

BRUNDALL BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP (BWG) – REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 2024 TO JUNE 2024

Since its formal creation in 2022, Brundall Parish Council’s Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) has been engaged in a number of activities relating to the current biodiversity status of the parish. These activities have included conducting formal habitat and vegetation species surveys at sites owned/leased or managed by the Council (‘Green Spaces’) and documenting the findings of these surveys. BWG is also conducting a biodiversity audit of all species recorded in Brundall in various published databases. A survey of breeding birds was also carried out at some sites in Brundall during the spring of 2023 and again in early 2024.

The initial work the BWG has carried out is designed to provide a biodiversity baseline for the parish, against which it will be possible to identify any future changes (positive or negative). Investigations to extend this baseline information have continued during 2024.

In addition to data collection exercises, the BWG has engaged in community awareness activities so that members of the public are informed of the work BWG is carrying out on behalf of Brundall Parish Council. These community engagement activities included public exhibitions at the Memorial Hall and Brundall Library.

During Q1 and Q2 of 2024 Brundall BWG carried out the following activities:

- Held a public exhibition and presentation on the work that BWG carried out during 2023 (January 2024).
- Provided an information display at Brundall Public Library (May 2024)
- Held meetings with individuals/groups responsible for management of the four BPC Green Spaces to discuss implementation of the biodiversity enhancement recommendations identified by BWG in its December 2023 Report [*Report on Biodiversity at Church Fen, Cremers Meadow, Low Farm Wood and Countryside Park December 2023*]. BWG is currently assisting individual site managers with development of site-specific Management Plans.
- Deployed several bird boxes at selected locations at Church Fen, Low Farm Wood and Cremers Meadow.
- Installed a number of Bat boxes at Church Fen, Low Farm Wood and Cremers Meadow.
- Completed additional surveys of vegetation species at Church Fen, Countryside Park, Low Farm Wood and Cremers Meadow, covering the spring/early summer. These surveys yielded additional species at each site, adding to the biodiversity baseline data collected in 2023. The total number of species found at the four BPC owned/leased/managed ‘Green Spaces’ is shown in Table 1.

Location	No. Of Species
Church Fen	149
Low Farm Wood	153
Countryside Park	201
Cremers Meadow	226

TABLE 1: Number of Plant Species Identified by BWG during Site Surveys 2023 and 2024

- Carried out surveys of ground dwelling invertebrates at Church Fen, Countryside Park, Low Farm Wood and Cremers Meadow using pit-fall trapping techniques. The results of these surveys will be reported separately. Each site showed mixed ground dwelling communities which reflected differences in the nature and composition of the habitats found. There were some differences in the dominant taxa represented at each location. A summary of the survey results is shown in Table 2.

SITE	No. of Taxa Represented	No. of individuals
Cremers Meadow	9	112
Church Fen	9	32
Low Farm Wood	5	111
Countryside Park	6	111

TABLE 2: Summary of pit-fall trap data collected from Brundall sites, May 2024

Development of a Wildlife Pond at Countryside Park- Feasibility Study

- One of the recommendations made by BWG for biodiversity enhancement at the Countryside Park was to create a wildlife pond. An initial feasibility study for a wildlife pond to be created at the Countryside Park has been carried out. A site meeting was held with members of the Countryside Park Steering Group and a specialist wildlife pond creation firm. The response from the Countryside Park Steering Group was positive. Initial indications are that it would be quite possible to establish a reasonable size pond on the south side of the park at a cost of between £5000- £10000, depending on the size. Possible sources of funding for this are currently being explored. A separate report on the proposal will be prepared in due course.

Other Green Spaces in Brundall

- BWG carried out an initial review (desktop and walkover) of other green spaces in Brundall which may provide valuable biodiversity habitat. A number of additional sites have been identified and mapped (Figure 1). Phase 1 Habitat surveys are now progressing at some of these sites. Habitat maps for sites within the Parish Council boundaries are being progressed but this element has been limited by inclement weather and resource constraints.

