

Biodiversity duty – November 2023

'Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces.

This means that, as a public authority, you must:

1. Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
3. Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.'

Tewkesbury Town Council has considered the land that it manages and how they can improve biodiversity. For Tewkesbury Town Council this would primarily cover Derek Graham and Warwick Place parks, the Severn Ham and the Town Hall and Anglo-American Remembrance Gardens and the land by St Mary's Road moorings. The first consideration of what actions to take for biodiversity must be completed by 1st January 2024.

There is no requirement for parish councils to publish a biodiversity report, but they must fulfil their duty and this note details many of the actions that the Town Council has taken or is planning. The Town Council has a Climate Change Working Group which is concerned with improving biodiversity as part of its remit.

For the full Government advice, please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty#who-must-comply-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

Actions taken

Hay sowing project on two plots on the Severn Ham and the extension of this project to the bund.

Continually work with Natural England to improve the Severn Ham and ensure that the restoration works being carried out by Severn Trent and the Environment Agency are suitable.

Town Hall garden & St Mary's Lane moorings area take part in No Mow May.

Town Hall garden is managed to improve wildlife outcomes.

No weedkillers are used on Town Council land.

Swap boxes – less items heading to landfill.

Being plastic free at the Watson Hall – less items to landfill.

Tewkesbury Goes Wild – helping the public to engage with the natural environment in the town.

Actions planned

Bird boxes on the Severn Ham.

Wildflower area in St Mary's Road moorings.

Bulb planting at Warwick Place.

Plug plant trial on the Severn Ham.