



POCKLINGTON

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN



Biodiversity Action Plan

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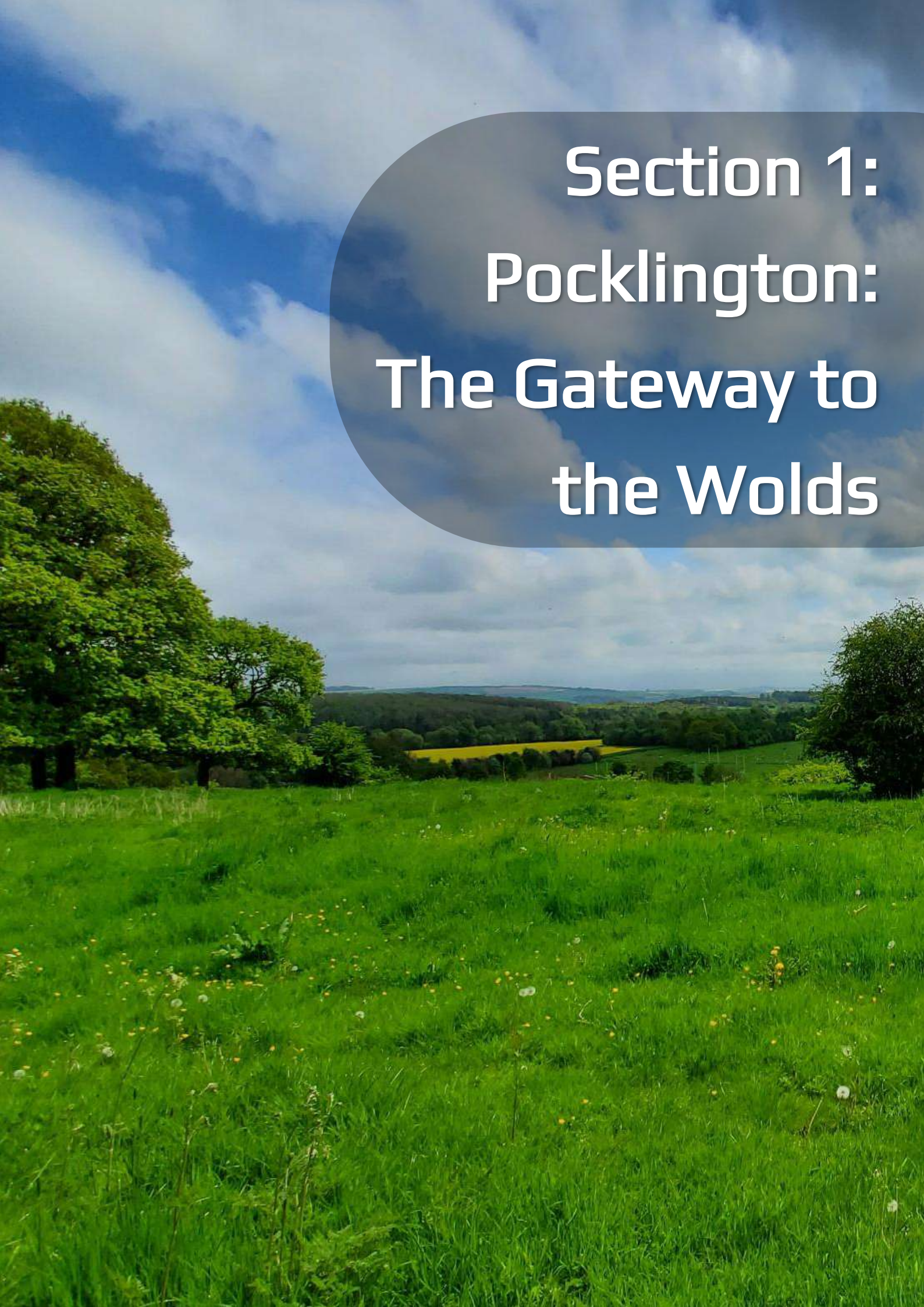
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THE POCKLINGTON BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN PROVIDES DIRECTION AND COORDINATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN POCKLINGTON.



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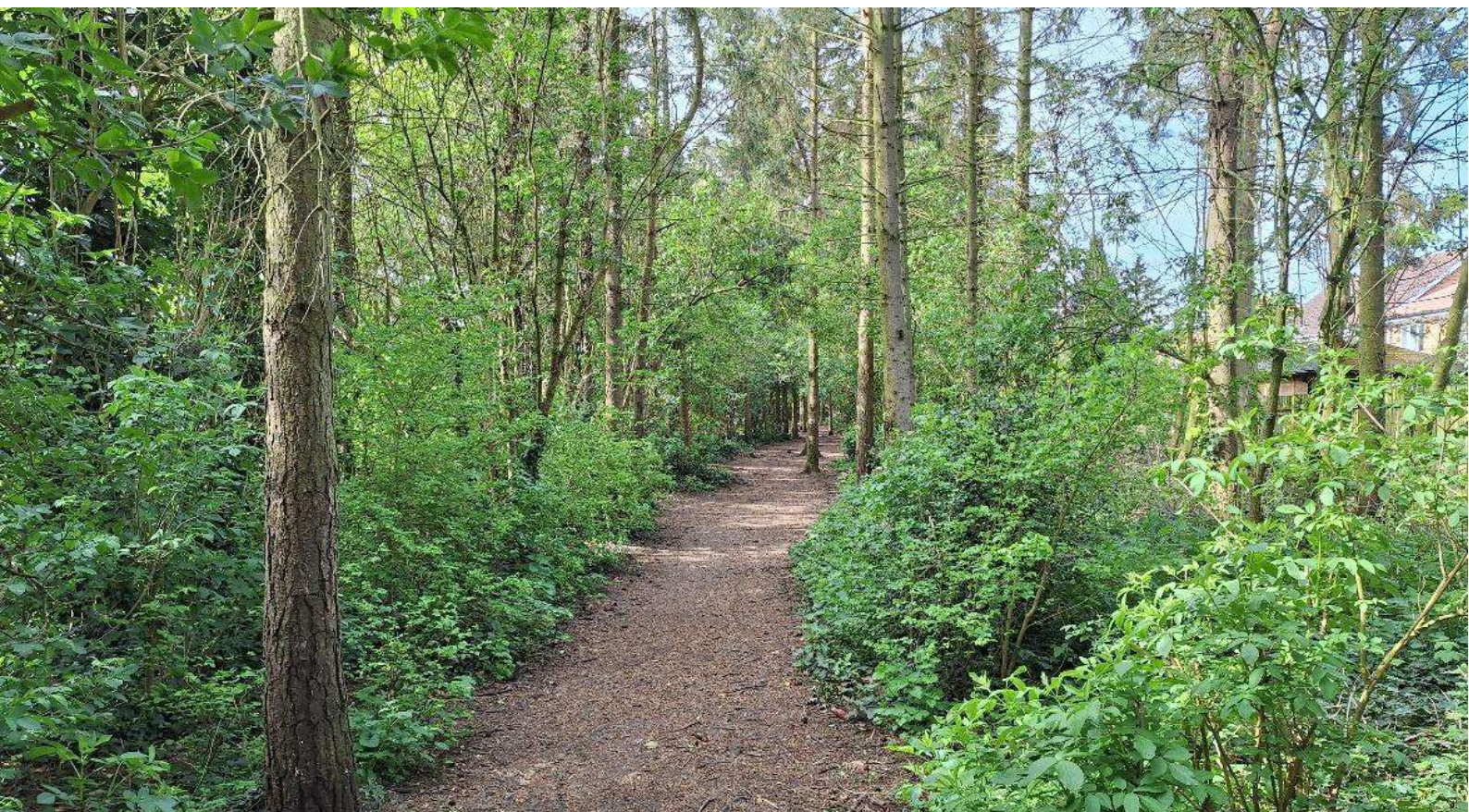
Section 1: Pocklington: The Gateway to the Wolds

Pocklington is situated at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Wolds represent Britain's northernmost chalk hills and include Europe's most northerly chalk stream, a habitat recognised for its high biodiversity value, particularly for aquatic fauna.

The town developed as a spring-line settlement, formed where permeable rock overlies impermeable strata, allowing springs to emerge at the junction of the two layers. Land to the south and west of Pocklington is largely flat and predominantly used for agriculture, while the chalk hills of the Wolds rise to the north and east.

Pocklington Beck runs through the centre of the town and feeds into Pocklington Canal, which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The canal subsequently flows into the River Derwent and is notified for its diverse dragonfly assemblage, comprising 13 species, as well as for the presence of Otter.

Within the town itself there are a number of semi-natural habitats, including hedgerows, broadleaved woodland, streams and grassland. Several protected species are known to occur in Pocklington, including Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats, Hedgehog, and freshwater species such as White-clawed Crayfish and Otter. In addition, a range of bird species listed for their scientific and conservation importance, including Bullfinch, Dunnock, Marsh Tit, Red Kite and Song Thrush, have been recorded in and around the town during recent years. These habitats are therefore of local significance in supporting the continued survival of declining species and contribute to the biodiversity of Pocklington.



Section 2: Background



What is Biodiversity?

Biological diversity is defined as:

“The variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.” (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Biodiversity is the single most important indicator of the state of the environment around us and the places we live. Human existence depends on the myriad of organisms that share our planet, from oxygen generation, nutrient cycling, recycling of waste products, water purification and flood mitigation as well as the supply fuel, clothing, and medicines. Beyond these practical benefits, the natural world enriches our lives, fostering positive impacts on human health, prosperity, and well-being, while offering invaluable opportunities for education, recreation, and tourism.

The survival of all species ultimately depends on the preservation of Earth’s biodiversity. We have a responsibility to act as its custodians, not only for the benefits it provides us but also for its intrinsic value and the role it plays in sustaining the planet's ecosystems.



