

FOBP Friends of Broomfield Park



Ladybird and common blue September 2025

HABITATS GROUP REVIEW OF 2025

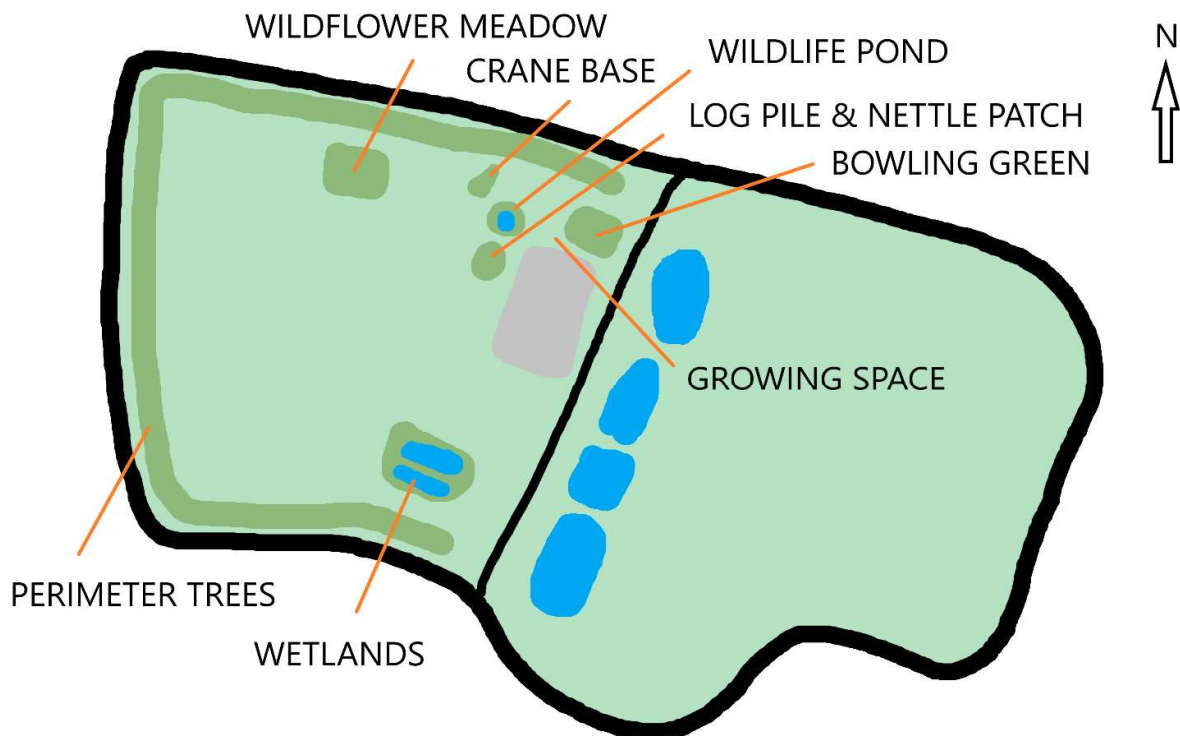
MATTHEW PIERCE
JANUARY 2026

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1 About the habitats group

We create and manage wildlife habitats in Broomfield Park, as shown on the map below. Information on the history, wildlife and management of these habitats is given in the relevant sections of this review, along with the latest developments in 2025.



habitats in Broomfield Park

Regular habitat group members, who turn out on Wednesday mornings all year round, are Finula Cilliers, Graham Cook, Berl Goldbart, Catherine Heatherington, Anna-Maria Klauk, Kim Lumley, Luke Osterly, James Osterly and myself.

Various others drop in occasionally, while Enfield Council provides ongoing assistance. In 2025 we were helped also by corporate groups from DEFRA, Elsyng Care Home and BNP Paribas, and by Thames 21, and we were most grateful for funding provided by the Palmers Greenery Community Café and the Chapman Charitable Trust.

We would like to thank everyone who got involved in 2025 and to ask anyone interested to please get in touch. Volunteering with FoBP is a chance to escape screens and drudgery, work with your hands, learn new skills, observe nature and make new friends.

