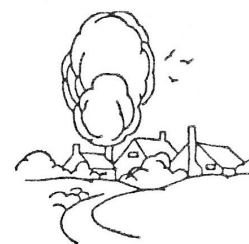


BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy

Adopted: 14 November 2023

Next review: November 2025



Introduction

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

Boughton under Blean Parish Council recognises that we need to be more connected to the natural world for our own survival. The Parish Council observes its legal duty to conserve and increase biodiversity through this policy.

As a Parish Council we will:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions we make through our committees and working groups, by seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity and identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable
- Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity through grants we make
- include biodiversity considerations in agreeing maintenance contracts for public amenities
- Include the public in projects to improve biodiversity
- Raise public awareness of how the public can support biodiversity

As a landowner we will:

- Use native and sustainably sourced trees when planting
- Create habitats for wildlife in a bid to maintain or increase wildlife populations
- Use native and sustainably sourced trees/hedges when planting
- Maintain planted trees/hedges to give them the best chance of survival
- Leave dead wood safely in place in woodland to provide additional wildlife habitat
- Pro-actively remove invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species
- Avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides where possible
- Avoid using peat based compost where possible
- Properly scale and time grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal such that the impact on biodiversity is minimised. Maintenance practices which are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed
- Improve water efficiency on our land
- Procurement - where possible buy sustainable materials and supplies to reduce the demand on natural resources