



**The Parish Centre, 50 Gerald's  
Way Chalford, Stroud, GL6 8FJ**

## **Chalford Parish Council Biodiversity Policy**

**(2026)**

### **1. Purpose**

This policy sets out how Chalford Parish Council will protect, improve and connect nature while supporting climate resilience and community wellbeing.

It provides the formal basis for practical action led by the Council in partnership with community groups, residents and other organisations.

This policy is supported by the Chalford Parish Nature & Climate Framework and a practical action plan.

Biodiversity means the variety of life — including plants, animals, and the habitats they depend on. Healthy biodiversity supports clean air and water, food production, and resilience to climate change. It underpins the quality and continuity of life on Earth, including our own.

### **2. Legal Context**

Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as strengthened by the Environment Act 2021), public authorities must have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Chalford Parish Council will fulfil this duty through its decisions, land management, and support for local action.

### **3. Our Approach**

The Council's approach follows four priorities:

Protect – Safeguard existing habitats and wildlife and avoid biodiversity loss.

Improve – Enhance and restore habitats to increase biodiversity and resilience.

Connect – Support habitat links and wildlife corridors across the Parish.

People – Enable and support community action for nature.

These priorities contribute to wider climate benefits, including carbon storage and resilience to climate impacts.

## 4. What the Council Will Do

### *4.1 Leadership and Decision-Making*

Council will have regard to biodiversity, including protected species, habitats and relevant environmental regulations where applicable.

### *4.2 Planning*

The Council will consider biodiversity in all relevant planning responses and support development that protects and, where possible, enhances biodiversity.

### *4.2 Land and Property Management*

The Council will manage its land to support biodiversity, maintain nature-friendly practices, and consider biodiversity in asset management.

### *4.3 Supporting Nature Recovery*

The Council will encourage biodiversity-friendly practices across the wider Parish, support habitat creation, and promote wildlife-friendly management.

These commitments will be delivered in a practical way, reflecting the Council's role and resources.

## 5. Working with Others

The Council recognises that much biodiversity work is delivered by community groups and volunteers.

The Council will act and enable, provide coordination, support partnerships, and engage residents, schools, and local organisations. In doing so, the Council will promote awareness and understanding of biodiversity and its importance.

## 6. Climate and Nature

Biodiversity and climate action are closely linked. The Council will support nature-based solutions that store carbon, improve resilience, and support a healthy environment.

This policy complements wider work to reduce emissions and support renewable energy.

## 7. Delivery

This policy is delivered through the Chalford Parish Nature & Climate Framework, encouraging practical action and community engagement.

Delivery will be enabled through partnerships, volunteer activity and by seeking additional external funding where needed.

## 8. Monitoring and Review

Progress will be reviewed annually using simple, publicly shared measures reflecting biodiversity protection, habitat improvement, connectivity, and participation.

The policy will be reviewed every two years.

Date of policy: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Approving committee: Finance & Management Committee

Date of committee meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Approving Committee: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Policy version reference: Version 2

Supersedes: Version 1

Policy effective from: June 2026

Date for next review: June 2028