

LITTLETON & HARESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (LHPC)

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

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1. Legislative background¹

Public authorities in England, including parish councils, must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This is strengthened by a 'biodiversity duty' that the 2021 Environment Act introduced.

This means that, as a public authority, LHPC must:

- consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- agree policies and specific objectives based on these considerations
- act to deliver these policies and achieve its objectives through its management of assets and decision making
- comply with the biodiversity duty

Littleton & Harestock Parish Council is required to set out its first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. If not at this stage, policies and objectives need to be approved as soon as possible after this. These must be reconsidered within 5 years at least or more often, for example, quarterly or, annually.

Complementary to this will be the introduction of local nature recovery strategies (LNRS), as established under the Environment Act 2021. Each LNRS will:

- agree priorities for nature's recovery.
- map the most valuable existing areas for nature.
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

In July 2023, Hampshire County Council (HCC) announced its intention to develop a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the region in collaboration with key partners. HCC is promising to encourage involvement in how parish councils can be involved in preparing and delivering them. Putting forward any positive actions we have or plan to undertake will help improve the quality of the LNRS as well as showing how the Parish Council has fulfilled its duty. When the strategy is published, the Parish Council will need to understand which elements are relevant and how they can contribute to them.

The Environment Act 2021 also provides for the establishment of both species' conservation and protected site strategies which are expected to take a new approach to safeguarding and restoring species and habitats at greatest risk or in protected sites.

Additionally, developers of new housing, industrial or commercial premises in England will be legally required to deliver 10% "Biodiversity Net Gain" from January 2024 so that they provide a net positive for the local environment, for example by creating new habitats and green spaces.²

¹ See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

² See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biodiversity-net-gain-moves-step-closer-with-timetable-set-out>

2. Parish location

Littleton & Harestock is located on the northwest outskirts of Winchester. It encompasses the outer suburban neighbourhood of Harestock and the village of Littleton. The two parts are effectively separated by the defined Littleton Gap which runs parallel to and roughly north of the Harestock Road. The principle behind the 'gap' is that the land will not be developed further.

Littleton is a linear village laid out along Main Road, surrounded to a large extent by paddocks serving equestrian interests, MoD Flowerdown / Sir John Moore Barracks on its eastern side and managed farmland at its northern edges, which together with tracts of woodland, creates its rural setting. The Littleton Village Design Statement states that Littleton lies on a dominant east-west chalk ridge, which is a continuation of the main South Downs chalk landscape.³

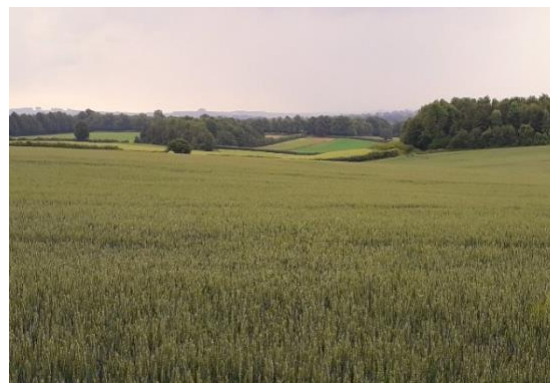


Figure 1: Rolling farmland north of Littleton Village (June 2022)

The area's undulating landscape and well-drained chalk geology has resulted in there being little standing water or running streams in dry conditions. The MoD Flowerdown Estate contains woodland and areas of calcareous grassland. Many houses have gardens, mature trees and hedges.

Until the early 1960s, Harestock was principally comprised of gently undulating farmland. Houses along the Andover Road are mainly older. Today the area is fully developed with minimal open space, although in places there are wide verges or small grassy pockets with some additional diversity of vegetation such as bushes, shrubs and trees. The extent of these small areas was identified in 2020.⁴ Some houses also have gardens large enough to provide good opportunities for residents to enhance biodiversity on their own property.

Accordingly, our Parish is far from uniform with a range of environments resulting in it being a home to a variety of plant, animal and invertebrate life. A recent ecology survey of Flowerdown MoD base found evidence of it providing habitats for bats, badgers, birds, hazel dormice and reptiles as well as butterflies, moths, grasshoppers and pollinators. For example, in addition to over 30 common species of birds, the Parish hosts some species of conservation concern, including the specially protected firecrest along with its close relation, the goldcrest. The surveys also recorded 158 species of invertebrates including some nationally notable species such as solitary bees *Hylaeus cornutus* and *Lasioglossum pauxillum*, and the rare Striped *Lychnis* moth, *Shargacucullia lychnitis*.

Hosting such a rich variety of both common and rarer species of wildlife imposes a moral responsibility and legal duty on the Parish Council to protect and enhance this biodiversity whenever threats and opportunities arise.

³ Half of the world's chalk grassland is found in the UK with a significant amount of it occurring in the Winchester area. The Parish forms a notable part of this, with Flowerdown in particular characterised by unimproved typical chalk grassland along with some trees and scrub, which makes it vital for protection. See B. Middleton, Flowerdown - Sir John Moore Barracks: A summary of the Chalkland Ecology, Flooding, Planning Status and Military History of Flowerdown, January 2021.

⁴ See Littleton & Harestock Parish Open Spaces Audit: A report by the Environmental (Climate Change) Working Group, September 2020.

3. Context

It is widely recognised that we face both a climate and nature emergency. Biodiversity exists or is under threat everywhere whether in fields, hedgerows and verges, woodlands, ponds and streams, recreation grounds and parks etc.

The UK 2023 State of Nature report, published in September, “highlights that species have reduced by 19% since 1970 in the UK, whilst one in six are threatened with extinction, and 151 have already become extinct since 1500. The UK is now classified as one of the world’s most nature-depleted countries, with our most vital natural habitats considered in poor condition. Loss of biodiversity can result in ecosystems being less capable of buffering events such as flooding, drought, storms, and landslides; making human settlements more vulnerable. To achieve a resilient and sustainable future, concerted efforts are needed to protect and restore ecosystems, reduce human impacts on nature, and promote sustainable practices in various sectors.”⁵

Winchester City Council (WCC) declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and more recently a Nature Emergency in September 2023. Littleton and Harestock Parish Council recognises these as being effectively two sides of the same coin. WCC has now reviewed its approach towards ecological sites that link together its Nature Emergency declaration, LNRs, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements, and its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) around a proposed Nature Improvement Plan.⁶

When the Parish Council established its Climate Change Working Group (since renamed Parish Action on the Climate Emergency (PACE)) in March 2020, addressing the rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the loss of biodiversity were seen to be central to the group’s approach. The Working Group set out to bring together both Parish Councillors and local volunteers to progress this.

In introducing this Biodiversity Policy, the Parish Council pulls together the various activities it has already been undertaking, which when examined have been wide-ranging and extensive. Yet it also recognises there is always more that can be done. The Parish Council wants to incorporate biodiversity activities into all appropriate areas of Parish responsibility and activity, and seeks to either maintain, enhance or add to them, so that it becomes something that local people can engage with and ultimately appreciate.

Accordingly, the policy covers both (a) what the Council can do on its own estate, and (b) how the Council can seek to encourage and influence other places and organisations to adopt and pursue biodiversity-enhancing actions. It also recognises that it cannot make progress alone, but needs to work with others or in partnerships, such as with volunteers, other councils (i.e. WCC, HCC and neighbouring Parish Councils), NGOs and charities (e.g. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust), sports clubs, contractors and others.⁷

⁵ See <https://nationalpreparednesscommission.uk/2023/09/state-of-nature-report-2023/>

⁶ Ecological Sites: Report of Portfolio Holder to Health & Environment Policy Committee, 5 December 2023, Winchester City Council.

