



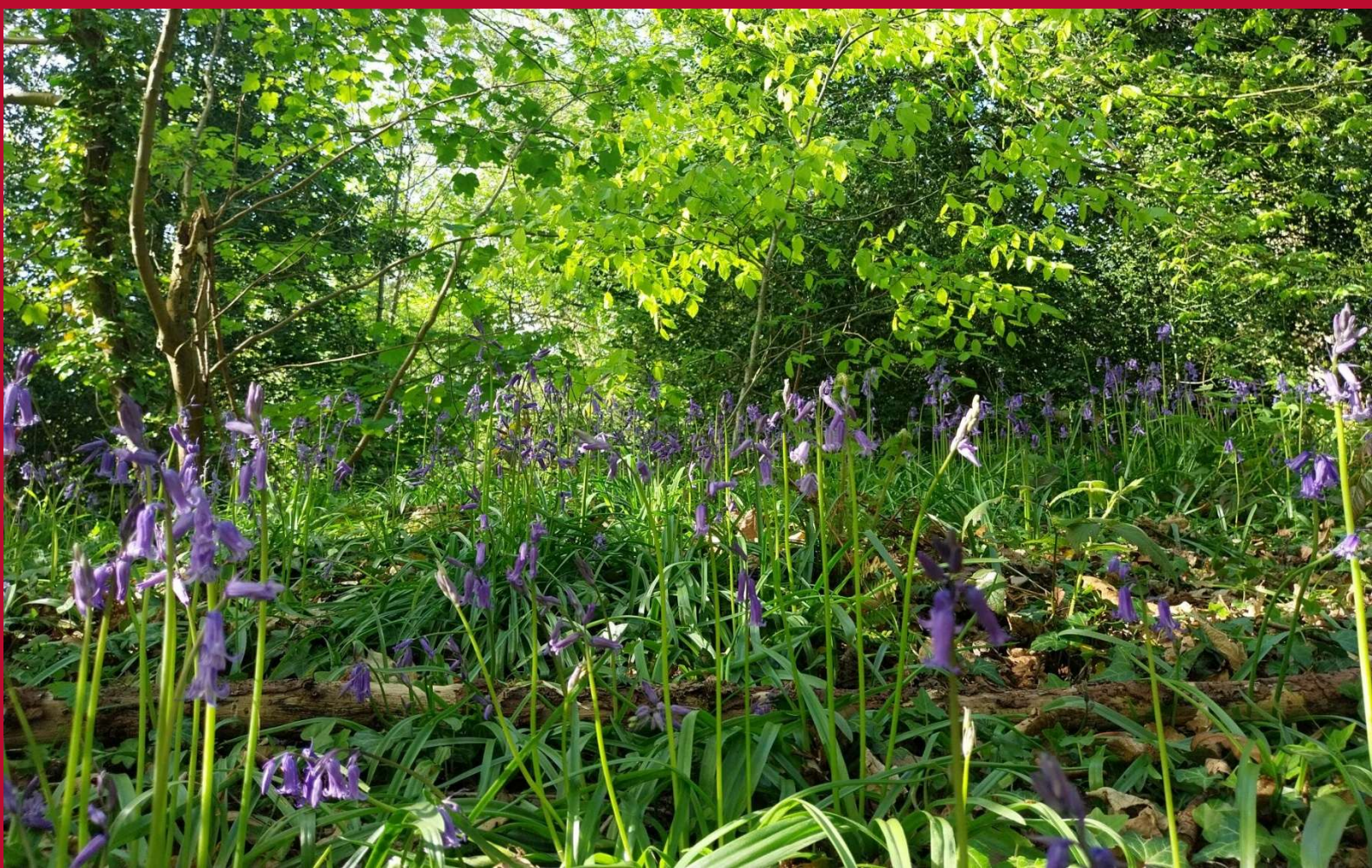
Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Biodiversity Duty

Monitoring to 31st December 2025

February 2026



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Part 1: Report

Section 1: Introduction

Information about Telford and Wrekin Council

Telford and Wrekin Council (TWC) is a unitary authority formed in 1998, within the ceremonial county of Shropshire. The borough had a population of nearly 192,000 people in 2024, and is around 112 square miles (290 km²) in area. It is located on the eastern edge of the county, incorporating the towns of Telford, Newport and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, along with many rural settlements.

TWC is responsible for both district and county-level functions, including local planning applications, housing, waste collection and disposal, environmental health, social services, libraries, waste disposal, highways, local flood management, schools, and the maintenance of council-owned land and properties.

What biodiversity is in Telford and Wrekin?

Telford is proud to have been recognised by the UN as a [Tree City of the World](#). The ethos of Telford, since its inception, was to be a forest town, with woodland and trees being planted throughout the heart of urban communities.

The trees planted at the birth of the town are now reaching maturity. This brings huge benefits to residents and the environment as well as challenges to TWC, especially with new tree diseases, causing significant management implications.

Telford also has a large rural area of mixed arable and pasture farmland. Part of the [Shropshire Hills National Landscape](#) (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) enters the borough's western boundary, covering the iconic Wrekin and Ercall Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The borough has eight nationally important nature conservation sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), six of these for biodiversity. It is also in the impact zone of Aqualate Mere SSSI which receives additional protection as an internationally designated wildlife site (under the Ramsar Convention).



These sites are all regularly assessed by Natural England for their health. Only two of the nine are in Favourable Condition. The rest are facing fundamental challenges to being able to retain their reasons for designation. Actions captured within this plan will identify solutions to address this situation.

TWC has committed to designate significant areas of the semi-natural land in its ownership as [Local Nature Reserve \(LNR\)](#). The 20 reserves already designated now extend to 671 hectares. This equates to 3.5 hectares per 1,000 residents, over three times the national benchmark. TWC plans to declare seven more LNRs over the next two years.

What is the Biodiversity Duty and what do we need to do?

The [Environment Act 2021](#) has amended the pre-existing Biodiversity Duty, within Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to include conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Section 40 Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity

“For the purposes of this section “the general biodiversity objective” is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England through the exercise of functions in relation to England.

A public authority which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

After that consideration the authority must (unless it concludes there is no new action it can properly take)-

- (a) determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and*
- (b) take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.....”*



Along with considering, planning and delivering actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity, there are also now duties for reviewing and reporting as well as a new overseeing body, with powers of prosecution, to hold government and other public authorities to account (Office of Environmental Protection).

The Environment Act requires Local Authorities (excluding parish councils) to publish reports on how they have complied with their duty. It also sets out the timetable for reporting periods and publication dates:

- the first reporting period should finish no later than 1st January 2026
- the following reporting periods must be within five years of the previous one
- reports must be published within 12 weeks of the end of the reporting period date

By law, our report must include:

- a summary of the action TWC has taken to deliver the duty
- how we plan to deliver our duty in the next reporting period
- actions Planning have taken to meet biodiversity net gain obligations
- details of gains resulting, or expected to result, from approved biodiversity gain plans
- how Planning will meet their biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period
- any other information considered appropriate

The Government's current [Biodiversity Duty reporting guidance](#), including specific requirements, is published online.

Monitoring Summary

Policies

Telford and Wrekin Council has in place a wide range of strategies that include and influence biodiversity across its work areas; from pure nature conservation within nature reserves and new developments, to dealing with contaminated land, improving air quality, and integrating health, wellbeing and recreation with green infrastructure.

The following plans in progress currently will further strengthen biodiversity objectives:

- Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch Strategy and Local Play Strategy
- Telford and Wrekin Local Plan, to include 20% BNG for major developments and an Urban Greening Factor policy

Actions Completed

Of the 58 actions ongoing or due to be undertaken in 2025, all have been actioned or progress made. Achievements of note include:

- significant input to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, adoption expected in 2026
- new Local Plan includes aspirations for 20% biodiversity net gain for major sites and Urban Greening Factor
- biodiversity protection and Biodiversity Net Gain compliance delivered with ongoing 4 full time ecologists retained, plus s106 funding secured for long-term monitoring.
- major wetland work carried out at Muxton Marsh SSSI with another £10,000 secured for the next 5 years
- 2 Local Nature Reserves declared and one extended. New interpretation installed at 3 LNRs.
- the local biological record centre redesigned as STERC, hosted by TWC with support of a new steering group, and many keen local recorders.
- over 100 news releases mentioned biodiversity, or ways to engage with nature.
- many Friends of Groups supported and involved in nature reserves and parks.
- pool car Pilot scheme implemented, and 16 electric vehicles on council vehicle fleet.

