

Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for 2026 to 2030

Proposed key objectives (and actions) to fulfil the biodiversity duty over the next 5 years are set out in the table below.

Biodiversity Duty Objective	Updated actions Completed actions are summarised in the main report	Timescales	Department/service responsible Resource implications
Objective 1 Relevant external strategies To ensure Dover District Council contributes to the preparation of, and implementation of, the following relevant strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) • Species Conservation Strategies • Protected site strategies 	1.1 To continue to be involved with and cooperate with KCC (Making Space for Nature Team) who are preparing guidance on the implementation of the LNRS.	2026 / 2027	Planning and Development
	1.2 Further actions related to the LNRS will be identified and incorporated into DDC strategies, where possible.	Ongoing	Planning and Development,
	1.3 To work collaboratively with KCC and the Kent Nature Partnership to deliver LNRS biodiversity priorities.	Ongoing	All
	1.4 Dover District Council will cooperate and consider how to contribute to the implementation of species and protected site strategies, where relevant.	TBC (subject to NE timescales)	Planning and Development
Objective 2 Planning and Development including Biodiversity Net Gain: To secure biodiversity conservation and enhancement through planning approvals, including Biodiversity Net Gain where appropriate.	Local Plan Actions 2.1 Monitor the implementation of nature/countryside policies in the Authority Monitoring Report.	Annually	Planning and Development
	Green Infrastructure Strategy Actions 2.2 To deliver Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan	Ongoing	Planning and Development
	2.3 Implement Core Action 1 of Green Infrastructure Strategy Action 1: Develop and implement BNG Supplementary Planning Guidance / guidance	2026	Planning and Development
	2.4 Implement Core Action 2 of Green Infrastructure Strategy: Develop and Implement Biodiversity Design Code for new development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify working group partners 	2026/ 2027	Planning and Development

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare first draft of code for consultation <p>Implementation of this action will need to respond to the timetable emerging from the East Kent Design Code project</p>		
	<p>2.5 Future design phases of the Local Cycling and Walking Strategy will consider (with reference to LNRS) biodiversity conservation and enhancement and habitat connectivity in particular.</p>	Ongoing	Planning and Development
	<p>Biodiversity New Gain and Development Management Actions</p> <p>2.6 To consider Biodiversity Net Gain information needs in a revised list of Local Validation Requirements for planning applications.</p>	2026 / 2027	Planning and Development
	<p>2.7 Continue training activity with Officers and Members (BNG).</p>	Ongoing	Planning and Development
	<p>2.8 Monitor and review processes developed for managing considerations of BNG in the planning process, including level of support required externally from KCC Biodiversity</p>	Ongoing	Planning and Development
	<p>2.9 Update DDC website to provide guidance for applicants and developers</p>	Ongoing	Planning and Development
	<p>2.10 Continue developing monitoring processes for BNG.</p>	Ongoing	Review of any further resource requirements to be carried out through actions
	<p>2.11 Undertake review of enforcement (in regard to BNG) and develop new processes and procedures where necessary</p>	2026 / 2027	Planning and Development
	<p>2.12 Report on details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from Biodiversity Gain Plans</p>	Ongoing	Planning and Development
<p>Objective 3 Council Plans, Policies and Strategies</p>	<p>3.1 As Council's Plan, policies and strategies are reviewed, consideration should be given to biodiversity conservation and opportunities for enhancement. Strategies and Policies being reviewed (or soon to be reviewed) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy; 	2026 and ongoing	Heads of Service

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<p>To ensure biodiversity is considered within Council Plans, Policies and Strategies, decision-making and other internal processes, where relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Areas Strategy • Parks and Open Spaces Strategy • Parks Management Plans • Tree Strategy • Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment guidance. • Air Quality Strategy • Biodiversity Net Gain guidance. • Design Codes, including Biodiversity Design Code • Development Contributions guidance • Affordable Housing guidance • Events Policy. • Asset Management Strategy • Boat Plot Policy • Sustainable Procurement Statement / policy • Design Phases of LCWIP 		
	<p>3.2 Consider how training and education needs for Councillors and Council employees in relation to the Duty. In particular the following actions have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential for a short compulsory training for staff • To provide on-line 'staff noticeboard' posts to improve understanding of the Biodiversity Duty • Investigate member training, potentially alongside an update on the publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. 	2026 and ongoing	Planning and Development, and Human Resources
	<p>3.3 To consider the benefit of including a requirement for high-level assessment of biodiversity conservation and potential for enhancement within decision reports, to embed within decision making.</p>	April 2026	CMT
		<p>3.4 Each department, where relevant to their operations, to undertake consideration and where relevant propose actions for biodiversity and enhancement, including reviewing other internal Council processes which could contribute.</p>	Ongoing
<p>3.5 Ensure biodiversity considerations are discussed when drafting the tender contact (and considering appointments) for the Council's pest control provider.</p>		2026	Environmental Protection

