

Holton le Clay Biodiversity Plan

2024

[Background](#)

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

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

[What is Biodiversity?](#)

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth⁽¹⁾. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea. Conserving biodiversity will improve the sustainability and quality of life of the parish community.

[The Local Area](#)

Holton le Clay is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, play parks and cemetery. These areas provide opportunities for exercise, recreation and relaxation as well as help to connect people with nature.

Green spaces and parks in urban areas are essential for biodiversity, providing habitat and sustenance for wildlife.



[Parish Council responsibilities](#)

The Parish Council owns three pieces of land - the cemetery on Church Lane – which also incorporates two areas of parish gardens, the Junior Playing Field on Garth Way and the 8 Acres Playing Field on Beech Grove.

The Parish Council is responsible for the grass cutting and weed spraying of amenity areas and play areas and also has responsibility for the maintenance of the cemetery.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the provision and updating of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will review how it manages the land at the cemetery and 8 Acres, this may include but is not limited to.
 - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for wildlife
 - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for wildlife
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required. This may include Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. This may require reporting to the county council depending on the species.



- The Holton le Clay NDP is due to be reviewed in 2030 and biodiversity will be discussed and added to the plan as necessary.
- The Parish Council will seek opportunities to create new habitats for wildlife such as wildflower areas, log piles and installing additional bird and bat boxes. Although the play park is of low value to biodiversity there is an opportunity to enhance them for wildlife. This can make the play park more engaging for youngsters and provide some natural play opportunities.
- The Parish Council will continue to plant bulbs around the village to attract bees and butterflies to the area. It will also continue to encourage community planting. Naturalised bulbs such as snowdrops and crocus provide a flush of colour and interest for grassland in the spring. These habitats are of medium value to biodiversity as they provide a range of vegetation structures and pollen and nectar early in the season.
- The Parish Council will continue to ensure that tree and hedge cutting is not done until after the nesting season has finished in order to protect breeding birds.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.