Future Actions in the Next 5 Years

Of the 18 actions due to be undertaken in 2026 and beyond, most have been started or have plans in place for work to be carried out.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Good compliance with new statutory requirements has been achieved with ongoing training and resources throughout the planning process. To date we have:

- Approved 12 biodiversity gain plans.
- A total of 4.58 hectares of habitat and 1.04 kilometres of hedgerows to be retained, enhanced or created within the developments.
- Two plans deliver 'significant onsite enhancements', which includes s106 funding
- Five plans have purchased off-site units, from biodiversity gain sites (habitat banks) in neighbouring LPAs or Natural Character Areas (NCAs).
- Over 90% of biodiversity units will be delivered directly on development sites within the borough

Section 2: Policies, objectives and actions

Policies, Declarations, Pledges, Strategies and Plans

Summary information on these policies can be found in our Action Plan document:

[adopted-twc-biodiversity-duty-consideration-rpt-action-plan-part-1-19625.pdf](#)

The following policies are in place or have been set up to meet our biodiversity duty:

- Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy (draft)
[Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Shropshire Council](#)
- Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch Strategy and Local Play Strategy (under review)
- Contaminated Land Strategy (2025- 2030)
[Appendix+A+-+Draft+Contaminated+Land+Strategy.pdf](#)
- Air Quality Strategy: Building Safer, Stronger & Healthier Communities Through Better Air Quality (January 2024)
[Telford & Wrekin Council | Air quality - reviews and assessments](#)
- Council Plan (2024)
[telford_and_wrekin_council_plan_2025_update.pdf](#)
- Telford and Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2023)- partnership delivery
[Appendix 1 for Health Wellbeing Strategy.pdf](#)
- Tree and Woodland Management Policy (2021)
[final_tree_and_woodland_management_policy_170621.pdf](#)
- Climate Emergency Declaration (2019)
TWC also pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming carbon neutral Action Plan (2021)
[Carbon Neutral Action Plan | Sustainable Telford and Wrekin](#)

- Telford and Wrekin Local Plan (2018)

[Telford & Wrekin Council | Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 2011-2031](#)

The Local Plan is currently under review and has progressed to Publication (Regulation 19) Stage. It includes policies to safeguard biodiversity and where possible enhance it beyond statutory minimum levels. This includes an aspiration for major developments to provide at least 20% biodiversity net gain, which is above the minimum statutory level of 10%. The inclusion of a development greening factor will aid climate adaptation and the protection and enhancement of the urban green networks is also set out. Further technical information is available online ([Examination library Information - Local Plan](#))

- Local Transport Plan (2011-26)
- Environmental Policy (2010)
- West Midlands' Biodiversity Pledge
- Sustainable Procurement Policy (2009)



Objectives

The following objectives are set out in our action plan:

- enhance protected sites (designated nature sites such as SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites)
- actions in National Landscapes - implement management plans and improve nature
- promote nature-based solutions, restoration of natural processes and landscape recovery on large areas of land
- manage land to improve biodiversity via:
 - nature corridors that connect habitats
 - managing woodlands, watercourses, wetlands, field margins and hedgerows
 - managing public land such as allotments, cemeteries, parks, sports fields, road and rail verges and rights of way
 - creating dedicated spaces for wildlife in open spaces across our landholding
 - using the Green Infrastructure Framework within the planning process
- make space for wildlife -school grounds, public spaces, planting for pollinators
- improve how we manage buildings – Manage vegetation, install wildlife boxes, add green roofs/ walls and rain gardens, reduce energy, water and chemical use
- consider biodiversity in Development Planning – use data, strategies, best practice guidance and expert knowledge
- educate, advise and raise awareness – highlight biodiversity in internal and external communications, educate staff, provide information boards and include the public



Actions Completed and Future Actions

The action reporting period for this report is 1st January 2023 to 1st January 2026. The action plan, actions to date and plans for compliance over the next five years are presented as a detailed table in Part 2. Although some are cross cutting, actions have been split into the following broad groupings:

- Green Space and Site-based topics
- Built Environment topics
- People and Communities topics
- Development Planning topics
- Broader Corporate Policy topics

With regard to resources, it is acknowledged that no additional funding is provided to a public body to meet their Biodiversity Duty. Therefore, all actions are subject to them being resourced from continuing current activities, changes in activities, efficiencies and/or securing additional external income.



The following sections summarise the main actions we have completed across each work area, that benefit biodiversity, and how the duty will be fulfilled over the next 5 years.

Green Space and Site-based Work Actions

Actions taken to date include:

- input to the Shropshire Hills National Landscape management plan
- significant staff input and progress towards delivery of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- progress towards a new management plan for Newport Canal SSSI
- designation of nine new Local Nature Reserves, extension of three existing reserves, review/update of nine management plans
- various work to improve Local Nature Reserves, with new S106 contributions being sought from nearby planning proposals
- practical management of woodland through partners such as The Smallwoods Association and Telford Green Spaces Partnership
- positive management of more road verges, parks and grazing land

Highlights include:

- major lowland fen and reedbed habitat restoration work at Muxton Marsh SSSI completed in October 2023, with £10,000 funding over 5 years secured from Severn Trent Water in 2025
- wildflower areas sown at Boulton Grange, Bean Hill, Dawley park, Dale End park, Victoria Park, Hartshill park and Bowring Park
- new community orchard and bulb planting
- several footpath improvements including a new bridge at Waters Upton

Challenges include:

- drought conditions in summer 2025
- ensuring public understanding of management changes
- limited resources for additional management actions

Plans for delivery over the next 5 years include:

- support Local Nature Recovery Strategy towards adoption in 2026
- green infrastructure strategy to be formed once resources identified
- SSSI management plans to be updated and new funding sought
- designate at least five new Local Nature Reserves and extend one, to increase reserves area by over 80 hectares; review and update all management plans
- identify more verges and open spaces for wildflower meadow creation
- review of herbicide reduction options
- schools wildlife workshop to be held in 2026
- identify suitable funds such as S106 contributions and Tree Replacement funding to deliver habitat creation projects
- explore the feasibility of a 'green pledge' programme to support landowners and businesses to conserve wildlife within their sites or neighbourhoods



Case Studies- Urban Meadow Creation

Boulton Grange, Randlay



A 0.9 hectare area of sloping ground between housing estates was improved from amenity grassland to wildflower meadow, through harrowing and raking the existing grass and sowing a commercial wildflower mix. The area used to be regularly mown short on an amenity cut 10 times per year. The edges and perimeter paths are still mown neatly, but the long meadow is now cut twice a year by a specialist contractor.

The project was funded by s106 contributions for biodiversity mitigation, and was used as a pilot to assess costs of creation and ongoing care. Creation and management over 3 years will cost £6,601, and estimated cost savings from mowing reduction are around £1000 over 3 years.

This site is identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, so delivers wider biodiversity recovery ambitions. The area is part of a large open space, leaving plenty of flatter close mown grass for residents to enjoy as usual, but provides a new colourful sight for walkers and motorists passing by. We are looking into gaining community feedback and ways to involve residents further in the area, such as butterfly surveys, walks, volunteering and school use.

Bean Hill at Dothill and Shawbirch Local Nature Reserve



A 2.3 hectare field was enhanced within this nature reserve in a similar way, except no seed was purchased. Free waste hay from another TWC flowery meadow was collected and spread onto the site, allowing seeds to fall and enrich the area. This saved around £8000 in commercially purchased seed, as well as using a waste material that would otherwise have incurred a disposal cost.

Using our own meadows as a seed source saves money, supports meadow management and creates more natural new wildflower areas. This method can only be employed in late summer so timing and logistics are a constraining factor, but we hope to expand this practice further and assess the cost benefits.