Painted lady butterfly near Pocklington Woods

Biodiversity for People

Access to the natural environment provides physical, educational and health benefits. Preserving biodiversity and the ecological processes that underlie the character of natural areas will contribute to their stability and play a part in securing their future for the people of Pocklington.

Perhaps counterintuitively, residents of rural areas generally have lower access to nature in England. The Wildlife and Countryside Link's report, "[Mapping Access to Nature in England](#)" introduces the Area Access Index (AAI) to evaluate public access to natural spaces across various regions. In this report, the East Riding of Yorkshire is assigned an AAI score of 3.3, indicating that only 8.5% of households are within a 15-minute walk of natural spaces.



Guided nature walk with residents and members of local environment group Greener Pocklington

Legislative Duties

The Environment Act 2021 introduces a strengthened biodiversity duty for local authorities in England ensuring they play a vital role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Local councils are required to:

- **Enhance biodiversity:** *Beyond protecting/conserving, councils must actively work to improve biodiversity.*
- **Embed biodiversity in decision-making:** *Councils must ensure biodiversity is a key factor in areas such as spatial planning, land management, and infrastructure development.*

Councils are also encouraged to involve communities in biodiversity initiatives, such as improving access to nature and supporting local conservation projects.

This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on these considerations
- Act to deliver policies and achieve these objectives

These duties collectively aim to make local councils key players in reversing biodiversity loss, supporting nature recovery, and creating a more sustainable future.

Pocklington Town Council (PTC) will consider its impact on biodiversity and the decision made through the Town Council and review how it manages land it is responsible for.

Local Policies

In 2022, PTC adopted its Neighbourhood Plan, formally recognising the importance of the town's natural environment and establishing progressive policies to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The environment policy (Policy 5) sets out key requirements for achieving biodiversity net gain across all development, land-use changes, and infrastructure projects in Pocklington.

Summary of Policy 5:

- Protect and enhance existing biodiversity assets and local wildlife corridors
- Improve ecological connectivity at the landscape scale strengthening Pocklington's role as a regional biodiversity hub
- Incorporate wildlife-friendly design into new development, including integrated bird and bat bricks, and hedgehog highways
- Use native and wildlife-friendly planting in all landscaping schemes to support local species and habitats

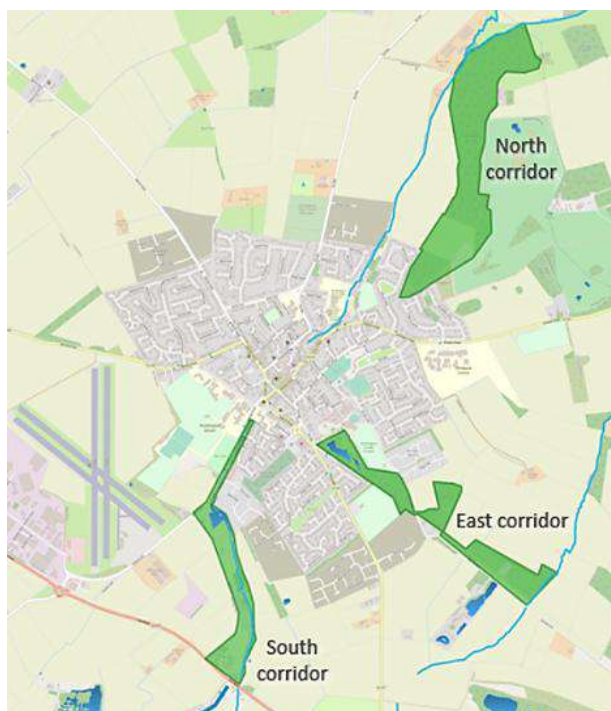
In February 2024, PTC formally declared Pocklington a Nature Recovery Area in the context of encouraging local people and community groups to take action to improve the town's biodiversity.

PTC is also linked into the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Sustainable Development Team and the Hull & East Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and will become more actively involved as strategy implementation progresses.

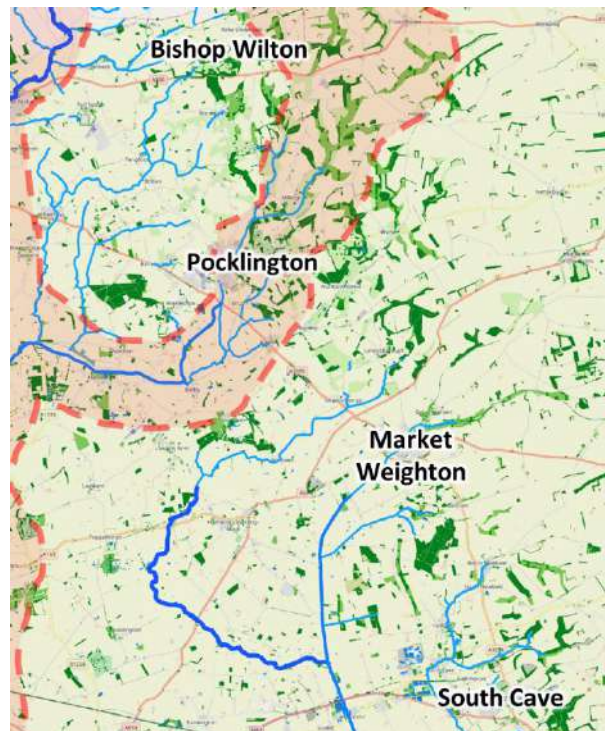
Green corridors

A central pillar of Pocklington's approach to enhancing its local biodiversity is the designation of 'Green Corridors'. These are near-continuous stretches of semi-natural habitat that extend from the town into the wider countryside. Each of these corridors are supported by adjacent amenity greenspaces while the East Corridor includes Town Council managed land, that being Primrose Wood. Combined with a network of publicly accessible footpaths, the corridors allow residents to experience high-quality natural spaces within a relatively short distance from the centre of Pocklington.

These Green Corridors also allow wildlife to move freely across the region, strengthening ecological connectivity and supporting vital ecosystem services such as pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling. They also enhance the town's environmental resilience to extreme weather and other climate-related pressures.



The layout and distribution of Pocklington's 'Green Corridors'.



Habitat map of Pocklington and the surrounding region. Woodland and grassland are shown in dark and light green respectively and waterways are shown in blue. The Buglife 'B-line' is shaded red between the dashed lines denoting the 'insect pathway' where organisations are creating wildflower-rich habitats.

After surveying these locally important areas for three consecutive years the project found that bird diversity was greater in areas with more tree cover and pollinator richness increased in areas receiving less habitat disturbance.

The Green Corridors project also took a wider perspective of regional biodiversity and revealed Pocklington to be geographically important to the biodiversity of the East Riding of Yorkshire being located along a B-line (an area identified by BugLife as strategically important for pollinators) and a large belt of semi-natural habitat that stretches from Bishop Wilton to South Cave.

For more information visit the project website at www.greencorridors.co.uk.

The Pocklington Biodiversity Action Plan

This Biodiversity Action Plan sets out how the town will put these policy commitments into practice providing clear actions, priorities, and monitoring measures to ensure Pocklington not only protects its biodiversity but actively contributes to nature's recovery. The formation of a Local Plan facilitates the targeting of species and habitats that are not only of significance nationally but are of local importance within East Yorkshire and Pocklington.

The Plan prioritises the conservation, enhancement and public appreciation of biodiversity across pieces of land the Town Council is responsible for management which includes:

- All Saints Churchyard
- Broadmanor open space
- Pocklington Cemetery
- Primrose Wood
- West Green
- War Memorials

These areas provide critical habitats for a variety of species and serve as focal points for community engagement with nature.

Biodiversity is an important part of securing the continued provision of access to habitats and species and cannot be achieved solely by conserving species included in this Plan. Habitats and species featured in the Plan have been selected as flagship constituents of biodiversity within the town to ensure that non-target species as well those in the Plan benefit from actions taken.

Aims for the conservation of habitats and species included in this Plan are outlined individually. The actions required to achieve the aims included in the individual plans are outlined in Section 4.

Section 3: Survey overview



Survey methods

The first surveys were undertaken in spring (18th-19th April 2025) with the late summer surveys taking place on 29th June 2025 and a condition assessment of Primrose Wood on 26th July. A complete list of the species noted at all surveying sites are given in the Technical Annex of this report.

Flora and fauna were recorded at each site. Bird species were identified using both visual observation and song or call recognition. Plants were assessed using the DAFOR scale (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare), which provides an estimate of relative abundance. On this scale, D represents very high abundance (76–100% cover), while R represents very low abundance (0–10% cover).

Beyond the species of each site, habitat type and condition are also important factors when determining biodiversity value. This was conducted using the UKHab classification system. Widely embedded in planning legislation, UKHab underpins Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and provides the most robust benchmark for describing the ecological condition of habitats. In a planning context, this framework is used to assign a 'habitat unit value' to a site, where higher values indicate habitats in favourable ecological condition. The condition of each site is used to determine its biodiversity value serving as a baseline measure. As management and restoration measures take effect, these unit values are expected to rise, providing a quantifiable measure of ecological enhancement over time.

While assessing the condition of most habitat types is relatively straightforward, the woodland condition assessment is more extensive and requires a greater level of information gathering. Primrose Wood has several different compartments that differ from one another in their species composition and

structure hence requiring more extensive assessment. A Woodland Condition Assessment (WCA) developed by the Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Woodland Trust and Forest Research provides a standardised method for assessing woodland condition, allowing comparisons to be made both locally and nationally. The results can be measured against national thresholds (Good, Moderate, Poor), giving an overview of the condition and highlighting issues that need addressing to improve their score. Woodlands scoring above 35 (out of a maximum of 39) are classed as being in 'good' condition; those scoring between 26 and 35 are considered 'moderate', and those scoring 25 or below are regarded as 'poor'.

