

BADCOG Annual report for Lingwood Annual Parish Meeting 2026

The Blofield & District Conservation Group (BADCOG) has enjoyed another productive year, with its dedicated volunteers actively managing wildlife conservation areas across 14 local sites. Within the Parish of Lingwood & Burlingham, BADCOG oversees both the Lingwood Village pond and the conservation area at Lingwood Churchyard.

Each January, at our main work party at the Village pond, we cut back the hedges and carries out coppicing and pollarding around the pond's edge to increase sunlight exposure, making the habitat healthier. Volunteers also conduct a litter pick, thoroughly cleaned the notice board and pond sign, and this year we installed bird boxes around the site which were supplied by the Parish Council and built by Blofield Men's Shed.

When water levels drop, normally late summer or early autumn, BADCOG continues their efforts by cutting, raking, and clearing some reeds, as well as trimming the inner hedge. This routine creates a diverse range of habitats, from open water to semi-open spaces and reed-covered areas. Additionally, a 1-to-2-meter strip around the pond is left uncut until late summer, encouraging wildflowers and attracting numerous insects.

At Lingwood Churchyard, we carry out two cuts a year, normally in June and Oct, as recommended by NWT. The flora in the conservation area resembles those found in traditional wildflower meadows before intensive farming became common. BADCOG takes special pride in the hare-bells growing here, a species usually linked to chalkland downs.

On April 11th this year, BADCOG volunteers visited Peter's Jubilee Wood to clear away old tree guards that had made the site look untidy. We also did a litter pick in the wood and along the roadside verges. We hope local residents notice the improvement. Next winter, we may begin coppicing some hazel trees, a standard practice for maintaining woodland health.

BADCOG will also keep monitoring local footpaths (FP 3, 4 & 9) and mow them whenever they start to become overgrown.

Finally, BADCOG over the years have planted many trees, shrubs and hedgerows within the Parish, all of which go a long way in enhancing the local landscape and the environment.