EAST WINCH
WEST BILNEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy

Legislation

In accordance with the Duty imposed by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended by the Section 102 Environment Act 2021,**East Winch & West Bilney Parish Council** will be exercising all its functions, actively consider how it can conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Biodiversity comes from the words biological diversity and is the variety of life on earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi and the natural systems that support them.

Aim

Through its work **East Winch & West Bilney Parish Council** will aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity contributing to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity[1] developing an agreed Action Plan for the parish.

The Council will:

- manage its land and any buildings to enhance and improve biodiversity through best practices engaging with grounds maintenance contractors and volunteers to:
  - ✓ plant indigenous trees and wildflowers;
  - ✓ reduce mowing to create a mosaic of new habitats that benefit wildlife;
  - ✓ enhance water bodies including village ponds/streams with marginal planting;
  - ✓ install bird/bat boxes and creating hedgehog friendly gardens;
  - ✓ reduce reliance on pesticides and herbicides.
- include policies to conserve and enhance biodiversity through:
  - ✓ mapping areas of biodiversity and introducing policies to enhance greenspace in the parish;
  - ✓ introduce policies to protect significant private green spaces in the parish.
- consider the impact on biodiversity when commenting on planning applications ensuring where it is appropriate that there is a net gain in overall biodiversity:
  - ✓ support good design that helps improve the local environment integrating existing habitats and trees within new developments;
  - ✓ support development that increases overall biodiversity.
- educate, advise and raise awareness of the public's understanding of biodiversity and encourage them to improve biodiversity
  - ✓ engage with the local community to raise awareness of biodiversity

through newsletters and website;

- ✓ actively involve the community in projects to enhance biodiversity, through projects including tree planting and installing bird/bat boxes;
- ✓ seek out local enthusiasts/experts to help monitor biodiversity including undertaking surveys for birds, mammals and reptiles.

encourage landowners and businesses to improve biodiversity

- ✓ engage with landowners and businesses to promote the importance of biodiversity, where possible creating green corridors that benefit wildlife.

Review

Within 5 years or before if appropriate the Council will review and update its agreed Action Plan.

[1] environmental-improvement-plan-2023

August 2026

Review August 2028