The extent of favourable habitat surrounding Primrose Wood, a component of the WCA, is included in the Technical Annex.



Nest box on a Beech tree in Primrose Wood.

Summary of survey findings

All Saints Churchyard



The grounds surrounding All Saints Church are managed grassland with an abundance of Common Daisy and Dandelion. Daffodils were commonplace during spring and numerous forb species were observed beneath the tree canopies including Forget-me-not, Hybrid Bluebells, Common Nettle, Cleavers, Welsh Poppy, Green Alkanet, Spear Thistle, Creeping Thistle, Primrose and Holly-leaved Barberry.

The trees include both native and non-native species such as Birch, Alder and Wild Cherry along with a prominent blossoming Japanese Cherry towards the rear of the church. Non-native shrubs are present mainly at the base of the tower and were noted for their attractiveness to pollinators during the summer.

A number of bird boxes are located within the churchyard on some of the larger trees. These coupled with a few piles of deadwood are the few locations where species are able to take refuge with the rest of the site being more open.

Overall, the ground flora consisted of common species and are managed for conventional aesthetic value. The large trees on site are in a healthy state and confer a relatively high ecological value as very few other large trees can be found so close to the town centre.



Japanese Cheery blossom during the springtime survey.

Broadmanor open space



This amenity grassland is frequently mowed and is dominated by Annual Meadow-grass with abundant Common Daisy and Common Dandelion and occasional Ribwort Plantain, Spear Thistle and Slender Speedwell.

The boundary hedge is mainly composed of Common Dogwood and Hazel on the eastern side of the site also containing Blackthorn, Sycamore and Elderberry. Occasional specimens have been allowed to grow into large trees within the hedge including Lawson Cypress, Rowan, Horse Chestnut and Norway Maple. Occasional shrub species found along the hedge included Holly, Wych Elm and Holly-leaved Barberry and Cherry Laurel.

The western hedge is composed of non-native species with little value for pollinators by comparison. The most concerning is the Snowberry at the north-western end. This plant exhibits invasive growth behaviour and spreads via underground rhizomes. These ‘suckers’ can be seen in the sward nearby but are kept at bay due to repeated mowing.

The plant assemblage at the base of the hedges was more diverse than that of the wider grassland and include various nettle species, Cow Parsley and Hybrid Bluebells. Birds typical of urban gardens such as Robin and Blackbird were observed using the hedge for cover with Starlings foraging on the short grass.



Snowberry suckers among the grass sward adjacent to the non-native hedgerow.

No pollinator species were observed during the spring survey and only a few common butterfly species and a Honeybee were noted during the summer. Evidence of Ashy Mining Bee were observed in spring when they emerge from underground leaving behind a small round burrow.



An Ashy Mining Bee hole dug by a solitary female bee.

Pocklington Cemetery



The grassland is frequently mowed with abundant daisies and dandelions present. It is also dominated by Annual Meadow-grass with occasional Common Yarrow, Smooth Cat's Ear, Forget-Me Not, Marsh Dandelion and Mouse Ear Hawkweed. Ground flora along the boundaries and beneath trees included Large-Leaved Avenas, Cow Parsley, Northern Burdock, Cleavers, Common Nettle, Purple Dead Nettle, Groundsel, Bush Vetch, Herb Robert, Lesser Celandine and Lords and Ladies. In some areas native and other introduced species have dispersed from graves such as Grape Hyacinth.



Grape Hyacinth growing on a burial place.

The cemetery is bounded by a hedge to the north, south and east with the southern portion dominated by Hawthorn with Field Maple, Bramble, English Ivy and Holly-Leaved Barberry also present. The eastern hedge was almost exclusively made up of Garden Privet.

The trees scattered throughout the cemetery were a mix of native and non-native species with the southern portion made up of Field Maple, Ash, Birch, Beech, Hawthorn, Scots Pine and Sessile Oak. The ornamental trees in the north of the site include Chinese Holly, Japanese Yew, Pacific Yew, Mediterranean Hawthorn, Cherry Laurel, Lawson Cypress and Chinese Bush Cherry.

Bird species included seasonal migrants such as Chiffchaff with threatened species including Sparrowhawk, House sparrow and Starling. The latter two were a common sight at the cemetery due to its location being surrounded by residential dwellings.



Provisioning of food from bird feeders.

Primrose Wood



Primrose Wood is mostly deciduous woodland with a narrow belt of coniferous trees to the southwest largely made up of Scots pine. The wood has a large stand of Beech with other larger specimens of Horse Chestnut, Whitebeam and Field Maple. The woodland has good vertical structure with trees of varying ages located throughout most of the site.

The ground flora is diverse with numerous species present in both spring and summer. Bluebells are abundant in spring, though mostly hybrid specimens, along with Snowdrops. Other species include Lords and Ladies, Garlic Mustard, Green Alkanet and Burdock.



Small log pile amongst flowering bluebells.



Hybrid Bluebell possessing thicker stem and more robust flower heads compared to native variety.

The bird community included both common and threatened species such as Greenfinch, Song Thrush which are Red and Amber listed for their conservation concern in the UK. Other woodland specialists are known from regular sightings in Primrose Wood such as Great Spotted Woodpecker and Treecreeper.



Small pond retaining water during the spring months.

War Memorial



The memorial comprises a small commemorative area with two grass patches supporting occasional forb species, including Forget-me-not, Purple Dead-nettle and Ragwort. The sward is largely dominated by Annual Meadow-grass, with frequent occurrences of daisies and dandelions. Planters positioned around the perimeter contain Daffodils, English Lavender and tulips.

The features of greatest biodiversity value are the English Lavender, which attracted high numbers of pollinating insects, including Honeybees and White- and Buff-tailed Bumblebees during the summer months.



White-tailed bumblebee on lavender along the border of the memorial.

West Green



The main grassland habitat is composed of the same assemblage as the Broadmanor and cemetery sites with more Three-leaved Clover. Other forb species included Cow Parsley, Northern Burdock, Large-leaved Avenas, Lesser Celandine, Common Hogweed and Bur Chervil.

A number of large Linden and Ash trees border the site to the east. The line of Linden trees to the south has a continuous canopy and the eastern boundary contains several old specimens. The tree and shrub border to the west is botanically diverse including Willow, Elder, Dogwood, Field Maple, Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut, Bird Cherry, Hazel and Weeping Willow. A relatively diverse ground flora exists beneath that includes English Ivy, Bee Nettle, Stinking Iris, Ground Ivy, Cleavers, Hybrid Bluebells, Garden Forget-me-not and Creeping Buttercup.



View from the southeast corner of West Green.

Common bird species were observed including Song Thrush with migratory species such as Blackcap and Chiffchaff also recorded. Common Carder Bee and Buff-tailed Bumblebee were also seen and an abundance of ladybirds in the summer along the scrub border. These pollinators were almost exclusively found on forb species along the scrub corridor where floral and nectar resources are located illustrating the low biodiversity value of short mowed grass areas even in summer.



Ladybirds and hoverfly observed along the scrub boundary of West Green during the summer.

A close-up photograph of a field of daisies. The flowers have white and pink petals and bright yellow centers. Some flowers are in sharp focus, while others are blurred in the background. A semi-transparent dark circle is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image, containing the text.

Section 4: Biodiversity value

A Woodland Condition Assessment (WCA) was conducted for Primrose Wood with condition scores for each criteria shown below. The overall condition of each site is derived from the summation of these indicators. Condition assessments were also carried out for habitat components for all sites described (see Technical Annex III).

Table 1. Primrose Wood WCA and criteria scores.

Indicator criteria	Score
A. Age distribution of trees	3
B. Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	3
C. Invasive plant species	3
D. Number of native tree and shrub species	2
E. Cover of native tree and shrub species	1
F. Open space within woodland	3
G. Woodland regeneration	2
H. Tree health	2
I. Vegetation and ground flora	2
J. Woodland vertical structure	3
K. Veteran trees	1
L. Amount of deadwood	3
M. Woodland disturbance	3
Total score (L /39)	31
Condition	Moderate

This WCA incorporates all spatial elements of Primrose Wood with components such as the coniferous section likely reducing the overall score owing to the prevalence of Scots Pine and Larch. The persistence of Sycamore in many broadleaved areas of the wood also reduced the overall score for indicator E. However, given the high foot traffic the need to manage old and veteran trees that pose a safety risk mean there is likely little scope to improve indicator K.

The ecological information recorded from all sites has been collated using the DEFRA metric (v4.0) to quantify the biodiversity value.

Table 2. The condition of each site's component habitats and their associated biodiversity units.

Habitat	Size (ha/m)	Condition	Biodiversity Units (BU)
All Saints Church			
Urban (churchyard)	0.28	Poor	0.53
Urban trees	1.02	Moderate	6.72
TOTAL			7.25
Broadmanor open space			
Modified grassland	1.1	Poor	2.20
Native hedgerow with trees	403	Good	4.84
Non-native hedgerow	297	Poor	0.30
TOTAL			7.34
Pocklington Cemetery			
Urban (cemetery)	2.05	Poor	3.85
Native hedgerow	343	Moderate	1.37
Urban trees	0.83	Moderate	6.64
Line of trees	97	Poor	0.19
TOTAL			12.05
Primrose Wood			
Deciduous woodland	2.95	Moderate	27.14
TOTAL			27.14
West Green			
Modified grassland	3.50	Poor	7.00
Line of trees	293	Moderate	1.17
Mixed scrub	0.35	Moderate	2.80
TOTAL			10.97
War Memorial			
Modified grassland	0.003	Poor	0.01
Ground level planters	0.005	N/A	0.01
TOTAL			0.02
Overall total			65.05

Biodiversity quantification

This assessment aligns with the principles of the Wallacea Trust Methodology (WTM), an open-source, scientifically grounded framework for estimating biodiversity uplift and supporting nature restoration and enhancement activities.

