DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted: 09/09/2026
Minute reference: 8b
Review date: September 2029

1. Purpose and statutory duty

Under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as strengthened by section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Doddington Parish Council has a duty to consider what action it can properly take, consistent with the exercise of its functions, to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Council will consider what it can do, agree appropriate policies and objectives and take reasonable action to deliver them. It will also have regard to relevant local nature recovery and other statutory nature strategies.

Parish councils are not required to publish a separate statutory biodiversity report. The Council will record relevant decisions and actions through its normal meeting minutes, reports and other Council records.

This policy provides a proportionate framework for meeting the biodiversity duty, taking account of the Council's functions, land, assets, responsibilities and available resources.

2. Policy

The Council will consider biodiversity where it is relevant to its decisions and activities. In particular, the Council will:

Planning

- Consider biodiversity when responding to relevant planning applications.
- Support, where appropriate, the protection of existing habitats and trees, the creation and connection of habitats, green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain.
- Have regard to relevant biodiversity policies and objectives in the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan, where applicable.

Council land and assets

- Where the Council owns or manages land, consider practical opportunities to conserve or enhance biodiversity alongside safety, access, amenity, heritage, maintenance requirements and cost.

- Where reasonably practicable, encourage wildlife-friendly management of Council land, including appropriate mowing, protection of trees and hedges and avoiding unnecessary harm to wildlife.

Buildings, projects and procurement

- Consider biodiversity when undertaking relevant works, projects or improvements to Council land, buildings and infrastructure.
- Where relevant and proportionate, take biodiversity into account when specifying grounds maintenance, landscaping and other contracts.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- Have regard to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and its Local Habitat Map when considering relevant planning applications, Council land and assets, projects and opportunities to conserve or enhance biodiversity.
- Where practical, seek opportunities that support the wider objectives of the LNRS, particularly the protection, restoration and connection of habitats.

The LNRS is the appropriate source for current local priorities, mapped opportunities and recommended nature-recovery measures, this can be found at: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Cambridgeshire County Council

Neighbourhood planning

- Where the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan contains relevant policies or objectives concerning wildlife, habitats, biodiversity, green infrastructure, trees, ponds, hedgerows or other environmental matters, the Council will take these into account when exercising its functions.
- Biodiversity considerations will be kept under review when the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed or updated.

Community action

- Where appropriate and within available resources, the Council may support local initiatives, community projects or partnerships that promote biodiversity and nature recovery.
- The Council may consider participating in relevant local or county nature-recovery initiatives where these provide practical benefits for Doddington.

The Council will not undertake activities or incur expenditure solely for biodiversity purposes where this would be inconsistent with its statutory functions, other Council priorities, value for money or available resources.

3. Local priorities and action

The Council will take a proportionate approach to biodiversity. It will focus primarily on matters within its own control or influence and will consider opportunities as they arise.

The Council's current priorities are:

Priority	Action
Council decisions	Consider biodiversity where relevant and record significant considerations in Council decisions.
Planning	Take biodiversity, the LNRS and relevant Neighbourhood Plan policies into account when responding to planning applications.
Council land and assets	Consider practical biodiversity improvements when land, buildings or assets are being managed, maintained or improved.
Maintenance	Encourage wildlife-friendly management where safe, practical and cost-effective.
Local strategies	Have regard to the LNRS and Local Habitat Map when considering relevant opportunities.
Community opportunities	Where appropriate, support practical local biodiversity or nature-recovery initiatives within available resources.

Additional actions may be identified by the Council where opportunities arise.

The Council does not consider that a separate biodiversity audit or Community Nature Recovery Plan is necessary at this time. These may be considered in the future if the Council's landholdings, responsibilities, local priorities or available resources change.

4. Monitoring and review

The Council will review this policy and reconsider what further action it can properly take to conserve and enhance biodiversity at least every five years, or sooner if there is a material change in legislation, local circumstances, Council responsibilities or relevant local strategies.

Significant biodiversity decisions and actions will be recorded through the Council's ordinary governance arrangements.

The Council will review relevant updates to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LNRS and, where appropriate, the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan as part of its policy review.