

Biodiversity & Trees - Officer Working Group

6th November 2023



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

New biodiversity duties

- The Environment Act 2021 requires all public authorities in England to consider what they do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- There is a need to consider and report on what action SKDC intends to take for biodiversity, **no later than 1 January 2024**.
- Following this initial consideration, SKDC must agree policies and objectives, take action, and prepare the first formal Biodiversity Report no later than 1 January 2026.
- An update on local authority biodiversity duties is due to go to the Environment OSC meeting on 12th December.
- Ensuring biodiversity action becomes routine within Council working will involve multiple departments.
- New expectations for Biodiversity Net Gain for new developments



What we want to achieve in 2024

Biodiversity Action Plan	Tree and Woodland Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand current health of the natural environment in the district and areas of improvement• Set out SKDC's remit to influence the natural environment and improve biodiversity• Consider our role as Planning Authority and new expectations for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for new developments• Consider our role as local authority and specific actions and projects we intend to implement to improve biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand current extent of tree canopy cover across the district and best areas for any further tree planting• Set out SKDC's remit to directly plant more trees and develop woodland areas• Set out how we intend to engage with wider partners to facilitate tree planting opportunities in the whole district• Enhance the benefits trees provide and ensure trees are well managed



Council areas involved

- Planning and Planning Policy
- Projects, Policy & Performance
- Property
- Leisure, Parks & Open Spaces
- Grounds Maintenance
- Economic Development

- *Any we have missed?*



Links to external partners

Key partners for delivery:

- Lincolnshire County Council
- Neighbouring district councils
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
- *Any we have missed?*

Wider partners to engage:

- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Forestry Commission
- National Trust
- Large land owners/developers
- Town/parish councils
- Friends of groups
- Community groups
- *Any we have missed?*



Current projects and items under development

	Existing	Under development
Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Plan to 2036• Tree guidelines• Climate Action Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Plan 2024-27• Tree & Woodland Strategy• Biodiversity Action Plan• Open Spaces Strategy
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LCC Green Masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy• Green Investment in Greater Lincolnshire (GIGL) – delivery for Biodiversity Net Gain



Biodiversity Net Gain training session with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

13th November 2.00-5.00 Witham Room

The Wildlife Trust will be joining us on 13th November to discuss **Biodiversity Net Gain**: including policy, our responsibilities, management, resourcing and what support the Wildlife Trust can offer.



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What other plans, current or future, can we
report on for our new biodiversity duties?



Date of next meeting – online?