⁷ The basic Biodiversity Policy is provided in Appendix A. The remainder of the main text is essentially a baseline assessment of the Parish Council’s existing activities together with objectives for taking these forward further.

4. Areas of Action

4.1. Under direct control

The following sections indicate the biodiversity actions that can be undertaken by the Parish Council as it is related to work within its remit or on council owned, leased or licensed land.

4.1.1. Littleton Village Design Statement (LVDS)

The latest revised version of the LVDS was adopted by Winchester City Council in September 2023. This, in part, sets out the Parish Council's approach to biodiversity for the village. In particular:

Littleton has a wealth of wildlife habitats, including woodland, trees, hedges, grassland, farmland and paddocks. Littleton has no streams or standing water except for the village pond and garden ponds. Development proposals should aim to enhance, maintain or restore biodiversity in the village.

The village also has several informal green open spaces, such as in The Hall Way or the eastern end of North Drive. Such areas are generally just left as grass but should be recognised as having wider value. Opportunities to improve the biodiversity value of open spaces in the village (*e.g. establishment of wildflower areas*) should be pursued whenever possible. (LVDS, para 8.3)

The village has many mature trees and hedgerows consisting of native types, including ash, beech, blackthorn, elm, hawthorn, hazel, horse chestnut, field maple, lime, oak, sycamore, and yew. Most of Littleton's woodland is located within MoD Flowerdown. This woodland has been well maintained and improved over the years. Areas of young trees are well positioned to provide the basis for future green infrastructure in the developing landscape.

To maintain the character that trees and woodland provide for the village, policies covering tree protection, management, replacement plans, any necessary removal (*e.g. due to disease or safety*) and new housing development will be implemented.

Where trees are unavoidably lost, at least one tree should be planted to compensate. A broader tree planting plan will be introduced to help maintain the overall rural character of the village and address the climate emergency. (LVDS, para 8.4).

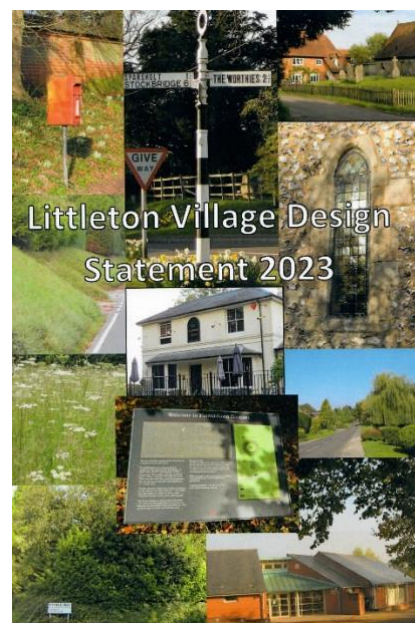


Figure 2: LVDS Approved (2023)

Objective

- Ensure that the LVDS's commitment to enhancing local biodiversity is vigorously pursued.

4.1.2. Tumulus Field

The Tumulus Field / Flowerdown Barrows is a scheduled monument which has been owned by the Parish since the Inclosure Act (1843). The site is a public right of way, and residents use the field as a recreational space. Up until the late 1980s, glow worms thrived on the site and could be seen in June & July. English Heritage supervises the monument and supplies the contractors to mow and take away the clippings from the site. There are three cuts as follows:

- Spring Cut - early before the primroses start growing (doesn't include the main barrow)
- Summer Cut - late July (except the main barrow)
- Autumn Cut - late September - whole site.

However, liaison with English Heritage has not been consistently helpful in getting support for a sensitive mowing regime that nurtures the continued existence and growth of the abundance of wildflowers that exist

on the site. English Heritage does not currently permit any digging or use of spray, except for some specialist spraying for pernicious weeds. To help produce beneficial effects, other vigorous, invasive weeds and garden escapes such as Russian Vine are cut back by volunteers to prevent overcrowding or unwanted competition.

Local volunteers have recorded a variety of wildflowers (see Appendix C), some of them particularly noteworthy or rare. At the beginning of 2021, the volunteers produced a draft Conservation Management Plan for the Tumulus Field that sets out a species list, an examination of the problems affecting the site along with some potential improvements. In 2022, volunteers cleared away a small area of deadwood and dense growth to open up a pocket glade to allow greater direct light to encourage butterflies. The subsequent observed increase in butterflies has shown this to be successful.



Figure 3: Butterfly Glade (Sept 2021)

Objective

- To pursue better practical relationships with English Heritage so that the Parish Council can better manage the field for wildflowers and insects, by ensuring contractors only mow the field at appropriate times of the growing season and take away the cuttings as necessary. It will also seek agreement to thin or cutback any deadwood or invasive trees, shrubs or plants that threaten the vitality of the field. Now three years old, a review of the Conservation Management Plan for the Tumulus Field should be undertaken.

4.1.3. Recreation Ground

Although principally composed of a playground, outdoor gym, sports pitches, greens and courts, efforts are made to support biodiversity whenever feasible. Once a year outside bird nesting season, a local contractor trims the outside of the Croquet club hedge, the external hedges towards the MoD site, and the internal hedges by the overflow car park grassy area and the cricket outfield (but not those backing onto the gardens of residents in Main Road). However, the 'internal' hedge and trees on the opposite side of the cricket field are considered to be in a condition that may soon require significant renewal and a plan to address this will be required.

The contractor also mows the grass of the Recreation Ground (and that of Bradley Road Playground), and consideration should be given to allowing the grass to grow more in marginal areas and edges, when it currently is more cosmetic than necessary for recreation. A review of the Grounds Maintenance Schedule 2023-26 should be undertaken with a focus on improving biodiversity gain.

There is an inherent conflict and difficult balancing act to be achieved between supporting biodiversity on the one hand whilst preparing and maintaining quality sports grounds on the other that can be enjoyed by the local community. Currently, chemical applications are frequently used. For instance, weedkillers are used on the cricket square and both the bowls and croquet lawns, and on the cricket outfield every two years. Fertilisers are used on the football pitches, which are in the middle of a programme to bring the pitches up to a higher standard. In 2023 the treatment for the eradication of chafer bugs on the cricket outfield was done in such a way as to limit the potentially harmful effects of the chemicals on non-target species and bring the playing surfaces back to an acceptable standard.

While the Parish Council acknowledges that steps need to be taken to provide acceptable standards of sporting surfaces, it also looks to see what measures can be adopted to minimise or reduce the need for harmful chemicals in the ground treatments employed.

Objectives

- LHPC will develop a plan and programme for renewing the ‘internal’ hedges and trees which provides an opportunity to introduce a mix of native trees and bushes that will have strong biodiversity benefits such as supporting butterflies or providing other habitats.
- The Parish Council will look to avoid or at least reduce the use of pesticides and any potential harm which might result from their use on Parish Council owned land and elsewhere when it is in a position to influence management practices.
- It will review of the Grounds Maintenance Schedule 2023-26 focusing on improving biodiversity gain, such as modifying grass mowing practices in marginal areas to allow longer grass margins.

4.1.4. Conservation Field

The Parish Council decided to create a Conservation Field to the north of the sports fields, greens and courts. The area has been left in its natural state with developed patches of wildflowers, including some rare species, e.g. pyramid orchids. Initially overseen by a volunteer, this is now managed by a local contractor that cuts the grass and boundary hedges once a year in winter.

Objective

- To maintain and enhance whenever possible the biodiversity of this area which also provides some quietness and reflective space to local residents.

