



ACTion on Climate in Teignbridge



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

Wildlife Warden Introductory Training Hand-out.

This handout includes lots of information to help you get started as a Wildlife Warden. You don't have to read it all, but please find at least 5 parts that interest you.

It also includes several tasks; you don't need to do all 9 tasks - chose at least 4, but **please could you all do the Risk Assessment task**. Thinking and planning ahead can keep you safe when you are working in the countryside!

Please send your task-work back to Flavio (Flavio Winkler Ford flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org) on a separate document when you have done it (eg Liz Smith Intro Training.doc) if at all possible, before your Zoom Training Meeting (we won't be discussing them, but they are part of the training).

Don't be daunted if any of them seem difficult - you can get in touch with me audrey@boveyclimateaction.org.uk with any queries.

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Appendix:

Information about Action on Climate in Teignbridge to share with your Parish Council and funders.

1. The Wildlife Warden's Code of Practice:

When you are volunteering as a Wildlife Warden, we want you to enjoy your work. You are also representing ACT, so we have a Code of Practice for you:

The ACT Ecology Group and its Wildlife Wardens aim to:

- Work **with** land owners to help wildlife
- Work **with** Teignbridge District Council and Dartmoor National Park planners and ecologists to ensure that developers do as little damage to wildlife as possible and provide the legal mitigation quickly.
- Carry out surveys and fieldwork, **but only** after getting all of the necessary permissions and making risk assessments (see section 11).
- Carry out practical work without using power tools of any sort, as our insurance doesn't cover this.
- Avoid arguments and try your best to **keep communication channels open**.
- **Work with everyone**, on the basis that most people want to learn, but might not want to feel that they are being taught.
- **Work safely** - if you are going to be out working on your own, let a friend or partner know where you are and when you expect to finish – and ring them to let them know you are home again.
- **Planning Applications**: send the Wildlife Warden Coordinator details of any planning application that you are not happy with, with the reasons. You can, of course, object as an individual, but ACT will, where necessary, put together and submit a combined submission, taking into account all aspects of the objection.

2. Teignbridge's habitats:

I've used figures for Teignbridge's Land cover, from 'A Land Cover Atlas of the United Kingdom', by Alasdair Rae https://figshare.com/articles/A_Land_Cover_Atlas_of_the_United_Kingdom_Maps_/5219956

Alasdair Rae used Corine Land Cover (Coordination of Information on the Environment Land Cover, CLC) - an EU mapping initiative, to produce a set of maps covering UK local authority areas. These Corine Land Cover %'s (and the map below) are useful, but bear in mind that the map was made by identifying fairly large areas of habitats (25ha or more) and will have left out many small areas. So, look out for inaccuracies in your Parish!

For comparison, go to <https://moormeadows.org.uk/map/> which shows where people are caring for/restoring and creating wildflower meadows in and around Dartmoor, amounting to around 400 hectares!

Task: You can use habitat details from the Corine map (on the next page) and then 'ground truth' by walking around your Parish with a map and binoculars, making changes and notes!

33% arable

35.5% pasture (*the Corine programme can't identify wildflower meadows, so they are in here somewhere!*)

6.5% moors and heathland

5.5% mixed woodlands

4.9% urban and industrial
4.3% coniferous forest
4.3% deciduous woods
2.1% natural grasslands
1.3% sports and leisure
1.3% mineral extraction (*quite high because of the ball clay industry*)
0.5% transitional woodland-scrub

So about 76% of our Teignbridge land is fairly poor habitat (arable, pasture, urban, sports and leisure and mineral extraction). About 14.5% of Teignbridge land has tree cover, but nearly 1/3rd of that is coniferous and much less valuable as a habitat for our native wildlife. Because part of Dartmoor is in Teignbridge, as well as the Haldon Heaths, 6.5% is moors and heathland. Only 2.1% is 'natural' grassland, unaffected by fertiliser, sprays or ploughing and reseeded.

