

BRUNDALL BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Introduction

There are several open pieces of land within Brundall Parish which have the potential to contribute to its biodiversity. These pieces of land (or 'Green Spaces') are of various sizes and configurations and include:

- Land within or adjacent to housing developments
- Roadside verges
- Land used for recreational purposes and by dog walkers
- Church land and cemeteries
- Public open spaces

The maintenance of many of these 'Green Spaces' is generally limited to periodic mowing by local authorities or others who have ownership or other responsibilities for these sites. At least one of these sites has been adopted by Broadland District Council and allowed to develop into a more diverse habitat, which has undoubtedly improved its biodiversity – see Figure 1.





Figure 1: Example of Biodiversity Improvement of Land, Berryfields, Brundall

During 2025, Brundall's Biodiversity Working Group commenced work on a project designed to identify areas of open land in the Parish which might have potential to be improved to enhance biodiversity. The principal objectives of this project were to:

- Identify and map green spaces in Brundall which might be candidates for biodiversity improvement
- Consider options for what work/actions could be initiated at these sites which could potentially enhance their biodiversity
- Review the current land uses of these sites and any constraints these may have on biodiversity enhancement plans
- Identify 2 to 3 sites for a pilot study into how in practice this initiative could be implemented at other sites in Brundall.
- Assess the overall value of the initiative in biodiversity terms.

Methodology

Candidate sites for this project were identified using a combination of desk top research and field survey. The desk top element comprised a review of available OS mapping at various scales and identification of potential sites using 'Google Earth' satellite imagery. A long list of potentially suitable sites was then identified, and the information transferred on 1: 25000 base maps. The results of this exercise are shown in Figure 2.

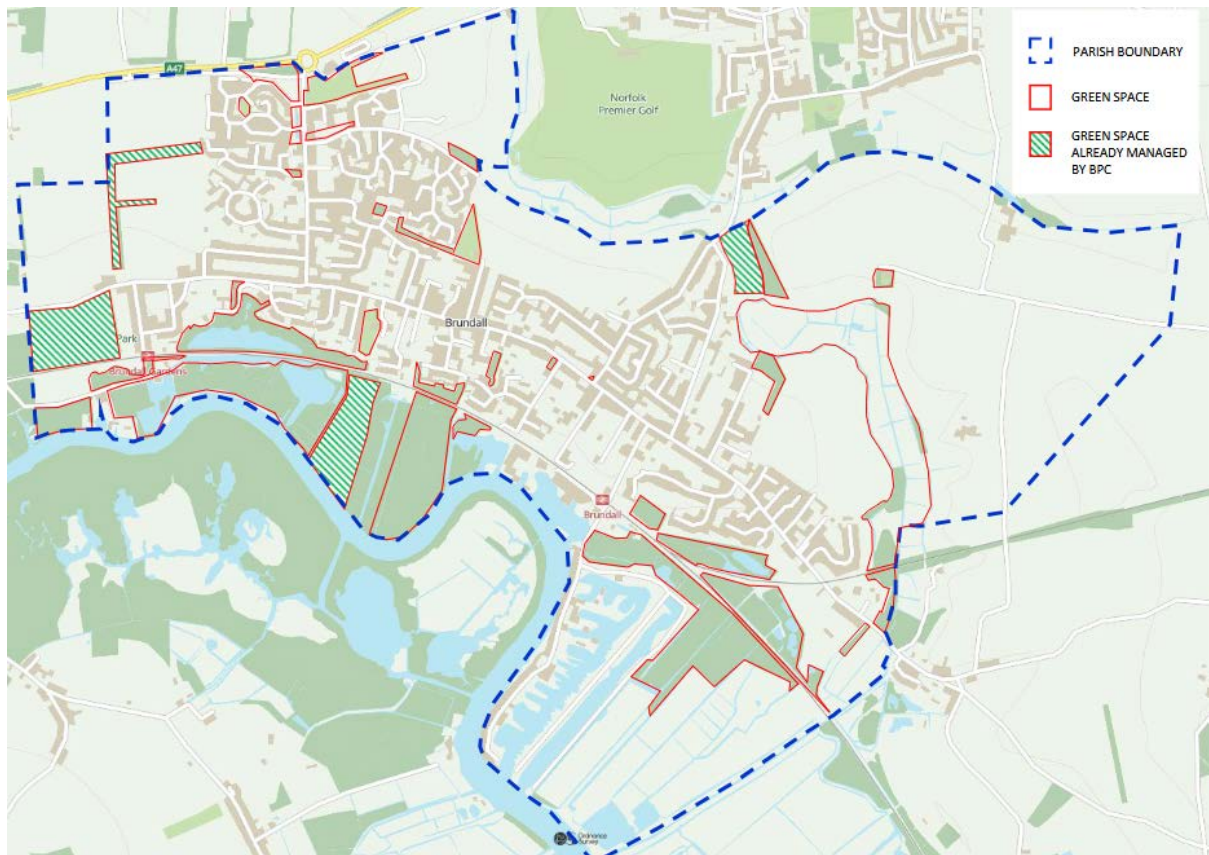


Figure 2: Potential Biodiversity Improvement Sites

Each of the potential candidate sites was then visited and further assessed for suitability. Some of the sites identified from the desk top study were found to be unsuitable for various reasons such as the presence of existing vegetation cover or current use e.g. recreation. This resulted in a shortlist of some 8 sites which are deemed to have potential to be used for biodiversity enhancement. These sites are shown in Figure 3 and listed in Table 1.



Figure 3: Location of Shortlisted Biodiversity Improvement Sites

Site Ref.	Location	Description	Area (ha)
BIS01	Land off Maurecourt Drive	Meadow	0.29
BIS02	Brundall Cemetery		0.08
BIS04	Land off Beverley Road	Meadow	0.06
BIS05	Land off Berryfields	Meadow	0.37
BIS06	Verge on Postwick Lane	Grass	0.12
BIS08	Land behind Memorial Hall	Vegetation on edge of playing field	0.02
BIS14 a/b	Land by pond on Maurecourt Drive	Meadow	0.04
BIS15	Verge on Reedcutters Avenue	Grass	0.10
TOTAL AREA			1.08ha

Table 1: Brundall Biodiversity Improvement Sites – Short List

Biodiversity Enhancement Options

Options for biodiversity enhancement will depend on the specific characteristics of each site and will need to be developed individually. The following options will be considered:

1. Allowing some grassed areas to grow naturally during the summer months and restricting mowing to the autumn.
2. Sowing selected areas with wildflower seeds to attract bees and other insects
3. Planting new hedgerows to provide habitat and food for birds and insects

Whatever improvement options are adopted, it is important that they are both practical and cost effective, whilst at the same time not requiring extensive maintenance.

Next Steps

In order for this project to be progressed, the land ownership of individual sites will need to be identified. In the first instance, land owned by Brundall Parish Council is likely to be the easiest to access and can be readily identified. Permission needs to be obtained to work on these sites. For other sites, it will be necessary to first identify the owner and then obtain approval for any work.

For roadside verges, discussions will be needed with those responsible for mowing/maintenance e.g. Highways Authority.

Approvals

To progress this project further, and to carry out biodiversity improvement works at Council sites the endorsement/approval of the Environment Committee and Brundall Parish Council is now sought.