4.1.5. Flower beds

The Parish Council has responsibility for flower beds in the parish such as those by the Harestock Shops, inside the entrance to the Recreation Ground and adjacent to the bowls lawn. These are maintained by contractors or voluntarily. Although they undoubtedly provide some benefits for insects and pollinators etc, there could be a more proactive approach that encourages the use of nature friendly planting and avoids the use of herbicides.

Objective

- To adopt a nature friendly approach to planting to attract bees, butterflies, insects and other wildlife, whilst using more organic weedkillers and fertilisers when appropriate.

4.1.6. Review of building management, internal policies and processes

In the government guidance for complying with the biodiversity duty, it is noted that other aspects of the Parish Council’s activities and operations can have a potential impact on biodiversity.

For instance, in managing building assets, ensuring maintenance work minimises the disturbance of wildlife, avoids the use of unnecessary chemicals, reduces pollution from energy use, and considers whether or not vegetation on or around the building needs removing and if so when it should be undertaken.

Reviews of policies and processes could cover:

- transport - support sustainable travel to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions
- waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and subsequent air pollution from waste transport and landfill
- water – improve water efficiency to reduce the effect water abstraction can have on sensitive habitats and species
- procurement – buy sustainable materials and supplies to reduce the demand on natural resources
- light – make sure the design of artificial lighting minimises adverse effects on nature

For the Parish Council, the scale of its operations may have only small impacts on biodiversity, but nonetheless, biodiversity considerations can be taken into account in its management and working practices.

Objective

- The Parish Council will continue to be mindful of considering the biodiversity impacts of its policies, management and practices.

4.1.7. Engaging expertise

The Parish Council does not claim to have all the knowledge and expertise on biodiversity, and so is pleased to be able to utilise the expertise that exists locally. For several years it has engaged volunteers to survey, identify plants and advise on the appropriate management of the Tumulus Field. The council also engages a volunteer Tree Warden to advise on the condition of, and appropriate actions to be taken on, individual trees when necessary.

The activities of the PACE Group also give LHPC access to a source of knowledge as well as enthusiasm which helps inform and encourage initiatives that benefit biodiversity (e.g. neighbourhood meadows) as well as the environment more generally. For instance, the observations of one enthusiast who undertakes a regular butterfly survey in Littleton are provided in Appendix H. PACE is keen to attract more volunteers.

Objective

- The Parish Council will continue to access expertise from appropriate local volunteers to support and inform its biodiversity policies and practices.

4.2. Using influence

The following sections indicate where it could be possible for the Parish Council to influence biodiversity actions by other organisations.

4.2.1. MoD Flowerdown / Sir John Moore Barracks

The north-west area of the site comprises areas of woodland and grassland close to the Littleton Stud and the Littleton Recreation Ground. The areas of grassland and the areas of woodland provide habitats for a range of species.

The south-eastern side of MoD Flowerdown is classified as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) (2017, Reference WC0066 Area - 7.6 ha). The SINC area occupies most of the unused eastern part of the MoD Flowerdown site between Kennel Lane and Andover Road, north of Harestock Road. The citation for this existing SINC states that this area supports an area of Calcareous Grassland which has become impoverished through inappropriate management but retains sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery. This area also includes areas of mixed deciduous woodland listed in the National Forest Inventory.

The Ministry of Defence has announced its intention to relinquish the site in 2026 and seek to redevelop the area, at least in part, for up to 1000 housing units. A MoD Master Plan has not yet been submitted.

In order to guide the debate and influence the plans, the Parish Council has called for the northern grasslands to be designated a local nature reserve and provided a planning brief supporting its case. The brief drew upon 10 biodiversity surveys commissioned by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and conducted by Capita in October 2021. LHPC considers that these ecology surveys demonstrated that there is much to be conserved on the site. It is home to a variety of plant, animal and invertebrate life including some red-listed species as well as nationally scarce species and species with local distributions. Emphasis was placed on the need to avoid fragmented areas of wildlife and the need to create wildlife corridors. A fuller analysis of the Flowerdown surveys is provided in Appendix D, while further local information on the ecology and wildlife is provided in Appendix E.



Figure 4: Flowerdown Northern Grasslands (Nov 2020)

Following its own analysis of the survey data, the Parish Council applied for the Northern Grasslands to be declared a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC).⁸ The proposal was accepted by the panel convened by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) in autumn 2023, and now awaits formal approval by Winchester City Council. Each of these proposals put the enhancement of biodiversity at their core.

A further briefing (Planning Brief for the Redevelopment of the Sir John Moore Barracks) stated “that the open areas it refers to as the northern meadows are ‘agriculturally unimproved’ calcareous grassland which have been managed without herbicides or inorganic fertilisers and as a result are potentially of significant ecological value which should be retained and enhanced. There should be no development within the northern meadows.”⁹

With regard to the Littleton Gap, the same briefing declares: “The features within the proposed gap would not only contribute to the separation of Littleton and Winchester but also be important elements of the green infrastructure of the site, including the preservation of wildlife habitats and enhanced biodiversity.”

Objectives

- The Council will maintain its current approach towards the SJMB site to achieve the best biodiversity gain, and will continue to push for the widest extension of the SINC in addition to the maintenance of the existing designated SINC that largely covers the woodlands in the southern part of the site.
- The Council will continue to advocate for the retention of the Littleton Gap, of which the MoD Flowerdown site is a key constituent part.
- It will develop links with the local Wildlife Trust and others to push for more active management of the woods that form part of the ‘southern’ SINC to improve their biodiversity potential. More detailed plans for this will be required at the appropriate time.
- As part of seeking to achieve the protection of the northern downlands and the potential to offer local (and perhaps controlled) public access, a management and access plan will be needed to provide the greatest opportunities to both protect what is already there e.g. glow worms, bats, and to further enhance it. For instance, the dry valleys that occasionally flood could potentially be managed to create wet or marshy habitats.

4.2.2. Planning Applications

Although the Parish Council does not have the power to decide planning applications, it nevertheless responds to consultations on applications in, or occasionally on the borders of, the Parish.

The LVDS states under D14. Environmental Assessment of Developments that:

Proper and adequate environmental surveys and reports are encouraged prior to a planning application being considered. The ecological impact on existing plants, wildlife and landscape of any development, the impact any development might have on such habitats, and mitigation schemes are to be identified in such reports. Where appropriate, habitats and wildlife should be protected, maintained, and enhanced and new areas created. (LVDS, policy D14)

⁸ Implications of the proposed development of Flowerdown on biodiversity and ecology, LHPC brief in support of extending the Flowerdown SINC, June 2023

⁹ Planning Brief for the Redevelopment of the Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, 28 March 2023

Furthermore, special consideration should be given to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or other potential nature conservation areas including the Sir John Moore Barracks SINC. (extract from LVDS, Policy D15). However, it's not just formally designated sites that are critical. Wildlife needs corridors to move around and simply leaving small enclaves of nature are inadequate and can be actively damaging to populations over the short, medium and long term. This needs to be kept in mind, especially when considering larger scale planning applications. For example, the Parish Council should promote the planting of hedges rather than fences or advocate hedgehog highways, (especially in any new developments), or the installation of swift boxes. Planning also needs to be mindful of night-time light which disrupts nocturnal insects, bats and other small mammals.

Elsewhere, the LVDS considers the village's susceptibility to occasional flooding and as part of any flooding mitigation measures, developers should also consider taking opportunities to create water-related habitats for water storage (*subject to the geological constraints of the chalk aquifer*). (LVDS, para 8.10)

Objective

- In commenting on planning applications, LHPC will seek to use its influence through the consultation process and advocate the provision of improved biodiversity opportunities wherever appropriate.

