
Biodiversity duty report

January 2026

Version 0.1



View from Cleeve Common

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Blackthorn blossom



Introduction

This report sets out the considerations the Council must undertake to fulfil their 'biodiversity duty' as set out in the Environment Act 2021. It also raises awareness of the Biodiversity Duty for Local Authorities as set out in the 2021 Environment Act. In doing so it highlights the key plans, partnerships and Biodiversity Net Gain information from Tewkesbury Borough Council in complying with the Duty.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (as amended) requires that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."

The Environment Act 2021 subsequently amended Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to strengthen this 'Biodiversity Duty'. The duty requires local authorities to:

1. Consider what actions can be taken for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within their boundaries.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on these considerations; and
3. Act to deliver the agreed policies and achieve the agreed objectives.

The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23), published in January 2023, builds upon the foundation of the 25 Year Environment Plan and sets out government plans for significantly improving the natural environment by working with landowners, communities and businesses towards the joined vision.

By 2030, the government has committed to:

- halt the decline in species abundance; and
- protect 30% of UK land for nature.

By 2042, the government has committed to:

- increase species abundance by at least 10% from 2030, surpassing 2022 levels;
- restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife rich habitats;
- reduce the risk of species extinction; and
- restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term

Bee on cranesbill





Common frog

Biodiversity report

Due to unforeseen circumstances (a cyber incident affecting all of Tewkesbury Borough Council, and the subsequent backlog) a first Biodiversity Report was not prepared outlining the Council's first considerations of what actions will be undertaken for biodiversity, and 'agree the policies and objectives as soon as possible after this.'

At the time of the first Biodiversity Report, the Council already included a series of policies embedded within the adopted Borough Plans and Joint Core Strategy. Any policies and plans being prepared, including the Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) and Tewkesbury Borough Council Plan 2025 – 2028 should have consideration for biodiversity throughout the process, particularly in relation to statutory and non-statutory designated sites, priority habitats and species and protected and notable species.

Tewkesbury Borough Council has been involved in key partnerships that support biodiversity including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Cotswold Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Alongside the above, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory in February 2024 (and April 2024 for minor sites) under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). Under the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain, subject to some exceptions, every grant of planning permission is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition that the biodiversity gain objective is met ("the biodiversity gain condition"). This objective is for development to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat.

Although the first Biodiversity Reporting period was missed, the following actions have been undertaken as part of daily practice:

- The Council will continue to apply the environmental policies to planning applications and will continue to review and update guidance and practice to improve outcomes.
- The Council will monitor mandatory BNG as it develops.
- Under the provision of Policy NAT1: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Important Natural Features, of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan, BNG has been implementing a 10% BNG, prior to this becoming mandatory.
- The Council will continue to support and work with the relevant partners to deliver wildlife conservation activities and environmental improvements.
- Through internal discussions the Council will review procedures and practices across the Council to ensure that any reasonable opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity are identified and actioned.
- The Council will engage with key stakeholders working on biodiversity and look to new opportunities to improve outcomes for biodiversity.



Cowslips



Reporting period

The Guidance on Reporting your biodiversity duty actions stipulates that the end date of the first reporting period should be no later than 01 January 2026. After this, the end date of each reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period. Each report must be published within 12 weeks of the reporting period end date.

The reporting period for this Biodiversity Duty report is 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2025

Report content

Government guidance (Reporting your biodiversity duty actions) specifically requires Local Authorities to publish biodiversity reports which by law must include:

- a summary of the action you've taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
- how you plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
- any other information you consider appropriate

Reports from local planning authorities must also include the following biodiversity net gain (BNG) information:

- the actions you've carried out to meet BNG obligations
- details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved
- how you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

The Environmental Act 2021, section 102 to 103 and its associated guidance (Reporting your biodiversity duty actions) stipulates publication and frequency dates as follows:

- the first report must cover no longer than 3 years, subsequent reports must cover no longer than five years and run consecutively.
- the report must be published within 12 weeks of the last day of the report.

Government have provided an example report structure. The report has three compulsory sections which are described in the Government guidance as follows:





Section one:

Current policies, objectives and actions and future actions

This section of the report outlines:

- the policies and objectives Tewkesbury Borough Council have set to meet the biodiversity duty; and
- the actions Tewkesbury Borough Council have completed, either alone or in partnership with others, that benefit biodiversity; and
- how Tewkesbury Borough Council organisation plans to fulfil the biodiversity duty over the next 5 years following the end of this reporting period.