Watch a video of the hay strewing:

[ChrisH - Beanhill hay strew - reduced - 29.8.24 1.mp4](#)

Built Environment

Actions taken to date include:

- ongoing raising awareness amongst contractors on the impact of maintenance work and best practice in vegetation management
- securing new bird, bat and hedgehog and boxes in new school extensions and social housing proposals
- rain gardens promoted as SuDS options in new school and social housing proposals

Highlights include:

- Station Quarter highway rain gardens under construction, to be adopted by TWC
- swift boxes installed on Stirchley Chimney in Telford Town Park

Challenges include:

- limitations on staff time available for regular joint working and consultation

Plans for delivery over the next 5 years:

- regular information sharing meetings to explore opportunities for Flood risk, Ecology and GI links within future projects, and potential rain garden/ SuDS, retrofitting on council-owned sites



People and Communities

Actions taken to date include:

- 70 news releases mentioned biodiversity, wildlife or nature, with over 40 highlighting ways to engage with nature or help wildlife, such as volunteering and kids activities
- Telford Green Spaces Partnership held several meetings with attendance from many local groups
- local Friends of groups and members were consulted on sign upgrades to provide clear information in a corporate style across our LNR's, most with QR code links
- historical heritage interpretation installed at Apley LNR and Dothill and Shawbirch LNR. Rough Park Healthy Walking route interpretation has been updated
- online biodiversity webinar and workshop for Councillors and Parish Clerks held on 22nd October 2025

Highlights include:

- improving habitats that result in new species breeding on sites -such as Reed warblers at Dothill and Apley Woods LNRs

Challenges include:

- greater wildlife disturbance and habitat impacts from increased visitor pressure, water quality concerns and the number of dogs using sites

Plans for delivery over the next 5 years:

- new Local Play Strategy and Play Pitch and Outdoor Recreation Strategy will highlight opportunities to increase access and engagement with green spaces
- improving community groups' attendance of TGSP meetings so they are actively engaged in discussions to increase their awareness
- regular meetings with officers to ensure consents are obtained and work done is in line with management plan objectives



Development Planning

Actions taken to date include:

- Ecology Team maintained with 4 FTE officers. Continued income generation through SEDN and external contract work. S106 funding for BNG monitoring has started to be secured through recent permissions
- Ecology Team input to all relevant planning applications and policy updates including the Local Plan review
- new Local Plan includes a borough specific Greening Factor system based on Urban Greening Factor
- the Local Environmental Records Centre (SEDN- Shropshire Environmental Data Network) is being redesigned as Shropshire and Telford Ecological Records Centre (STERC), and it has been formally agreed that TWC will host and lead with support of a new steering group. Record collation and dissemination is a key priority. TWC still holds and uses data internally

Highlights include:

- roll-out of Biodiversity Net Gain compliance across development management
- mapping of tree cover, open spaces and revised Green Network completed
- inaugural Recorders Forum for STERC held in late 2025 with excellent attendance

Challenges include:

- balancing officer time between in-house roles and generating external income
- greater workloads as BNG obligations increase

Plans for delivery over the next 5 years:

- maintaining current ecology information and staff resources
- aiming to create a refreshed Green infrastructure Strategy and carry out more mapping analysis



Broader Corporate Policy

Actions taken to date include:

- biodiversity consideration wording has been specifically added to the Cabinet decision paper template, and to procurement bidder response documents
- pilot pool car scheme introduced allowing staff to book vehicles with the latest engine technology to reduce emissions

Highlights include:

- waste collection and disposal operations 2024/25 showed a reduction of 1,251 tonnes of CO₂ compared to previous year
- 16 electric fleet vehicles in use across the Council

Plans for delivery over the next 5 years:

- monthly monitoring of % of lighting converted to LED and Contractor performance
- continuing established protocols and practice



Section 3: Biodiversity Net Gain Information

Background Information

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) came into force in England in February 2024. It is a statutory requirement, for certain developments, to enhance biodiversity within their sites by at least 10%, and maintain this for 30 years post-completion. The scheme aims to reverse nature decline and to support the delivery of higher quality, better connected ecological networks in urban areas and beyond. You can read more about how BNG works here: [Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK](#)

The biodiversity value of a site is measured prior to development, to establish the baseline. This involves an assessment of the types of habitat present, resulting in a score that generates a biodiversity unit 'value' for area habitats (such as meadows and woodland), and linear hedgerows and watercourses. A second assessment of the proposed layout is then carried out, to establish the change in the unit value post-development.

The aim of BNG is for the biodiversity value of finished developments to be at least 10% higher than the baseline-through creating new habitats or improving those retained. Where there is 'significant onsite enhancement' in line with national and local guidance (such as large habitat areas, numbers of units delivered or important habitat features), this must be secured with a 30-year management plan.

If 10% gain can't be achieved on site, developers can purchase off-site units from a registered habitat bank; typically a rural landholding that is creating new habitats on a large scale. If the off-site units are outside of the LPA or National Character area of the development, the unit value is slightly reduced by a multiplier depending on the location, incentivising the use of units closer to the impacted site. A final 'last resort' option is national statutory credits - these are rarely chosen due to the intentionally high cost.



Actions to meet BNG obligations

We have provided online guidance for developers and ecologists working in the borough [Telford & Wrekin Council | Biodiversity net gain](#).

Our ecology team has have actively engaged and participated in online forum and training throughout the introduction and implementation of BNG and continue to upskill via self-study, online forums and sharing caseload experience. We have carried out BNG assessments for council projects to fulfil our own planning obligations, as well as commercially for other developers elsewhere in England and this has served to further upskill our ecology team.

The team has delivered training and created resources for Development Management officers, and delivered specifically tailored training sessions to our in-house commercial projects teams, Senior Officers and Ward Members. We have produced a template S106 agreement and costings framework to cover council review and monitoring of developments with significant onsite enhancements, which require a 30-year management and monitoring plan.

As yet, TWC has not registered any of our publicly owned land as a biodiversity gain site, but this remains an option for ongoing review as the market develops. To this end, we have prepared baseline information on several parcels of public land, carried out some pilot habitat enhancement and creation work (meadow and hedgerow creation), evaluated costs, and set up a habitat works procurement framework. We are also in the process of evaluating various avenues to enable our own biodiversity uplifts to be legally secured.



We have supported the development of a local BNG market by liaising with local habitat bank providers such as Shropshire Wildlife Trust. We are exploring the feasibility of entering into a S106 agreement with a habitat bank provider to enable them to set up a net gain site within Telford and Wrekin borough. On some larger development sites where the required net gain will be greatly exceeded, we are encouraging developers to consider habitat banks to create rarer, higher value habitats that would otherwise not be incentivised.

Our progressing new Local Plan includes more ambitious targets for BNG that support 20% gains on major development sites. Our study of impact shows a further 10% uplift would be negligible, as many sites are already near or exceeding 20%, and the additional cost for this is likely to be around 0.08% of the average cost of a dwelling.

Biodiversity Net Gain Results to Date

Here we summarise the details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans that have been approved up to 1st January 2026.

So far, only a small number of biodiversity gain plans have reached the approval stage. These are some of the smaller, less complex sites. Other proposals subject to BNG have been withdrawn or not granted permission for a variety of reasons, while a growing number have planning approval, but are yet to discharge their BNG condition. This pre-commencement condition is where the final detailed Biodiversity Gain Plan is assessed and agreed, along with 30-year Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans and s106 agreements for those sites where there is significant onsite enhancement.

To date we have approved 12 biodiversity gain plans. These secure a total of 4.58 hectares of habitat and 1.04 kilometres of hedgerows to be retained, enhanced or created within the developments. None of these proposals will cause impact to irreplaceable habitat, such as veteran trees or ancient woodland. Two of the plans deliver 'significant onsite enhancements', which are secured via an additional 30 year management and monitoring plan and s106 agreement to cover council review and enforcement costs. Five plans include purchase of off-site units, from biodiversity gain sites (habitat banks) in neighbouring LPAs or Natural Character Areas (NCAs).

