



Parish Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Sept  
2021

Wetland Project Proposal



# Introduction

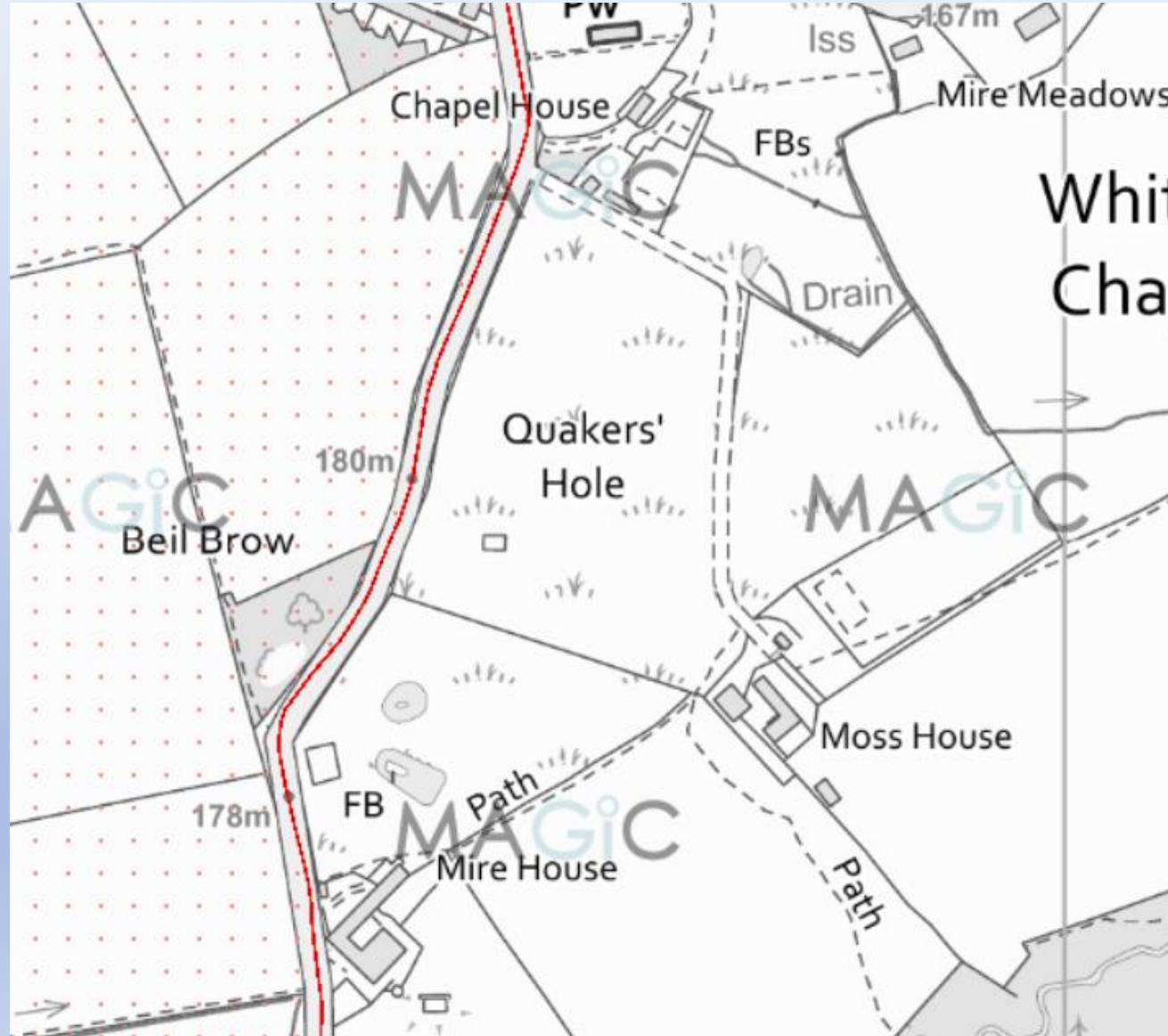
- Background
- Locations
- Issues addressed so far and WIP (Work in progress)
- Timescales
- Benefits
- Next steps



# Background

- Dig 1 pond...
- FIPL (Farming In Protected Landscapes)
  - Changes in farming – Brexit / ELM
  - Climate Change and Carbon footprints
- 2006 / 2021 at Quakers Hole
- Benefits / opportunities for the Parish and in particular the School

# Location



Creation of 2 new ponds

Raised viewing platform and information board



New information sign

Original Quakers Hole Boundary 2006

Existing Bird Hide. Permanent information board (internal and bespoke) + 2 x Lockable poster cases (School work)

Information sign (updated)

Public footpaths

# Issues addressed to date



Item	Status	Comment
AONB	✓	Andy Lees suggested we put in a bid. Emma Wright (on Steering Group)
Footpaths officer	✓	£2.5k - £3k Contribution ref footpath diversion
County Ecologist / Planners	✓	Have advised what we need to do
Tyne Rivers Trust	✓	Will provide letter of support
Anthony White ref Spring	WIP	Tyne Rivers engaged
RPA ref Stewardship Scheme	WIP	Enquiry sent on impact for current scheme (in its last year)
School	✓	Excellent and enthusiastic engagement
Planning permission	WIP	Notice to serve on PC. Maps. Complete application. £253 per 0.1 Hectare.
Parish Council / Land ownership		Need support and a representative for Steering Group / Bid document
Bid Document	WIP	
Installation quotes		Not started but will use local contractors
Pond quotes	✓	4 Quotes received
Panel quotes	✓	3 Quotes received
Platform quotes	✓	3 Quotes received



# Timescales

- AONB advised works to be completed by 31.03.22.
- First bid review meeting in September. They want to spend the money.
- 8 weeks for planning ???
- Need to move quickly and find reasonable ways to mitigate risk.



# Benefits

## Climate

- Carbon storage / Flood risk reduction (?)

Climate Change - We are committed to tackling climate change and have vowed to half our carbon footprint by 2025 and make Northumberland a carbon neutral county by 2030. But we can't do it alone. We need everyone in Northumberland to play their part and do their bit.

## Nature

- Greater biodiversity and increase in biodiversity
- Greater connectivity between habitats (AONB link)

## People

- More understanding of the changing landscape
- Mental health awareness / use of the outdoors
- Enduring benefit through School engagement

## Place

- Enhancement of an area with limited ecological interest
- Improved community use of a Parish asset





# School

- Contribution to interpretation panels (x2)
- Skillsets for future employment
- Contribution to internal bird hide boards (blank frames)
- Incorporation of range of subjects into lesson plans plus lesson templates (to be used / adapted in future years)
- Base line Survey visits (before / after)
- Incorporate into “Seasons” regular “tours”
- Lasting generational benefit as the facility is used



# Requests

Hexhamshire Parish Council:

1. Support the proposal.
2. Nominate a member to be on the Steering Group.
3. Contribute the planning fee currently estimated to be £253 or capped at £300.



# Summary

- Great opportunity to “develop” the site addressing local, county and world needs.
- Has excellent synergy with the School.
- Broadens the community asset base.
- Leaves a lasting legacy with low maintenance requirement to be developed further as the community wishes.

# Questions