1.1 Summary of 2025

- We laid our first section of hedge.
- We did some heavy one-off tasks e.g. installing anti-mower posts around meadows and trees, cutting back bowling green shrubbery and grubbing out brambles in the growing space.
- We continued developing wildflower meadows on the crane base and bowling green and created a new one in the growing space.
- We started to see signs that our butterfly habitat efforts are starting to benefit common blues, brimstones, peacocks and commas.

1.2 A look ahead

- After three years developing new habitats, we hope now to ease off on new projects and focus more on management and monitoring. We plan to find out more about bees and other invertebrates and perhaps make more of an effort to record birds in the park.
- We have so far neglected the perimeter tree planting in the park. We need to assess its condition and think about hedge-laying or rotational scrub management.
- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour make it difficult for us to develop the growing space into somewhere pleasant and useful for local people; I hope in 2026 we can try and tackle this problem.



preparing to lay the hedge

2 Wildflower meadow

<i>History:</i>	<i>2020 – Wildflower seed mixture sown on prepared ground</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>Wildflowers and grasses on mildly acidic clay soil in a fairly exposed location</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Frogs, grassland butterflies, common blue butterfly, moths, grasshoppers, bees, beetles</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>An annual late-summer mow. This helps wildflowers survive amongst the grass which would otherwise get thicker year-on-year and crowd them out. We remove the arisings and compost them on site.</i>

Prolonged dry weather in the spring slowed down the grass for the whole season, which is probably why the wildflowers did well this year. The mainstays of the meadow - lady's bedstraw, hedge bedstraw, bird's foot trefoil and common knapweed – all stood out.

There were some dense patches of yellow rattle where it was clearly suppressing the grass.



common knapweed

Over the summer we found a few immature field scabious, betony and wild marjoram plants from the Oct-2023 sowing that we thought had failed completely.

In October we planted meadow cranesbill plug plants, grown from seed collected on the banks of the New River nearby.

If they survive, these four species will add colour to the meadow and enhance its appeal to butterflies and bees. Field scabious, wild marjoram and meadow cranesbill all go on flowering late into the summer when other wildflowers have gone to seed.



yellow rattle going to seed



sorrel seed head

3 Crane base

<i>History:</i>	<i>2023 – Plastic mesh over sand and aggregate was used to create a platform for the crane used in the boating pond pump works 2024 – Wildflower seed sown in spring and autumn on a triangular section of the crane base and on some rough ground adjacent to it. We hoped the infertile substrate here would become sparsely vegetated, with patches of bare ground, and hence attractive to common blue and small copper butterflies (both uncommon locally). These two species like to bask on the ground. We sowed the base heavily with their larval foodplants: bird's foot trefoil, common sorrel and sheep's sorrel.</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>The crane base is sheltered by hedges and high ground to the south, east and north, but is well exposed to the sun and to SW breezes. The black plastic mesh might attract basking butterflies when it warms up in the sun. Wildflowers include self heal, black medick (a secondary larval foodplant of the common blue butterfly), ribwort plantain, odd common sorrel plants, yarrow and corn chamomile.</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Odd butterflies, but so far only two common blue sightings and no small coppers</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>Nothing yet on the crane base itself where the grass is not thick enough to warrant it; annual mowing on the adjacent ground where the soil seems richer</i>

Wildflowers and grasses on the crane base are starting to cover more of the ground. In the infertile dry soil, tall species like oxeye daisy and common mallow reach just a few inches in height and grass is very sparse.

There is still very little bird's foot trefoil or sorrel on the crane base, so in the autumn we scarified the ground and sowed yet more seed. Wet and mild weather over the next two months meant germination was good.

A couple of times the Council dumped topsoil on the crane base, partially covering our wildflower area, so we plan in 2026 to protect it with posts and signage.