The details of the above are outlined below in Table 1. Due to the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), reviews of the current Plans and Policies are ongoing, particularly in relation to the Council Plan. This includes reviewed the resources required to deliver these actions to ensure they remain proportionate and achievable. Beyond 2025 and as we move towards LGR, the resource allocation is likely to shift. This will directly impact the delivery of actions within the Council Plan, which will be annually refreshed.

Future editions of this report will provide more detail on the integration of matters relating to biodiversity into the LGR and subsequent strategic and local planning policies and objectives as the review progresses.

Table one **Tewkesbury Borough Council's policies, objectives and actions**



Small tortoiseshell



Dragon fly

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031	The Borough Plan was adopted in June 2022 and provides a guide on where and how development will take place in the borough. It provides an appropriate planning policy framework to ensure that Council policy on development is effectively implemented that reasonable development aspirations for all are achieved, whilst giving essential	Supported by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that contain expectations and guidance for green infrastructure for developments.	Continue to implement policies through planning. Some policies may be standardised nationally. Ensure new biodiversity duties and objectives arising from the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are taken into account.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	protection for our communities and our built and natural environment against harmful development. The following plan policies are biodiversity focused or aim at some aspect of biodiversity improvement: Policy LAN5 - Local Green Spaces Policy NAT1 - Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Important Natural Features Policy NAT2 The Water Environment Policy NAT3 – Green Infrastructure: Building with Nature Policy NAT4 – Tewkesbury Nature Reserve Policy NAT5 – Cotswold Beechwoods Policy ENV2 - Flood Risk and Water Management Policy ENV3 - Solar Farms Policy LAN4 - Locally Important Open Spaces	Joint Core Strategy and Strategic Local Plan.	For future review of the local plan including the emerging Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) which once published, supersede the Tewkesbury Borough Plan and there will be no future iterations to the Tewkesbury Borough Plan in its current form.
Joint Core Strategy (JCS) 2011 - 2031 - Adopted December 2017	The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is a partnership between Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council, which sets out a strategic planning framework for the three areas. The JCS was adopted by all three councils in December 2017.	Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031	Continue to implement policies through planning. Some policies may be standardised nationally. The SLP, will once published, supersede the Joint Core Strategy

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	The following plan policies are biodiversity focused or aim at some aspect of biodiversity improvement: Policy INF2: Flood Risk Management Policy SD9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity		and there will be no future iterations to the Joint Core Strategy.
Strategic and Local Plan (SLP)	The SLP authorities (Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough councils) are working in partnership, to produce a new, Strategic and Local Plan, which will cover the three administrative areas. This will provide an overarching planning strategy and cross-boundary strategic policies, covering the whole SLP area, together with a number of local policies, specific to each local authority.	Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031 Joint Core Strategy Supported by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that contain expectations and guidance for Flood and Water Management, Golden Valley and Tewkesbury Town Regeneration.	Continue to develop the SLP including associated Local Development Schemes, Supplementary Planning Documents and Statements of Community Involvement. Ensure new biodiversity duties and objectives arising from the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are taken into account for are encompassed within the policies of the emerging SLP.
Tewkesbury Borough Council Plan 2025 - 2028	The Council Plan 2025 – 2028 outlines three priorities interlink and influence strategic planning and decision making, ultimately becoming the foundations upon which the Council Plan is built. One of the three priorities includes ‘Caring for the Environment’ which	Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031 Joint Core Strategy Strategic Local Plan	Continue to develop the Council Plan. Developing a Carbon Reduction Programme which sets out immediate actions alongside a

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	includes a commitment to making Tewkesbury Borough carbon neutral by 2030. TBC commitment was reflected in the appointment of a Carbon Reduction Programme Officer and a Climate Change Officer. These positions enable the delivery of our carbon reduction programme and increased focus on ecology and biodiversity. This is supplemented by significant investment already made by the council in reducing emissions, as well as an acknowledgement of the future investment required -despite the challenging financial position for local government. A good example of this is our Public Services Centre solar car park canopy – which was recognised nationally and helped contribute to us winning Council of the Year in 2023 at the Southwest Energy Efficiency Regional Awards. As TBC work towards becoming a unitary authority, we will continue to prioritise our carbon neutral goals, embedding sustainability in the foundations of the new authority. We have a unique opportunity to scale up action and drive	Strategies currently in place will need to be reviewed to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose, such as the Housing and Homelessness Strategy and Community Safety Strategy. Our Overview and Scrutiny Committee will play a pivotal role in this review and provide ongoing monitoring to ensure they deliver what they are supposed to.	long-term strategy for the Council to become carbon neutral. The Council Plan is an overarching strategic document and is refreshed annually to ensure it remains a live document. The plan will be supported by a suite of strategies to deliver our priorities and areas of focus. These include: • Climate Change and Ecological Framework • Housing and Homelessness Strategy • Waste and Recycling Strategy • Economic Development and Tourism Strategy • Strategic and Local Plan • Flood Response and Resilience Action Plan • Communications Strategy • Community Safety Strategy • Tree Strategy A number of these will be developed over the next 12 months, for example the Climate