The WTM considers the richness, abundance, and conservation status of species within the project area which can be compared across years to estimate the percentage change (positive or negative) in biodiversity that is associated with the project's activities. The method has been modified here to enable repeatability through community-driven 'BioBlitzes'. For a full description of the methodology see Technical Annex II.

Calculating biodiversity scores

To summarise, the total biodiversity value of a site can be calculated from the suite of chosen metrics (i.e., breeding birds, pollinators, plants and the component habitats).

For habitats - the biodiversity units (BU) calculated from the Defra metric and multiplied by 100.

For species – the abundance is ranked on a 1-5 scale and multiplied by their conservation importance (also a 1-5 scale). For example, a record of 4 House Sparrows is multiplied by their conservation importance (5), as they are Red listed in the UK, (see Technical Annex III). This gives a score of 20 for that species at that particular location.

Measuring change over time

The current score is compared to the baseline score (presented here). The percentage change shows whether biodiversity has increased or decreased. This is carried out for each metric and the median value selected as the overall biodiversity uplift score.

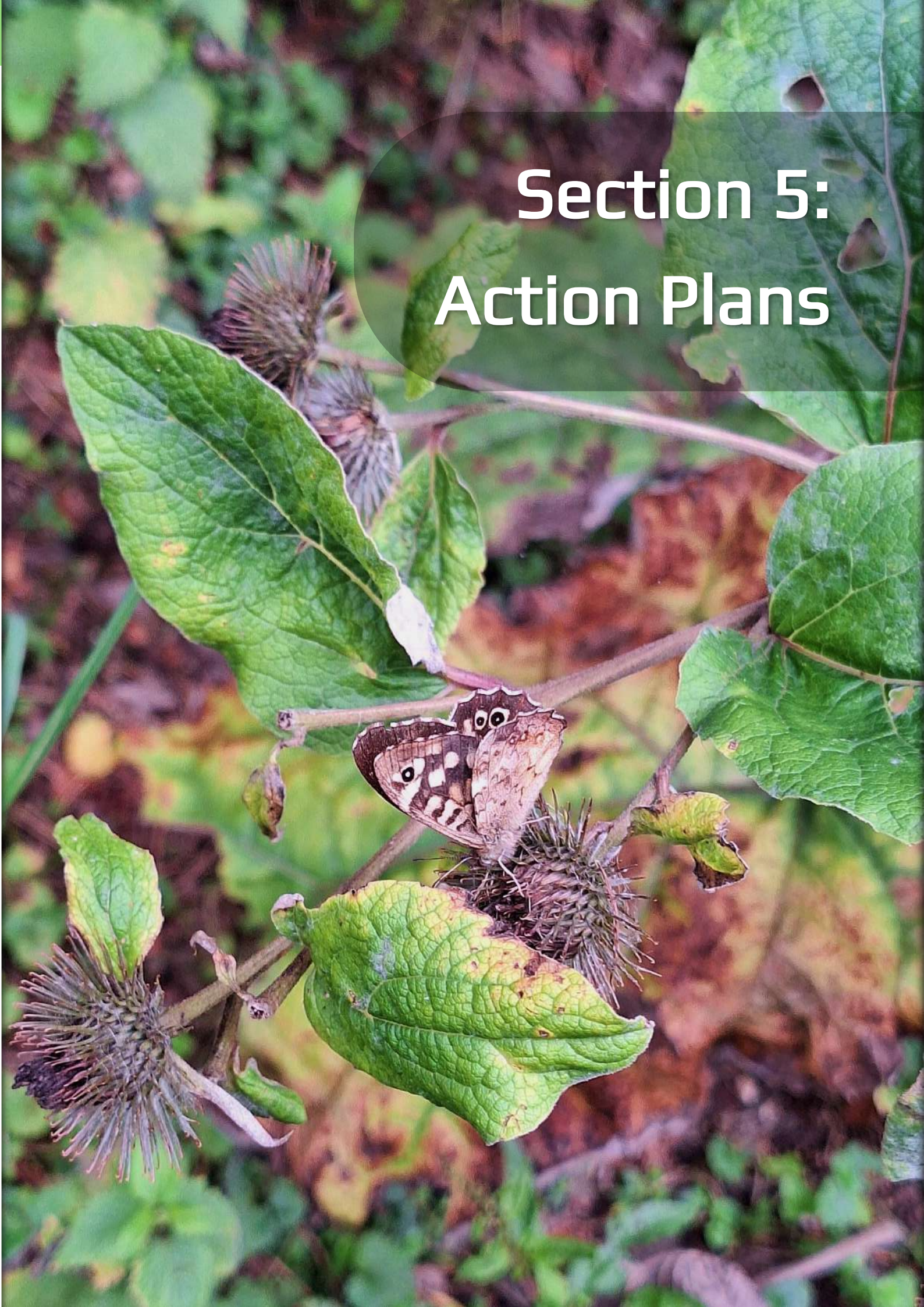
Table 3. Overall biodiversity value for each location and that of all PTC landholdings combined.

	Birds	Pollinators	Plants	Habitat	Score
<i>All Saints Church</i>	26	1	64	725	45
<i>Broadmanor open space</i>	72	7	100	734	86
<i>Pocklington Cemetery</i>	72	2	90	1205	81
<i>Primrose Wood</i>	51	4	97	2714	74
<i>War Memorial</i>	0	9	39	2	5.5
<i>West Green</i>	39	13	92	1097	65.5
Total					357

Each site's overall biodiversity score is the median value of these four metrics. The overall baseline biodiversity score of 357 can be used to compare changes over time.

Despite having the best habitat quality and similar plant diversity, Primrose Wood has a lower overall biodiversity score than Broadmanor open space and Pocklington Cemetery. This is largely attributable to the greater number of threatened species, particularly House Sparrows and Starlings, which are typically associated with nearby residential dwellings. It is likely that Primrose Wood supports a more diverse bird assemblage than the other sites; however, a greater survey effort would be required to fully document this, and doing so would be expected to result in a higher biodiversity score. Overall, Primrose Wood is considered to have substantial intrinsic biodiversity value, particularly in terms of habitat quality and structural complexity.

Section 5: Action Plans



Habitat action plan

The recommended actions are structured as a sequence of targeted interventions designed to improve habitat condition scores and, in turn, overall biodiversity outcomes. Each action directly addresses the assessment criteria used to evaluate individual habitat components, resulting in measurable improvements in habitat condition. As the condition of each habitat improves, the biodiversity units attributed to that habitat increase. When these improvements are implemented across all habitats within a site, they collectively deliver an uplift in the site's total biodiversity units. This cumulative enhancement supports a wider range of species and leads to a higher biodiversity score under the metric, ultimately increasing the site's overall biodiversity value.

Woodland enhancement

Primrose Wood is assessed as being in a moderate condition and represents a well-structured example of a small broadleaved woodland. Notably, it shows limited nitrophilous vegetation (e.g., dense nettles or bindweed), indicating relatively low nutrient enrichment from the surrounding land. Although the woodland is not directly bordered by large agricultural fields, there may be localised nutrient or pollutant runoff associated with vehicle activity on Burnby Lane.

Several woodland margins particularly along Burnby Lane and adjacent to Pocklington Cricket Club would benefit from native understorey planting, using species such as Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly and Dogwood.



Native tree and shrub planting would recover recent losses in Primrose Wood from recent housing developments.

Introducing these shrubs would:

- Increase habitat complexity and provide additional cover for birds, mammals, and invertebrates.
- Act as a buffer to nutrient runoff, improving soil and vegetation structure.
- Enhance the woodland microclimate by reducing wind penetration and supporting shade-tolerant flora.
- Improve the visitor experience by creating deeper habitat immersion and reducing visual intrusion from surrounding land.

Hazel is particularly valuable as it can be coppiced to promote multi-stem growth, maintaining structural diversity and providing a sustainable supply of small-diameter timber for community projects. Reintroducing traditional coppice management could also support public engagement and foster long-term stewardship.

The survey also identified extensive Sycamore regeneration, with numerous saplings present. Sycamore can rapidly dominate woodlands through prolific self-seeding, suppressing native tree and shrub establishment. Periodic control of sycamore saplings through selective removal would create space for native species to regenerate and help maintain a balanced woodland structure.

Greenspace enhancement

Several of Pocklington's amenity greenspaces offer opportunities for small-scale, targeted interventions that enhance biodiversity while maintaining recreational value.

The two main expanses of modified grassland are Broadmanor open space and West Green. In both cases they are assessed as being in poor condition. The key criteria needed to reach good condition is to support at least 6 species per square metre. While this may not be possible, both sites could feasibly reach a moderate condition providing 20% of the grass has a height exceeding 7cm. This could be located strategically and take the form of wildflower planting or simply natural regeneration.

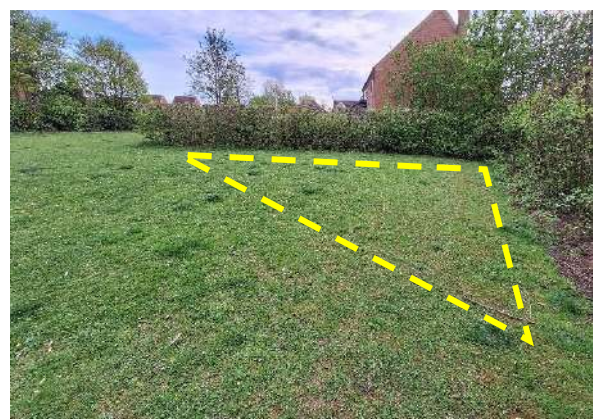
Increasing nectar and pollen resources for insects should be a priority. Wildflower planting is beneficial, but its creation is most effective when combined with variation in ground levels. Undulating ground creates diverse microclimates (warmer slopes, cooler hollows, and areas sheltered from wind or rain) which support a wider range of invertebrate species with different ecological requirements.