Table showing Biodiversity Units Secured to date

Total Units	Habitat area	Hedgerow	Watercourse
Baseline units	28.68	1.35	0
Post-Development units	32.38	3.29	0
Net unit change	+3.7	+1.94	0
Onsite units	29.72	3.14	0
Off-site units	2.65	0.15	0
Offsite units inside same LPA/NCA as impact site	0	0	0
Offsite units in neighbouring LPA/NCA	2.65	0	0
Offsite units not in neighbouring LPA/NCA	0	0.15	0
Statutory credits	0	0	0
Percentages			
Combined net change %	+13%	+144%	0
% of units Onsite	92%	95%	0
% of units Off-site	8%	5%	0

The amount of net gain is very variable between developments. The lowest area habitat gain was 10% and the highest was 75%, with an average for an individual scheme being 23.4%. For hedgerows, the average gain is nearly 280%, with the lowest example achieving 12%. However, most make over 100% gains, because new hedges are planted on sites where no hedgerows were present prior to development.

The percentage gain on any site is often relative to the size of the site, the baseline value, and how much will be developed. Larger sites can more easily exceed 10% gains as they have room for more greenspace. However, some small, low biodiversity value sites e.g. mostly hardstanding, can make relatively big difference with some simple planting. Conversely, clearing woodland or a diverse meadow leaves little room to compensate onsite – the loss of high value habitats is also very much discouraged through the mitigation hierarchy principles of BNG guidance, so is usually unacceptable.

It is positive to see that, so far, over 90% of units will be delivered directly on development sites within the borough, rather than via habitat banks many miles away. We are finding that as developers gain experience of the BNG process, better design solutions are found, earlier in the process. This is translating into greener developments, with more attention towards other green infrastructure aspects, such as sustainable drainage and amenity.

Table showing locations of Off-site BNG units secured

Application	Biodiversity gain site	Habitat area	Hedgerow
TWC/2024/0384	Crow Leasow Farm, Ludlow, Shropshire. Shropshire Council LPA, Shropshire Hills NCA	0.72	
TWC/2024/0447	Crow Leasow Farm, Ludlow, Shropshire. Shropshire Council LPA, Shropshire Hills NCA	1.43	
TWC/2024/0709	Crow Leasow Farm, Ludlow, Shropshire. Shropshire Council LPA, Shropshire Hills NCA	0.4	
TWC/2025/0267	Betchcott Hill, Church Stretton, Shropshire. Shropshire Council LPA, Shropshire Hills NCA	0.1	
TWC/2025/0576	Emberton, Milton Keynes. Milton Keynes LPA Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA		0.15

Registered biodiversity gain sites, or 'habitat banks' can be viewed on this map - [BNG Map](#)
You can search the biodiversity gain sites register here [BNG: Search Results](#)

Table showing applications with approved Biodiversity Gain Plans

Application	Site Address
TWC/2024/0384	Former Dun Cow Public House, New Street, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire (Significant onsite gain)
TWC/2024/0447	The Burton Borough School, Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7DS
TWC/2024/0593, TWC/2024/0606, TWC/2024/0611	Ellerdine Lakes Fishery, Ellerdine Hall Farm, Ellerdine, Telford, Shropshire
TWC/2024/0644	Site of 40-43 and 14-15, New Road/Harp Lane, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire
TWC/2024/0645	Land rear of 1-21 The Ley, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire
TWC/2024/0709	H M Land Registry, Parkside Court, Hall Park Way, Telford Town Centre, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4LR (Significant onsite gain)
TWC/2024/0890	87-93 odds Oakengates Road & 33&35 Cordingley Way, Donnington, Telford
TWC/2024/0931	Site North West of The Barking Dog, Cherrington, Newport
TWC/2025/0012	Tern Farm, Tern Lane, Longdon On Tern, Telford, Shropshire, TF6 6LN
TWC/2025/0258	Site of The Lion, 3 Whitchurch Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 3DX
TWC/2025/0267	The Gables, 1 Drury Lane, Rodington, Telford, Shropshire, SY4 4RG
TWC/2025/0576	Land North East of Severn Trent Water Rodway Pumping Station, Cherrington, Newport

No development site delivering statutory BNG has yet been completed on the ground, as they have only recently had permission to commence work. The first monitoring of sites with significant onsite enhancements will be one-year post-completion of each development. Therefore, we expect the first 'on the ground' results to be submitted by developers in 2027. We will however visit some sites early to check progress, support site managers' delivery of BNG, and further our continued learning.



- ❖ **12 Biodiversity Gain Plans approved**
- ❖ **Over 32 habitat units and three hedgerow units secured**
- ❖ **4.6 hectares of habitat and 1000 metres of hedgerow to be retained, improved or created within developments**

Actions to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

We are aware that changes are proposed to the national BNG system, therefore will continue to improve our knowledge and skills by attending courses, sharing good practice with other local authorities, innovating and evaluating practical solutions and learning from site monitoring.

We will continue to provide resources and internal training for our planning, enforcement and commercial teams, as well as developers and consultant ecologists. We will continue to update and add to our online guidance as tools and information become available, taking note of feedback from users. Guidance will change after the adoption of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and our new Local Plan which is in progress. We also aim to specify more detailed local requirements on where to secure 'significant onsite enhancement', as we observe the impacts and priorities in different scenarios.

Accounting systems to track results from BNG development sites will be developed, for easier reporting and to manage our monitoring and enforcement responsibilities as an LPA. We will also record staff time and expenditure as monitoring requirements increase, to ensure we can resource this workload effectively.

Supporting habitat banks locally will continue as suppliers emerge. When appropriate we will reinvestigate the feasibility of delivering BNG on our own site.



Biodiversity Duty

Monitoring to 31st December 2025

Part 2: Action Table

Action ref code	Activity					Update (01 Jan 23 to 31 Dec 25)				
	What?	Where?	When?		Outcome	Monitoring				
	The government's suggested topic area (as set out in https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty)	Action	Location	Start date	Expected completion date	Measure/s of success	Actions Taken	Date completed	Plans for next 5 years	Additional information
Green Space and Site-based topics										
G01	Enhance protected sites: Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance)	Action 1. Ecology Team continue to be consulted, and where relevant, carry out Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) on developments which may increase pressures on Aqualate Mere.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	HRAs on all relevant applications to be completed	Applications continue to be assessed and approved only where no harm caused.	Ongoing		National and legal advice is shifting and we are ensuring our processes are compliant.
G02	Enhance protected sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Action 1. Newport Canal SSSI - create and adopt a new management plan to fully identify causes of damage and identify solutions.	Newport Canal SSSI	April 2025	March 2026	Management Plan adopted	Scope of Newport Canal management plan has been agreed as being tight to ecological designation. Water quality data has been investigated. Involved with consultation on NE assent changes.	Ongoing		
G03	Enhance protected sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Action 2. The Wrekin & The Ercall SSSI - liaise with majority owner (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) and create and adopt a new management plan to identify improvements.	Wrekin & The Ercall SSSI	April 2029	March 2030	Management Plan adopted			Create and adopt a new management plan during 2029/30	
G04	Enhance protected sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Action 3. Muxton Marsh SSSI - deliver works in current management plan (Granville LNR) and identify funding/solution for deterioration of fen. Ensure management plan is reviewed and refreshed in due course.	Granville Country Park LNR	Ongoing	Dec 2029	SSSI in good management	Removal of willow trees encroaching on the priority lowland fen and reedbed habitat completed. Further funding secured - £10k over 5 years (£2k pa) from Severn Trent Water to continue targeted fen restoration	October 2023 December 2025	Management plan to be updated 2029. Continue to work with Natural England to address site condition. Seek further funding for improvements.	
G05	Enhance protected sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Action 4. Lydebrook Dingle SSSI - create and adopt a new management plan to identify solutions for recovery and improvements	Lydebrook Dingle SSSI	April 2026	March 2027	Management Plan adopted	Management plan added to 2026 work programme.	Jan-26	Create and adopt a new management plan during 2026/7. Seek funding to deliver management. Seek protection and impact mitigation from any relevant nearby developments	

