Trowbridge Town Council

Working for your Community

Biodiversity Policy

Trowbridge Town Council
Version: November 2025
Adopted: January 2026

UPDATE TIMELINE

Reference Number	Version	Owner	Approval Date	Review Date
54	V1	Director of Estates, Assets & Operational Services.	January 2026	January 2028

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Statutory Duty

In accordance with the duty imposed on all public authorities by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as strengthened by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Trowbridge Town Council has a legal obligation to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity when carrying out all its functions.

This policy outlines how the Town Council will fulfil this duty, ensuring that the conservation and enhancement of Trowbridge's natural environment are embedded in its decision-making, land management practices, and community engagement.

Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of this policy is to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Trowbridge. To achieve this, the Council will:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity when making all decisions, particularly on planning applications and land management.
- Actively manage its land and property to promote native species and create new habitats where appropriate.
- Work in partnership with residents, community groups, and other organisations to protect and improve the local environment.
- Raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and encourage community participation in conservation efforts.

The Town Council's Duty to Conserve and Increase Biodiversity

Trowbridge Town Council commits to undertaking the following specific actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Planning and Development

The Town Council will use its role as a statutory consultee to influence development proposals, ensuring that biodiversity is protected and enhanced. The Council will:

- Scrutinise planning applications to ensure they achieve a net gain in biodiversity, as required by Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy
- Request protected species surveys for new developments where necessary and ensure appropriate mitigation is planned
- Support site and building designs that integrate new habitats, such as green roofs, swift bricks, and bat boxes

Management of Council-Owned Land

The Council will actively manage its land and open spaces to create a more resilient and wildlife-rich environment. This will be achieved through:

- **Grassland and Verges:** Adopting less intensive grass-cutting regimes where appropriate, to allow wildflowers to bloom and provide food for pollinators
- **Tree Planting:** Participating in tree-planting initiatives ensuring a diverse mix of native species are planted. The Council will also commit to replacing any felled trees with established native replacements as stated in the councils' tree policy
- **Habitat Creation:** Creating and maintaining new habitats on Council land, including log piles for invertebrates, ponds for amphibians, and wildflower meadows
- **Invasive Species and Pesticides:** Managing non-native invasive species and minimising the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides on Council land where possible

Community Engagement and Partnership Working

The Council recognises that a collaborative approach is essential for biodiversity conservation. It will:

- **Partner with Organisations:** Work closely with established groups such as the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, and local community organisations like Biss Meadows volunteers on joint projects and to share best practice
- **Raise Awareness:** Use its website, newsletters, and social media channels to inform residents about biodiversity issues, key local species, and simple actions they can take in their own gardens
- **Support Community Projects:** Encourage and support community-led biodiversity projects, for example creating local wildlife corridors
- **Educate Residents:** Provide information and guidance on topics like “No Mow May,” sustainable gardening practices, and how to create habitats in private gardens

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Council to assess its effectiveness and to set new objectives. Progress will be reported to the community through the Council's annual report and website.