

Evesham Town Council **Biodiversity Policy 2024**

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Evesham Town Council will, in exercising all its functions, have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

It is also important to consider changes to planning requirements enacted through the Environment Act 2021. There is now a requirement, with a few exceptions, for a 10% biodiversity net gain to any new development proposed.

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives. Further, there is increasing evidence of the part nature plays in improving our mental and physical health.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Evesham.

All committees of Evesham Town Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, Evesham Town Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications together with the possibilities of improvement through biodiversity net gain (BNG)
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support and encourage local businesses in the adoption of low impact practices.
- support and encourage residents and local organisations' activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

Evesham Town Council
Biodiversity Action Plan 2024

Evesham Town Council's Biodiversity Action Plan uses information provided by Worcestershire County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and the initial Biodiversity Action Plan created by Wychavon District Council. Sections appropriate to Evesham have been selected and enhanced to support appropriate actions.

Sections on relevant habitats and species are provided.

Bird species may be referred to as red or amber listed. This references the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) list of endangered birds, red being the most endangered species.

Both habitats and species information includes where it is Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, section 41 listed or where protection is provided through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It is also noted where a species is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species.

It is noted if a species has been seen in Evesham.

Useful Information Sources

People's Trust for Endangered Species - www.ptes.org

Hedgehog Street - www.hedgehogstreet.org

The Wildlife Trusts- www.wildlifetrusts.org

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk

Plantlife www.plantlife.org.uk

Buglife www.buglife.org.uk

Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Royal Horticultural Society www.rhs.org.uk

Rivers Trust www.riverstrust.org

References

Websites:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk (Biodiversity Action Plan)

www.bto.org (British Trust for Ornithology)

www.wildlifetrusts.org (The Wildlife Trusts)

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk (The Woodland Trust)

Legislation:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC)
Act 2006

Environment Act 2021