

Document Control

Organisation	Appletreewick Parish Council
Title	Biodiversity
Version	1
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Adopted	September 2026
Last review Date	
Owner	Clerk
Next Review date	September 2027

Biodiversity Policy

Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth¹. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

The Local Area

Appletreewick is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, and the River Wharfe.

Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council owns and manages a large number of green spaces.

What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will review how it manages the land it owns and manages, this may include, but is not limited to.
 - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation in some locations as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
- All hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.

¹ As defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems' by DEFRA