



Information about the ACT Ecology Group's parish-based, volunteer Wildlife Wardens Scheme.



Please introduce yourself to your local Parish Council and give this information to them.

The Wildlife Warden Scheme is part of Action on Climate in Teignbridge, which was set up in 2019 to support all of Teignbridge's Councils and communities as they tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. This information taken from our ACT website: (here is the website link [ACT mission](#))

ACT's Mission:

To encourage and support Teignbridge District Council, town and parish councils, community groups, organisations and residents in the district to act together to:

1. Achieve carbon neutrality in Teignbridge by 2025.
2. Ensure Climate and Ecological Emergency declarations are reflected in all national and local government policies, decisions and activities.
3. Reduce and reverse the speed and effects of climate change and pollution.
4. Develop more sustainable lifestyles to regenerate and maintain biodiversity and ecosystems.

ACT has several sub-groups, dealing with various different aspects of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, of which the Ecology Group is just one. See the website for more information [ACT](#)

The Ecology Group decided to achieve its objectives by establishing a **Wildlife Warden Scheme** and involving as many communities as possible.

Wildlife Wardens work with their communities to help support, protect and increase our district's wildlife and improve its chances of surviving the ecological and climate emergencies we face.

Wildlife Wardens need to love wildlife but don't need specialist knowledge; the Wildlife Warden Scheme will provide training and support.

Having Wildlife Wardens will help our communities become more involved in the natural world, which is good for everyone's health - giving them more joy and happiness too.

The aim of the scheme is for all 54 Teignbridge parishes and Newton Abbot wards to have between two and five Wildlife Wardens by the end of 2021, undertaking a wide range of different work and projects.

Who can be a Wildlife Warden and what will they do?

Anyone who is interested in or knowledgeable about wildlife/ecology can become a Warden.

These are the sort of things that they can do:

- Give their parish's wildlife several hours of their time a month.
- Look out for opportunities to protect, help and increase the wildlife in their parish.
- Carry out practical work in their parish that will benefit wildlife.
- Send ACT and their own parish council a brief, monthly account of what they have been doing, so everyone can share successes and difficulties.
- Work with Wildlife Wardens in neighbouring parishes on joint projects.
- Use their special skills and knowledge to help other Wardens
- Survey and help to improve and connect habitats.
- Promoting organic wildlife gardening
- Monitor building and development within the parish and alert ACT of any possible wildlife damage.
- Work with communities, schools and local groups.

We don't have funds to pay for Wildlife Wardens' expenses. However, Wardens will be covered by our 3rd party insurance (Wildlife Wardens must join ACT when they apply to be a Wildlife Warden).

Parish wildlife groups can become Wildlife Wardens, organising work and sharing expertise. If there isn't a local group, Wildlife Wardens can work together – and maybe even start a group.

Project funding:

Many projects need very little funding, as trees and meadow seeds are often available free of charge. If projects need some funding, then it is always worth asking your Parish Council, your Teignbridge District Councillors and your Devon County Councillors if they have any money available; DCC and TDC Councillors each have an annual pot of money for local projects. We can help with applications. There may be other local Trusts and other organisations giving money in your area.

The Ecology Group will provide free training in many of these areas:

- Identification of all types of wildlife
- Habitat management and connectivity: hedges, woodlands, meadows, verges, ponds
- Farming and wildlife
- Writing risk assessments – and working with them!
- Wildlife gardening
- Creating pesticide-free zones
- Carrying out desktop surveys
- Monitoring planning applications and developments.
- Leading work groups.

Support and Funding for the Wildlife Warden Scheme:

We are supported by Teignbridge District Council, Devon Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and Devon Biodiversity Record Centre.

We have been given funding and support by: Teign Energy Communities Community Fund, Councillor Jackie Hook's DCC Locality Fund, the Nineveh Trust, Devon Environment Foundation and Dartmoor National Park Authority; we extend our thanks to them for this vital help. Among other things it has enabled us to appoint our coordinator, who is working part-time to ensure good communication, good projects and record keeping as the Scheme develops.



[ACTion on Climate in Teignbridge](#) The Ecology Group's Wildlife Warden Scheme. Lead: Audrey Compton

ACTion on Climate in Teignbridge is a CIC registered in England, number 12278894. Its registered office is Wessenden, Thornley Drive, Teignmouth TQ149JH

ACT supports Teignbridge District Council, town and parish councils, community groups and residents to make the district carbon neutral, sustainable, resilient and healthy.