G06	Enhance protected sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Action 5. Lincoln Hill SSSI - create and adopt a new management plan to identify solutions for recovery and improvements	Lincoln Hill SSSI	April 2028	March 2029	Management Plan adopted			Create and adopt a new management plan during 2028/9	
G07	Enhance protected sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Action 6. Tick Wood & Benthall Edge SSSI - create and adopt a new management plan to identify solutions for recovery and improvements	Tick Wood & Benthall Edge SSSI	April 2027	March 2028	Management Plan adopted			Create and adopt a new management plan during 2027/8	
G08	Enhance protected sites: Local Nature Reserves and Local Sites	Action 1. Continue to designate proposed LNRs	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Dec 2026	Heath Hill & Pool Hill, Holmer Lake with Kemberton Meadow & Mounds and Snedshill & the Flash.	5 LNRs declared, 2 extended 2 LNRs declared Heath Hill & Pool Hill, The Flash declared. Holmer Lake and Madebrook extended.	2023 2024 2025	Kemberton Meadow & Mounds, Snedshill, and Redhill Ecology Park to be declared 2026/7. Further new sites and extensions to be planned.	
G09	Enhance protected sites: Local Nature Reserves and Local Sites	Action 2. Identify Local Sites not covered by LNR declaration and consider creating management briefs.	Albion Hill, St Georges, plus other sites as appropriate	Ongoing	Oct 2026	Local residents engaged in Friends group. Regular volunteer engagement. Possible future LNR site(s)		Ongoing	Carry out baseline surveys of Local Sites and create management briefs where necessary	
G10	Enhance protected sites: Local Nature Reserves and Local Sites	Action 3. Ensure management plans/briefs are enacted. (Linked with G18)	LNRs	Ongoing	Ongoing	Improve condition of LNR's	Continuing to improve habitats for the benefit of a wide variety of species, by working with local communities and seeking funding sources.	Ongoing	Seek s106 contributions from new developments nearby, to support LNR management actions	
G11	Enhance protected sites: Local Nature Reserves and Local Sites	Action 4. Ensure management plans are reviewed appropriately over time. (Linked with G13)	LNRs	Ongoing	Ongoing	LNRs have current management plans adopted.	12 LNR plans are up-to-date, 8 require review		Update all plans as they expire, starting with older and higher priority plans.	
G12	Actions in national parks or National Landscapes (areas of outstanding natural beauty): helping to develop and implement management plans for national parks or National Landscapes	Action 1. One officer and one elected representative sits on relevant National Landscape committees and contribute to plan making.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Continuation of attendance	Cllr Mark Boylan and Ben Holloway are TWC representatives and we have positively inputted into Partnership works and plan making.	Ongoing	New management plan has been consulted and in process of TWC adoption.	
G13	Actions in national parks or National Landscapes (areas of outstanding natural beauty): helping to develop and implement management plans for national parks or National Landscapes	Action 2. Ercall & Lawrence's Hill LNR and Limekiln Wood LNR have new management plans written to align with wider NL and LNRS priorities and opportunities for beneficial management identified. (Linked with G11)	Ercall & Lawrence's Hill LNR and Limekiln Wood LNR	April 2029	March 2030	Revised plan adopted			Management plan to be updated 2029.	

G14	Actions in national parks or National Landscapes (areas of outstanding natural beauty): making improvements to nature in these areas	Action 1. Deliver works identified in the forthcoming management plans for Erccall & Lawrence's Hill LNR and Limekiln Wood LNR. (Linked with G10)	Erccall & Lawrence's Hill LNR and Limekiln Wood LNR	April 2030	TBC	Works delivered			Continue to work with Natural England to address site condition. Seek further funding for improvements.	
G15	Manage land to improve biodiversity: consider how to manage 'nature corridors' that connect existing habitats	Action 1. Use LNRS and GI studies to identify wildlife corridors and required ecological functions	Sites across the Borough	April 2025	March 2026	GIS mapped corridors and functions	LNRS mapping being refined following public consultation. Funding being sought for formal GI strategy.			
G16	Manage land to improve biodiversity: consider how to manage 'nature corridors' that connect existing habitats	Action 2. Integrate actions to enhance required ecological functions within management plans of sites in network	Sites across the Borough	March 2026	Ongoing	New management plans and reviews include consideration	LNRS has recommended actions for enhancement for use as an evidence base.	Ongoing		
G18	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Aid landscape recovery	Action 1. Provide officer time to fully engage and support the production and delivery of the LNRS	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Officer duties include support of LNRS production and delivery as required	Plans being updated and attendance at TGSP ongoing. Some meetings with Friends of especially around projects.			
G19	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Aid landscape recovery	Action 2. Formal approval of the LNRS	Sites across the Borough	Jan 2025	Dec 2025	Adoption of LNRS Winter 2025	Consultation draft document was approved and hoped final document to be adopted in March 2026.			
G20	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Aid landscape recovery	Action 3. Open space management plans assess, and where possible commit to, actions to support LNRS priorities	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	New management plans and reviews include consideration	Ongoing - Can be integrated into new plans	Ongoing		
G21	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Woodlands and nature reserves	Action 1. TWC to continue to foster links with partners like The Smallwoods Association to help in the proactive management of woodland and to continue to support volunteer groups to help manage sites through Telford Green Spaces Partnership by engaging, advising, training and resourcing	Apley Woods, Rough Park, Randlay Valley, Dawley Hamlets, The Cockshutt, Dothill & Shawbirch, Holmer Lake & Madeley Pitmounds LNR's	Ongoing	Ongoing	Maintain and where possible increase involvement of 3rd sector and volunteers	Targeted interventions across the listed sites by Smallwoods aimed at creating more biodiverse, healthy woodlands - working with the volunteer groups. Continued support of groups through TGSP	Continuing to improve habitats for the benefit of a wide variety of species	Smallwoods have come to the end of their funding through Severn Trent Water but we will continue to look for further opportunities.	
G22	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Canals and rivers	(Incorporated by TWC into G18 - G20)					(Incorporated by TWC into G18 - G20)			
G23	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Water-dependent habitats	(Incorporated by TWC into G18 - G20)					(Incorporated by TWC into G18 - G20)			
G24	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Field margins and hedgerows	Action 1. New agreements to include wording encouraging biodiversity through reduced overgrazing and the creation of wildlife corridors when installing new fences.	Sites across the Borough	March 2025	March 2027	Installation of new fences	New licence templates include wording to encourage biodiversity	Ongoing	All licence agreements will have been renewed within 5 years. Encourage native planting where hedgerows being replaced	Challenges - graziers only replace fences when necessary, alongside the shortage of available fields for grazing

