

ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

According to The Environment Act 2021 Parish Councils are required to contribute towards the increase in conservation and biodiversity in England.

Brightwell, Foxhall and Purdis Farm is a Joint Parish (Parish) and the environmental landscape differs in each parish. All natural assets are privately owned and therefore only within a sphere of influence involving outside agencies and community involvement. The Parish has no direct control over any assets.

Biodiversity encompasses not only all species of plants and animals but also the natural systems that support them. The Joint Parish is fortunate to have several different sites Of environmental interest.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The **object** of this policy is to conserve and enhance the biodiversity within the Parish boundary. The Parish **aims** to protect and enhance existing habitats and species with the following:

- Consider and integrate biodiversity into decision making including particular reference to planning.
- To encourage environmentally friendly practises in land management and the use of pesticides and fertilisers.

In specific areas:

Trees and Hedgerows

- Encourage an understanding of the value of trees.
- Promote participation with the preservation of mature specimens and younger trees, together with the planting of appropriate new trees.

Increase wildlife corridors by:

- Liaising with landowners to restore broken lines of hedgerows.
- Encourage connective practises in domestic gardens.
- Liaise with neighbouring parishes to facilitate the movement of wild life.

Verges and Footpaths

- Liaise with landowners, contractors and the District Council to maintain a mowing regime that increases the diversity of wild plants and to ensure that footpaths are passable.
- Community engagement to promote wild life friendly grass management in gardens with planting regimes that encourage insects.
- Increase the planting of verges with species that encourage insects.
- Discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilisers.
- Any chemicals used must comply with applicable current government guidelines and regulations.

Soil Erosion and Flooding

- Liaise with the Local Council, Highways and Landowners to reduce the degradation of cultivated fields and verges from the effects of wind, traffic and flooding.

Pollution

- Liaise with the Local Council and landowners to reduce and clear fly-tipping to mitigate the danger to wild animals and the pollution of Mill River.
- Monitor the speed of vehicles using the parishes VAS equipment to maintain good air quality and increase safe passage for wild animals.
- Encourage Motion sensor outside lighting to minimise light pollution.

Purdis Heath SSSI

- Promote education and awareness about the specific heathland environment and extant species particularly addressing the public use for recreation and dog walking.

Mill River Footpath

- Liaise with landowners and maintenance agencies to ensure safe public access along the boardwalk.

Community Engagement

The Parish has no community centre and all parish activities and reports are communicated via the website.

The quarterly Parish Magazine is the direct contact with the community. It is distributed to all households and includes information to encourage environmental awareness.

The Parish Council is very aware of the considerable pressure on the environmental future of this area and the importance of the involvement of local landowners and residents to enhance biodiversity.

Brightwell Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council
8th May 2026