

**Burton Bradstock Parish Council
Corncrake Management Plan 2021-2026
Consultation Response**

Background

The Council agreed to undertake a full review of the Corncrake Management Plan approved in 2015 and build on the interim review undertaken and reported on in 2018.

A draft management plan was developed with input from Councillors, the Primary School and members of the public. The draft plan was placed on the Councils website with a link to an online questionnaire survey.

Due to Coronavirus restrictions we were unable to hold any public meetings and distribution of paper versions of the consultation questionnaire were limited. In total we received 30 responses to the questionnaire - (See appendix 1 for the summary report on the consultation).

Consultation Feedback

Headline findings:

- 76% agreed to the revised Vision for Corncrake,
- 79% agreed to the revised Objectives for Corncrake,
- 63% agreed to the re introduction of grazing and sowing of more wildflowers,
- 90% agreed to creating a new woodland area,
- 83% agreed to extending the Forest School Area,
- 91% agreed to managing hedges to Higher Stewardship guidelines (trimming on a 2/3 year rotation and lay hedges on a 7/10 year rotation).

What respondents supported:	What respondents were concerned about:
The use of Corncrake for Forest School activities	Strongly worded objections to cattle grazing, especially conflicts with dog walkers
The proposals for more extensive tree planting	Concerns about muddy paths, especially from grazing animals and in gateways
Hedges managed for wildlife; side trimmed every 2/3 years and hedges laid on rotation	Safety of walkers using the concrete slope to Timber Bridges
What respondents suggested:	
Greater attention to ongoing management of Corncrake	
A dedicated Volunteer Group for Corncrake to ensure regular maintenance	
Consideration given to measures that give a secured path for at least one of the public rights of way should grazing be introduced	
Stripping away areas of topsoil where Nettles/ Hemlock growth is becoming a management problem	

Recommendation

That the Council take a two part approach to considering the consultation response to the Corncrake Management Plan 2021-2026:

Part 1

That the Council consider, in light of the negative responses about cattle, whether to continue to seek a grazier for Corncrake?

If the Council is minded to continue to pursue a grazier that it also considers amending the grazing licence to:

- a) Limit grazing periods to two 6 week periods; in October and again in February each year,
- b) Stipulate the number and type of stock to be grazed to minimise issues with walkers.

Part 2

Approve the Management Plan 2021-2026 with any amendments from Part 1