common sorrel

4 Bowling green

<i>History:</i>	<i>2014 – The bowling club closed down and the green started being used for events 2024 – After 10 years of greatly reduced mowing, the green was populated with wildflowers e.g. oxeye daisy, bird's foot trefoil and bloody cranesbill. We decided to try and develop the margins into habitat for the common blue and small copper butterflies, with the rest of the green still available for events. We trimmed back shrubbery and filled in the shallow gutters at the edge with gravel and limestone chippings (as additional substrate variation).</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>The bowling green soil is low-fertility loam and cinders. The green is very sheltered, with hedges and shrubbery on all sides, and this makes it attractive to butterflies. Wildflower species not mentioned above include yarrow, lady's bedstraw and common cat's ear.</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Great tits, blue tits, robins, crows, wood pigeons, foxes, miner bees. Butterflies including whites, brimstones, speckled woods and holly blues. We spotted odd common blues and small coppers throughout the 2025 season.</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>So far there has been no need for any mowing of the margins at all. Probably in the long term a mow every two or three years might be needed.</i>

In March we sowed the margins with wildflower seed but the subsequent few weeks were very dry and germination appeared poor. We tried again in October - having first cut back and removed more of the shrubbery – and this was a lot more successful, with numerous seedlings on the bare earth areas and on the gravel and limestone chippings in the gutters.



wildflowers and grasses in the bowling green margins

5 Wetlands ponds, reeds and trees

<i>History:</i>	<i>2019 – Wetlands created as a water purification and flood buffer zone. Reeds planted in the ponds. Trees and pond-marginal flowering species planted at the water's edge 2020 – Alder trees planted on the south bank plus one on the east 2023 – Reedbed management started</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>Reedbeds of Norfolk reed, common bulrush and reed sweet grass clean the water by taking up pollutants e.g. nitrates and phosphates. In the margins are sedges, marsh marigold, water mint, purple loosestrife etc. Marginal trees are mainly white, grey and goat willows. Higher up the banks are hazel (north bank), alder and alder buckthorn (south bank)</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Frogs, sticklebacks, herons, kingfishers, moorhens, reed buntings, reed warblers, Cetti's warblers, chiff chaffs, goldfinches, siskins</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>One third of reeds cut and removed in rotation each year. Without this the wetlands would slowly dry out (due to dead reeds accumulating) and become less efficient at purifying the water. We need to remove most of the willow trees now in the wetlands (see below); any remaining after that can be managed by trimming, coppicing or pollarding.</i>

Helped by Enfield Council, Thames21 and a visiting group from BNP Paribas, we did all our reed cutting in one day in October. The Council took a while to take the reeds away, but are planning to coordinate better with us next year and possibly to mulch next year's crop for use in the park (much better than trucking it to the Edmonton incinerator).



wetlands after reed cutting

This year we realised there are far too many willow trees in the wetlands. They are problematic because their constant summer transpiration dries out the wetlands, while their shade inhibits the growth of reeds and wildflowers.



tightly packed willow trees due for removal

The drying effect is very noticeable in the margins which are rather barren, but where, in the absence of trees, we might expect species like meadowsweet, ragged robin and cuckoo flower to do well.

The Council have now kindly agreed, with funding from Thames21, to cut down the offending willows in Jan / Feb 2026 and to treat the stumps to prevent regrowth, so we hope in future to develop the margins accordingly.

The alder trees on the south bank are establishing well. We have seen goldfinches feeding on the seed cones, while siskins spotted in the wetlands in October may well have been doing the same.



alder buckthorn (foreground) & alder

6 Wetlands banks

<i>History:</i>	<i>2019 – Wetlands created - wildflower plugs planted on the banks 2022 – Annual management started</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>The east bank is similar to the wildflower meadow with a high proportion of wildflower species among the different grasses; on the other banks there are fewer wildflowers</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Frogs, grassland butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, bees, beetles</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>The same as for the wildflower meadow</i>

A devil's bit scabious plant and several bird's foot trefoil plants suddenly appeared in flower on the east bank. They are survivors of our May-2023 plug plants and further evidence of how slow wildflowers can be to establish themselves, or perhaps, how resilient they can be.



meadow buttercups and oxeye daises (above) ragged robin and devil's bit scabious (below)



7 Hedges

<i>History:</i>	<i>2016 – Native hedge tree whips planted around the newly created wildlife pond and in the growing space</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>The hedge consists of a triple row of hawthorn, blackthorn, wild cherry, bird cherry, field maple and dog rose; most of it is now 12-14 feet tall and needs laying</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Greenfinches frequent the hedge year round and feed on rose hips in the winter</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>We layed our first section of hedge this year and aim to introduce a four-year hedge-trimming cycle in the longer term</i>

In February we layed a 10m section of the hedge by the wildlife pond. This took our full team a day and a half, also extracting its price in blood. As spring got going the hedge trees sprouted vigorously from their bases and from the laid-down stems (known as 'planchers').