4.2.3. Tree Charter

The existing native tree cover is an important contribution to the rural setting of the Littleton area and the parish as a whole which should, whenever possible, be protected and maintained. The Parish Council became a signatory to the Tree Charter Initiative in October 2020. Although this initiative may not have high public prominence, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has partnered with the Woodland Trust, the National Union for Students (NUS), and the Tree Council to embed the ten principles of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People (the Tree Charter) within communities across the UK. These are provided in Appendix B.

The Parish Council has continued to obtain and act upon expert advice from a local arboriculturist. Thinning, remedial work and cutting down are often necessary, but the Council adopts a sensitive approach so that only absolutely necessary work is carried out, including being mindful of nesting season limitations.

Planning applications for developments that would remove locally important, healthy mature or veteran trees (with or without a TPO) and hedgerows will be resisted. Also, when choosing to plant any new trees, the selection of suitable species that have biodiversity value should be adopted.

A future initiative could be a project to plant a small community orchard in the village. Finding the right bit of land won't be easy, but it would fit in with the principles of the Tree Charter. It would also enhance biodiversity as fruit tree orchards have been identified as some of the most valuable and scarce ecosystems in the UK. It may also provide an opportunity to grow rare or declining varieties of fruit. This concept has previously been flagged up in response to the initial MoD Flowerdown consultations, but if the opportunity arises before then, then why wait? Grants are normally available from the Tree Council.

Objectives

- To continue to obtain professional expert advice for the management and maintenance of trees over which the Parish Council has responsibility.
- To consider undertaking a wider Parish tree survey, identify any tree that should be given a tree preservation order (TPO), and look for suitable opportunities to plant new native trees in the Parish.
- To identify an opportunity to establish a community orchard

4.2.4. Neighbourhood meadows



Figure 5: Buriton Road Mini-Meadow under preparation (Nov 2023)

Building on an earlier Parish Council report that identified potential small pockets of land that could be enhanced for biodiversity, 2023 saw the successful creation of a neighbourhood meadow on Buriton Road, Harestock. With the agreement and support of Winchester City Council, a local resident and PACE volunteer has led on planning and creating this meadow which has been well received by other local residents

The meadow has now been prepared and seeded ahead of summer 2024. Two information boards have been installed to explain what is being undertaken and to raise awareness of this initiative to enhance biodiversity. A list of wildflowers found in the meadow, along with future additions is provided in Appendix F.

Objectives

- To continue supporting through the PACE group, a maintenance and seeding regime for the 'Buriton Road Meadow' for its further enhancement in the coming years, and consider additional ways in which biodiversity can be enhanced on this patch e.g. replacing a previously lost tree and / or establishing a bug hotel.
- To find and establish other opportunities in the Parish for the creation of additional neighbourhood meadows with the support of local volunteers, residents and Winchester City Council.

4.2.5. Littleton Pond



Figure 6: Littleton Pond

The concrete-lined sump is principally part of the local drainage system and cannot be maintained purely for the value of its natural wildlife value. The Pond is aggressively emptied about every three years, and the contents and debris are treated as contaminated waste.

Therefore, while the Pond is unsuitable for the managed development of a biodiverse stable ecosystem, it remains a useful source of water for birds and other wildlife. (LVDS, para 8.5)

Objective

- LHPC will be mindful to provide the best opportunities possible for biodiversity in the water and surrounds of the pond within the limitations placed upon the location by its functional role and associated maintenance requirements.

4.2.6. Verges

The importance of verges may get overlooked but they often harbour a variety of wildlife including wildflowers, insects and small mammals.

Recognition of the value of such small pieces of land has been increasing, and the Parish Council would like to see them further recognised and protected for this. It has been noticeable that mower gangs, notwithstanding

their contractual obligations, appear to be using increasing discretion to not blanket mow strips and patches at key times of the growing season, and instead leave flowering plants and small patches of longer grass. This is welcomed as it can help pollinators, insects, wildflowers etc to thrive.



Figure 7: Verge along Harestock Road (May 2020)

Littleton contains one Roadside Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI) (U172 Littleton Lane (SU45123210) [43-0089] (26072016). This RVEI is located close to the entrance to an unadopted gravel road to the Nursey at the end of South Drive. The roadside verge is subject to special cutting regimes.

The Parish Council also employs a Lengthsman who periodically carries out various maintenance, cutting and clearance tasks that will often impact on verges and hedgerows.

Objectives

- Seek to establish a sensitive mowing regime that protects and enhances these areas whenever reasonable (e.g. taking into account driver sight-lines) so that their biodiversity potential is realised as far as possible. This may involve liaison with Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council to whom responsibility for verge mowing has often been sub-contracted. Small changes to contractual obligations should be pursued.
- The Lengthsman should also only be asked to undertake tasks that are seasonally appropriate i.e. not to clear bushes or trim hedges during nesting season from March to September. During the 'shoulders' of the season, vegetation should be checked prior to starting work because climate change is affecting nesting times.

4.2.7. Farmland

In the north of the parish, it has been noticeable that field margins have been left for the benefit of wildlife, whether birds, pollinators or insects. Such initiatives have become an increasing feature of moving to more sustainable agriculture, and the Parish Council welcomes any moves to maintain or extend these practices.

Objectives

- The Parish Council will encourage local farmers to develop practices that are not dependent on chemicals and are ecologically beneficial to both the soil and wildlife.
- The Parish Council will promote the benefits of the wider field margins and publicise their impact amongst residents and local farmers.

4.2.8. Local residents

It has been noticeable since the COVID pandemic that more residents in the parish appear to be modifying their front gardens to take into account the needs and encouragement of nature. Adjacent gardens can effectively provide significant areas of 'green' space and by adopting wildlife gardening initiatives, can help to produce wildlife corridors in conjunction with neighbours. The Parish e-newsletter and website provides the means for the Council to encourage residents to support biodiversity. Wildflower seeds were given away to

mark the coronation and initiatives such as No-Mow May and the National Butterfly Counts were also highlighted. Residents can also be made aware of the potential of creating hedgehog highways through fence gaps, installing bug hotels, seeding wildflowers for pollinators, growing things up fences and trellises, building ponds and leaving areas of long grass. Additionally, we can also encourage residents to reduce the amount of time their garden is lit at night.

One resident of Harestock has informally recorded the range of wildflowers that have been seen growing in front lawns that are not plants that had obviously been planted. This is provided in Appendix G.

Objective

- The Parish Council will promote wildlife gardening and related activities through its various communication channels and maintain links with the local gardening club.

4.2.9. St Catherine's Churchyard / Burial Ground

Although independently managed, the Parish Council also notes that an area of St Catherine's Churchyard / Burial Ground has been successfully maintained as an area for nature conservation for several years. If ever the occasion arises, the Council would consider any requests for support for the continued maintenance of this area of the churchyard.

Objective

- LHPC does not want to interfere in the burial ground's meadow maintenance, but would consider providing appropriate support, if and when a need arose.

4.2.10. Harestock Primary School Garden

The school's garden has been widely commended for its work to promote biodiversity and the value of growing food.

Objective

- LHPC will consider supporting school initiatives that focus on biodiversity, as it recognises that instilling a responsibility for caring for nature in young children is one way of enhancing biodiversity in future years.

5. Conclusion

This document sets out the wide range of activities and means by which the Parish Council has undertaken its duty to support biodiversity. It also recognises that more can be done, given that much of nature that we often tend to take for granted is under threat.

