

Roydon Parish Council Biodiversity Inventory – December 2023

1 Brewers Green – grasslands, trees, hedges and ponds

The Parish Council works with the owner and the management team to manage the green, with financial assistance and planning input. It is a Registered Common and a County Wildlife Site and receives regular input from Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

2 Tree Planting

Done over many years in various parts of the parish, often to commemorate various events.

3 The Burial Ground

The Parish Council makes an annual donation towards the maintenance of the burial ground.

4 Litter Picks

Organised by the PC for many years; at present occurring three times a year, with a pop-up cafe in the village hall.

5 Snow Street Allotments

These are owned and run by the PC. There are 4 full size plots and 20 half size plots. Smaller plots have become more popular over recent years and some larger plots have been split in half.

6 Verges – Loke, High Road and Millway Green

Roydon Loke (the old Denmark Lane) and part of the wide verge opposite the church are managed for high biodiversity and habitat by the PC with the permission of the County Council Highways Department. The PC also worked with the District Council recently to develop the wide verge between Shelfanger Road and Linden Grove/ Millway Avenue into a wildflower meadow/ unimproved grassland, which it now is.

7 Local Walks – Printed Copies and Council Website (for downloading)

These are eight walks, mostly focussing on items of natural and/ or historical interest.

8 Neighbourhood Plan

The Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan covers seven parishes, including Roydon, with much overall reference to biodiversity gain and ecological awareness, and an environmental corridor which passes through Roydon. The Roydon section of the Plan contains its own specific Local Green Spaces and a Local “Gap” between Roydon and Diss settlement boundaries and describes biodiversity requirements for future developments.

9 Ecological Corridor

Roydon PC has drawn up its own rudimentary ecological corridor, which we hope to gradually improve in the future. It links four specially green spaces in Roydon: Roydon Fen (Local Wildlife Site), Brewers Green (a Registered Common and County Wildlife Site), Baynards Green (Common Land), and Wortham Ling (SSSI).

10 Green Roydon Stall and Website

The stall, with information/maps etc about Green Roydon, goes to local, appropriate events. We also have a Green Roydon tab on our website.

11 Roydon Big Green Week

The national organisation, The Climate Coalition, sets a date every year for people to run a Big Green Week, and they offer advice, advertising, and help if you need it. Roydon PC ran a Big Green Week in June 2023, with environmental walks and talks and workshops. One effect of this was to strengthen links with local people and local organisations such as

Quaker Wood, Fox Wood Forest School, the Fair Green Committee, as well as with Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

12 Roydon Winter Green Day (Feb 3 2024)

Suggested by one of the participants in the Big Green Week, this comprised a litter pick, nature-based children's activities, two talks about local nature restoration, a wildlife-friendly gardening forum, a film about flooding along the East Anglian coast, and an all-day cafe and exhibition of local green projects.

13 Roydon PC Footpath Group

We formed a footpath group in Nov '20 with a view to keeping open our Public Rights of Way (PRoW) across the parish and try to open up those that had become blocked or inaccessible. We made a callout through our Roydon Round Up and RPC Facebook page and sparked the interest of 30+ residents who want to be kept informed of developments and to help when needed. The responsibility to keep PRoWs clear lies with the landowners and the County Council (NCC). The landowners have responsibility for 'all that grows from the side' and the NCC for that 'which grows from the surface'. The parish council doesn't have any enforcement powers to ensure landowners keep their ProW clear, but we can liaise with both landowners and NCC. This direct liaison with landowners is often very fruitful, and if help is needed to clear an obstructed path, our volunteers have joined in the effort on occasion. We carried out a survey across the parish of all ProW, noting where fingerposts were missing, waymarkers damaged or needed, ditch bridges damaged, and stiles broken. This was submitted to NCC's Countryside Access Officer who has responsibility for all such things, and we are slowly managing to replace that which has been lost or broken over the years.

Working with partners:

Diss Town Council
Fair Green Committee
Quaker Wood
Fox Wood Forest School
River Waveney Trust
Frenze Beck Volunteers
Norfolk Wildlife Trust