

# BIODIVERSITY POLICY

## EAST KESWICK PARISH COUNCIL

East Keswick Parish Council formally adopted this policy on 18th November 2025 in response to the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' placed on local authorities introduced by the Environment Act 2021. East Keswick Parish Council will take biodiversity into account in all its decisions and actions.

### Commitment

East Keswick Parish Council will:

1. Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions it makes in council, committee, sub-committee and task and finish group meetings. It will seek to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of the council's activities and will identify opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable.
2. Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity by local groups. In certain circumstances, at the Parish Council's discretion, assist with small grants for reasonable community beneficial projects.
3. Communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.
4. The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
5. The Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its leadership role within the local community.
6. The Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
7. Monitor its internal policies and processes to enhance biodiversity.

As a landowner, East Keswick Parish Council will consider how land it manages could improve biodiversity. It will:

1. Proactively remove invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species.
2. Avoid the use of herbicides except in exceptional circumstances.
3. Properly scale and time grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal such that the impact on biodiversity is minimised. Maintenance practices that are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed.
4. Create dedicated spaces to attract and enhance wildlife
5. Improve the buildings it manages and land around them to enhance biodiversity

Adopted by East Keswick Parish Council on: 18th November 2025

Date of review: November 2026