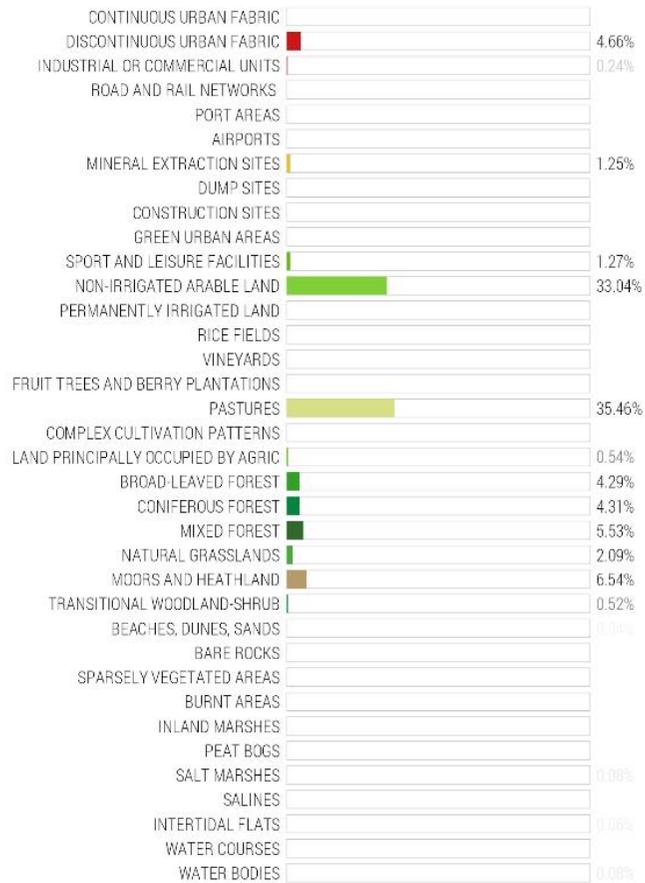
Common habitat types you may find in Teignbridge:

- **Arable crops (33%):** this includes cereals, such as wheat, barley and oats. Spring barley has a value for farmland birds if the stubble is left from harvest-time till the next spring, especially if it herbicides and pesticides aren't used - so that there is plenty of food for birds such as linnets, finches and ciril buntings. Other arable crops are oilseed rape (used to make cooking oil), maize (mostly grown to be made into silage for cattle) and kale and fodder beet (winter food for sheep and cattle). This includes short-term grasslands, or leys, which are ploughed up every 2-3 years and are unlikely to have much value for wildlife unless a Herbal Ley has been grown, which will have included some wildflowers for their herbal value to grazing animals, or their ability to access soil minerals.
- **Pasture (33.5%)** - Permanent pastures are fields which haven't been ploughed for at least 3-4 years: a few that are very steep or very wet may have many species of plants and invertebrates, but most will still be being sprayed, fertilised or spread with slurry, resulting in very few plant species and very few invertebrates.
- **Heath and moorland (6.5%):** the Haldon ridge was once heathland - most of it is now plantation, small blocks have been restored to heathland and many rides retain heathy elements. Little Haldon Heaths and Ideford Common are still important heathland habitats (though Corine doesn't identify Ideford Common as heath). Large areas of Dartmoor are in Teignbridge and include several different moorland habitats, including wet flushes and peatlands.
- **Mixed Woodlands (5.5%):** if the Corine programme has identified mixed forests correctly, there is more land with mixed woodlands than either plantation or broad-leaved woods. Only ground-truthing can show how accurate they are
- **Urban and industrial areas (4.9%):** Lots of buildings - but lots of gardens and verges too, which are increasingly important to wildlife! Working with neighbours can join gardens up to produce a rich wildlife corridor for hundreds of species! 'Brown-field sites' associated with old industry can be very variable and very important for wildlife too - but are often called 'waste land' and are prey to planning applications! For many years the Aller Brook Local Nature Reserve was a frequently-mowed out-of-bounds area - now it is important to people and wildlife, as the Brook corridor is for wildlife - and people can walk parallel to the wildlife, glimpsing, but not disturbing it!