Thirty metres of hedge still needs laying and we plan to do that over the next 3 years. After that we will trim a quarter of the hedge every fourth year so that it stays fairly dense and produces a heavy autumn crop of rose hips and other fruits (winter food for birds).



clockwise from top – February, May, new growth

A 15m section of hedge in the growing space had become overgrown with brambles, along with a 2m wide strip of ground in front of it. We grubbed out all the brambles, except for those in the hedge line, then sowed a mixture of wildflower and grass seed. This new meadow should be a good draw for butterflies as it is south facing and directly backed by a hedge.

8 Wildlife pond

<i>History:</i>	<i>2016 – Pond created with a liner covered in geotextile and earth</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>Plants in and around the pond include sedges, common bulrush, lilies, hornwort, reed sweet grass, marsh marigold, yellow iris</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Freshwater shrimps, water lice, damselflies, pond skaters, snails, water beetles</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>Winter vegetation removal – see below.</i>

In January we initiated a management program for the pond by cutting and removing vegetation (mainly sedges) from its eastern third, plus brambles that were growing down the banks.

In November we had intended just to cut another third, but ended up clearing everything we left in January. After 9 years of neglect there was so much accumulated dead material that it was better to remove it in one go.

Next winter (2026/27) we can take stock and decide on either a two-year or a three-year cutting cycle for the wildlife pond. It's a trade-off between controlling vegetation and not disturbing wildlife too much.



wildlife pond after January clearance work

9 Nettle patch and log pile

<i>History:</i>	<i>2023 – Created as a habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates</i>
<i>Description:</i>	<i>Layers of logs topped with brash, next to a large nettle patch</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Rotting timber should host beetle larvae, woodlice etc. Nettles are the caterpillar foodplant of five species of butterfly (peacock, comma, red admiral, painted lady, small tortoiseshell) and many moth species (e.g. the mother of pearl). They host numerous other insects and invertebrates as well. Logs and brash may be used by butterflies to pupate and hibernate in.</i>
<i>Management:</i>	<i>None needed at present</i>

On 25-May we found several colonies of peacock butterfly caterpillars on our nettles. By 15-Jun they had grown much larger and had spread out all over the patch. Three days later they had all disappeared. We assumed they had pupated somewhere, but despite searching the nettles, log pile and nearby hedge, could not find any pupae.



almost fully grown peacock caterpillar

By late July we hoped to see adult peacocks flying around, but did not. Querying this on an online forum I was advised that newly-emerged peacocks often go straight into hibernation and don't reappear until the spring. Perhaps this is because these butterflies won't breed until the following May, so in the meantime they might as well hide themselves away and avoid the risk of being predated.

this rolled-up nettle leaf could be the work of any number of moth species, including the mother of pearl moth



10 Other plants for butterflies

<i>History:</i>	<i>2022 and every year since – Hedge garlic sown in various locations, particularly by hedges in and around the growing space 2023 – Alder buckthorn trees and wych elms trees planted (further alder buckthorns in subsequent years), buddleia hardwood cuttings planted near the nettle patch 2025 – Another buddleia planted near the boating pond pump</i>
<i>Wildlife:</i>	<i>Most of these plants are butterfly caterpillar foodplants:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hedge Garlic – orange tip, green-veined white, small white• Alder buckthorn – brimstone• Wych elm – white letter hairstreak, commaBuddleia flowers attract all kinds of adult butterfly</i>

We haven't yet established hedge garlic in any quantity. The problem is that as a biennial it can only propagate by seed, which needs to fall on bare or disturbed ground. We are sowing it alongside our hedges, where it may benefit from the 4-year trimming cycle - as the hedge grows it shades out plants underneath; when it is eventually cut back, bare earth is exposed where hedge garlic seeds can germinate.

This year we planted additional alder buckthorns in gaps in the growing space hedge and amongst alders on the south bank of the wetlands. Here they are easy to water and have suffered less from vandalism and dog attacks than our original ones by the Alderman's Hill path (some of which do survive).