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	more impactful, long term environmental outcomes.		Change and Ecological Framework.
Carbon Neutral By 2030 (CN2030)	Carbon Neutral 2030 is Tewkesbury Borough Council's overarching long-term strategy project to reduce the emissions of the council buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, but in a wider capacity, it also looks to improve communications with residents about climate change, participate in partnerships and wider county-wide activities to reduce emissions and protect and enhance nature, improve the corporate response to climate change internally, and increase the council's knowledge and understanding of it's own land and how best to manage it for the environment. In May 2023, the scope of the declaration was extended to include a borough-wide Climate and Ecological Emergency. This commits TBC to take urgent action to address the causes of climate change across the borough and to do all in our power to make Tewkesbury Borough carbon neutral by 2030.	Tree and Woodland Management Policy Hedgerow Management Policy Peat Free Policy Pesticide Policy Electric Vehicle Strategy Air source heating project Carbon literacy LED lighting project Longford microwood Solar canopy Low carbon communities	The council will continue to pursue projects, policies, strategies and actions to further support the goals of CN2030. The council will seek and apply for external funding to aid in implementation of projects, and has already been successful in utilising external funding to lessen emissions and to improve and enhance the borough's natural environment. Alongside the above, public engagement and raising awareness (see below) will provide opportunities for the borough to contribute to GN2030.

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	TBC commitment was reflected in the appointment of a Carbon Reduction Programme Officer and a Climate Change Officer. These positions enable the delivery of our carbon reduction programme and increased focus on ecology and biodiversity. This is supplemented by significant investment already made by the council in reducing emissions, as well as an acknowledgement of the future investment required, despite the challenging financial position for local government.		
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	The Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was formally adopted and published by Gloucestershire County Council in February 2026.	Joint Core Strategy Strategic Local Plan Tewkesbury Borough Council Plan	Continue to support the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership with strategy development. Share LNRS information and help engage with stakeholders by promoting through communications channels.
Biodiversity Net Gain	In England, BNG is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act	Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031	Consideration for land to be used as Habitat Banks for BNG potential or other utilisation for biodiversity projects.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	2021). Supported by Policy NAT1 habitat protection and improving biodiversity The Council will continue to enforce BNG through planning system. The Council are supporting habitat banks coming to the district where landowners looking to sell credits.	Joint Core Strategy – 2011-2031 Strategic Local Plan Gloucestershire BNG Guidance (Version 2, February 2024) LNRS	
Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document (March 2018)	The Flood and Water Management SPD was adopted in 2018 and provides guidance to developers and decision makers on how to manage surface water and main river flood risk. Chapter 10 relates to Biodiversity which includes embedded considerations of biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision making.	Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031, particularly Policy NAT2: The Water Environment and ENV2: Flood Risk and Water Management Joint Core Strategy, particularly INF2 Flood Risk Management	Continue to work in partnership with local town and parish councils, Gloucestershire County Council, the Environment Agency, Gloucestershire Highways, the emergency services, neighbouring local authorities, Severn Trent Water, the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board and local volunteers to ensure that we are as collectively prepared as possible and manage flood risk from all sources. The emerging SLP's evidence base will include an updated Flood and Water Management Assessment, along with a Water Cycle Study.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
			This will build upon and update, existing sources of flood risk information, from all sources and be embedded within the emerging SLP policies relating to flood risk, drainage and climate change.
Tree and Woodland Management Policy	The Tree and Woodland Management Policy was adopted in December 2024. The policy ensures that trees that the council owns are considered valuable assets and integral for the Council's ambition to increase tree canopy cover across the borough from 12% to 17%. The policy ensures that where necessary, trees are managed to protect public safety as well as enhancing biodiversity.	Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031 Joint Core Strategy, particularly INF3 Green Infrastructure LNRS CN2030 Gloucestershire County Council's commitment to plant 1 million trees by 2030.	The Tree and Woodland Management Policy will complement the newly created Gloucestershire LNRS, which will aid the council in deciding where best to focus resources to improve the health of current tree stocks, as well as planting new trees in the most appropriate places across the borough.
Hedgerow Management Policy	The Hedgerow Management Policy was adopted in December 2024. The policy looks to change the way that hedgerows are managed across Tewkesbury Borough, and ensure that they are	LNRS	The Hedgerow Management policy has changed the way hedgerows are managed throughout the borough. It discourages historic maintenance practices of annual

