

SPIDER STROLL



SOUTH GATE

L 30 minutes

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

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Loggery

2 Mature ivy

3 Eliza Phillips' grave

4 Rough grassland

5 Scrub planting

6 Spiders

7 Yew trees

8 Peace Rose

Nettles

10 Anthills

11 Meadows

Shaded planting





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

POINTS OF INTEREST



1. Loggery

This loggery of partially buried logs is a deadwood habitat supporting many recycling species. Fungi, woodlice and beetles break down the wood to release nutrients into the soil. Holes and cracks in the wood are hiding spots for invertebrates.



2. Mature ivy

Only mature ivy plants flower, providing nectar and pollen for insects throughout autumn and winter when food is scarce. Birds eat the berries, and moths and butterlies like the holly blue butterfly lay their eggs on the leaves.



3. Eliza Phillips' grave

Eliza Phillips was an animal welfare activist and co-founded 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.



4. Rough grassland

The thick, longer grass here provides a dense shelter for grasshoppers and other invertebrates. It is a valuable source of food for birds like blackbirds who feed on insects and grass seed. Can you spot the feathery grass seed heads?



5. Scrub planting

Patches of bramble and honeysuckle are left to grow to give sheltered spots for wildlife to nest in. The flowers provide nectar for pollinators in spring. Listen out for a robin's song.



6. Spiders

101 different spider species were recorded at Brompton Cemetery in 2018. One rare species is the Tower Hamlets jumping spider. Measuring only 5-7mm long it can jump over 10 times its length in one bound.



7. Yew trees

Yew trees are considered sacred and are often found in cemeteries. Satin beauty moth caterpillars feed on their leaves, blackbirds eat their red berries and many birds build nests in the dense, evergreen branches.



8. Peace Rose

The Peace Rose cultivar symbolizes tranquillity, friendship and an 'antidote to war'. The light yellow and dusty pink fragrant flowers bloom in late summer. Wild roses, like dog rose, grow in hedgerows and are a valuable source of nectar for pollinators.



9. Nettles

Nettles are great havens for wildlife. Seven-spot ladybirds and butterflies like the red admiral and peacock butterfly lay their eggs among the nettle's stinging hairs to protect the emerging caterpillars from predators.



10. Anthills

There are many yellow meadow anthills in these meadows, each housing up to 14,000 ants. Ants are soil engineers, digging tunnels to help air, water and nutrients reach plants' roots. Usually unseen, ants work hard under our feet so please don't step on an anthill.



11. Meadows

In spring and summer this meadow bursts with colourful wildflowers like poppies and cornflowers, providing nectar for hoverflies, bees, butterflies and moths. We prevent tall grasses and scrub plants from shading these nectar rich wildflowers.



12. Shaded planting

Colourful foxgloves, red campions and hedge cranesbills were planted in this shaded area by volunteers of all ages. Find out more about volunteering opportunities in the Royal Parks at royalparks.org.uk/volunteer.



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