As a Parish Council, we have a detailed knowledge and understanding of our local area. As such we are well-placed to protect and enhance wildlife in our day-to-day business as well as in the pursuit of specific projects. Whilst we can be mindful of the impact on ecology and biodiversity of, say planning applications which we can aim to influence, we are also aware that individual wildlife havens need to connect with each other along corridors. These are essential to allow hazard-free movement of mammals, invertebrates and other creatures.

With correct management, our grassland areas, verges, woodlands, meadows, conservation areas and indeed gardens could become havens for biodiversity and link to other existing sites such as the Littleton Barrow allowing chalk downland flowers and the dependent wildlife to spread and flourish.

The key elements of this review have been distilled into a Biodiversity Policy provided in the accompanying Appendix A which has been adopted by the Parish Council.

Table 1: Revision History

Version (major.minor)	Date	Author	Modifications made
Draft 0.1	12/10/23	DT	Initial draft
Draft 0.2	17/10/23	DT	Inclusion of comments and info from LW & LF
Draft 0.3	30/11/23	DT	Incorporation of feedback from volunteers and local experts
Draft 0.5	01/12/23	DT	Edited draft for circulation to councillors
Draft 0.6	05/12/23	LF	Edited to comply with Accessibility Regulations
Draft 0.7	08/12/23	DT	Additional minor edits following feedback
Approved 1.0	12/12/23	DT	Approved at LHPC meeting on 11th December 2023. Final edits following Council approval

Note: The revision number should be updated every time this document is modified, significant changes should result in the major number being updated, and any other minor changes should result in the minor number being updated

Appendix A: LHPC Biodiversity Policy

This Biodiversity Policy is part of the Parish Council's wider approach to the environment and reflects the concern for the Nature Emergency that exists in the 2020s. Making small changes to how areas and features are managed can create habitats for wildlife and also provide 'nature corridors' that connect other existing habitats. This allows species to move between habitats, maintain or increase populations and be more resilient to climate change.

LHPC will:

- Work with other councils, organisations such as English Heritage, local sports clubs, contractors and others to create opportunities for improving local biodiversity.
- Engage with local residents and encourage volunteers to be involved and help the Parish Council to achieve its aims of enhancing local biodiversity.
- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the management of its assets and activities across all its policies, processes, operations and practices.
- Seek and utilise local knowledge and expertise provided by volunteers to help guide its work.
- Consider appropriate ways of supporting other independent or autonomous initiatives, if and when cases arise.

The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity by adopting directly or encouraging the implementation of ecologically beneficial practices such as:

- Reducing the use of peat and chemical pesticides (and the potential harm caused) on Parish Council owned land, and using organic or non-harmful alternatives wherever possible
- Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
- Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
- Removing invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as necessary
- Encouraging and supporting the creation and maintenance of more neighbourhood mini-meadows
- Encouraging the planting of native deciduous broadleaf trees and look for an opportunity to establish a community orchard
- Encouraging nature-friendly planting in flower beds
- Encouraging nature-sensitive mowing regimes for the parish verges
- Ensuring that there are margins of uncut grass around the hedges and trees to allow longer grasses and wildflowers to grow
- Limiting hedge cutting to twice a year at most and ensuring that all hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season
- Purchasing and installing bird boxes, bat roosts and bug hotels on the Parish Council owned trees and buildings, and encouraging others to adopt similar practices
- Encouraging nature-friendly farming practices

LHPC will implement fully the commitments to enhance biodiversity as set out in the 2023 Littleton Village Design Statement and apply their underlying principles more widely whenever appropriate. For ease of reference, the relevant policies are set out at the end of this policy statement.

LHPC will continue to advocate for both the preservation of the northern grasslands and the existing SINC that form part of MoD Flowerdown for their biodiversity value which with appropriate management, has the potential to be enhanced. Similarly, it will continue to press for the retention of the Littleton Gap.

The Council will continue to seek improvements for biodiversity when considering other planning applications in the parish.

Reporting

Although parish councils are not required under the Environment Act 2021 to produce and publish a Biodiversity Report, it nevertheless provides an opportunity to communicate how the Council is helping to improve the environment and demonstrate the positive changes it is achieving or trying to make happen, not just in the interests of biodiversity but for the community more widely.

Therefore, LHPC commits to reviewing progress for implementing the policy annually in November by receiving a report from the Parish Action on the Climate Emergency (PACE) Group.

Note of LVDS policy statements:

- The existing indigenous green infrastructure is important for the rural setting of the village. The rural character of the lanes should be respected, particularly in retaining and maintaining the hedgerows and trees that define them. Naturalised woodland, hedgerows, road banks (a characteristic of Littleton), green verges and green open spaces should be protected, and removal or reduction will be resisted. Developments should retain and integrate important woodland, trees, hedgerows, and historic banks and boundaries by appropriate siting of buildings, their accesses and car parking. All hedges and trees which are in good condition and contribute to the area should be conserved or replaced during development. Development proposals which will damage existing green infrastructure will be resisted. (LVDS, Policy D5)
- New developments (where approved) which will implement new informal green infrastructure should use indigenous planting, particularly on plot frontages (native trees, shrubs and hedges), local materials and minimal hard detailing (wooden bar gates and post and rail fencing) to maintain the rural character of the village. New landscaping should be integrated into the existing green infrastructure without the loss or erosion of existing features which provide a valuable habitat for plants and wildlife. Development proposals which will not conform to these ideas will be resisted. Development plots should be adequate in size to retain existing important trees because of their contribution to the overall setting and character of the village. Planning applications which may affect important trees should be accompanied by a detailed tree and hedge survey together with an arboriculture report. Planning for new trees should consider the suitability of the long-term setting and the potential impact on neighbours. (LVDS, Policy D7)
- The existing tree cover (native trees) is an important contribution to the Civil Parish and the setting of the village as a whole and should where possible be protected and maintained. Planning applications for developments that would remove locally important, mature or veteran trees (with or without a TPO) and hedgerows will be resisted. (LVDS, Policy D8)
- Developments should take up opportunities to create or improve biodiversity and conserve the green infrastructure by maintaining, renewing, and strengthening landscape features such as open spaces, woodland, trees, hedgerows, banks, habitats and other features of nature conservation interest in the village. (LVDS, Policy D9)

N.B. *This Biodiversity Policy and associated objectives do not include any SMART targets, as at this stage it could feel too onerous or prescriptive for a small body that relies on the actions of others as well as taking actions under its own control to achieve its aims and the implementation of its policy.*

Appendix B: Principles of the Tree Charter

Supported by the Woodland Trust, the Charter for Trees, Woods and People sets out the principles for a society in which people and trees can stand stronger together. The Tree Charter was launched in Lincoln Castle on 6 November 2017; the 800th anniversary of the 1217 Charter of the Forest. The Tree Charter is rooted in more than 60,000 'tree stories' gathered from people of all backgrounds across the UK. Its headline principles are:

1. Sustain landscapes rich in wildlife
2. Plant for the future
3. Celebrate the power of trees to inspire
4. Grow forests of opportunity and innovation
5. Protect irreplaceable trees and woods
6. Plan greener local landscapes
7. Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees
8. Make trees accessible to all
9. Combat the threats to our habitats
10. Strengthen our landscapes with trees.

For further information, see <https://treecharter.uk/pdf/Tree-Charter-Principles.pdf>

Appendix C: List of species at the Tumulus Field

Flora

The following wildflower species were recorded as being present in the grassed area in 2019-20:

Cowslip	Salad Burnet
Field Speedwell	Ragwort
Dropwort	Ladies Bedstraw
Agrimony	Chalk Bedstraw
Hemp Agrimony	Toadflax
Dark Mullein	Wild Parsnip
Betony	Pyramidal Orchid
Wild Mignonette	

Unfortunately, most of these species have declined in recent years for reasons that are not entirely clear. The most likely candidates are global warming and/or uncollected grass cuttings, most probably a combination of the two.

