



Spratton Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

(Environment Act 2021 – Section 40)

Adopted: January 2026

Review: January 2031

1. Purpose

Spratton Parish Council recognises its duty under **Section 40 of the Environment Act 2021** to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

The Council will meet this duty in a way that is **reasonable, proportionate, and appropriate** to its functions, landholdings, and resources.

2. Statutory Context

Section 40 requires public authorities to:

- Have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity
- Periodically consider what action they can take
- Prepare and publish a Biodiversity Report

The Council notes that this duty is one of **consideration**, not outcome, and does not override other statutory obligations such as health and safety or financial stewardship.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to Parish Council functions where biodiversity may be relevant, including:

- Management of East View cemetery and Brixworth Road cemetery
- Management of council-owned open spaces
- Grounds maintenance contracts
- Asset maintenance and improvements
- Advisory responses to planning consultations
- Community and partnership working

The Council acts as **custodian trustee** of the Recreation Field. Responsibility for day-to-day management rests with the Recreation Field Charity, and biodiversity decisions relating to that land are for the Charity trustees, not the Parish Council.

4. Practical and Proportionate Actions

Where appropriate, the Council may:

- Encourage biodiversity-friendly practices in grounds maintenance contracts
- Retain suitable habitat where compatible with safety and use
- Consider native planting and pollinator-friendly planting
- Balance biodiversity considerations with accessibility, dignity and safety in the cemetery
- Support or signpost community biodiversity initiatives

5. Contractors and Land Management

The Council will, where reasonable:

- Encourage contractors to follow biodiversity-sensitive practices
- Avoid unnecessary habitat disturbance
- Balance biodiversity with contractual, safety and operational requirements

6. Review and Reporting

The Council will publish a Biodiversity Report in accordance with Section 40 and review this policy at least every five years.

Spratton Parish Council

Biodiversity Report

(Environment Act 2021 – Section 40)

Reporting period: 2024–2029

1. Council Overview

Spratton Parish Council is a small parish council. Its relevant responsibilities include management of the parish cemetery and certain open spaces. The Council also acts as custodian trustee of the Recreation Field, with operational responsibility resting with the Recreation Field Charity.

2. Actions Taken

The Council has:

- Considered biodiversity impacts in the management of the cemetery and open spaces
- Balanced biodiversity with safety, dignity and accessibility, particularly within the cemetery

- Encouraged biodiversity-friendly approaches within grounds maintenance contracts where appropriate
- Taken biodiversity into account when responding to planning consultations (advisory role only)
- Supported community-led environmental initiatives where resources allow

3. Actions Considered

The Council has considered or may consider:

- Adjustments to grounds maintenance regimes where compatible with safety and use
- Retention of habitat features where appropriate
- Native and wildlife-friendly planting
- Information sharing with residents on biodiversity matters

4. Constraints and Limitations

The Council recognises constraints including:

- Limited land ownership
- Health and safety responsibilities
- Financial and staffing resources

The Council considers its approach to be **reasonable and proportionate** in line with its statutory duties.

5. Review

This report will be reviewed and updated at least every five years.

Version number	Purpose/change	Author	Date
0.1	Draft	Alan Youel	01/01/2026
0.1	Adopted	Alan Youel	20/01/2026