



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, as strengthened by the Environment Act 2021, Alcester Town Council acknowledges that it will, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the general biodiversity objective of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services which our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

In accordance with policy NE2 of the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Town Council will not support development unless it minimises the impact on biodiversity and provides net gains in biodiversity wherever possible. The NDP also requires that existing ecological networks should be retained and enhanced and that new ecological habitats and networks, measures to improve landscape quality, scenic beauty and tranquillity and to reduce light pollution are encouraged.

The Town Council will, as far as is possible, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the land it manages. Its Environmental Policy (adopted August 2026) commits the Council to avoiding the use of pesticides, herbicides and peat-based products on Council land, to adopting beneficial practices regarding the cutting and removal of vegetation and the timing of maintenance work, and to managing its assets in a way that supports the creation of wildlife corridors and protects and increases biodiversity. Special care is taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.

Since adopting its first Biodiversity Statement in 2023, the Town Council has approved a Local Climate & Nature Action Plan (2024-2027) setting out a three-year programme of action to protect and enhance nature across the town. Practical projects delivered or under way include the purchase and ongoing management of Abbey Fields as part of a green corridor, a community orchard at Jubilee Fields, installation of bat boxes, a bug hotel and hedgehog habitats, wildflower planting, a slow worm relocation project, and the Bee Squared initiative to improve nature corridors for pollinators. The Council also

supports resident recording of local species through a Bioblitz event in June 2026 and continues to work towards Bee Friendly Town accreditation.

The Town Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land, including tree planting, wildflower meadows and guided walks. The Town Council communicates information and raises awareness of biodiversity through its website, social media, newsletters and events such as the Climate and Nature family day in June 2026.

This Statement should be read alongside the Town Council's Local Climate & Nature Action Plan and Environmental Policy and will be kept under review.

Adopted by Alcester Town Council at its meeting on _____, superseding the previous version adopted 3rd October 2023.