West Green presents an ideal location for these enhancements. The small earth mounds near the outdoor gym and along the eastern tree line could be seeded with suitable native wildflower mixes, improving their value for pollinators and offering refuge for ground-dwelling invertebrates. These features are highly visible to the public and sit along strategic edges of the greenspace, maximising ecological benefits without affecting everyday amenity use.



A mound of earth between the trees along the east border of West Green.

Broadmanor open space provides a good opportunity for habitat enhancement alongside its existing native hedgerow. Several indented areas along the eastern boundary would be suitable sites for establishing small wildflower patches. Introducing native flora in these locations would increase structural and botanical diversity, support pollinating insects, and complement the ecological value of the adjacent hedgerow, which is already in good condition. Installing discreet interpretation signs could help inform residents about the purpose and benefits of these enhancements, encouraging community understanding and stewardship.



Example of potential wildflower meadow creation at Broadmanor open space.

The eastern hedgerow of the open space contains a range of native species and provides cover, foraging opportunities, and movement pathways for wildlife. Its biodiversity value, however, could be increased further through a reduction in cutting frequency. Currently, the hedge is cut annually during the winter months. Transitioning to a 2 to 3-year rotational cutting regime, or where different sections are trimmed in different years, would allow more stems to mature, increasing blossom, fruit, and berry production.

This approach is particularly important for species such as Blackthorn, which is frequent along this boundary and produces sloes that are a valuable winter food source for winter migrants including Mistle Thrush (Red listed) and other wintering thrushes. A rotational approach also benefits nesting birds, small mammals, and invertebrates by ensuring that some sections of the hedge always remain dense and undisturbed.



Rotational cutting of the boundary hedge will result in a 'fluffy hedge' appearance rather than its current regular shape while providing greater ecological value to the greenspace.

Addressing the issue of invasive plants is a pertinent issue in maintaining favourable ecological condition. The Snowberry present along the western hedge is showing signs of invasive growth in the form of suckers in the grass sward. Controlling aggressive Snowberry involves a combination of physical removal (cutting back to the base, digging roots) and chemical control for tough cases, often done in winter or early spring before new growth. Digging out roots thoroughly and/or the use of barriers to prevent re-invasion are suitable methods to restrict its growth. This may be coupled with a wider effort to stagger the replanting of the hedge with native species.

Urban enhancement

Cemeteries and churchyards are often overlooked as biodiversity assets, yet they contain grassland, mature trees, stonework, and quiet microhabitats that support a range of wildlife. With careful design, cemeteries and churchyards can function as quiet ecological refuges within the urban environment providing nectar, shelter, and overwintering habitats while retaining their essential role as places of reflection and religious significance.

Borders along pathways, walls, and boundary edges provide discreet locations where low-growing, shade-tolerant groundcover plants can be introduced. Species such as Primrose, Wood Anemone, Bugle, and native violets can increase nectar availability for insects while maintaining a respectful aesthetic. There are long paths in Pocklington Cemetery that would benefit from such planting that would complement the existing spaces already created for its wildlife value.



Boundary of All Saints Churchyard



Wild Cherry blossom in All Saints Churchyard

Boundary features such as stone walls and mature trees can be complemented by planting native shrubs in peripheral margins, including Dogwood, Spindle, or Guelder Rose. These species increase structural diversity, provide berries for birds, and remain compatible with the formal, quiet character of All Saints Church. Planting should be confined to edges and corners so as not to interfere with sightlines or access.

Freshwater enhancement

Although not located within the PTC landholdings described above, Pocklington Beck represents a significant freshwater habitat. The watercourse flows through the town before discharging into the Pocklington Canal, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Himalayan balsam is an invasive plant species that is frequent along Pocklington Canal and is also present in areas along Pocklington Beck. This plant has become one of the UK's most invasive weeds, spreading rapidly along watercourses and damp habitats. Its waterborne seed dispersal makes this a difficult plant to fully remove from infected areas where it outcompetes native plants for space, light, nutrients, and pollinators.

Removal of this species along Pocklington Beck, upstream of the canal, would help limit further downstream spread and reduce ongoing seed dispersal into the designated waterbody.

In order to be effective, removal of Himalayan Balsam must occur before it produces seeds (typically May - June). Disturbing the plant after this period will cause the pods to eject their seeds, causing further spread. Removal should be repeated yearly until the plant ceases regrowth, usually within 3 years providing there are no upstream seed sources. Disposal of plants should be removed as controlled waste and never composted as seeds can remain viable.

A more detailed approach to Himalayan Balsam removal can be found in the Technical Annex.

A meander of Pocklington Beck near Canal Lane, south of Pocklington.



Table 4. Targeting actions to improve the habitat condition scores at each site.

Location	Intervention	Objective/beneficiary
<i>War Memorial</i>	Native planting (e.g., Lavendar and bulbs)	Improve nectar and floral resources for pollinators
<i>All Saints Church</i>	Native border shrub planting (e.g., Dogwood, Spindle, or Guelder Rose)	Provide cover and improve habitat structure Targeting urban habitat criteria A
	Native ground cover planting (e.g., Primrose, Wood Anemone and Violets)	Improve nectar and floral resources for pollinators and aesthetic value Targeting urban habitat criteria B
<i>West Green</i>	Creation of pollinator banks through seeding of area of raised ground	Improve nectar and floral resources for pollinators, habitat structure and connectivity along the borders
	Allow 20% of grassland area to grow to a height >7cm	Improve habitat structure, create microclimates and enhance floral resources for invertebrates Targeting grassland assessment criteria B
	Create areas of bare ground (1-10% of total area)	Create microclimates of differing heat levels benefiting ground-dwelling invertebrates Targeting grassland assessment criteria E
<i>Pocklington Cemetery</i>	Native border shrub planting (e.g., Dogwood, Spindle, or Guelder Rose)	Provide cover and improve habitat structure Targeting urban habitat criteria A
	Native ground cover planting (e.g., Wood anemone, Primrose and Violets)	Improve nectar and floral resources for pollinators and aesthetic value Targeting urban habitat criteria B
<i>Broadmanor open space</i>	Creation of wildflower patches	Improve nectar and floral resources for pollinators and habitat structure complimenting the existing native hedge
	Rotational hedge cutting every 2-3 years	Improve berry production of species such as Blackthorn to provide greater food resources for wintering thrushes
	Invasive species control of Snowberry	Enhance habitat quality and removal of negative ecological impacts
	Allow 20% of grassland area to grow to a height >7cm	Improve habitat structure, create microclimates and enhance floral resources for invertebrates Targeting grassland assessment criteria B
	Create areas of bare ground (1-10% of total area)	Create microclimates of differing heat levels benefiting ground-dwelling invertebrates Targeting grassland assessment criteria E
<i>Primrose Wood</i>	Native border shrub planting (e.g., Dogwood, Hazel, or Guelder Rose)	Provide cover and improve habitat structure
	Sycamore sapling control	Improve habitat heterogeneity and encourage native shrub growth Targeting criteria D, E, G and I of the Woodland Condition Assessment
<i>Pocklington Beck</i>	Removal of Himalayan Balsam before setting seed (June)	Invasive species removal, improve bank stability and encourage native species regrowth

Species action plan

The action plans outlined below target key interventions for nationally declining species. All of these species have been recorded in Pocklington in recent years, but each require specific habitat conditions to thrive and maintain resilient local populations.

Bats

Bats are long-lived, highly adapted nocturnal mammals that rely on healthy insect populations and connected habitats to forage, navigate and roost. All UK bat species are legally protected, making their conservation a key responsibility for communities and national authorities. In Pocklington, several species have been recorded, but they depend on the availability of insect-rich habitats, safe roosting sites, and undisturbed flight corridors to maintain resilient local populations.



Key Threats

- Declining insect populations caused by intensive agriculture and poor riparian management.
- Loss of wetlands, hedgerows and other insect-rich habitats that support bat foraging and flyways.
- Loss of roosting opportunities in older buildings and mature trees.
- Disturbance or destruction of roosts, including maternity sites, and harmful use of toxic timber treatments.

Conservation objectives

Monitoring and Evidence Gathering

- Continue working with the East Riding Bat Group (ERBG) to monitor Primrose Wood.
- Carry out periodic surveys of green spaces (e.g., West Green, Pocklington Cemetery, Broadmanor open space) to improve understanding of local bat activity.

Habitat Creation and Enhancement

- Support the restoration and sympathetic management of habitats that supply abundant insect prey such as ponds, wetlands, hedgerows and wildflower areas.
- Maintain and enhance linear features (hedgerows, tree lines) that act as flight corridors.
- Install additional bat boxes on suitable trees and buildings, ensuring they complement rather than replace natural roosts.

Roost Protection and Planning

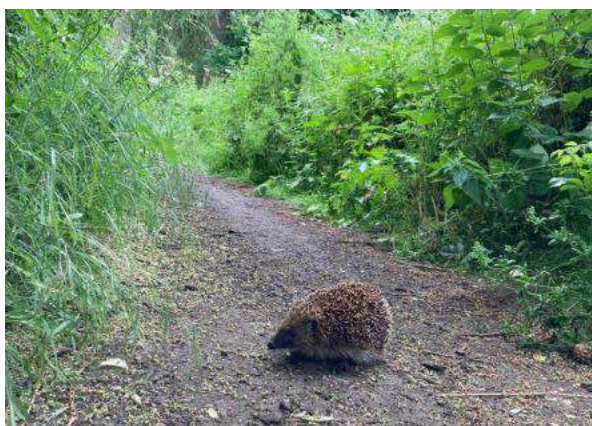
- Ensure bats and their habitats are considered in local planning responses, encouraging developers to include bat-friendly design features in new builds and renovations.
- Promote the retention of mature trees and existing roost features during local land-management decisions.
- Encourage the use of bat-safe timber treatments in buildings and structures.