Other recorded plant species recorded within the woodland scrub area included

Stinking Hellebore	Golden Rod (garden escape)
Dog Rose	Cyclamen (garden escape)

The woodland scrub area included the following tree species:

Sycamore	Spindle
Elder	Hawthorn
Ash	Blackthorn
Yew	

The woodland scrub area is not in particularly good condition, with several trees either dead or dying, but this in itself makes it a valuable habitat for nesting birds and many types of insect. **A policy of minimal intervention is therefore recommended for this area until more expert advice can be obtained.**

Fungi

A Puffball fungus was recorded on the large disc barrow and Jelly Ear was noted on some elder trees. There may be other fungi present which would require an expert to identify.

Fauna

During the same period, the following butterfly species were recorded:

Marbled White	Common Blue
Gatekeeper	Brimstone

It would be interesting to carry out a moth survey at some stage if the expertise could be found locally.

Birds (noted on a daily basis, therefore possibly nesting on site):

Great Tit	Song Thrush
Blue Tit	Mistle Thrush
Long-tailed Tit	Dunnock
Greenfinch	Wren
Goldfinch	Tawny Owl
Chaffinch	Green Woodpecker
Bullfinch	Jay
Blackbird	
Robin	

Visiting birds included

Kestrel	Common Buzzard
Red Kite	

Slow worms were recorded in large numbers and Fox and Deer have been reported by local residents.
(Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Tumulus Field, January 2021)

More recent observations have identified the following:

Wildflowers

Native species on the large disc Barrow, with some spreading into other grassy areas:

Widespread:-

Cowslip	Lady's bedstraw
Primrose	Knapweed
Salad burnet	Agrimony
White campion	Dark mullein
Red campion	Betony
Red clover	Hemp agrimony
Mouse ear	Yarrow
Plantain	Wild basil
Speedwell	Ragwort
Meadow buttercup	Wild parsnip
Dropwort	Toadflax
Field bindweed	Red bartsia
Chalk bedstraw	

Occasional:

Common Broomrape	Pyramidal orchid
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Species identified in the new butterfly glade include:

Cuckoo pint	Goose grass
Speedwell	Bittersweet
Cow parsley	Mouse ear
Bramble	Chickweed
Welsh poppy (garden escape)	Nipplewort
Dandelion	Wood avens
Herb Bennet	Wild mignonette
Buttercup	Dark mullein
Hedge garlic (Jack-by-the-hedge)	Toadflax
Herb Robert	Dog violet
Groundsel	Celandine
Ragwort	Yarrow.

Butterflies (frequent, though not a complete list)

Marbled white	Meadow brown
Brimstone	Various whites
Gatekeeper	

Small blue and orange tip have been noted in the new glade.

Birds (commonly heard in woodland):

Bullfinch	Long-tailed tit
Greenfinch	Song thrush
Dunnock	Blackbird
Blackcap	Greater-spotted woodpecker
Great tit	Jay
Blue tit	

Tawny owl is less frequently heard than in previous years

Bats (recorded by the Winchester Bat group in Kennel Lane and observed using the Barrow site)

Pipistrelle	Noctule
Serotine	

(Volunteer observations, Summer 2023)

Appendix D: Flowerdown Wildlife and Biodiversity at Stake:

an analysis based on surveys conducted by Capita (October 2021) on behalf of the DIO

- a) **SINCs** - The surveys note that the Preliminary Ecological Assessment stated that the grassland area to the east of the developed area is a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC), known as Flowerdown SINC. Although this is a non-statutory designation, it is vital for ensuring that the planning system recognises, protects and enhances special sites and gives due consideration to biodiversity. **We recommend the creation of an additional SINC across the whole area of the site surrounding the existing built-up area of the barracks. Furthermore, we consider that the existence of SINCs on the site should be formally recognised within the planning process.**
- b) **Habitat for invertebrate species** – Grassland to the north of the site provides habitat for a range of common and notable invertebrate species, particularly butterflies, grasshoppers and pollinators. Other habitats including tussocky grassland in the north, as well as woodland edge and scrub, also support a broad range of invertebrates. One hundred and fifty-eight species of invertebrates were recorded during the survey. These included 1 Red Listed species, 13 Nationally Notable species and 35 species with Local Distributions. Three Section 41 species were recorded. The Nationally notable species included solitary bees *Hylaeus cornutus* and *Lasioglossum pauxillum*, the Striped Lychnis moth, and *Shargacucullia lychnitis*. The Striped Lychnis is a very scarce moth (included in the Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan – BAP), mostly restricted to calcareous sites in central southern England. The main foodplant for the larvae is Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*, and a number of the distinctive caterpillars of this moth were found on Dark Mullein plants at the entrance to the northern training area.

We have a rare opportunity to protect and enhance this wildlife. With correct management, the grassland areas could become havens for biodiversity and link to existing sites such as the Littleton Barrow allowing chalk downland flowers and the dependent wildlife to spread and flourish.

- c) **Range of habitat** – the Flowerdown SINC produced the most species of invertebrates (137) with 65 in the north training area and 37 from the Officers' Mess grassland area. Although the surveyors suggest that this can be partially explained by comparatively more survey effort in the SINC and variations in the relative size of the areas, they also consider the SINC to have a greater range of habitats – a concession that this is a site of significant biodiversity. However, of the species recorded, 20% of those in the northern training area that were NOT recorded in the SINC indicate that the richness of invertebrate life is not confined to the current SINC.
- d) **Bats** – the surveys report that the site is home to roosting common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and possibly individual long-eared bats within 10 buildings within the site. Local people have observed serotine and noctule bats in Kennel Lane which is directly adjacent to the site although the surveys did not notice these. Consideration will need to be given to habitat lost from the current buildings when they are demolished and the current plantation would provide a good habitat for bats.
- e) **Plant life** - Along the borders of the site local people have observed white helleborines (wild orchids). They need dappled shade and are classified as 'nationally vulnerable'¹⁰. With careful management of land within the site, they could spread beyond the fragile existence they currently have. The Flowerdown SINC grasslands represent a substantial area of unimproved grassland. In addition, the areas at the top of the slope (more subject to rabbit grazing) have an affinity to fixed dune grassland communities which are a rare habitat in Britain. The small area of chalk grassland above the firing range to the north of the existing developed area had an affinity to an HPI chalk grassland community (a priority habitat of ecological value) which meets County SINC qualification criteria¹¹.

¹⁰ A vascular plant red list for England. Botanical Society for England and Ireland. 2022 pp 45,80 https://bsbi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/England_Red_List_1.pdf

¹¹ DIO Environmental Impact Assessment. Volume 3 Appendices. Summary 1.1.5 p4

- f) **Badgers** - 20 badger setts were recorded within the site by the survey with one active main sett, one active subsidiary sett, one disused subsidiary sett and 15 active or partially active outlier setts. Two disused outlier setts were also recorded. Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. This makes it an offence to wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to attempt to do so; or to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett. Sett interference includes disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, as well as damaging or destroying a sett or obstructing access to it.

In addition, a further 11 mammal paths of unknown origin were recorded. These were located in the woodland to the north of the main fenced compound, on the margins of the northern grasslands, in woodland in the north-west of the site, in grassland and woodland in the western part of the fenced compound and within grassland in Flowerdown SINC. Some of these are likely to have been mainly deer or rabbit paths given the known presence of both species (based on direct surveyor observation) but, given the presence of badger setts nearby, some use or shared use with badgers is also possible.

