

BOULMER WILDFLOWER MEADOW

A collaboration between:

*Longhoughton Parish Council (Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick),
the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), and Coast Care.*



Ox eye Daisies, Cornflowers and Common Poppies

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Looking Back:

The Project was initiated by the AONB in November 2015 when a Presentation was made to the Parish Council.

A Public Meeting was held in Boulmer Village Hall on the 18th April 2016 when the AONB put forward a proposal for a Wildflower Meadow in Boulmer.

The original proposal was for a much bigger meadow, incorporating grazing for animals.

It was unclear as to what the responsibilities and costs would be for the Parish Council.

Following the Public Meeting further discussions took place, on site, between the three Parish Councillors for Boulmer and the AONB.

This resulted in a reduced proposal without fencing, with an assessment of costs for the Parish Council.

In July 2016 information regarding the new proposal was circulated to all residents in the Boulmer Ward.

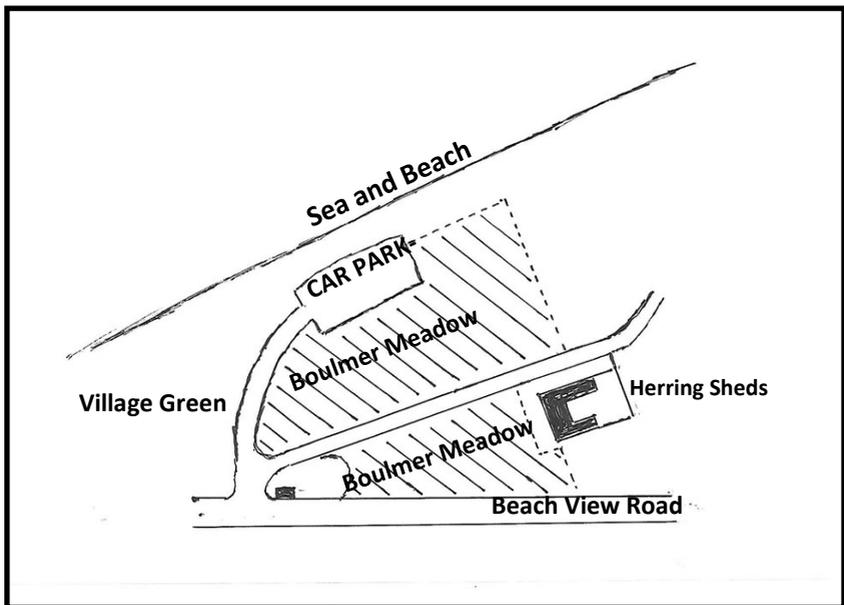
The revised proposal was agreed in July 2016 as a partnership between the Parish Council and the AONB and final approval was given in September 2016 by the Parish Council.

Following this approval the Parish Council formally applied to the AONB for money to proceed with the project. This was finally confirmed in October 2016 when the real work began.

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Seed was purchased. The land scarified. The first seeds were spread in Autumn 2016. Additional seeds were spread in March and April 2017 and again in late October 2018.

Location of The Boulmer Wildflower Meadow



The Project is greatly indebted to all the amazing Coast Care and local volunteers who gave up their time and participated enthusiastically in the recent grass collecting and seed spreading in late October 2018.

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More recently, (2017 - 2018):

The Meadow project is now at the end of the second growing season. Most of the species that were sown in 2016 and 2017 have flowered over the summer. These include: Birdsfoot -Trefoil, Betony, Buttercup, Red Clover, Ox-eye Daisy, Bedstraw, Restharrow, Yellow Rattle, Yarrow, Knapweed, Forget Me Not, Common Poppy, Cornflower, Pink Campion, Crosswort, Germander Speedwell, Bladder Campion and White Dead Nettle.

Rank grassland is still significantly prevalent on the inner meadow next to Beach View and there is still a long standing infestation of Cow Parsley, Docks, Hogweed (not Giant Hogweed), Nettles, Ground Elder, Ragwort and other invasive species in this area. There is evidence that Yellow Rattle is beginning to be effective in spreading through the Meadow and through its growing actions converting rank grass to finer meadow grass.



Yellow Rattle

Overall, an AONB representative considers that much progress has been achieved since 2016 and we are on course to achieve the objective of converting this area to a coastal meadowland within the five year period.