Awareness and Community Engagement

- Share guidance with local landowners, groundskeepers and volunteers on bat-friendly woodland and tree management.
- Promote public awareness of bats and their ecological importance, particularly around roosting and feeding areas.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs were listed as *Vulnerable to Extinction* in the UK in 2020 and have been a priority conservation species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan since 2007. Despite legal protection under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, recent reports show widespread population declines particularly in rural areas. Although no hedgehogs were recorded during the surveys referenced here, individuals have been seen in Primrose Wood and by residents near Broadmanor open space. This indicates that targeted, hedgehog-friendly actions in the town could support a recovering local population.



Hedgehog in Primrose Wood

Key Threats

Britain's National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy identifies six major pressures contributing to decline:

- Loss of natural food sources and associated habitats.
- Vehicle collisions.
- Unintentional harm caused during garden or land management activities.
- Accidental deaths (e.g., garden hazards)
- Exposure to toxins such as pesticides, herbicides and heavy metals.
- Genetic isolation due to fragmented habitats and barriers to movement.

Addressing these issues at a local level will support a more resilient hedgehog population in Pocklington.

Conservation objectives

Habitat Improvement

- Encourage residents and land managers to retain leaf litter, log piles and undisturbed corners in gardens, parks and community spaces to provide nesting and foraging opportunities.
- Support the creation and maintenance of wildflower areas and insect-rich habitats across the town.

Connectivity and Movement

- Advocate for the installation of “hedgehog highways” (13cm × 13cm gaps in fences) to connect gardens and green spaces.
- Work with local developers, residents' groups and schools to include hedgehog access routes in new and existing boundaries.

Feeding and Seasonal Support

- Encourage responsible supplementary feeding during late summer and autumn to support hedgehogs as they build fat reserves for hibernation.
- Provide advice on appropriate foods and the importance of discontinuing feeding when natural food is plentiful.

Pollution and Chemical Use

- Promote alternatives to toxic garden chemicals, and raise awareness of how pollutants accumulate in invertebrates that hedgehogs feed on.

Awareness, and Community Engagement

- Provide clear guidance on how to behave during human interventions such as what to do when a hedgehog is found in distress.

Swifts

The Common Swift is the UK's fastest bird in level flight and spends almost its entire life airborne. Swifts visit the UK only during spring and summer to breed, migrating back to Africa for the rest of the year. Although swifts and all wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), their nests are not protected outside the breeding season despite the species returning faithfully to the same nesting sites each year.



Swift populations rely almost entirely on buildings for nesting, which makes them highly vulnerable to renovation, demolition and the loss of suitable nest cavities.

Conservation Objectives

Protecting and Enhancing Nesting Opportunities

- Encourage the installation of swift bricks in all suitable new builds and extensions as part of local planning recommendations.
- Promote compliance with the British Standard for integral nest boxes (BS 42021), and request measures such as photographic evidence to ensure developers meet planning conditions.
- Support the recording and safeguarding of swift nesting sites, particularly during planning consultations or community projects.

Monitoring and Community Engagement

- Encourage residents to report swift sightings and nesting locations to local and national recording schemes.
- Promote public awareness campaigns—especially during the breeding season—to highlight the importance of preserving nesting sites.

Increasing Invertebrate Abundance

- Promote a reduction or cessation of pesticide, herbicide and fungicide use across Council-managed land, except where absolutely necessary.
- Encourage residents, schools and community groups to adopt chemical-free gardening approaches.

Habitat Enhancement

- Support the planting and maintenance of native, species-rich hedgerows in parks, school grounds, allotments and recreational spaces to help boost insect populations.
- Increase areas of grassland managed as hay meadow within parks and other Council-owned land to improve invertebrate diversity and foraging opportunities.

Churches are a common and highly suitable setting for the installation of swift nest boxes. Choosing units constructed from durable, weather-resistant materials minimises ongoing maintenance requirements. Extensive guidance is available through the [Swift Conservation website](#), including installation advice and examples of successful projects that have demonstrably supported this declining species.



Section 6: Future monitoring

BioBlitzes help projects collect biodiversity data quickly, affordably, and inclusively while also strengthening community engagement and environmental awareness.

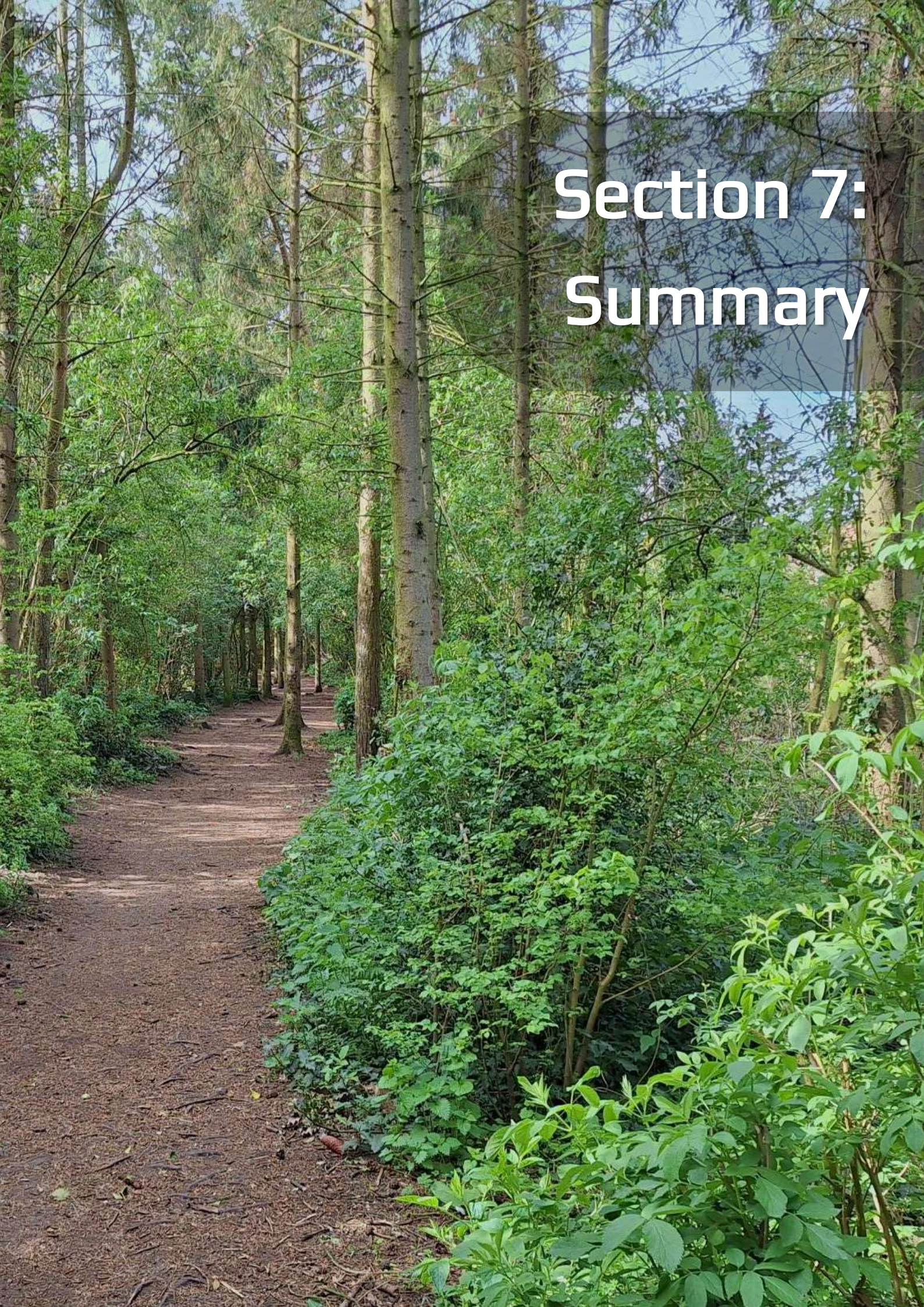
A BioBlitz is a concentrated, community-driven biodiversity survey that usually takes place over 24 hours. During this time, scientists, students, local residents, and volunteers work together to identify and record as many species as possible. By inviting communities to contribute directly to data collection, BioBlitzes build awareness, trust, and a sense of shared stewardship. Participants gain practical skills, deepen their connection to local ecosystems, and often become long-term contributors to citizen-science initiatives.

From a scientific perspective, BioBlitzes provide rapid, low-cost data on species richness, abundance, and habitat health. When repeated over time, they help track ecological change, highlight threatened or invasive species, and strengthen regional or national biodiversity indicators.

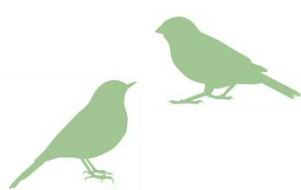
When communities actively contribute to biodiversity data collection, they become partners in conservation rather than passive observers.

Well-designed BioBlitzes that balance rigour with inclusivity, can produce data that inform management decisions, empower communities, and support nature-positive goals across the landscapes where we live and work.