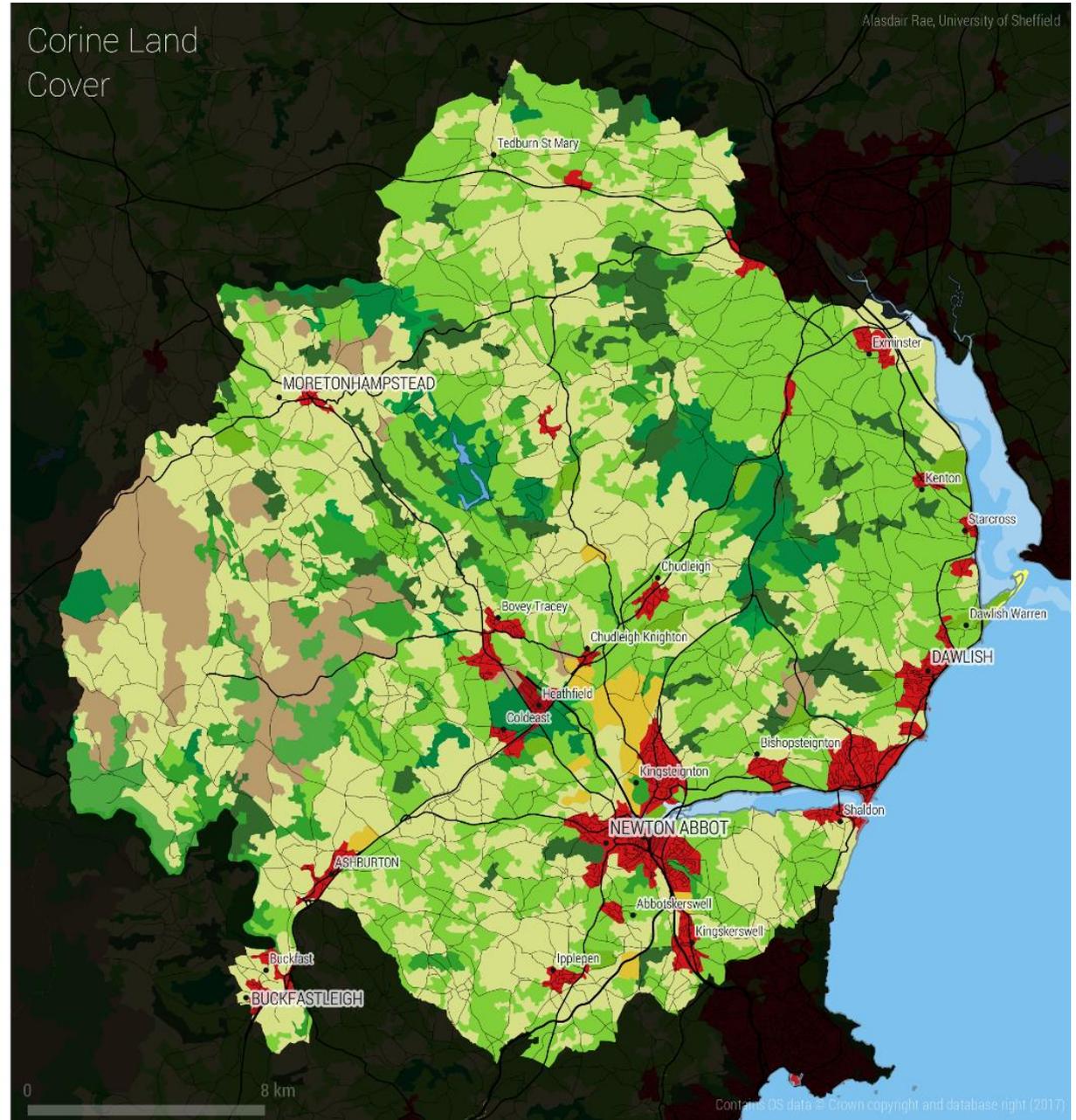
- **Coniferous forest (4.3%):** most often non-native conifers, such as Sitka Spruce or Scots Pine, where the ground has been deep-ploughed before planting, the trees are all the same age and the only other species are ferns, sapling birch and other early colonisers. Nevertheless, they can hold interesting wildlife, especially along rides, where remnants of native vegetation survive.
- **Deciduous woodlands (4.3%):** This will be a mixture of secondary (newer) woodlands and ancient woodland. Ancient woodland has many native species of trees, shrubs and plants (with 'ground flora' such as bluebells, primroses and wood anemones); secondary woodland has often developed naturally on abandoned land and its 'ground flora' will be whatever has survived from before it grew, plus species that have been brought in by wind or animals; newer planted woods may have blocks of different species, but again, few woodland plants; very new woodlands will have several different species, no mature trees and brambles rather than woodland flowers. All woods need brambly areas where ground-nesting birds can nest, but these have been reduced by massively-increasing deer numbers.
- **Natural grasslands (2.1%):** It is hard to find these on the map, apart from at Dawlish Warren.
- **Sports and Leisure (1.3%):** We may not want to stop sports, but we can look for opportunities for planting up hedges and corners.
- **Mineral extraction (1.3%):** The Newton Abbot Ball Clay industry has resulted in most of this. Quite a large % of mineral extraction land provides important habitats that are dynamic and sometimes short-lived. Studying recent aerial photographs could give a better idea of the habitats there. Access is difficult for safety reasons.
- **Transitional woodland-scrub (0.5%):** With reduced or no management, a mix of tall grass, brambles, gorse and small trees can be very valuable to invertebrates and birds, although, as a result, plant diversity may decline. To be retained, such areas need some form of management (often labour-intensive) to cut back woody vegetation to stop them from becoming woodland. These are valuable habitats which have reduced because of DEFRA would not allow them on land receiving Basic Payment Scheme funding (BPS). BPS is now being phased out and these habitats may increase under the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).
- **Habitats that aren't on the map**
 - **Hedges** aren't included on this map because they are much too narrow, but they make up a significant and very, very important habitat. They may even be the most important habitat because of the connectivity they provide between other habitats. The least valuable are short and flailed every year. Those which are well-grown and only cut every 2-3 years, or very well-grown (coppiced or laid every 10-20 years) have enormous value as they provide habitat for many species. Overgrown hedges that have turned into a line of trees will have less wildlife value.
 - **Orchards** were once very common in Teignbridge and the wonderfully mixed habitats found there were excellent for many bird species that are now rare, such as lesser spotted woodpecker, spotted flycatcher and redstart. They also have very good lichens and invertebrates - from hornets to butterflies. In the autumn and winter their fallen fruits attract many birds, including fieldfare and redwing; deer, foxes and badgers also enjoy the apples and pears.
 - **River and streams** are linear habitats that, like hedges, connect other habitats. To provide the best habitats for fresh-water creatures, they need large buffer strips either side. These strips protect them from pesticide sprays and also prevent grazing animals from breaking down