Nearly all these young trees had brimstone caterpillars on them in the early summer; some ended up almost completely defoliated, but recovered.



brimstone butterfly caterpillar

We saw just one late summer brimstone – perhaps they hibernate early like peacocks – in any case we must now wait until the spring to see if their numbers are starting to pick up.

11 Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

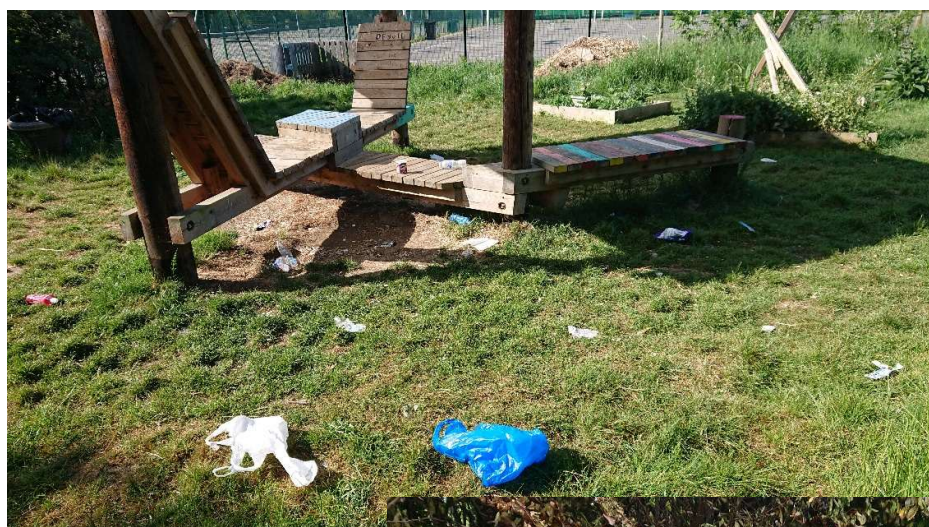
Vandals and other anti-social people cause a significant amount of damage in the growing space, for example, this year they:

- Tore branches out of our newly laid hedge (02-Apr-25)
- Set our compost and litter bins on fire (21-May-25)
- Decapitated sunflowers being grown by a new volunteer (30-Jul-25)
- Overturned a planter and broke up raised beds (01-Oct-25)
- Broke through the fence between the growing space and the orchard (constant)
- Left large amounts of litter around the 'chill-out' seating structure (constant)
- Covered the chill-out structure with offensive graffiti (constant)

This A) costs us time and money to repair the damage B) makes it very difficult to develop volunteer activities in the growing space and C) intimidates members of the public who are thus prevented from enjoying this part of the park.

Within FoBP we have discussed two ways to try and reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour:

- 1) Ask the police or Safer Neighbourhood team to patrol occasionally at times when problems usually occur e.g. warm summer evenings
- 2) Remove the chill-out structure. It is the focal point for vandalism. People sit here, eat takeaways, drink and take drugs, before presumably getting bored and taking out their frustrations on their immediate surroundings (after throwing their litter everywhere). If the seating and shelter were removed then it seems likely the vandals would move elsewhere.



litter by the chill-out structure – typical post-weekend mess

burnt-out compost bin – also note damage to hedge



12 Species Surveys

12.1 Wildflowers and grasses

The wildflower meadow and wetlands banks showed a small increase in the number of flower and grass species compared to last year. Most of the change is due to annual wildflowers e.g. scarlet pimpernel and teasel, which come and go depending on the availability of bare ground, plus grass species which I'm getting better at identifying (reporting bias!).

Changes amongst the perennial wildflowers were a) we didn't see any yarrow in the meadow (where it has never done well) b) devil's bit scabious appeared in the wetlands having been introduced as a plug plant in May-23 and c) I couldn't find lesser trefoil by the wetlands this year (but it's probably still there).

Please note, I only record wildflowers that I find in bloom. For the survey results, see *Appendices A and B*.



hemp agrimony



white campion

12.2 Butterflies

We recorded 22 species of butterfly in the park this year, contributing to a total of 25 species over the last three years combined (see Appendix C). The following were of particular interest in 2025:

- **Common blues** appeared more frequently and in greater numbers than in previous years. Early season sightings on the bowling green and wildflower meadow suggest they could be breeding here. Over the summer the wildflower meadow usually held one or two; mowing it in September I counted seven at once as they warmed up in the early morning sun.