G25	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Allotments	Action 1. New agreements to include wording encouraging biodiversity through the reduced use of pesticides, composting and organic gardening techniques	Wellington and Brookside Allotments	March 2025	March 2027	Adoption of new gardening techniques	New licence templates include wording to encourage biodiversity	Ongoing	Continue to adopt new wording when agreements are issued to new plot holders.	Challenges - Rolling licence agreements - new licences only issued when plots change hands.
	G26	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Cemeteries	Action 1. Seek potential areas for meadow cut grass areas and liaise with Registrars, Cllrs and Town & Parish Councils to educate them on the benefits of improving the biodiversity	Castle Green, Wellington & Wombridge	Ongoing	2028	Designated meadow cut areas in all cemeteries where appropriate	No new update on this (Dec 25)		
G27	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Parks and sports fields	Action 1. Works have been identified to improve biodiversity in all of the formal parks by changing grass cutting maintenance regimes, sowing bulbs and wildflowers, planting trees and hedging and installing information boards. Formal Green Flag parks have no pesticide use. Opportunities have also been found to leave margins around sports fields and plant trees and wildflower areas	Formal parks are - Telford Town Park, Bowring park, Dale End park, Dawley park, Hartshill park and Victoria park	Ongoing	Ongoing	Implementation of works	Wildflower areas sown in Dawley park, Dale end park, Victoria Park, Hartshill park and Bowring park during autumn 2025 to add to existing areas.	01/10/2026	Continue to look for opportunities to add new wildlife friendly areas	Challenges have been the hot, dry summer of 2025 on trees we planted during winter 24/25
							Meadow creation at Boulton Grange	2024		
G28	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Amenity spaces and communal gardens	Action 1. Work has already been done with communities and Cllrs to plant community orchards and identify areas for wildflower sowing	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Sites identified and projects delivered	Many projects delivered over the last 5yrs with the team continuing to work with Cllrs and residents to identify suitable locations for future planting	Ongoing		Drought conditions during summer of 2025. Carrying out the correct pruning of community orchards as this is outside of the scope of the current contract
G29	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Roadside and railway verges	Action 1. Many wider urban verges have received baseline surveys leading to meadow cut regimes for over 15yrs. Continue identifying potential verges to reduce maintenance to one cut & collect. This needs to be balanced with sight line safety	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Verge meadows maintained and new suitable verges added	Increasing number of suitable verges, islands and formally cut grass areas put on a lower cutting regime and many over-sown with native, perennial wildflowers and managed by a single meadow cut	Ongoing	Continue to look for opportunities to reduce cutting regimes where appropriate	Challenges - only a very few negative comments from residents regarding longer grass
G30	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Rights of way and access routes	Action1. Ensuring that landowners are adhering to their responsibilities.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Sound habitat management	When landowners are undertaking works that require permission and advice, we check the area in question and consult Ecology to ensure that any habit is not adversely impacted.	Ongoing	Advise landowners of legal requirements for protected species during path maintenance. Check with Ecology team where paths are adjacent hedgerows, watercourses, woodlands or designated sites.	Challenges can be when Landowners complete works on Rights of Way without our knowledge, we then educate once this has been brought to our attention and follow our enforcement policy wherever necessary to prosecute or serve notice.

G31	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Rights of way and access routes	Action 2. Continue to obtain appropriate advice on any works TWC undertakes on PROW that may impact biodiversity.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Contracted work avoids harm to biodiversity	When works have been completed by TWC and the Term Contractor, Ecology are consulted e.g. Lightmoor LNR where we have improved the surface of the path and installed a new boardwalk. Trees officers we consult when they have fallen on/across Rights of Way	Ongoing	Consult Ecology team and Tree officers on all footpath projects at design stage. Record biodiversity baseline gains where possible.	Ecological and community awareness is written in to the Term Contract and Ecology are consulted in all areas where the work might have an adverse impact.	
	G32	Make space for wildlife: School grounds – create gardens, ponds, meadows or woodlands to improve biodiversity and aid education	Action 1. Head teachers informed of their Biodiversity Duty and opportunities for improvements to school grounds that benefit students' learning and wellbeing.	Sites across the Borough	Oct 2025	June 2026	LA schools contacted and information provided.	Article on Biodiversity Duty and ideas for schools has been included in Leaders Magazine (information for school heads and governors). A presentation was delivered to the Head teachers and Chair of Governors briefing meeting	8th December 2025 8th January 2026	Update head teachers as necessary	
		G33	Make space for wildlife: School grounds – create gardens, ponds, meadows or woodlands to improve biodiversity and aid education	Action 2. Online workshop held to share resources and discuss constraints and opportunities.	Sites across the Borough	June 2025	June 2025	2hr online workshop held	School contacts and information is being gathered. An online school grounds workshop is being planned for Spring/ summer 2026		Set up schools nature network to share information. Plan biodiversity improvement works to school grounds where funding allows
	G34	Improve how you manage buildings: Managing vegetation around buildings	Action 1. Look for opportunities to provide thermal protection for buildings by planting deciduous trees on the southern side of buildings to provide summer shade whilst allowing winter sun through. Shrubs should be chosen (and replaced where appropriate) to species and cultivars that reach a maximum height required that don't require pruning (and therefore time, labour, power tools and the disposing of arisings) and can fulfil their abilities to flower and fruit, aiding pollinators, birds and mammals. Look for opportunities to change grass species mixes and cutting regimes and screening unsightly fences and walls with hedging.	Across built portfolio	Ongoing	Ongoing	Opportunities taken as they arise	None as yet.		Work with partners and colleagues to identify suitable opportunities	Challenges - balancing environmental improvements with public perception on the proximity of trees to buildings to mitigate thermal overload in hot summers. Also cost of managing additional hedges planted

G35	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Creating dedicated spaces for wildlife	Action 1. Identify areas where dedicated spaces could be created for wildlife. This could be initiated by survey data indicating a species is present on site or nearby and its chances of success could be improved by a change or intervention in habitat management.	Across all sites	Ongoing	Ongoing	Opportunities taken as they arise	Continuing to look for opportunities	2025 Ongoing	Identify suitable funds such as S106 contributions and Tree Replacement funding to deliver habitat creation projects. Continue to look for opportunities across landholdings as evidence is gained. We are exploring the feasibility of a 'green pledge' programme to support landowners and businesses to conserve wildlife within their sites or neighbourhoods.	Challenges include the resources to carry out surveys outside LNRs	
	G36	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Consider promoting and encouraging nature-based solutions, restoration of natural processes and landscape recovery on large areas of land	Action 1. Ensure TWC contributes to the production and implementation of the LNRS.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	TWC adopts LNRS	Active participant. Meet Co-ordinator and NE every 2 weeks to guide progress. Continue active support for Steering Group, document production and consultation.	Ongoing	Continue to support and implement the LNRS	
		G37	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Consider promoting and encouraging nature-based solutions, restoration of natural processes and landscape recovery on large areas of land	Action 2. Align LNRS priorities with Local Nature Reserve management plans when they are reviewed.	Local Nature Reserves	Ongoing	Ongoing	All LNR management plans reviewed assess contribution to the county LNRS	Ongoing - Can be integrated into new plans	Ongoing	Continue to support and implement the LNRS
	G38		Manage land to improve biodiversity: Reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides, peat and water	Action 1. We will continue to look for viable alternative solutions to herbicides and follow best practice in reducing water use.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Best practice maintained	A review of alternatives to herbicides for highway weed spraying has been undertaken and authorities carrying out trials to reduce glyphosate are being monitored for success. Water use is restricted to essential irrigation for new trees and bedding	Ongoing	Continue to work with organisations like APSE to look for viable pesticide alternatives
		G39	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Implementing measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and plant disease	Action 1. Officers know to be aware of invasive species and report them as soon as they are identified so control measures can be put in place. Inform the public and groups like anglers and walkers about biosecurity methods to avoid the spread of invasive species.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reports received and processed	Continue to control invasive weeds through the contract and help Friends of groups and the wider public identify and report them to us	Ongoing	

G40	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Using native and sustainably sourced trees and shrubs when planting	Action 1. Continue to seek best practice on most suitable species for building resilient habitats that offer a wide variety of benefits for wildlife and can meet the challenges of a changing climate and an increased number of pests and diseases.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Best practice maintained	We have to use planting stock of local provenance where applicable but also consider climate change and choose species that will be more resilient in the future - particularly trees	Ongoing	Increasing the variety of species planted (where appropriate) that will reduce water use, be climate and disease resilient and	
G41	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Maintaining planted trees to give them the best chance of survival	Action 1. Trees are watered for the first 2-3yrs until established.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Newly planted trees establish	Watering by contractors/volunteers until established	Ongoing	Choose species that will require less water	Challenges are costs of irrigating trees
G42	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Leaving dead wood safely in place in woodlands to provide additional habitat	Action 1. Some of the larger timber is extracted whilst other wood is eco-piled and left to decompose on site.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Deadwood habitat increases	Officers and contractors work together to ensure appropriate levels of wood are left on site in suitable locations	Ongoing	Make partners aware of the importance of dead and decaying wood	Challenges are residents removing wood from sites for fuel
G43	Make space for wildlife: Plant wildflowers for pollinators	Action 1. Areas within parks, road verges & roundabouts, sports pitches, LNR's and public open spaces have been scarified and sown with wildflowers.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	More community meadows created and maintained	More meadow areas sown on verges, parks and amenity grass in 2025 to increase biodiversity	Ongoing	Continue to look for opportunities to add new native wildflower areas	
Built Environment										
B01	Improve how you manage buildings: Impact of maintenance work to wildlife	Action 1. Raise awareness amongst Surveyors and contractors.	Across built portfolio	Ongoing	Ongoing	Number of buildings sites/improved	Ongoing		Closer working between Facilities, Commercial and Ecology teams	Constraints on staff time
B02	Improve how you manage buildings: Managing vegetation around car parks (implied)	Action 1. Raise awareness amongst Surveyors and contractors. Consider re planting when re designing car parks shrub areas.	Across built portfolio	Ongoing	Ongoing	Number of buildings sites/improved	Ongoing		Closer working between Facilities, Commercial and Ecology teams	Constraints on staff time
B03	Make space for wildlife: Build and install nest boxes for birds, bats and other animals	Action 1. Raise awareness amongst Surveyors and contractors. Consider in refurbishment and new build schemes.	Across built portfolio	Ongoing	Ongoing	Number of buildings sites/improved	Ongoing: Swift boxes installed on Stirchley Chimney in Telford Town Park. Bird and boxes secured in new school extensions and social housing proposals		Closer working between Facilities, Commercial and Ecology teams	Constraints on staff time
B04	Make space for wildlife: Add green walls or roofs to existing or new buildings	Action 1. Raise awareness amongst Surveyors and contractors. Consider in refurbishment and new build schemes.	Across built portfolio	Ongoing	Ongoing	Number of buildings sites/improved	Ongoing		Closer working between Facilities, Commercial and Ecology teams	Constraints on staff time

