# Sibbertoft Peace Park

## Biodiversity Action Plan 2026

### 1. Introduction

Sibbertoft Peace Park is a recently opened community green space, providing a peaceful environment for recreation, learning, and wildlife conservation as well as providing a new pedestrian and wheelchair access to the play park.

The Sibbertoft Peace Park land was gifted to the village by a long-term resident whose passion and final wish was to see his garden transformed into a tranquil place for reflection and wildlife appreciation, without any formal memorials. The land, now stewarded by Sibbertoft Parish Council and currently managed by the Sibbertoft Peace Park committee, has become a symbol of community spirit and ecological renewal. Thanks to tireless fundraising efforts and groundwork by local volunteers, the park has already undergone significant transformation. The Peace Park committee are looking to create a space which is low maintenance in order to effectively manage the land, make to most volunteers time and efforts, and to ensure its success in future years.

This 2026 Biodiversity Action Plan builds upon the Park's existing natural features to enhance biodiversity, create wildlife corridors, and promote environmental awareness among residents and visitors. This plan supports the West Northamptonshire Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy and contributes to regional efforts to restore native habitats and species diversity.

### 2. Objectives

- To increase habitat diversity and connectivity for pollinators, birds, and small mammals.
- To establish sustainable, low-maintenance planting schemes using native and pollinator-friendly species.
- To improve public understanding of biodiversity through interpretation and engagement.
- To promote sustainable park management through water harvesting, composting, and community participation.
- To provide inclusive spaces where visitors can rest, observe, and enjoy nature.

### 3. Habitat Creation and Planting Schemes

Wildlife Accommodation: As part of developing the biodiversity of the park the team intend to buy and install Bat boxes, Bird boxes, and a hedgehog house.

Pollinator Support: Honeysuckle will be planted to attract moths, providing essential food sources for bats and insectivorous birds. Sedum species will supply nectar for bees and butterflies during late summer and autumn, extending the pollination season. A range of Buddleia cultivars will further attract butterflies and beneficial insects.

Hedgerow and Wildlife Corridors: The eastern hedge will be enhanced with a native mix of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Spindle, and Dog Rose to create a natural wildlife corridor for hedgehogs, wood mice, shrews, dormice, and ground-nesting birds. Along the park's northern edge following the wood fencing, a new Wild Privet hedge will provide cover and nesting opportunities for sparrows and small birds. This will complement the grant funded and locally sourced timber ranch fence and gate. Both the gate installation and fencing construction was done by volunteers. The fencing not only enhances child safety but does so without constraining access routes for wildlife.

Tree and Shrub Planting: An English Elm could be planted near the now removed steps alongside native shrubs to strengthen vertical habitat layers in the south-eastern corner of the park. The recently established English Oak and Honey Maple along with an established Ash in the south-west corner will serve as a long-term keystone species supporting hundreds of invertebrates. More fruit trees will be planted in the grassed area creating a small orchard.  Further planting along the western border fencing will create a graded bank of shrubs, including Berberis, Mahonia, Hebe, and Skimmia.

Wildflower and Pollinator Areas: We will create spaces dedicated to wildflower meadow varieties such as poppy, oxeye daisy, red campion, knapweed, yellow rattle, these will be in selected areas along the larger boarders of the paths, and under the hedges. We will include 20 partial shade loving varieties of native wildflowers from Musk Mallow to Tufted Vetch. In other areas of the Peace Park we will create mixed pollinator beds featuring hardy perennials and annuals such as Foxglove, Verbena, Cranesbill, Salvia, Teasel, Hellebores, Lavandula, and Japanese Anemone. These areas will ensure a continuous nectar supply and vibrant seasonal colour.

## 4. Sustainable Management and Visitor Experience

Sibbertoft Peace Park's sustainability initiatives will include water harvesting systems for irrigation which will be securely contained in the brick shed and a timber composting area to recycle organic matter. A second bog garden to be created to further extend wetland habitat diversity. To enhance visitor comfort and appreciation of the natural environment, a wooden bench will be installed in an already identified shaded area, providing a quiet place for reflection and enjoyment of the park's wildlife.

## 5. Interpretation and Community Engagement

To foster a deeper connection between people and nature, a low-level angled, lectern styled A1 information board will be installed in a central, accessible location within the park. Constructed from durable, eco-friendly or recycled materials, the board will include a detailed map, interpretive content, and wildlife information. It will act as both an educational and engagement tool, encouraging exploration, citizen science, and volunteer involvement.

Suggested Content for the Information Board:

- Map of Sibbertoft Peace Park – showing paths, access points, seating, bog garden, composting area, and planting zones.
- Biodiversity Zones Key – colour-coded for hedgerows, pollinator beds, wildflower and bulb areas, and shaded under tree areas.
- Native Species Highlights – e.g. Honeysuckle and bats, Buddleia and butterflies, Oak and associated insects, hedges and small mammals.
- Seasonal Wildlife Calendar – highlighting species visible throughout the year.
- Sustainability Features – such as water harvesting and composting.
- Community Involvement – volunteer opportunities, habitat surveys, and local events.
- Acknowledgements and Partners – including Sibbertoft Parish Council, West Northamptonshire Council, and community groups.
- Legal responsibility notices and contact details for the Parish Council
- QR Codes and Links to the parish website

A countryside footpath style wooden finger post will be constructed and installed by volunteers near the Welland Rise entrance to the park to direct visitors to the play park. The committee will also consider a way of adding a Sibbertoft Peace Park sign to both entrance gates

## 6. Monitoring and Partnerships

Photographs of the work carried out and a report will be created by the Sibbertoft Peace Park Charity Committee to be sent to the West Northamptonshire grant awarding committee via the Parish Council

## 7. Conclusion

Through this 2026 Biodiversity Action Plan, Sibbertoft Peace Park will evolve into a dynamic mosaic of habitats—providing refuge for wildlife, educational opportunities for visitors, and a tranquil space for the community. The plan represents a shared commitment to sustainability, biodiversity, and the peaceful coexistence of people and nature.

**Additional sources of information:**

Northampton Bio-diversity records and links to other sources:

Neighbourhood and Parish Plans | Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre

West Northamptonshire BNG:

BNG & Nutrient Neutrality Schemes in West Northamptonshire LPA | Greenshank Environmental

Other villages parishes taking part in the bio diversity grant scheme:

Grants empower local communities to boost biodiversity across West Northamptonshire | West Northamptonshire Council

These projects will contribute to West Northamptonshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy by creating stepping-stones for wildlife, improving connectivity across green infrastructure corridors, and promoting community engagement with nature.

**This document is written by Councillor Mark Bickerstaff on behalf of the Sibbertoft Peace Park Committee and Sibbertoft Parish Council**