Congleton Town Council Historic market town

BROMLEY FARM GREEN SPACES: DRAFT BIODIVERSITY PLANS 24-26



Native bluebell, Bromley Farm Woods

GREEN SPACES INCLUDED:

24 Bromley Farm Woods

- 26 Windsor Place
- 25 Bromley Farm Play Area

Also see Introduction, Appendix 1 with survey plans and notes for each site, and Appendix 2 with examples and references.

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BROMLEY FARM WOODS Site biodiversity plan 24



Bromley Farm Woods, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Management of ancient woodland, areas of natural woodland regeneration, and lowland meadow developing into oak woodland so as to balance nature conservation with improved public access and damage reduction. The objectives for each area will need to be agreed following further assessment.

Site information

Location	To the east of the Bromley Farm estate, Congleton, accessed from Burns Road, Hutton Close, Hillary Avenue, and Biddulph Valley Way.
Description	Woodland on the southern slopes of the Dane in Shaw Brook valley, with informal paths
Total area	10.33 hectares (25.5 acres)
Use	Informal recreation - walking and play. Much of the woodland is densely vegetated and steep, so is not easily accessible. Accessible areas are affected by localised erosion, rubbish and trampling
UKBAP Priority Habitats & Species	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow. Specialist surveys needed to establish bird, mammal etc species present. Local Wildlife Site.
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	High. Trend - varies, depending on the woodland compartment.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement

B

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D

E

Area A - relatively recently regenerated woodland, used for play. Reduce sycamores and selectively coppice to open up glades. Scrub edges - food and cover for wildlife

Area C - regenerated woodland in former field. Fell sycamores to open up view and maintain glades. Create habitat piles





New native hedge - keep trimmed to maintain view of the Cloud

Remove rubbish from woodland edges

Area E - ancient semi natural woodland on steeper slopes with mostly continuous cover since at least early C19th - selective phased coppicing and thinning to improve tree species composition and structure



Area F - former pasture with regenerated woodland and lighter cover. Remove sycamore seedlings.

Area G - dense secondary woodland in incised clough with dense understorey. Reduce sycamore component to allow more light to woodland floor. Good habitat for birds, bats, mammals and many other forms of life



Culverted stream emerges from railway embankment.. Narrow valley bottom with damp-loving flora



along valley bottom improve path surface to reduce trampling

Retain cut wood as habitat piles

Stagnant and shaded pool - coppice or remove trees around it to let some light in.

Species rich ground flora

 Area B - some ancient woodland ground flora present in older woodland, but areas of erosion construct 'dead hedge' barriers to help regeneration

> Area D - woodland including alders and willows.
> Species-rich - protect sensitive areas from recreational pressure with 'dead hedging'.

-Straightened section of brook, leaving low-lying former meanders with sections of steep bank between. Long term - liaise with owner of land across brook to mutually allow natural channel to re-establish.

> Former field boundary - identify and protect occasional old hedgerow trees

> > Н



 Area H - Ancient semi-natural woodland with evidence of some replanting, including line of mature beech trees.

> Area J - neutral unimproved grassland (?) with scattered, locally dense natural regeneration of oaks and other species, and areas of scrub need to agree management objectives.

Restore silted up pond, removing young trees to south to reduce shading, to benefit many forms of life including amphibians. Protect former hedgerow trees near pond

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First draft April 2022

Note: Based on surveys carried out in April 2021. Further information welcomed. Plan is for discussion, and liable to change.

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BROMLEY FARM PLAY AREA Site biodiversity plan 25



Bromley Farm Play Area, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Provide opportunities for conservation-related activities which would develop the ecological potential of the existing former field boundary hedgerows and trees and introduce new features.

Site information

Location	Cloud View, Bromley Farm Estate, Congleton
Description	Neighbourhood park with community centre building, parking, play and
	sports facilities set in mown grass with boundary hedging, trees and
	amenity shrub planting.
Use	Play area, local community use
Total area	1.04 hectares (2.56 acres)
UK BAP Priority	Hedgerow with hedgerow trees. Adjacent to woodland, also a priority
habitats & species	habitat. Bromley Farm Woods is a Local Wildlife Site.
Biodiversity	Generally low or low-moderate (relative to 30 Congleton green spaces
evaluation 2022	surveyed) but with some natural assets and potential.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.

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WINDSOR PLACE GREEN SPACE Site biodiversity plan 26



Windsor Place green space, tilted aerial photo 2021

Biodiversity aims

Management of this neighbourhood nature reserve, with existing rough grassland and other habitats, for increased wildlife and community benefit.

Site information

Location	Off Windsor Place, between Bromley Farm estate and Park Lane, Congleton
Description	Informal open space Linear area, mainly rough grassland with boundary trees, hedges and scrub.
Use	Informal path through site is used mainly by local residents
Total area	0.36 hectares (0.9 acres)
UK BAP Priority Habitats 2022	Hedgerows - but none present are historic
Biodiversity evaluation 2022	Moderate. Trend - improving, with grassland left to flower, new orchard trees and native trees and shrubs recently planted. One of Congleton Town Council's rewilding sites.

Potential for biodiversity enhancement



Note

Proposals are based on a quick habitat survey carried out in April 2022. Additional data from people who use the site, local naturalists and others would be welcomed. These initial proposals are for discussion and consultation so are liable to change.