B05	Make space for wildlife: Hard landscaping (not explicitly in guidance but implied)	Action 1. Installing rain gardens where appropriate to intercept run-off and provide both filtration of surface water and a slowing of the flow into watercourses.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Increase in number of rain gardens	Station Quarter development highway rain gardens are under construction, which TWC will adopt for long term maintenance. Raingardens promoted as options in new social housing proposals	Ongoing	Rainwater planters are being considered at Lightmoor Primary School as part of a grant bid. Setting up regular meetings to exploring opportunities for Flood risk, Ecology and GI links within future projects, and potential rain garden/ SuDS retrofitting on council-owned sites.	Constraints on staff time
B06	Improve how you manage buildings: Reduce the use of energy and water to help reduce pollution and address the pressure it puts on wildlife	Action 1. Accurate monitoring of water and energy use. Consider this in new build and refurbishment projects.	Across built portfolio	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reduced consumption for each building	Currently advertising for Energy Monitoring Officer			
B07	Review internal policies and processes: Water – improve water efficiency to reduce the effect water abstraction can have on sensitive habitats and species	Action 1. When building new or refurbishing buildings Architects and Project Managers will consider water use and ways of reducing it. This includes rainwater harvesting etc.	Across Operational and School buildings	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reduced water consumption	Ongoing			
B08	Improve how you manage buildings: Use of chemicals on the premises	Action 1. All cleaning chemicals used remain to the same or better environmentally friendly standards (currently use the Jangro range).	Council buildings	Ongoing	Ongoing	Cleaning products remain of same or higher environmentally friendly standards	Ongoing for the chemicals that the cleaning team use. Any chemicals used by biT Facilities Management are minimal and used within guidelines.	Ongoing	Ongoing	

People and Communities topics

P01	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Feature biodiversity in public or internal communications	Action 1. Biodiversity is included as a key message in all internal and external communications that promote the work we are doing - usually included within Cabinet Member quotes to ensure media publication.	All relevant proactive and reactive communications via media releases, social media and email bulletins.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Media coverage and social media engagement	Within the reporting period, 70 news releases mentioned biodiversity, wildlife or nature, including 'Big Walk Week' and 'Green Spaces are Go'.	Throughout 2023-2025	Continue regular liaison with relevant teams to gather biodiversity news and actions.	
P02	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Raise public awareness of how their gardens can support biodiversity, for example by avoiding artificial grass	Action 1. Media opportunities will be taken to incorporate ideas public and staff can take themselves to benefit biodiversity including wildlife gardening and volunteering.	All relevant proactive and reactive communications via media releases, social media and email bulletins.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Media coverage and social media engagement	Over 40 news releases included ways to engage with nature or help wildlife.	Throughout 2023-2025	Continue regular liaison with relevant teams to gather biodiversity news and actions.	

P03	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Include biodiversity considerations in advice for internal and external clients and service users	Action 1. Environment & Neighbourhood and the Ecology Teams will continue to provide advice and raise awareness through interactions with wider colleagues, contractors and the public as part of their daily duties. This will include advising Cllrs on Pride Fund projects.	All relevant proactive and reactive communications	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ecological advice is made available proactively and upon request	Environment & Neighbourhood and the Ecology Teams regularly answer queries from the public, councillors and community groups	Throughout 2023-2025		
P04	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Educate staff on your biodiversity actions and why they are important	Action 1. Biodiversity is included as a key message in all internal communications that promote the work we are doing.	Internal communications	Ongoing	Ongoing	Internal communications and engagement	Internal updates and email digests regularly include environmental stories and opportunities to engage with nature through events in parks and nature reserves.	Throughout 2023-2025	Continue regular liaison with relevant teams to gather biodiversity news and actions.	
P05	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Use libraries and museums to raise awareness of biodiversity	Action 1. Arrange outreach using sole council library at SW1 and liaise with community managed libraries to help promote/use space in their sites.	SW1 primarily, but also community managed libraries	April 2025	Ongoing	Events held	No requests as yet at Southwater Library regarding holding any engagement sessions. Community Libraries are contactable via their respective parish/town councils.	Throughout 2023-2025	Ecology and Neighbourhood teams to spread awareness with volunteer groups and look for opportunities to work with libraries	
P06	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Put information boards in green spaces or offer guided walks	Action 1. Identify key sites such as LNRs and formal parks for extra information about site history, habitats, wildlife, walking routes and facilities. Install QR code links to TWC website.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	All LNRs have appropriate interpretation and a sustainable number of guided walks	Local Friends of groups and members consulted on sign upgrades to provide clear information in a corporate style across our LNR's, most with QR code links. Historical Interpretation has been installed at Apley LNR and is being installed in Dothill and Shawbirch LNR. Rough Park Healthy Walking route interpretation has been updated.	Ongoing	Our new Local Play Strategy and Play Pitch and Outdoor Recreation Strategy will highlight opportunities to increase access and engagement with green spaces	
P07	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Include the public in projects to improve biodiversity.	Action 1. Work with Town and Parish councils, partner organisations, "Friends of" groups and the public to engage them in events and projects to help a greater understanding and awareness. Carry out consultations where required and hold events to engage residents.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Greater sign up for "Friends of" groups, citizen science and better reporting of negative impacts	Support through TGSP for training. Directing potential new volunteers to Friends groups via our communications and website info. Regularly meeting with them to support and advise and signpost funding opportunities	Ongoing	Improving groups attendance of TGSP meetings so they are actively engaged in discussions to increase their awareness. Regular meetings with officers to ensure consents are obtained and work done is in line with management plan objectives	Top wildlife highlights are improving habitats that result in new species breeding on sites (such as Reed warblers at Dothill and Apley Woods LNR's). Challenges are increased visitor pressure, water quality and impacts of dogs
P08	Educate, advise and raise awareness: Include the public in projects to improve biodiversity.	Action 2. Offer training session to Town and Parish Clerks on the biodiversity duty and actions they might take.	Sites across the Borough	April 2025	March 2026	Training session offered	Online webinar and workshop for Cllrs and Clerks held.	22.10.25	More events may be offered depending on take up.	

