

LITTLETON & HARESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (LHPC)

2026 Biodiversity Objectives

1. Introduction

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

2. Biodiversity Objectives for 2026

This document describes the biodiversity objects approved by Littleton and Harestock Parish Council for 2026.

2.1. Under direct control of the Parish Council

The following table indicates the biodiversity objectives that can be undertaken by the Parish Council as they are related to work within its remit or on council owned, leased or licensed land.

Table 1: Biodiversity objectives under the direct control of the Parish Council

Item	Objective	Priority Rating	2025 Assessment	Change for 2026	Key People
Council Policies, Procedures and Management Practices	i. The Parish Council will continue to be mindful of its responsibility towards biodiversity, by constantly asking itself, "Is there a biodiversity dimension or impact to this?" In particular, it will: a. Initiate review of the portfolio of Parish Council policies, procedures and practices to ensure it is providing a biodiversity angle on all relevant cases b. support the Estates Working Group to review its works schedule to give a greater emphasis on adding biodiversity gain / support	HIGH	n/a	New for 2026 to provide greater prominence and focus	Cllr D Tozer/ Clerk, Estates Working Group / Parish Council

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	in parallel with safety issues when reviewing existing planned and future projects c. consider joining the Parish Pollinator Network coordinated by HCC (which encourages initiatives such as leaving deadwood for invertebrates or choosing pollinator friendly plants) d. identifying and mapping the Parish's own sensitive 'Sites of Particular Parish Value' (SPPV) to bring together all locations and features that should be valued and offer potential opportunities for supporting greater biodiversity				
LVDS	ii. Ensure that the Littleton Village Design Statement (LVDS)'s commitment to enhancing local biodiversity is vigorously pursued.	HIGHEST	GREEN	No change from 2025	Cllr J Biddlecombe
Tumulus Field	iii. Continue to pursue improved practical relationships with English Heritage so that the Parish Council can: a. 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. b. seek agreement to thin or cutback any deadwood or invasive trees, shrubs or plants that threaten the vitality of the field.	HIGH	AMBER	Minor rewording	Clerk and Volunteers
Tumulus Field	iv. Review the Volunteer-led Conservation Management Plan for the Tumulus Field.	HIGHEST	AMBER	Minor edit	Volunteers, PACE Working Group, Clerk, Estates Working Group
Recreation Ground	v. The Estates Working Group will develop a plan and programme for repairing the various 'internal' hedges and trees where necessary by: conducting a full review of its hedges to identify concerns (e.g. invasive ivy) and biodiversity benefits like supporting butterflies or providing other habitats.	HIGH	RED	Re-styled to give clearer focus	Estates Working Group, Clerk

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	- consider initiatives such as (but not limited to) filling gaps in the hedges that could do with replanting with a mix of native trees and bushes - introducing bug hotels - leaving tree stumps and piles of deadwood or logs to help provide habitats.				
Recreation Ground	vi. The Parish Council will aim to either avoid, reduce or utilise less harmful pesticides products whenever feasible to mitigate any potential harm: - on its own land - clarifying with each individual Sports Club if they use any pesticides for the area(s) that they use - elsewhere when it is in a position to influence management practices.	MEDIUM	AMBER	Revised to make the role of Sports Clubs clearer	Estates Working Group, Clerk
Recreation Ground	vii. Keep under review 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.	MEDIUM	AMBER	No change from 2025	Estates Working Group, Clerk
Conservation Field	viii. To maintain and enhance whenever possible the biodiversity of the Conservation Field by reviewing internally the 2025 Ecological Assessment and Biodiversity Management Plan to produce a more detailed action plan for 2026-27 to progress its ambitions, including a rotation mowing regime	MEDIUM	GREEN	Revised to include focus on Management Plan implementation	Estates Working Group, Clerk, PACE Working Group
Conservation Field	viii. To maintain and enhance whenever possible the biodiversity of the Conservation Field by to seek further professional advice and quotes to thin out dominating poplar and cherry tree saplings.	HIGH	RED	Reworded	Estates Working Group, Clerk, PACE Working Group

Item	Objective	Priority Rating	2025 Assessment	Change for 2026	Key People
Flower beds	ix. To adopt a 'planting for biodiversity' approach that is embedded into management processes, agreements, and instructions relevant to contractors or volunteers in order to attract bees, butterflies, insects and other wildlife for the flower beds at the Harestock shops, Littleton Main Road 'island', Littleton Pond and by the Parish Office.	HIGHEST	RED	Minor edits, including removing reference to Buriton Road meadow as covered elsewhere	Estates Working Group, Volunteers, Contractors, Clerk
Engaging expertise	x. The Parish Council will continue to access expertise from appropriate local volunteers and other stakeholder groups to support and inform its biodiversity policies and practices e.g. the local Wildlife Trust and others to push for more active management of the woods that form part of the 'southern' SINC at SJMB to improve their biodiversity potential.	HIGH	GREEN	No change from 2025	Parish Council, PACE Working Group, Clerk
MoD Flowerdown / Sir John Moore Barracks	xi. The Council will maintain its current approach towards the SJMB site to achieve the best biodiversity gain and biodiversity-sensitive public access through engagement 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.	HIGHEST	GREEN	Rewording	Parish Council, Development & Planning Working Group
MoD Flowerdown / Sir John Moore Barracks	xii. The Council will continue to advocate for the retention of the Littleton Gap, of which the MoD Flowerdown site is a key constituent part. This will include putting its case to local representatives, planning officials and presenting evidence at relevant future public inquiries.	HIGHEST	GREEN	Minor edit	Parish Council, Development & Planning Working Group
Planning Applications	xiii. LHPC will proactively advocate for the provision of improved biodiversity opportunities (such as installing swift boxes and hedgehog highways) and safeguarding tree root protection areas wherever appropriate when considering planning applications. It will include statements on potential biodiversity benefits / impacts in its submissions whenever applicable.	HIGH	AMBER	Rewording	Parish Council Planning Team, Clerk