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	managed to improve their health and quality, as well as keeping the public safe in public spaces.		cutting, and looks to improve the overall health of our hedgerow stock through more prescriptive management techniques.
Peat Free Policy	The Peat Free Policy was adopted in November 2025. The policy pledges that Tewkesbury Borough Council, and all contractors employed by the council, will not use peat-based compost (or plants containing peat compost) on any of its land.	LNRS	The Peat Free Policy continues Tewkesbury Borough Council's pledge to bring in policies to protect and enhance the health of the natural landscape. By not allowing the use of peat on it's land the council has reaffirmed its commitment to lessen the UK's demand for peat-based compost.
Pesticide Policy	The Pesticide Policy was adopted by Tewkesbury Borough Council in November 2025. The policy commits Tewkesbury Borough Council, and all contractors employed by the council, to not using pesticides to control any type of pest on any of the land that it owns. The Pesticide Policy will facilitate the signposting of farmers and landowners who may wish to move away from more traditional, pesticide heavy, methods of controlling pests on their land, to environmentally friendly methods of pest		The Pesticide Policy is further commitment from the council to lessen its impact on the natural world. Any contractors or employees conducting any grounds maintenance or street cleaning will not be using pesticides of any kind and so will be eradicating any pesticides entering the environment from council sources.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	control, thereby lessening their impacts on their surrounding environments.		
LED Lighting	This projects looks to replace older, less energy efficient lighting in the council building with highly energy efficient LED lighting and to help reduce the council's greenhouse gas emissions. This was completed in 2025	CN2030	The council is now seeing reductions in electricity consumption from the new lighting compared to the old fluorescent tubes, which will lead to both financial and carbon savings. The council building now incorporates other energy saving opportunities such as additional lighting sensors into the design.
Air Source Heating	This project looked to replace the old gas fired boiler, which had become expensive to run, and was approaching the end of its life. This boiler represented a large portion of council emissions. This was replaced in 2024	CN2030	During the autumn and winter months of 2023-4, the aging gas fired heating system at the Council's Public Service Centre, was replaced with an air source heating system. The project benefitted from a grant from the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. Air source heat pumps transfer heat from the air outside and use it to provide a more stable level of heat within the building. Not only has this replacement led to a reduction in emissions, it will also lead to financial savings.

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Solar Canopy	One of the initial large-scale projects towards CN2030, was the installation of a large solar canopy at the council offices in 2022. This would reduce the council's emissions while providing clean, renewable energy to both the council offices as well as the nearby leisure centre	CN2030	This was primarily funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme and continues to provide large financial savings, as well as reducing the council's reliance on electricity from the grid. Excess energy produced is sent to the nearby leisure centre, and any remaining is transferred to the grid.
Low Carbon Communities	Residents in Gloucestershire had raised desires to improve the efficiency of their homes for both environmental and financial reasons. In 2024 Severn Wye Energy led a project to assist residents to improve the efficiency of their homes through surveys of their homes and assistance with sourcing improvements	CN2030	Fifty householders in Tewkesbury Borough benefited from warmer, greener homes thanks to a multi-partnership approach with Severn Wye Energy Agency and Stroud District Council, funded by the UK Government's Levelling Up fund during 2023-24. Households were encouraged to come forward to receive free energy surveys of their homes and a bespoke energy efficiency report and action plan. Follow-up support was provided to assess installer quotes.
Longford Microwood	To support the council's desire to increase tree canopy cover across the borough, in 2024, funding was awarded to the council from The Coronation Living		The community in Longford will benefit from a newly planted woodland which, although only the size of a tennis court, is planted

