end of 2024 and 2025.

### Recent Activities

- A keen volunteer from the village researched and organised the design and production of a new information sign about the Pest House.
- Sections of boardwalk repaired regularly.
- The meadowsweet in the meadow has been cut every summer over the past 10 years which is increasing the biodiversity in that area.
- BPC commissioned a tree survey of the trees at The Slade that are adjacent to the pathways. Some of this work will be carried out by Slade Volunteers.

### Community Involvement

- Wild About Bloxham club has been reformed following National Lottery funding secured by Biodiversity Bloxham. This will fund 2 years of the club which is a monthly nature themed event based within the village.
- Bloxham Scout Group continue to use The Slade periodically to perform conservation tasks.
- Crake House from Bloxham School have carried out volunteering work, clearing pathways for the past 3 years in a row.
- Facebook interactions have increased and The Slade Facebook page now has 395 followers.

### 2026 Planning

- Install new information sign at the Pest House site.
- Boardwalk repairs
- Tree work suggested by tree survey carried out in 2025
- Possible implementation of leaky dams to help with flood management
- Regular species and water quality surveys.

### Planned expenditure:

- Replacement timber to maintain boardwalk.
- Branded clothing for Wild About Bloxham Club.
- Scything course.
- Tree identification plaques.