- g) **Breeding Birds** – Although the survey considered that the bird community was dominated by common and widespread species, there are some species of conservation concern. This includes the specially protected firecrest which was noted to be using four potential territories within mixed woodland habitats to the east of the SINC and also potentially in the woodland in the north-east of the site. A goshawk (a possible breeder) was also sighted. In all locations where firecrests were recorded, the closely-related goldcrest was also present. However, firecrests were limited to these areas of woodland whereas goldcrests had a more widespread distribution across the site where mixed trees occurred.

A total of 38 species of birds were recorded as confirmed or potentially breeding within the site. The majority of bird activity was focused in woodland areas and other dense habitats, although the existing built area and associated landscaping and trees did support some additional species such as jackdaws and rooks.

- h) **Hazel dormice** – Hazel dormice live within coppiced hazel woodland in the north-west of the site. Hazel dormouse nests were also noted in an established scrubby hedgerow adjacent to grassland in the northwest of the site (opposite field boundary to the hazel coppice). In light of these results, it is assumed that hazel dormice are present within all woodland/hedgerow habitats on the peripheries of the large grassland areas in the north of the site. Despite no signs of hazel dormice being identified within woodland parcels in the north and north-east of the site, suitable habitat remains present and there is connectivity to this area from the confirmed locations. These corridors are vital to ensure that natural life can connect and thrive. Careful thought needs to go into ensuring that these links to habitats are not broken.
- i) **Reptiles** - Two species of reptile live on the site: the slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and the common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*. Peak counts of both species indicated exceptional and good populations being present on the site as a whole. The northern grassland area and Flowerdown SINC were found to both support exceptional populations of slow worms, with the northern grassland area supporting an exceptional population of common lizards and the SINC supporting a “good” population of common lizards. Reptile distribution was widespread across both areas with higher numbers associated with field margins on the northern field boundaries, margins of scrub and a vegetation refuse area in the northern grassland area. The surveyors adjudged that the site does not meet the SSSI selection criteria (for reptiles) but does meet both the SINC and Key Reptile Site selection criteria.

(Extract from: Implications of the proposed development of Flowerdown on biodiversity and ecology, LHPC brief in support of extending the Flowerdown SINC, June 2023)

Appendix E: Flowerdown Ecology & Wildlife

(extracted from B. Middleton (2021), Flowerdown - Sir John Moore Barracks: A summary of the Chalkland Ecology, Flooding, Planning Status and Military History of Flowerdown.)

The sources of the following information are the:

- HCC SINC Flowerdown Sir John Moore Barracks (SU46403210) 43-0043, 10th August 2017, Reference 43-0043
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland database maintained by the BSBI North Hampshire Recorder

a. Flora

Over many years, 212 plant species have been recorded on Flowerdown and these are named in the tables below. Of these, 13 are nationally scarce, vulnerable, endangered or near threatened and are marked in yellow. These records include recent and historic observations. Whether rare chalkland plants are still present is unknown but must be determined.

The southern SINC site bordering Harestock Road/Andover Road records the same species (noted below as YES).

During the construction of the present Sir John Moore barracks the entire site was planted with 35,500 trees both for environmental reasons and to provide cover for infantry training.

Taxon number	The species marked below are also found in SINC No WC0066 Flowerdown/SU46403210	Taxon	Common Name	Number of observations
1		<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	7
2	YES	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	7
3	YES	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	6
4		<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort	1
5	YES	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	5
6	YES	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	1
7	YES	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	8
8	YES	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	2
9	YES	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	2
10		<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	5
11		<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian Alder	1
12		<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	1
13		<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	5
14		<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	1
15	YES	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	1
16	YES	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	8
17	YES	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	1
18	YES	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass	2
19	YES	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	1
20		<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	6
21		<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress	1
22	YES	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	4
23		<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony	3
24	YES	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	2
25	YES	<i>Betula sp.</i>	a birch	1
26	YES	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome	1
27		<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony	3
28	YES	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	7
29		<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	3
30	YES	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered Bellflower	8
31		<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress	1
32	YES	<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle	4
33		<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle	2
34	YES	<i>Carex divulsa</i>	Grey Sedge	1
35	YES	<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	2

Figure 8: Trees planted at the Sir John Moore Barracks site – numbered 1 to 35

36	YES	Carex spicata	Spiked Sedge	3
37	YES	Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	6
38		Centaurea nigra agg.		1
39	YES	Centaurea scabiosa	Greater Knapweed	7
40	YES	Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	6
41		Chaerophyllum temulum	Rough Chervil	1
42	YES	Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	8
43	YES	Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	1
44		Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	8
45		Clematis vitalba	Traveller's-joy	6
46	YES	Clinopodium vulgare	Wild Basil	7
47		Coeloglossum viride	Frog Orchid	1
48		Conium maculatum	Hemlock	1
49	YES	Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	8
50	YES	Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	7
51		Corylus avellana	Hazel	1
52	YES	Cotoneaster sp.	a cotoneaster	1
53	YES	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	8
54	YES	Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard	6
55		Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue	1
56	YES	Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	8
57	YES	Daucus carota	Carrot	3
58		Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass	1
59	YES	Dipsacus fulvonum	Wild Teasel	8
60	YES	Elytaria repens	Common Couch	1
61		Elytaria repens agg.		1
62	YES	Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	1
63		Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	6
64	YES	Euphrasia agg.	Eyebright	1
65		Euphrasia nemorosa		5
66		Fagus sylvatica	Beech	4
67		Festuca ovina	Sheep's-fescue	1
68		Festuca ovina agg.	Sheep's-fescue	2
69	YES	Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	1
70	YES	Filipendula vulgaris	Dropwort	8
71		Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	7
72		Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory	1
73		Galium album	Hedge Bedstraw	5
74	YES	Galium aparine	Cleavers	7

Figure 9: Trees planted at the Sir John Moore Barracks site – numbered 36 to 74

75	YES	Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	5
76		Genista tinctoria	Dyer's Greenweed	1
77	YES	Gentianaella amarella	Autumn Gentian	1
78	YES	Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	6
79		Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	5
80	YES	Geranium pratense	Meadow Crane's-bill	4
81		Geranium pusillum	Small-flowered Crane's-bill	1
82	YES	Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	1
83		Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	3
84	YES	Glechoma hederacea	Ground-ivy	8
85		Hedera helix	Common Ivy	1
86		Hedera helix agg.	Ivy	3
87		Helianthemum nummularium	Common Rock-rose	7
88	YES	Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	8
89	YES	Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	4
90	YES	Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St John's-wort	1
91	YES	Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	8
92		Ilex aquifolium	Holly	1
93		Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Iris	1
94	YES	Juglans regia	Walnut	3
95	YES	Knaulia arvensis	Field Scabious	4
96		Lamium album	Garden Yellow-archangel	1
97	YES	Lamium purpureum	White Dead-nettle	7
98		Lapsana communis	Red Dead-nettle	2
99		Larix decidua	Nipplewort	2
100	YES	Lathyrus pratensis	European Larch	1
101		Leontodon hispidus	Meadow Vetchling	6
102		Leontodon saxatilis	Rough Hawkbit	3
103	YES	Ligustrum vulgare	Lesser Hawkbit	6
104		Linaria vulgaris	Wild Privet	8
105	YES	Linum catharticum	Common Toadflax	2
106		Lolium perenne	Fairy Flax	5
107	YES	Lotus corniculatus	Perennial Rye-grass	1
108		Malus sylvestris	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	7
109	YES	Malva moschata	Crab Apple	1
110		Malva sylvestris	Musk-mallow	2
111	YES	Medicago lupulina	Common Mallow	1
112		Melilotus altissimus	Black Medick	4
113			Tall Melilot	1