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	Heritage Fund specifically designed for local tree planting initiatives.		with over 1000 plants. Planting new trees and shrubs helps to improve local biodiversity by providing new habitats and corridors and refuges for species to utilise.
Environmental Enforcement	Our Environmental Protection and Drainage Team at TBC have the responsibility to enforce legislation relating to: - Contaminated land - Water pollution - They also work with partners ECC and Thames water to maintain: - Flood storage areas - Sewage treatment plants By minimising pollution this helps to protect biodiversity in the area		Continue with environmental enforcement works.
Grounds Maintenance	Grounds maintenance on council owned land is managed by Ubico. The Council's grounds maintenance service is responsible for undertaking the following work: - Mowing grass verges and open spaces - Maintenance of rose beds and shrub borders - Pruning hedgerows - Planting seasonal bedding displays		Work with Ubico to embed policies to maintain and improve biodiversity Investigate the potential to upgrade some of the managed areas to local wildlife sites.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	- Maintaining playgrounds		
Raising Awareness	The TBC webpages have information on: - Climate Change - Climate change - Tewkesbury Borough Council. This includes the development of the Carbon Reduction Programme and webpages on how residents, business and community groups and other organisation can tackle climate change. - Local biodiversity - Actions the public can take to improve their natural environment - Volunteer litter picker schemes encourages local people to participate. - Climate change action that can indirectly benefit biodiversity		Continue to update Council's own website on how the Council is addressing Climate Change. Carbon Literacy training and support is offered to staff and councillors.
Estate/Land management	The TBC property and land portfolio includes: - Council offices - Commercial properties - Council owned buildings eg. leisure centres - Council owned housing - Land eg. housing areas, car parks	CN2030	Consider further where properties/land/estate can be enhanced/managed for biodiversity. Continue to explore options for delivery of carbon neutral by 2030 and contribute to BNG through

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
	The current Housing Strategy 2022 - 2026 contains objectives to: - Reduce the impact of new homes on the environment whilst increasing their resilience to climate change The TBC Offices solar canopy has surpassed 500,000kWh of electricity generated since it was installed in 2022 reducing our emissions by over 60 tonnes a year. The installation of Air Source Heat Pump at TBC Offices in early 2024 has completely removed the need for a natural gas supply to the building. Other energy efficiency improvements such as LED lighting, timers on equipment, and better heating and water controls have been introduced in the council building. Insulation and double glazing have been installed in the council's owned domestic properties.		multi-functioning spaces for local residents to benefit. The TBC Office is looking at its own internal waste streams; how it can be reduced and have increased the number of materials we can recycle in our offices.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy 2022 - 2026	The Electric Vehicle Strategy was adopted in 2024. The strategy aims to identify areas within the borough where a network of electric vehicle charge points could be located for maximum effect and usage. The feasibility of further electric vehicle charging points in the Borough is being explored as part of the council's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. Work is also being undertaken with Ubico, the council's waste collection contractor, to decarbonise its vehicle fleet.	This Strategy dovetails with Gloucestershire County Council's transport strategies.	Currently there have been 20 EVCPs installed in Tewkesbury Borough, with the potential for more to be installed as further funding is identified and becomes available. Where space allows, these charge points will be PAS 1899 compliant. These installations will reduce the reliance on traditional combustion engine operated vehicles, and give residents and visitors the confidence of being able to charge their vehicles when not at home. Ongoing work to decarbonise the waste vehicle fleet.
EV hire cars	In a continued effort to lessen emissions from council operations, in 2023 TBC acquired the use of 4 EV hire cars for employees to use to travel across the borough for meetings and appointments. EV charging points were installed at the Tewkesbury Borough office to provide onsite charging between uses.	GN2030	Co-Wheels were signed up in 2024 to provide 4 EV vehicles for council staff to use for business. This has further aided in lowering emissions for the council, and may also help alleviate any EV anxiety that members of staff may have when it comes to using and charging EVs. Continue the use of electric pool cars.

Relevant Policies, Strategies and Actions	Detail and Current Status Contributing to Biodiversity Duty	Additional policies objectives to consider	Further work and future action
Review internal policies and processes	Relevant internal policies could include procurement, staff travel, waste management and water use.		Review policies to identify those that are relevant
Tewkesbury Town Centre Masterplan (SPD)	Currently being prepared for likely adoption in 2026.		Review with relevant workstreams to deliver objectives.



Section two:

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) information

This section of the Biodiversity Duty report outlines:

- the actions you've carried out to meet BNG obligations
- details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved
- how you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

Actions

Tewkesbury Borough Council was fortunate to have included biodiversity net gain into existing policies, namely NAT1, within the Tewkesbury Council Local Plan 2011 – 2031. This includes a reference to emerging proposals and any resulting new statutory/national planning policy requirements for mandatory net gain. In the interim period (i.e. prior to the enactment of the Environment Bill and during any statutory transition period) the Council still expected all major developments to deliver a minimum net gain of 10% calculated using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric (or any updated or replacement metric used as the industry standard).