Development Planning topics										
D01	Consider biodiversity in development plan making and decisions	Action 1. Maintain a team of minimum 4 FTE biodiversity officers within the planning service to assist with TWC planning policy and development management functions. (See D13 Prepare for biodiversity net gain: Consider how existing planning advice and strategies can protect and enhance biodiversity. Action 1.)	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Minimum 4FTE biodiversity officers within planning service	Ecology Team maintained with 4 FTE officers. Continuing income generation through SEDN and external contract work. S106 funding for BNG monitoring has started to be secured through more planning permissions.	Ongoing		Increased use of officer time to generate external income. Greater workloads as BNG obligations increase
D02	Consider relevant strategies: Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Action 1. Identify and align appropriate TWC activities to contribute to the delivery of the LNRS via appropriate strategy/plan reviews and project delivery.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	LNRS included as appropriate	Draft strategy now available and final strategy hope for adoption March 26 - will act as evidence base for action planning	Ongoing		
D03	Consider relevant strategies: Protected Site Strategies	Action 1. Monitor publication of Protected Site Strategies every January and address implications.	Sites across the Borough	Jan 2025 Jan 2026 Jan 2027 Jan 2028 Jan 2029	Jan 2025 Jan 2026 Jan 2027 Jan 2028 Jan 2029	Any relevant Protected Site Strategies are identified and addressed in TWC policy/ practice	Checked: No Protected Site Strategies have been published by NE to date	Ongoing		
D04	Consider relevant strategies: Species Conservation Strategies	Action 1. Monitor publication of Species Conservation Strategies every January and address implications.	Sites across the Borough	Jan 2025 Jan 2026 Jan 2027 Jan 2028 Jan 2029	Jan 2025 Jan 2026 Jan 2027 Jan 2028 Jan 2029	Any relevant Species Conservation Strategies are identified and addressed in TWC policy/ practice	Checked: No Species Conservation Strategies have been published by NE to date	Ongoing		
D05	Consideration process: check existing data about wildlife and habitats in the area	Action 1. Use the Local Records' Centre as appropriate.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Budget and officer time retained	The local record centre is being redesigned as STERC, and has now formally been decided that TWC will host and lead with support of a new steering group. Record collation and dissemination is a key priority. TWC still holds and uses data internally.	Ongoing		Inaugural Recorders Forum held in late 2025 with excellent attendance and many good contacts made.
D06	Consideration process: check existing data about wildlife and habitats in the area	Action 2. Ensure TWC officers can access ecological data via Ecology Team as required.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Adequate ecological data available to officers	Access is still available, GIS layers are updated as necessary	Ongoing		
D07	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Use Green Infrastructure Framework	Action 1. Create a refreshed Green Infrastructure Strategy to include mapping and priority setting.	Sites across the Borough	June 2025	June 2027	Strategy adopted	Funding bid for University of Oxford study was not successful. PhD via NHS funding was not able to be pursued. Alternative avenues are being explored again	Ongoing		

D08	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Use Green Infrastructure Framework	Action 2. Adopt and implement a Local Plan policy for 20% BNG target and support delivered within the borough. (See D12 Prepare for biodiversity net gain: Consider including biodiversity net gain policy in the local plan Action 1)	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	March 2025	Policy in Publication Plan	Publication Local Plan for Examination in Public has an explicit policy aspiration for 20% and asks for local first and evidence where this is not possible.	2025		
	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Use Green Infrastructure Framework	Action 3. Adopt and implement a Local Plan policy to introduce the Urban Greening Factor for appropriate developments.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	March 2025	Policy in Publication Plan	Publication Local Plan for Examination in Public has an explicit policy for a borough specific Greening Factor system based on Urban Greening Factor.	2025		
D10	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Use Green Infrastructure Framework	Action 4. Telford has a remarkably high volume of tree cover. As part of the GI Strategy, map tree canopy cover for the borough and identify priority areas for increasing cover using the Tree Equity Score analysis.	Sites across the Borough	April 2025	March 2026	Tree Equity Score analysis mapped for areas of the borough covered	Tree mapping has been carried out. Analysis using Tree Equity Score has not yet been carried out.	2025	Carry out analysis	
	Manage land to improve biodiversity: Use Green Infrastructure Framework	Action 5. Telford has a remarkably high supply of accessible open space. As part of the GI Strategy, map accessible open space standard for the borough and identify priority areas for increasing cover using the Green Infrastructure Framework standards.	Sites across the Borough	April 2025	March 2026	Open space supply and need mapped across borough	Open spaces have been mapped via the PROS and GIS files obtained. Analysis has not yet been carried out.	2025	Carry out analysis	
D12	Prepare for biodiversity net gain: Consider including biodiversity net gain policy in the local plan	Action 1. Adopt and implement a Local Plan policy for 20% BNG target and support delivered within the borough. (See D08 Manage land to improve biodiversity: Use Green Infrastructure Framework. Action 2.)	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	March 2025	Policy in Publication Plan	Publication Local Plan for Examination in Public has an explicit policy aspiration for 20% and asks for local first and evidence where this is not possible.	2025		
	Prepare for biodiversity net gain: Consider how existing planning advice and strategies can protect and enhance biodiversity	Action 1. Maintain a team of minimum 4FTE officers within the planning service to assist with TWC planning policy and development management functions. (See D01 Consider biodiversity in development plan making and decisions. Action 1.)	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Retention or expansion	Biodiversity Net Gain compliance has been rolled out across development management, with guidance, resources and training. Continuing, however increased use of officer time to generate external income	Ongoing		

Broader Corporate Policy topics										
C01	Decision making: Consider using the Natural Capital approach for decisions	Action 1. Specifically include the consideration of biodiversity within the Environment section of the decision paper template to enable officers and Cabinet to formally evaluate impacts.	Sites across the Borough	March 2025	March 2025	Wording incorporated into the Council's standard decision paper template	Wording included	01/03/2025		
C02	Review internal policies and processes: Procurement – buy sustainable materials and supplies to reduce the demand on natural resources	Action 1. Add standard question/s within bidder response documents, to evaluate potential suppliers' relative impacts upon the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.	Sites across the Borough	Feb 2025	March 2025	Template Tender Documents located on the Procurement SharePoint site. Questions are in situ and suppliers will provide guidance on their processes	Completed action. Suppliers responses to the council's questions	For tenders April 2025	Ongoing as and when tenders are submitted	
C03	Review internal policies and processes: Waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill	Action 1. Waste transport stations continue to adhere to licencing requirements including monitoring and reporting of drainage system integrity & water quality of effluent. Fuel storage is bunded and spill kits are on hand.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Continued compliance	Confirmation from Veolia IWMF manager that compliance is standard practice, checked internal and externally for compliance	26.11.25	will check annually	
C04	Review internal policies and processes: Waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill	Action 2. Waste collection vehicles are fitted with leachate collection equipment to prevent leaks during transport.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Continued compliance	Confirmation from Veolia Ops manager that these are fitted as standard	26.11.25	will check annually	
C05	Review internal policies and processes: Waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill	Action 3. The waste collection Contractor to report annually on Greenhouse Gas emissions and how improvements has been made as part of their waste management activities.	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Improvements reported to TWC	This is reported Annually via the annual performance report by Veolia. Recent report shows 24/25 showed improvement of - 1,251TCO2g compared to previous year	Last report was June 2025 Next report due June 2026	Annual reporting by Veolia Appendix L in Annual Report	
C06	Review internal policies and processes: Light – make sure the design of artificial lighting minimises effects on nature	Action 1. Updated design guidance for lighting that can be used for internal and external works	Sites across the Borough	Aug 2026	Aug 2027	Guidance updated	Currently reviewing lantern specifications that will be used to influence updated guidance	Due to commence August 2026	Monthly monitoring of % of lighting converted to LED and Contractor performance	

C07	Review internal policies and processes: Transport – support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality	Action 1. Introduction of electric fleet vehicles across the Council	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reduction in corporate mileage	16 electric vehicles on fleet		Will continue to consider electric vehicles where new vehicles are procured and infrastructure is available.	
C08	Review internal policies and processes: Transport – support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality	Action 2. Pool car scheme introduced allowing staff to book vehicles with the latest engine technology to reduce emissions	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reduction in corporate mileage	Pilot scheme implemented in 2025		Performance to be reviewed in 2026	
C09	Review internal policies and processes: Transport – support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality	Action 3. Promoting the use of Microsoft Teams where appropriate to remove the need for un-necessary travel	Sites across the Borough	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reduction in corporate mileage	Suggest that this should be actioned across council. Staff are generally encouraged by managers to minimise travel, use the most appropriate type e.g. public transport, and to use virtual means where possible.		Continue to support staff to minimise travel.	



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

**Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough**