



Wording for the Roundabout (October 2022)

“Buckden Parish Council (BPC) is pleased to report that over the summer it purchased an established floating island which has been installed in the Valley lake to help mitigate the effects of the very hot weather which had caused the stream which feeds the lake to dry up and water quality in the lake to deteriorate. The roots of the plants on the floating island extend 1.5m into the water, providing shelter and sucking out pollutants. The island will provide cover for fish and a natural food larder for insects and invertebrates whilst also filtering water, removing excess nutrients, phosphate and nitrates.

The purchase was made in consultation with the Buckden Village Hall Trust (BVHT) which owns and manages the Valley and its lake as well as the playing fields. BPC supports the Trust’s efforts to raise further funding to protect the Valley lake through its go-fund-me page. Further joint projects for extending recreational facilities on BVHT land will be considered over the coming months between BVHT and BPC.”

In 2022, BPC published its Biodiversity Strategy, and this purchase supports that as well as BPC’s Climate Mitigation projects, and this purchase meets the objectives set out in both those areas of the work of Buckden Parish Council.

The Valley’s 11 acres of land, 4 acres of which is naturalised, are Buckden’s largest open-air nature area in the village. The recent renovation of the Valley has greatly increased biodiversity in the area.

BPC is working to address residents’ desire to have more activities in the village for all age groups. The land in the Valley provides a unique opportunity to create a lasting legacy for residents, and we continue to work closely with the Buckden Village Hall Trust to realise that goal.