It is hard to account for the big increase this year. Perhaps it resulted from ongoing habitat improvement work, plus dry spring weather helping overwintered caterpillars complete their transformation into adults.
- The few **small coppers** we saw were on the bowling green; a sign that they like the habitat. As yet we haven't established their caterpillar foodplant on the green, so I doubt they are breeding on it yet.
- We saw five different **commas** in the spring and early summer, including three very fresh-looking ones on the same day. Since we have not recorded this species in the park before, perhaps some of these resulted from eggs laid on our nettle patch or wych elms.
- We continued our run of unusual species turning up in the park with a **clouded yellow** in August (in 2024 we had a green hairstreak and in 2023 small heaths). This species migrates here from the continent, with numbers variable year on year.

Also see *Appendix D* for information about caterpillar foodplants.



clouded yellow

12.3 Slow worms

Once again I forgot to put out my bits of corrugated iron to try and attract these reptiles – must do better in 2026 - still no sightings in any case.

12.4 Frogs

We had frogspawn in the usual place in the wetlands this year, but less of it than last year. Sightings of adult frogs were also less frequent, mainly around the wetlands. It is curious that in October 2022 when I mowed the meadow it was full of frogs, but has never since seemed to hold anything like the same numbers.

12.5 Birds

Highlights this year:

- Two green woodpeckers on the path through the wetlands in March
- A Cetti's warbler in the wetlands in April
- Male and female reed buntings in the wetlands in May and June
- Siskins by the wetlands in October – a first for the park
- Good numbers of greenfinches in the hedge by the wildlife pond

13 APPENDIX A - Wildflower meadow - wildflowers and grasses

Type	Latin name	Common Name	2022	2023	2024	2025
Wildflowers	<i>Achillia millefolium</i>	Yarrow	YES	YES	YES	
Wildflowers	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel		YES	YES	
Wildflowers	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear		YES	YES	
Wildflowers	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	YES			YES
Wildflowers	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Galium album</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers		YES		
Wildflowers	<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Geranium		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue			YES	
Wildflowers	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's Ear	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort		YES		
Wildflowers	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's Foot Trefoil	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self Heal		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	YES	YES	YES	YES

Type	Latin name	Common Name	2022	2023	2024	2025
Wildflowers	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort				YES
Wildflowers	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-Thistle	YES			
Wildflowers	<i>Symphyotrichum Ochtendgloren</i>	Michaelmas Daisy	YES	YES		
Wildflowers	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion				YES
Wildflowers	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		YES		
Wildflowers	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome				YES
Grasses	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail				YES
Grasses	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass		YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass		YES		YES
Grasses	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome			YES	
Grasses	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogstail	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Festuca spp</i>	Fescue	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog		YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow Barley			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass				YES
Grasses	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Poa spp</i>	Meadow Grass	YES	YES	YES	YES
		Species total:	29	42	42	44

14 APPENDIX B - Wetlands banks - wildflowers and grasses

Type	Latin name	Common Name	2022	2023	2024	2025
Wildflowers	<i>Achillia millefolium</i>	Yarrow	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	Guernsey Fleabane			YES	
Wildflowers	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Galium album</i>	Hedge Bedstraw		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers				YES
Wildflowers	<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens				YES
Wildflowers	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Hypericum species TBC</i>	St John's Wort			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's Ear			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris			YES	YES

Type	Latin name	Common Name	2022	2023	2024	2025
Wildflowers	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit		plug plants	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's Foot Trefoil		plug plants	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin		plug plants	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny	YES			
Wildflowers	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Yellow Loosestrife		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Corn Mint		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self Heal		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Fleabane		plug plants	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Skullcap		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort				YES
Wildflowers	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	YES	YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-Thistle	YES			YES
Wildflowers	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony		plug plants	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's Bit Scabious		plug plants		YES
Wildflowers	<i>Symphyotrichum 'Ochtendgloren'</i>	Michaelmas Daisy			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion			YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil			YES	
Wildflowers	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		YES	YES	YES
Wildflowers	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome				YES
Grasses	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail				YES
Grasses	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogstail		YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot		YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Festuca spp</i>	Fescue	YES	YES	YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley				YES
Grasses	<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow Barley			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass				YES
Grasses	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy			YES	YES
Grasses	<i>Poa spp</i>	Meadow Grass			YES	YES
		Species total:	17	31	57	64