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	3.6 Review of ongoing Mosquito monitoring and treatment in Sandwich to give consideration to biodiversity.	2026	Environmental Protection
	3.7 To explore the best way for all council services to record Actions that demonstrate consideration of biodiversity, or biodiversity conservation and enhancement	2026	All
Objective 4 Council owned Land and buildings To consider the potential for Council owned land and buildings to conserve and enhance biodiversity	Council owned or managed land 4.1 Identify which land owned or managed by the council is identified in the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity • areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity' and the potential habitats identified by the strategy; 	2028/2029	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	4.2 Installation of more bollards at the seafront in appropriate locations to protect vegetation.	On-going	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside and Property Assets
	4.3 When preparing the next Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, identify any areas of Council owned parks, amenity open spaces, cemeteries and closed churchyards that would be suitable for implementation of site-specific management plans to meet objectives within the KCC Local Nature Recovery Strategy and / or Natural England (NE) Species Conservation Strategies and Protected Site Strategies.	Ongoing	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	4.4 Recruitment of an open spaces officer to manage volunteer activity at DDC Parks and Open Spaces to manage biodiverse planting areas such as Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens.	2026	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	4.5 Continue to work with local stakeholders in identifying additional areas of Council owned amenity grassland that can be managed using fewer cuts per year, to encourage greater biodiversity.	2026 and on-going	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	4.6 When preparing the proposed tree strategy, consider opportunities for promoting biodiversity through management of trees on Council owned land, e.g. when possible, using a range of native species in any planting schemes.	2026	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside

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	<p>4.7 Carry out an audit of site-specific management plans of protected and designated sites in Dover District Council ownership, with the intention to identify any which require reviewing and/or where new management plans are required to increase positive conservation management.</p>	2026	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside and Planning and Development
	<p>4.8 Scope a feasibility study to identify suitable process for identifying habitat banks on Council landholdings in the District, and suitable areas for habitat creation and enhancement.</p>	2027/2028	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	<p>4.9 Undertake a review of Council landholding (including waterways) to assess potential suitability for providing off-site BNG funded through the sale of BNG units to developers.</p>	On-going	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	<p>4.10 White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to continue working to protect, enhance and promote biodiversity on the seven nature reserves it manages in Dover District.</p>	On-going	White Cliffs Countryside Partnership
	<p>4.11 To identify site management / maintenance opportunities that will contribute to biodiversity enhancement / conservation (e.g. explore the installation of more bollards at the seafront in appropriate locations to protect vegetation).</p>	2026 and on-going	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside and Property Assets
	<p>Council owned or managed buildings 4.12 Review current processes in relation to maintenance of buildings and sites to ensure biodiversity is being considered where necessary.</p>	2026	Property Assets
	<p>4.13 Consider potential for small scale habitat enhancements on Council owned buildings.</p>	Ongoing	Property Assets
	<p>4.14 Ensure biodiversity net gain is embedded in the early stages of new project delivery.</p>	Ongoing	Housing, Place and Growth, Property Assets, Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	<p>4.15 When the new roof for the Dover Museum is designed/constructed biodiversity should be considered and include biodiversity enhancement measures as might be practicable</p>	2026	Place and Growth, Property Assets
<p>Objective 5 Partnerships, communities and volunteers</p>	<p>5.1 Existing White Cliffs Countryside Partnership activities to continue</p>	Ongoing	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	<p>5.2 Continue engaging with the public to educate, advise and raise awareness of biodiversity.</p>	Ongoing	Communications

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<p>To promote (and identify opportunities for) biodiversity in the Council's work with partnerships, communities and volunteers, including engaging with the public and other stakeholders to educate, advise and raise awareness of biodiversity</p>	<p>5.3 Provide information to housing tenants about garden wildlife and wildlife friendly gardening.</p>	2026 /2027	Strategic Housing, Property Assets
	<p>5.4 Use the housing tenants Annual Gardening competition as an opportunity to engage with residents about gardening for wildlife,</p>	2026 /2027	Property Assets
	<p>5.5 Provide information on the beach huts at Kingsdown to raise awareness about conservation and enhancement of vegetated shingle.</p>	2026/2027	Property Assets
	<p>5.6 Subject to securing funding, to install signage in appropriate coastal locations to educate visitor to protected areas.</p>	2026/2027	Property Assets
	<p>5.7 Continue to support the work of the Kent Downs AONB unit to identify opportunities for improvements to nature in the Kent Downs National Landscape.</p>	Ongoing	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Planning and Development
	<p>5.8 Existing Strategic Access and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) officer activities to continue and to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an educational leaflet, including Codes of Conduct for Sandwich Bay • Oversee completion and publication of visitor and bird disturbance surveys <p>To continue expanding a local network of community groups</p>	2026 and ongoing	Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside
	<p>5.9 To identify additional ways to help raise awareness of biodiversity, such as carrying information on wildlife friendly gardening or local wildlife volunteering opportunities and educational leaflets about Sandwich Bay on the Community Roots Van.</p>	2026 / 2027	Community Development
	<p>5.10 To explore running biodiversity focused events with the Community Roots van, and in particular engage with the SAMMS officer at Sandwich Bay.</p>	2026 / 2027	Community Development