

Nature Recovery: Holmefield Estate Heslington



Communal grounds

Leaves in the Autumn are collected to provide a habitat for hedgehogs in a quiet area away from footfall. Areas of grass are left uncut for insects and wild flowers to thrive. These areas are only cut back in the Autumn. Hedges are cut once a year at the end of August to allow nesting birds and insects to thrive.

Holmefield has a total ban on Glyphosate weedkiller on flower borders and beds. Established fruit trees from the Edible York initiative are grown on Holmefield for residents to harvest, and for cross pollination. Fruit and seeds also provide food for birds.

Although Holmefield has a great deal of lighting on the estate for the safety of its residents, much of this is still run on sodium lamps. As these (now obsolete) units fail they have to be replaced with LED units. It is the policy of Holmefield management to only use replacement LED lamps with adjustable settings. Where possible these are set on the lowest setting to avoid light pollution into properties, damage to wildlife habitats and to preserve the ambience of the estate.

Individual gardens

Many residents undertake their own composting, have wilded areas for flowers and insects. Several residents have ponds in gardens to encourage frogs. Many also have bee and hedgehog houses in private spaces.