

**Biodiversity Working Group**  
**Report for Parish Council 20 June 2024 (item 10)**

Following discussion at the Village Meeting and Parish Council on 16 April, the Biodiversity Working Group met on 6 June. The group had in front of it some prompts / questions, and a list of sample web resources. We reviewed the variety of habitats that came within the parish, and noted the extensive effects of historical and contemporary industry. It was recognised that, unlike many parishes, there were few spaces under the PC's direct control. There was a high degree of consensus about aims, and the group was in favour of keeping processes simple, and starting with small steps. Future actions would arise from sharing informed awareness of the parish environment. We agreed to set up simple to use systems for recording and sharing observations. Suggestions included:

- Information boards (these might require a source of external funding)
- Simple chalkboard lists of sightings (needed an accessible but weather-protected site – one suggestion was to seek permission from the Church for an indoor or outdoor display)
- Guided walks / visits to familiarise participants with particular habitats
- Circulating suggestions of specific items to look out for - e.g. monitoring the effects on the plant and bird population of the recent tree-clearing in the Stanney
- Dedicated pages on the refreshed PC website for observations, seasonal diaries, or uploading photos.

In the short-term at least, Dave Brooks was willing to act as recipient for sightings and ecological news highlights which the group committed to start emailing to him. It was recognised that there is a continuum between more informal observations and concerns and the more systematic recording required by e.g. the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the Yoredale Natural History Society, or the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Sightings could be aggregated and sent on at periodic intervals. Informal and systematic observations were not incompatible: one provided a context for another. Liaison with the Woodland Trust, and the Dales National Park (though recognising that the Village lies outside the Park boundary) was going to be important. So, too, once we had got started, would be making contact with other villages, or clusters of villages, carrying on related activities.

A letter outlining our proposals, and requesting further suggestions would be circulated to residents following further discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 20 June. CBK to draft and circulate to this group for comment.

CBK  
10/6/24