Figure 10: Trees planted at the Sir John Moore Barracks site – numbered 75 to 110

111		<i>Mercunialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	1
112	YES	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not	8
113		<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Early Forget-me-not	1
114		<i>Narcissus agg.</i>	Cultivated Daffodil	5
115		<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid	1
116	YES	<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	7
117	YES	<i>Ononis repens</i>	Common Restharrow	2
118	YES	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Wild Marjoram	6
119	YES	<i>Orobancha elatior</i>	Knapweed Broomrape	3
120		<i>Orobancha minor</i>	Common Broomrape	2
121		<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	1
122	YES	<i>Pastinaca sativa sens. lat.</i>	Parsnip	6
123		<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's-tail	1
124		<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	1
125		<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion	2
126	YES	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet-saxifrage	6
127	YES	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	7
128	YES	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	3
129		<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	1
130		<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	1
131	YES	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	7
132	YES	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	Salad Burnet	7
133	YES	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	7
134	YES	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	4
135	YES	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	3
136		<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	7
137		<i>Pseudofumaria lutea</i>	Yellow Corydalis	1
138	YES	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	7
139		<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	3
140		<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	4
141	YES	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	6
142	YES	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	7
143		<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	6
144	YES	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	3
145	YES	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn	8
146	YES	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	3
147	YES	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False-acacia	1
148	YES	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose	3
149		<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog-rose	3

Figure 11: Trees planted at the Sir John Moore Barracks site – numbered 111 to 149

150	YES	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet-briar	1
151		<i>Rosa sp.</i>	a Rose	1
152	YES	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	7
153		<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	1
154		<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	2
155	YES	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	8
156	YES	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	5
157		<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock	3
158	YES	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	1
159		<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	1
160		<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	7
161		<i>Scabiosa columbana</i>	Small Scabious	1
162		<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	Tail Fescue	1
163		<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue	1
164		<i>Scorzonoides autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	1
165	YES	<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort	2
166	YES	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	8
167	YES	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	1
168		<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	5
169	YES	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	7
170		<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	5
171		<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	1
172		<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canadian Goldenrod	1
173	YES	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial Sow-thistle	4
174		<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	6
175	YES	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	2
176		<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common Whitebeam	5
177		<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	7
178		<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	2
179		<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	1
180	YES	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey	1
181		<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	1
182	YES	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion	7
183		<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	6
184		<i>Tephrosia integrifolia</i>	Field Fleawort	1
185		<i>Thesium humifusum</i>	Bastard-toadflax	1
186		<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme	2
187		<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	1
188		<i>Tonlis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-parsley	2

Figure 12 Trees planted at the Sir John Moore Barracks site – numbered 150 to 188

189	YES	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	2
190	YES	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	1
191	YES	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	7
192	YES	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	2
193		<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	1
194		<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colts-foot	7
195	YES	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	8
196	YES	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	9
197		<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	4
198		<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell	1
199	YES	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	8
200		<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Slender Speedwell	1
201		<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	4
202		<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell	3
203		<i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field-speedwell	1
204		<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	3
205	YES	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring-tree	4
206	YES	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	3
207	YES	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	4
208		<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath Dog-violet	1
209	YES	<i>Viola hirta</i>	Hairy Violet	3
210		<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	2
211		<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet	1
212	YES	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	5

Figure 13 Trees planted at the Sir John Moore Barracks site – numbered 188 to 212

b. Fauna

The following are listed in the SINC. It should be noted that this was not a 24-hour survey and probably took place on a single summer day in August 2017. It would inevitably have missed many species of seasonal flora and fauna.

Reptiles

Slow worms – seen informally, numerous in the area but unrecorded by the SINC survey

Mammals

Hedgehogs– were not surveyed but have been seen on the site.

Bats – were not surveyed but have been seen on the site.

Red Fox, Muntjac and Roe Deer (each seen informally), Rabbits, Moles, Badgers may be present but were not observed during the survey.

Field mice – seen informally but not formally recorded.

Birds

Buzzard, Woodpigeon, Green Woodpecker

Note: The absence of small birds can be explained by the inevitable disturbance caused by the SINC recorders, but we simply do not know until a full wildlife survey is conducted.

Other birds sighted informally and recorded on Flowerdown include:

Chaffinches, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Partridge, Pheasants, Wrens, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Robins, Blackbirds

Additional note:

One resident, in feedback on the 2020 Flowerdown / Sir John Moore Barracks development consultation noted that from their proximity to Flowerdown they had observed Roe Deer, Muntjack Deer, Badger, Fox, Buzzard, Tawny Owl, Jays, Red Kite, Kestrel, and Sparrowhawk plus more common birds and wildlife such as hedgehogs, blackbirds, finches (including a flock of 30 Goldfinch on one occasion), sparrows, various tits, etc.

Appendix F: List of wildflowers found at the Buriton Road Neighbourhood Meadow

Hawkbitt	Ragwort
Small Flowered Cranesbill	Chamomile
Common Thistle	Scarlet
Corn Cockle	Pimpernel
Yarrow	Cornflower
Mayweed	Ragwort
Hogweed	Doves Foot Cranesbill
Herb Robert	Common Poppy
Herb Bennett	Blue Tansy
Medick	Numerous species of grass

Identified by volunteers in 2023

Seed mix being sown in Autumn 2023

The following are the native chalk-down wildflowers forming our largely perennial mix:

Agrimony	Hoary Plantain
Hedge Bedstraw	Sainfoin
Lady's Bedstraw	Field Scabious
Black Medick	Small Scabious
Salad Burnet	Self-heal
Wild Carrot	Toadflax
Cowslip	Birds-foot Trefoil
Common Knapweed	Kidney Vetch
Wild Marjoram	Yarrow
Meadowsweet	

Some annuals will also be added, which although arguably not native to the chalk down wild meadows are natural to the agricultural land on which Harestock was built:

Chamomile	
Corn Cockle	Corn Marigold
Cornflower	Common Poppy

Appendix G: List of wildflowers found in Harestock front lawns

Agrimony	Lesser Hawkbit
Hedge Bedstraw	Lesser Smooth Hawksbeard
Lady's Bedstraw	Common or Lesser Knapweed
Field Bindweed	Wild Marjoram
Creeping or meadow Buttercup	Black Medick
Common Cats ear	Common Poppy
Red Clover	Common Ragwort
White Clover	Greater Plantain
Cornsalad	Ribwort Plantain
Dove's foot Cranesbill	St John's Wort
Daisy	Field Scabious
Dandelion	Self-heal
Field Forget-me-not	Sun Spurge
Common Fumitory	Common Storksbill
Common Groundsel	Bird's Foot Trefoil
Harebell	Yarrow

(Identified by local resident 2023)

Appendix H: Butterflies seen in Littleton

Over the last 5 years (2019-23), a volunteer of the local branch of the Butterfly Conservation (BC) has conducted a simple transect survey twice a year from the Main Road by the Tumulus Field, through the village, and then west to the end of Littleton Lane until its junction with the Stockbridge Road. The butterflies seen (mainly around the hedgerows of Littleton Lane) were counted as part of the BC’s Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey scheme. Over this period, 13 species have been observed (although some have only been singletons) as follows

Brimstone	Painted Lady
Comma	Peacock
Gatekeeper	Red Admiral
Green-veined White	Ringlet
Holly Blue	Small/Essex Skipper
Large White	Speckled Wood
Meadow Brown	

(Record provided by local volunteer)