

Biodiversity

How can we create and enhance natural assets and biodiversity across the district?

1 The value of biodiversity to our quality of life

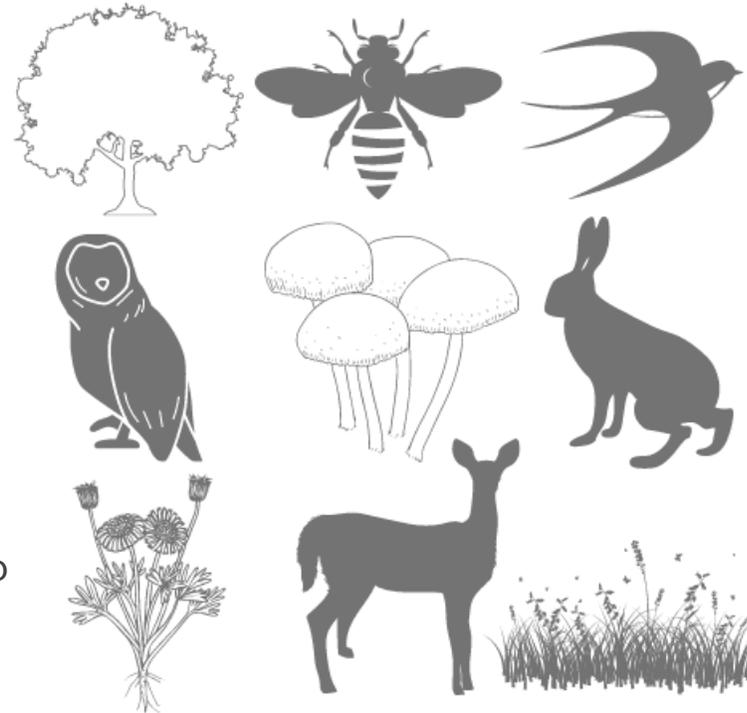
The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat and across Uttlesford is essential for the environment and our health and wellbeing. **How can we protect and improve our green and natural spaces?**

3 Thinking strategically across the district and beyond, as well as local initiatives

The Lawton Review¹ called for more, joined up nature conservation sites:

- more and bigger sites protected for nature conservation
- management to improve ecology of protected sites
- better connectivity between sites

Which sites should be protected? And how can we join up nature sites?



2 The role of biodiversity in addressing climate change

Nature has intrinsic value for wildlife and is a fundamental component of climate mitigation, carbon sequestration, adaptation and meliorating adverse impacts of climate change. **How can careful land management of the countryside and in villages and towns encourage biodiversity?**

4 How we can use the Local Plan to manage, protect, enhance our natural assets

New developments can support wildlife by connecting natural spaces, creating networks and special habitats. The Environment Bill requires mandatory 10% increase in biodiversity net gain following development. **How should the Local Plan require provision for nature in new development proposals?**

¹ Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network. Professor Sir John Lawton. Submitted to the Secretary of State DEFRA (2010)

Biodiversity and Our Natural Assets

Supporting ecosystems

Biodiverse areas and trees support ecosystems, bees, provide shade and nurture habitats for people to enjoy. Parks and roadside verges, sustainable drainage areas and public spaces can be designed and managed to accommodate wildlife.

Where is the use and management of land and water creating pressure and how should we address it?

Woodland creation and tree planting

The Government is encouraging new woodland and the County plans to plant 375,000 trees;

How can we encourage extensive tree planting in the district? Where is it best located. Should it be encouraged in gardens, streets, parks?



1



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Enhanced wildlife and nature networks on agricultural land

97% of the district is agricultural land, but has huge potential for land stewardship that encourages wildlife and nature networks

How can we encourage a net gain in biodiversity whilst protecting agriculture?

Increasing biodiversity by introducing more species

In Uttlesford there is opportunity to encourage rare plants such as Oxlip, Lesser Calamint, Sulphur Clover and Crested Cow-wheat, and invertebrates such as Four-spotted Moth. Characteristic habitats are the calcareous grasslands on the chalk in the northwest and calcareous woodlands on the chalky boulder clay.

How can we create and enhance natural assets and biodiversity across the district?

Enhancing Biodiversity – some ideas

1. Engage Essex Forest Initiative to increase tree planting with public, private, and voluntary sector
2. Farmland to adopt sustainable land stewardship practices and manage a high percentage of land as Natural Green Infrastructure including in the market towns
3. Every Parish to have a biodiversity action
4. Require developers to include more greenery in landscape proposals e.g., green walls, green roofs, hedges, double native tree cover
5. “Green” our town and village, roads and public realm, the Highways verges
6. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in all new developments
7. Use planning policy to secure multi-functional green spaces within and beyond development sites through biodiversity net gain, creation of compensation habitat and nature recovery networks
8. Include goals like everyone to be within 0.5km of a greenspace

Which of these should be a priority?