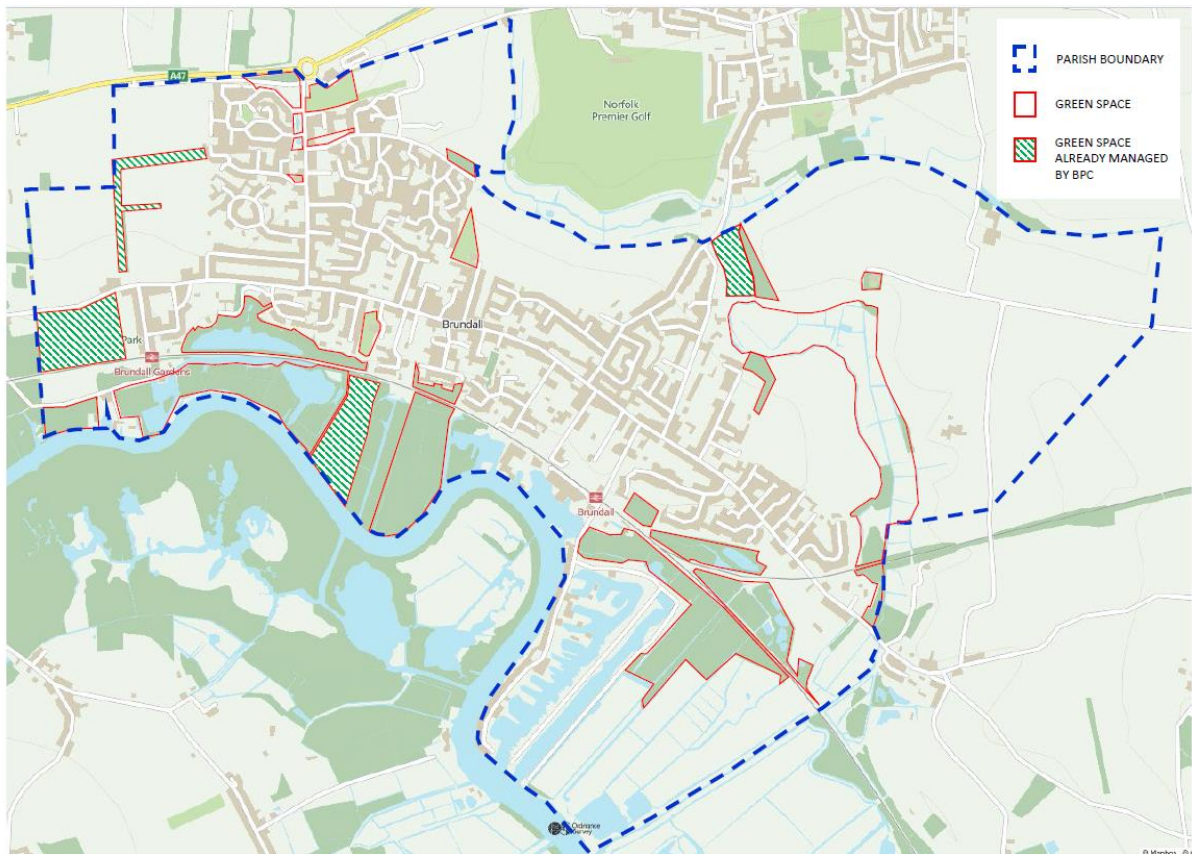


FIGURE 1: Brundall Green Spaces

Restoration of Cremers Meadow Pond

- Members of BWG have been assisting Friends of Cremers Meadow in identifying possible options for restoring the pond at Cremers Meadow. Specialist wildlife pond personnel have visited the site and costed engineering proposals have been prepared for the restoration work. Advice has also been sought from the Norfolk Ponds Project. The approximate costs for doing the work are circa £15000. Norfolk Ponds Project has expressed an interest in supporting the restoration works, including providing funding.

Biodiversity of Church Land

- Meetings were held with representatives of Yare Valley Churches to discuss possible biodiversity initiatives on church land in Brundall. The response was positive and church land at St Laurence and St Michaels churches will now be included in the list of sites that BWG will survey for biodiversity potential.