A photograph of a dirt path in a forest. The path is made of brown soil and leads into the distance. On the right side of the path, there is a dense, lush green bush or shrub. Tall, thin trees with green foliage line both sides of the path, creating a canopy overhead. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Section 7: Summary



44 species of birds

- 7 Red listed
- 11 Amber listed
- 26 Green listed

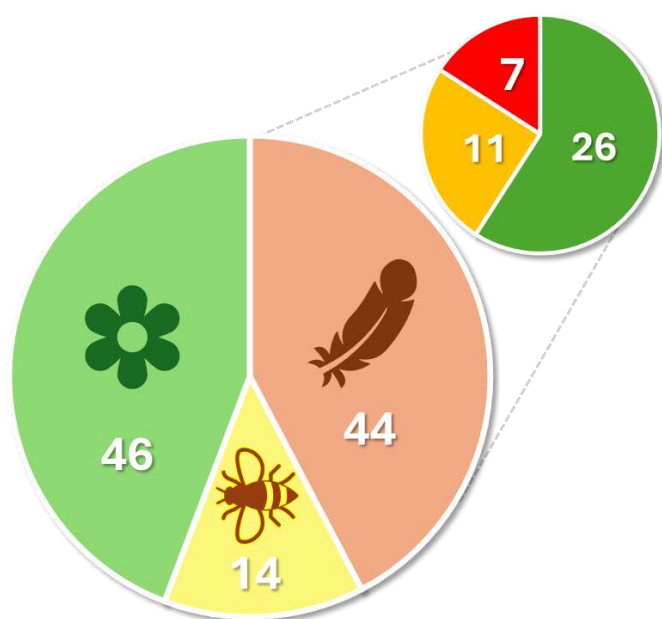
14 species of insects

- 4 butterfly species
- 3 bumblebee species
- 3 ladybird species



46 species of plants

- 21 native trees
- 24 native wildflowers



Pie charts summarising the survey results. The larger chart shows the proportion of all fauna and flora groups recorded - birds (orange), insects (yellow), and plants (green). The smaller chart shows how the bird species are distributed across different levels of conservation concern (red or amber listed). White number in both charts indicate the number of species in each group.



Broadmanor open space

- Highest overall biodiversity value - **86**
- Highest plant biodiversity value - **100**
- Over 400m of good ecological hedgerows



Pocklington Cemetery

- Second highest biodiversity value - **81**
- Joint highest bird biodiversity value with Broadmanor open space - **72**



Primrose Wood

- Highest habitat biodiversity value - **2714**
- Location within a local Green Corridor enhances its ecological value

Pocklington contains a range of natural assets that already provide valuable habitat for declining species. With targeted interventions these habitats can be improved to enhance their biodiversity value and support healthier, more resilient populations.

Technical Annex I

Biodiversity quantification methodology

The Wallacea Trust methodology was used to calculate the biodiversity baseline of all sites surveyed. The success or failure of future interventions can be assessed from subsequent surveys and compared to the baseline biodiversity level given here.

The Wallacea Trust Methodology is one of a handful of these approaches that is being widely adopted because it is opensource, scientifically robust, and easy for people from nonecological backgrounds to understand.

The Wallacea Trust Methodology is internationally recognised as one of the leading biodiversity credit methodologies. It is typically used for nature positive projects seeking to monetise biodiversity uplift, though it remains applicable for the purposes of this report to quantify gains in biodiversity over time.

The method works by taking the species richness, abundance and conservation level of various relevant taxonomic groups to give a range of biodiversity values for each and an overall value by taking the median. Here, these groups are breeding birds, pollinators, plants and the DEFRA metric with the latter serving as a 'structural metric' that incorporates habitat information into the final value, a key component of the methodology.

Widely used in the planning system in England, UKhab classification and BNG assessments yield a biodiversity unit value of any terrestrial habitat per hectare and includes their condition. Taken together with the taxonomic groups described, the median value of this basket of metrics generates the overall biodiversity baseline value of the surveyed sites. Repetition of this assessment (for example, 3 or 5 years later) will reveal future uplift or decline in this biodiversity value relative to the baseline figure given here.

Subsequent surveys may be conducted via a community led BioBlitz (outlined in Section 6). This would be most suitable for re-assessment of the non-structural metrics and are more likely to ensure wider public engagement. To ensure as robust methodology as possible, future BioBlitzes should attempt to capture biodiversity during similar times of year (spring and summer). Should more BioBlitzes be conducted throughout the year and during more seasons it possible a higher biodiversity value for sites is calculated without significant enhancement activities taking place. In this event it remains critical the same survey effort is replicated in the future to avoid erratic biodiversity value results over time.

Technical Annex II

Species list

All Saints Church

Full list of bird species recorded at All Saints Church, their abundance and conservation scores based on their listing on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC 5).

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Conservation value (BOCC 5)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	4	1 (green)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	3 (amber)
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	1	1 (green)
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	3	1 (green)
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	1 (green)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	9	3 (amber)

Full list of pollinator species observed at All Saints Church and their abundance.

Common name	Latin name	Abundance
White/buff tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum/terrestris</i>	6

Full list of plant species observed at All Saints Church and their relative abundance (DAFOR).

Common name	Latin name	DAFOR scale
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	O
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	D
Birch	<i>Betula agg.</i>	O
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidi</i>	R
Chinese holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	A
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	A
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	F
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	F
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	O
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	O
Field forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	O
Grape hyacinth	<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	O
Green alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	O
Higan cherry	<i>Prunus × subhirtella</i>	R
Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	O
Japanese cherry	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	O
Koromiko	<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	R
Lawson's cypress	<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>	O

Pacific yew	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	O
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	O
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	R
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	O
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	O
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	O
Welsh poppy	<i>Papaver cambricum</i>	R
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg.	R
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	R

Broadmanor open space

Full list of bird species recorded at All Saints Church, their abundance and conservation scores based on their listing on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC 5).

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Conservation value (BOCC 5)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	14	1 (green)
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	1 (green)
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	1 (green)
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1	1 (green)
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	1 (green)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	3 (amber)
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	1 (green)
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	20	5 (red)
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2	1 (green)
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	32	5 (red)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	27	3 (amber)

Full list of pollinator species observed at Broadmanor open space and their abundance.

Common name	Latin name	Abundance
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	1
European honeybee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	2
Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	1

Full list of plant species observed at Broadmanor open space and their relative abundance (DAFOR).

Common name	Latin name	DAFOR scale
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	D
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	F
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	F
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	A
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	A
Common dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	D

Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	A
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	O
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	F
Creeping speedwell	<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	O
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus sp.</i>	F
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	F
Field forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	O
Flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	O
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	F
Grape hyacinth	<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	O
Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	O
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	D
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	F
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	O
Holly-leaved barberry	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	R
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	R
Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	O
Indian hawthorn	<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	R
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	R
Japanese Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	R
Milk thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	O
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	R
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	O
Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	O
Red elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	R
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	O
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	O
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	R
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	F
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	R
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	O
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	O
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	F
White dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	O
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	O
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	O
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	O

Pocklington Cemetery

Full list of bird species recorded at Pocklington Cemetery, their abundance and conservation scores based on their listing on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC 5).

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Conservation value (BOCC 5)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	14	1 (green)
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	4	1 (green)
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	1 (green)
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	1 (green)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2	3 (amber)
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	3	1 (green)
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	29	5 (red)
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2	1 (green)
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	3 (amber)
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	14	5 (red)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	27	3 (amber)
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2	3 (amber)

Full list of pollinator species observed at Pocklington Cemetery and their abundance.

Common name	Latin name	Abundance
Common wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	1
Common banded hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	1

Full list of plant species observed at Pocklington Cemetery and their relative abundance (DAFOR).

Common name	Latin name	DAFOR scale
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	D
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	O
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	R
Birch	<i>Betula agg.</i>	R
Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus tenuis</i>	O
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	F
Bridewort	<i>Spiraea salicifolia</i>	R
Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	O
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	O
Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	R
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	O
Chinese bush cherry	<i>Prunus glandulosa</i>	R
Chinese holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	A
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	A
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	F
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Common yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	O

Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	F
Field forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	F
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	O
Garden privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	F
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	F
Grape hyacinth	<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	O
Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	O
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	O
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	F
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	O
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	F
Holly-leaved barberry	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	O
Japanese yew	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	O
Lawson's cypress	<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>	O
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	F
Lesser hawkbit	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	R
Lords-and-ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	O
Mediterranean hawthorn	<i>Crataegus azarolus</i>	O
Pacific yew	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	O
Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	F
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	O
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	R
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	O
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	F

Primrose Wood

Full list of bird species recorded at Primrose Wood, their abundance and conservation scores based on their listing on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC 5).

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Conservation value (BOCC 5)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	1 (green)
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	1 (green)
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	7	1 (green)
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2	1 (green)
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2	1 (green)
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	4	1 (green)
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	1	1 (green)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2	3 (amber)
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1	1 (green)
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	5	1 (green)
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	5 (red)
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5	5 (red)
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	5	1 (green)
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	3 (amber)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	26	3 (amber)
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	10	3 (amber)

Full list of pollinator species observed at Primrose Wood and their abundance.

Common name	Latin name	Abundance
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	1
7-spotted ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	1
Common banded hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	1
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	1

Full list of plant species observed at Primrose Wood and their relative abundance (DAFOR).

Common name	Latin name	DAFOR scale
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	O
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	F
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	O
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	F
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	F
Common dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	F
Common elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	O
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	O
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	A
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	O
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	A
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	F
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	O
Eared willow	<i>Salix aurita</i>	O
English black poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>	R
English elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	R
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	R
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	O
Garden Privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	R
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	O
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	R
Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	F
Green alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	O
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	O
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	O
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	O
Holly-leaved barberry	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	R
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	O
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	O
Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	F
Lawson's cypress	<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i>	R
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	F
Leyland cypress	<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i>	R

Lords-and-ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	O
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	R
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	O
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	R
Red elder	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	R
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	R
Scot's pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	O
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	O
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	F
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg.	O
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	R
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	F
Wood forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	O
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	R

War Memorial

Full list of pollinator species observed at the War Memorial and their abundance.