Item	Objective	Priority Rating	2025 Assessment	Change for 2026	Key People
Tree Charter	xiv. To continue to obtain professional expert advice for the management and maintenance of trees over which the Parish Council has responsibility in the interests of biodiversity alongside considerations of safety and tree health.	HIGH	GREEN	No change from 2025	Estates Working Group, Clerk
Tree Charter	xv. Undertaking a Parish-wide tree survey, including identifying any tree that should be given a tree preservation order (TPO), and look for suitable opportunities to plant new native trees in the Parish.	MEDIUM	AMBER	No change from 2025	Tree Warden, Clerk, PACE Working Group
Tree Charter	xvi. Review the Tree Charter Toolkit and assess any potential initiatives that promote wildlife and wider educational opportunities.	HIGH	RED	No change from 2025	PACE Working Group
Tree Charter	xvii. To identify an opportunity to establish a community orchard	LOW	RED	No change from 2025	Development & Planning Working Group; PACE Working Group

2.2. Using influence

The following table indicates the biodiversity objectives where it could be possible for the Parish Council to influence biodiversity actions by other organisations

Table 2: Biodiversity objectives where the council may be able to influence other organisations.

Item	Objective	Priority Rating	2025 Assessment	Change for 2026	Key People
Neighbourhood meadows	xviii. To continue supporting through the PACE group, a maintenance and seeding regime for the 'Buriton Road Meadow' for its further enhancement, and consider additional ways in which biodiversity can be enhanced on this patch e.g. establishing a bug hotel.	HIGH	GREEN	Minor edit	PACE Working Group

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Neighbourhood meadows	xix. To prioritise the viability of emerging opportunities in the Parish for the creation of additional neighbourhood meadows with the support of local volunteers, residents and Winchester City Council.	HIGH	AMBER	Minor rewording	PACE Working Group
Littleton Pond	xx. LHPC will seek 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.	LOW	RED	Minor edit	Estates Working Group, PACE Working Group, Clerk
Verges	xxi. 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.	LOW	AMBER	No change from 2025	Parish Council, Clerk, Volunteers
Lengthsman	xxii. The Lengthsman should be asked to ensure that he keeps bird nests safe during the breeding season (which may extend due to climate change affecting nesting times).	HIGHEST	AMBER	No change from 2025	Clerk
Surveys	xxiii. Encourage the continuation of the volunteer identification and recording of species to help build a Parish Biodiversity Profile that could potentially cover wildflowers, grasses, trees, birds, butterflies & moths, bees, bats, and insects, especially at (but not limited to) the Tumulus Field, Conservation Field, Buriton Road Meadow and Kennel Lane.	HIGH	AMBER	No change from 2025	PACE Working Group
Farmland	xxiv. The Parish Council will seek information on what sustainable practices in support of biodiversity parish farmers are implementing, such as reducing dependency on chemicals and creating wider field margins.	LOW	RED	Revised, combining two previous objectives	Cllr T Jackson, Cllr S Borthwick, PACE Working Group

Item	Objective	Priority Rating	2025 Assessment	Change for 2026	Key People
Local residents	xxv. The Parish Council will promote wildlife gardening and related activities, including through its links with the local gardening club. Such activities might include creation of meadow patches, provision of hedgehog 'highways' and feeding stations, and bird boxes.	HIGH	RED	No change from 2025	PACE Working Group
Communications and publicity	xxvi. LHPC will publicise and promote its work and actions to improve biodiversity through various channels including regular items in the monthly e-newsletter, noticeboards, and presence at the Littleton & Harestock Show.	HIGH	GREEN	No change from 2025	PACE Working Group, Clerk
Communications and publicity	xxii. Encourage residents to participate in events such as the RSPB's national Big Garden Birdwatch (23-25 January 2026), No-Mow May, and the Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count (July-Aug 2026) and encourage parishioners to share their sightings to help build up a fuller profile of some of the parish's wildlife.	HIGH	AMBER	Minor edit	PACE Working Group
Local schools	xxiii. LHPC will actively engage with local schools who have a biodiversity focus, as it recognises that instilling a responsibility for caring for nature in young children is one way of enhancing biodiversity in future years.	LOW	AMBER	No change for 2025	PACE Working Group, Clerk