



The Spider Stroll

We would love to see photographs of your walks!
Give us a shout on Instagram at
@MissionInvertebrate or **#MoreThanBugs**



Take a leisurely stroll through the historic Brompton Cemetery and unearth the hidden world of invertebrates!

Approx 30 minutes

A path-based trail suitable for buggies and wheelchair-users.

Did you know?



1. Loggery

Deadwood habitats, such as this loggery made from partially buried logs, support a diverse range of species. From fungi to woodlice and beetles, these species are recyclers - breaking down the wood and releasing nutrients back into the soil. Look out for holes and cracks in the wood - these make perfect hiding spots for invertebrates.



2. Mature Ivy

These evergreen climbers are common in green spaces, but only mature plants produce yellowish green flowers. They provide nectar and pollen for pollinating insects throughout autumn and winter when food sources can be difficult to find. The berries provide food for hungry birds, and moths and butterflies such as the holly blue butterfly lay their eggs on the leaves.



Eliza Phillips

Eliza Phillips, buried here, was an animal welfare activist and a co-founder of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The charity was founded in 1891 to oppose the use of feathers in fashion and to protect wildlife.



3. Meadows

The grass next to the path here is allowed to grow thicker and longer. This provides a dense habitat for grasshoppers and other invertebrates to shelter. It's also a valuable source of food for birds such as blackbirds who feed on the invertebrates and grass seed. See if you can spot the feathery seed heads in the grass.



4. Scrub Planting

Scrub areas of thick bramble and honeysuckle are left to grow in patches around Brompton Cemetery to provide dense, sheltered spots for wildlife to rest and create nests, and the flowers provide much-needed nectar for pollinators in spring. Listen out for the tuneful melody of a robin.



5. Spiders

Can you guess how many species of spider were recorded at Brompton Cemetery in 2018? The answer is 101! One of these spiders is a rare species called the Tower Hamlets jumping spider. This tiny spider is only 5-7mm in length, yet it can jump more than 10 times its body length in a single bound!



6. Yew Trees

Cemeteries are often associated with yew trees as they are considered sacred. They are also important trees for wildlife. Caterpillars of the satin beauty moth feed on the leaves, the red berries are eaten by blackbirds, and many birds will build their nests in the dense, evergreen branches.



7. Peace Rose

The peace rose is a cultivar that symbolises tranquillity, friendship and an 'antidote to war'. The sweetly fragrant flowers bloom in summer and autumn with light yellow petals with a dusty pink border. Wild roses, such as dog rose, are often found in hedgerows and are a valuable source of nectar for pollinators.



8. Nettles

Nettles may be seen as unwelcome plants, but they are great for wildlife. Seven-spot ladybirds and butterfly species such as the red admiral and peacock butterfly lay their eggs on nettles and the stinging hairs on the leaves protect the caterpillars from predators as they grow.



9. Anthills

In this meadow, there are dozens of mounds built by yellow meadow ants, whose anthills can house up to 14,000 ants! These ants are soil engineers. The tunnels they dig help air, water and nutrients get to the plants' roots. Although you may not see them, they are hard at work under our feet, so please don't stand on the anthills.



10. Meadows

This meadow is bursting with colour in spring and summer with a mix of wildflowers including poppies and cornflowers. They provide nectar for hoverflies, bees, butterflies and moths. We maintain the area to prevent taller grasses and scrub plants from shading the nectar-rich wildflowers. Can you spot any insects visiting the flowers?



11. Shaded Planting

This area is partially shaded by trees nearby, so shade-loving plants, including foxglove, red campion, and hedge cranesbill, have been planted by keen volunteers of all ages to provide colour and nectar sources to this area. You can find out more about volunteering opportunities in Brompton Cemetery or any of The Royal Parks at www.royalparks.org.uk/volunteer