The expectation is for the required net gain to be delivered on site through site specific ecological enhancements (in accordance with Policy NAT3), although the Council recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where this is not possible in whole or in part, or where the benefits of net gain may be better realised through compensatory measures off site.

Work leading up to BNG becoming mandatory in February 2024 involved recruitment for a Biodiversity Net Gain Officer position and Development Management team and Support team training to integrate BNG.

In collaboration with other LPAs within Gloucestershire, 'Guidance on delivering Biodiversity Net Gain for planning applicants and developers in Gloucestershire' was initially prepared in 2023 and updated in February 2024. The guidance aimed to provide standard advice that can be used by all LPA and planning applicants across Gloucestershire setting out factors and key requirements that LPAs will need to take into consideration to ensure that all relevant new development achieves a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain throughout the development management process; and support applicants, professional ecologists, working on behalf of planning applicants and planning consultants by providing them with the level of information required to accompany planning applications, giving practical advice and step-by-step guidance on how development and associated land use change proposals will need to comply with the Environment Act 2021.



Once BNG became mandatory in February 2024 for major applications and April 2024 for minor application, all applications have been subject to the biodiversity gain condition. This includes ensuring all applications are providing the minimum mandatory statutory information required to validate a planning application, along with consultation by ecological support through the application process.

Applications subject to the biodiversity gain condition have been assessed as to whether any habitats are classified as onsite significant enhancements. Since mandatory BNG, one approved biodiversity gain plan has been subject to a S106 legal agreement with Tewkesbury Borough Council in relation to onsite significant enhancements and off-site land.

BNG results

Since mandatory BNG (February 2024 for major applications and April 2025 for minor applications), three biodiversity gain plans have been approved. Full details are provided within the accompanying BNG Report Duty Excel sheet (January 2026).

Future BNG reporting obligations

Over the next reporting period, it is anticipated that there will be a constant stream of biodiversity gain plans for approval as applications are discharging the biodiversity gain condition, fulfilling the BNG obligation.

With Government re-organisation, the next reporting period may look different due to it including a larger authority and any updates to the statutory BNG requirements.

It is anticipated that a number of Habitat Banks will be set up within Tewkesbury Borough/Gloucestershire (following re-organisation), all of which will contribute biodiversity units to the local area, contributing to environmental policies outlined in Table 1.

Habitat banks

Opportunities to deliver Habitat Banks within Tewkesbury Borough Council landholding will be explored.

Working agreements are currently being prepared with the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GNCF) to deliver off-site biodiversity units within Tewkesbury Borough Council, for use by the applicants. The GNCF will operate a county-wide BNG unit database, where sales, monitoring and maintenance will be tracked and registered as per the legislation requirements.



Monitoring

Tewkesbury Borough Council are utilising the Exacom module to record BNG across the authority and aid with the future monitoring requirements in accordance with the legislation for onsite significant enhancements, off-site habitats and Habitat Banks. During this reporting period, no monitoring has currently been undertaken as the monitoring period schedules have not been reached. However, by the next reporting period, it is anticipated at least some monitoring of onsite significant enhancements, off-site habitats and Habitat Banks will have been undertaken.

BNG and Future

The LPA will work with relevant stakeholders to apply statutory BNG in accordance with the legislation, regulations and national policy and guidance. In particular, the LPA will wish to ensure that the LNRS process and the Local Plan provide a complementary strategic view of biodiversity issues and the application of policy.

Section three: Conclusion

Tewkesbury Borough Council has reported on its consideration of current approaches to ensuring that the Council is meeting and delivering its biodiversity duty.

Looking forward to 2026 and beyond, there are several key areas of focus:

- Continued co-ordination approach for delivery of biodiversity across Tewkesbury and Gloucestershire;
- Council Plan review;
- Strategic and Local Plan adoption and implementation;
- Continued implementation of mandatory BNG;
- Implementation of updated statutory BNG requirements;
- Development and implementation of the Gloucestershire LNRS including integration into local and strategic planning policies and development management decisions;
- Embedding further changes to the national town planning system;
- Considering any implications arising from any government review of the Environmental Improvement Plan; and
- The integration into local planning policy and development management decisions, of species conservation strategies and protected site strategies, as and when progressed by national government.



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