Common name	Latin name	Abundance
European honeybee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	4
White/buff tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum/terrestris</i>	5

Full list of plant species observed at the War Memorial and their relative abundance (DAFOR).

Common name	Latin name	DAFOR scale
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	D
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	A
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	A
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	F
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	O
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	O
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus</i> sp.	A
English lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	A
Field forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	O
Mexican fleabane	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	A
Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	O
Tulip	<i>Tulipa</i> sp.	F

West Green

Full list of bird species recorded at West Green, their abundance and conservation scores based on their listing on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC 5).

Common name	Latin name	Abundance	Conservation value (BOCC 5)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	4	1 (green)
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	1 (green)
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	1 (green)
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2	1 (green)
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2	1 (green)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	3	3 (amber)
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	4	1 (green)
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	5 (red)
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	3 (amber)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	8	3 (amber)

Full list of pollinator species observed at West Green and their abundance.

Common name	Latin name	Abundance
White/buff tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum/terrestris</i>	1
Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	1
Common carder bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	1
Comma butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	2
Ringlet butterfly	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	2
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	4
7-spotted ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	3
2-spotted ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	3
Harlequin lady beetle	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	20

Full list of plant species observed at West Green and their relative abundance (DAFOR).

Common name	Latin name	DAFOR scale
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	D
Birch	<i>Betula agg.</i>	O
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	O
Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	O
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	F
Bur chervil	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	F
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	A
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	A
Common dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	F
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	F
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	F
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	F
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	F

Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	O
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	O
Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	F
Grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	O
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	F
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	O
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	O
Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	O
Large-leaved lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	F
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	F
Lords-and-ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	O
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	O
Stinking iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	R
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	R
Weeping willow	<i>Salix x sepulcralis agg.</i>	R
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	O
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	F
Field forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	O
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	O
Milk thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	R
Cock's-foot grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	O
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	F
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	O

Technical Annex III

Condition sheet for modified grassland habitats

Assessment criteria		Broadmanor	West Green	War Memorial
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs	N	N	N
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm)	N	N	N
C	Scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.	Y	Y	Y
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area.	Y	Y	Y
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%	N	N	N
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	Y	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species.	Y	Y	Y
Essential criterion (A) achieved		No	No	No
Number of criteria passed		4	4	4
Condition		Poor	Poor	Poor

Condition sheet for native hedgerow habitats

Assessment criteria			Broadmanor	Cemetery
A1	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Y	Y
A2	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Y	N
B1	Gap-hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Y	Y
B2	Gap-hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	Y	Y
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length	Y	N
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	N	Y
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species	Y	N
D2	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Y	Y
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only				
E1	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present.	N	
E2	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife).	Y	
Category		Requirements	Metric score	
Good		No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3	
Moderate		No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group	2	
Poor		Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group	1	
Condition			Good	Moderate

Condition sheet for individual native trees

Assessment criteria		All Saints Churchyard	Cemetery
The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).		N	N
The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).		N	N
The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).		Y	Y
There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.		Y	Y
Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.		N	N
More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.		Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		3	3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Moderate	Moderate
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Condition sheet for lines of trees

Assessment criteria		Cemetery	West Green (east boundary)	West Green (south boundary)
The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).		Y	Y	Y
The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).		Y	N	Y
One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.		N	Y	N
There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing).		N	N	N
At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.		Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		3	3	3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)			
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)			

Condition sheet for scrub habitats

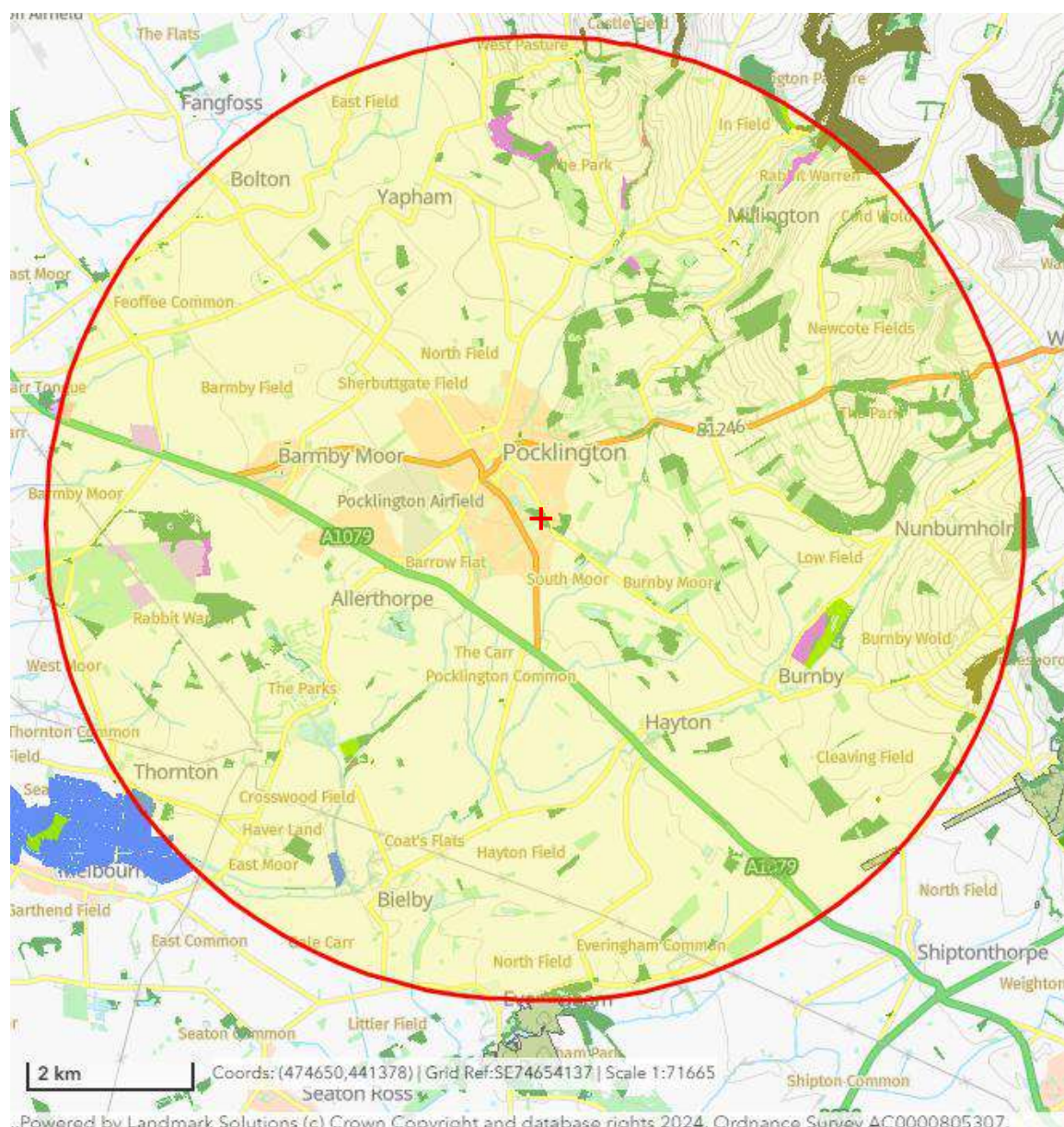
Assessment criteria		West Green
At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species ¹ , with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).		Y
Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ²) shrubs are all present.		Y
There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁵ make up less than 5% of ground cover.		Y
The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.		N
There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.		Y
Number of criteria passed		4
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Moderate
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Condition sheet for urban habitats (churchyard and cemeteries)

Assessment criteria		All Saints Churchyard	Cemetery
Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area. (Essential criterion to achieve GOOD)		N	N
The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.		N	N
Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA1) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area.		Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		1	1
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score		
Passes all 3 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 2 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 1 criteria	Poor (1)	Poor	Poor

Technical Annex IV

The distribution and extent of favourable land cover 5.6km around Primrose Wood.



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Deciduous woodland | Lowland heathland |
| Other woodland | Lowland dry acid grassland |
| Wood-pasture and Parkland | Lowland meadows |
| Lowland Calcareous Grassland | Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh |
| Good quality semi improved grassland | |

Technical Annex V

A step-by-step approach for the removal of Himalayan Balsam.

Step 1: Plan the timing of works

Schedule removal between May and early June, before the plants produce seed pods. Disturbing plants after seeds have formed can spread them further, particularly into nearby watercourses.

Step 2: Start upstream end (if near a watercourse)

Always begin control work at the highest point along a stream or river and move downstream. This reduces the risk of seeds from untreated areas being carried back into cleared sections.

Step 3: Choose the appropriate removal method

Hand pulling (small or sensitive areas): Grasp the plant low on the stem and pull steadily to remove the shallow root system. This method causes minimal ground disturbance.

Cutting or strimming (larger areas): Cut stems below the lowest leaf node (close to ground level). Cutting higher up may allow the plant to regrow and still produce flowers.

In early spring, before plants grow tall, small patches can be covered with mulch, cardboard, or similar light-blocking material to suppress growth. This is mainly useful in contained areas such as garden edges or small banks.

Step 4: Handle removed plants carefully

Place pulled or cut plants in dry, open piles away from the water's edge so they can rot down safely. Do not leave them where flooding could wash them away.

Step 5: Dispose of material correctly

If plant material must be removed from site, treat it as controlled waste in accordance with local guidance. Do not add to home compost heaps, as seeds can remain viable.

Step 6: Monitor the site annually

Himalayan balsam seeds can survive in soil for 2–3 years. Revisit the area each growing season and remove any new plants before they flower.

Step 7: Continue until no regrowth occurs

Annual control should continue until no further plants appear, indicating the soil seed bank has been exhausted.