15 APPENDIX C - Butterflies

Species found locally	2023	2024	2025	2025 comments
Meadow Brown	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Gatekeeper	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Ringlet		YES	YES	Very localised – NW corner
Marbled White	YES	YES	YES	Couple of sightings
Speckled Wood	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Small Heath	YES			One seen in Arnos Park in 2025
Large Skipper	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Small Skipper	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Essex Skipper		YES	YES	Just one; others likely missed as hard to tell from small skipper
Green Hairstreak		YES		
Purple Hairstreak		YES	YES	Seen once on dedicated evening trip to oak trees
White-letter Hairstreak	YES		YES	A pair of battling males by the orchard elm tree
Holly Blue	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Small Copper	YES		YES	Three sightings on the bowling green
Common Blue	YES	YES	YES	Record numbers, many times more than in any previous year
Brown Argus				Seen in Arnos Park 2023 and 2025
Orange Tip	YES		YES	Several sightings
Large White			YES	Three sightings after none in previous years
Small White	YES	YES	YES	Several sightings
Green-veined White	YES	YES	YES	Three sightings
Brimstone	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers in the spring + one in September
Clouded Yellow			YES	One seen in August, a first for the park
Comma			YES	Five in the period Mar – Jun, first records for the park
Peacock	YES	YES	YES	Just two spring sightings, both near nettle patch
Small Tortoiseshell				Seems to be extinct locally
Red Admiral	YES	YES	YES	Good numbers
Painted Lady	YES	YES		Always seems to be thin on the ground round here
Species total:	18	18	22	

16 APPENDIX D - Butterfly caterpillar food plants

All the below plants are found in Broomfield Park, except probably couch grass, cultivated brassicas, nasturtiums, wild mignonette, rock rose and dove's foot cranesbill

Butterfly Species	Caterpillar foodplants (primary foodplant given first)
Meadow Brown	Bents, Fescues, Meadow Grasses, Cock's Foot, False Brome
Gatekeeper	Bents, Fescues, Meadow Grasses
Ringlet	Cock's Foot, Couch Grass, False Brome, Meadow grasses
Marbled White	Cock's Foot, Fescue, Timothy, Yorkshire Fog
Speckled Wood	Cock's Foot, Couch Grass, False Brome, Yorkshire Fog
Small Heath	Bents, Fescues, Meadow Grasses
Large Skipper	Cock's Foot, False Brome
Small Skipper	Yorkshire Fog, Cock's Foot, Timothy, False Brome
Essex Skipper	Cock's Foot, Couch Grass, Timothy, False Brome
Purple Hairstreak	Oak
White Letter Hairstreak	Elm
Green Hairstreak	Alder Buckthorn, Bird's Foot Trefoil (plus various others)
Small Copper	Common Sorrel, Sheep's Sorrel, Broad-leaved Dock
Holly Blue	Holly, Ivy

Butterfly Species	Caterpillar foodplants (primary foodplant given first)
Common Blue	Bird's Foot Trefoil, Black Medick, White Clover
Orange Tip	Hedge Garlic
Large White	Cultivated brassicas, Nasturtiums, Wild Mignonette, Oil-seed Rape
Small White	Cultivated brassicas, Crucifers e.g. Hedge Garlic
Green-Veined White	Crucifers e.g. Hedge Garlic
Comma	Nettles, Willow, Elm
Peacock	Nettles
Small Tortoiseshell	Nettles
Red Admiral	Nettles
Painted Lady	Thistles, Nettles
Brimstone	Alder Buckthorn
Brown Argus	Rock Rose, Dove's Foot Cranesbill
Clouded Yellow	Lucerne, Bird's Foot Trefoil



Yorkshire fog (foreground left)