

Blofield & District Conservation Group (BADCOG)

Annual report for Lingwood PC - April 2025

Over the course of the past year, the volunteers of the Blofield & District Conservation Group (BADCOG) have undertaken 25 main work parties, in and around the local area.

In addition to this, we have also undertaken much more work in between, totalling 80 occasions when volunteers have been out in the field working. BADCOG carries out practical wildlife conservation management at 15 sites, ranging from a 3.7-acre fen at South Walsham, to a small pond in Blofield Heath.

Within the Parish of Lingwood, BADCOG manages the Village Pond and Lingwood Churchyard.

At Lingwood Pond we undertake one main work party a year, with supplementary work taking place in the late summer, early autumn, when the water levels are low.

The main work party takes place on the first Saturday after the New Year. This is when we cut the southern boundary hedge to allow light into the pond. We also undertake a rotation of coppicing the willow along the northern boundary, along School Road to keep this area in check. Other coppicing and pollarding is carried out as required and we also undertake a litter pick and clean the signs. This year we had 9 members in attendance, and we were ably supported by the 2nd Brundal Scout Group who were a great help. We hope to see them again.

The summer/autumn work around the pond is normally cutting back the reeds in the eastern section of the pond to prevent them dominating the area. We also take the opportunity to cut the inside of the hedge when the water levels are low. The 1-meter boundary left uncut around the pond for wildflowers, is also cut late summer. This area is then raked and cleared a few days later to allow the seeds to fall and hopefully regenerate next year. This 1-meter wildflower area is slowly developing into a bee and butterfly friendly environment.

At Lingwood Churchyard we do an annual cut and clearance of the Conservation area as part of the NWT Churchyard Conservation Scheme. This area is a haven for wildlife and it's good to report we seem to have a healthy population of the Wall Brown butterfly here, a butterfly that not too long ago was on the decline.

BADCOG also helps with the cutting of some of the public footpaths, particularly Footpaths 3, 4 and 9.

Although just outside the Parish, we also do management work at Buckenham Woods and the permissible path alongside the allotments.

Details for all BADCOG Work Parties and events can be found at www.badcog.co.uk

Please come and join us at one of our work parties, we can always do with some extra volunteers.