their banks and damaging 'bottom' habitats with soil and sediment. Polluted run-off from roads and septic tank outlets can reduce the number of species drastically.

Teignbridge



Corine Data, 2012; copyright rests with the European Commission



- **Ponds and lakes, including flooded, disused clay pits and reservoirs:** Ponds and small lakes with a mix of natural vegetation can provide disproportionately good habitat for their area, hosting a wide range of aquatic life, from plankton right up to top predators like Heron. Garden ponds are a fantastic way of bringing wildlife close to people.
- **Estuaries:** Teignbridge includes the south side of the Exe Estuary, with its mud flats, large numbers of birds and numerous national and international designations. Access is limited (which protects the birds) but there are plenty of viewing places. The beautiful Teign estuary is accessible via the tidal Templer Way path. It only has small salt marshes because of the steep valley around the estuary.
- **Marine habitats:** Most parts of Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve are accessible and the Southwest Coast Path gives access to the coastal edge between Dawlish, Teignmouth and Shaldon. At the right tides there are accessible rock pools at Dawlish Warren and Shaldon. The marine habitats are important - including, for example, Seagrass beds in Dawlish Warren Bite and we need to find out more about their wildlife and how to protect them.
- **Other small, but important habitats:**
 - Unsurfaced tracks** - provide a variety of small habitats and are especially species-rich if there is a hedge each side, raising the temperature for insects and reptiles and providing shelter from wind and rain.
 - Bare ground** - especially on south-facing banks: important nesting sites for solitary bees.

Task: How many of these habitats have you noticed in your Parish? Could you make a list of the most important ones?

3. Habitat connectivity:

One of the main reasons that wildlife is failing and individual species are becoming increasingly rare is not only **loss of habitat**, but also **habitat fragmentation**:

- **Intensive farming** (ploughing, pesticides, fertiliser etc) has given us what we want most - cheap food - but has destroyed most of the wildlife in most fields, isolating remaining good wildlife sites and nature reserves.
- **Hedges** are the main connecting habitats that are left, but if they are flailed every year, they provide very little safe passage, shelter or food for wildlife.
- **Field corners** are usually grazed or cropped, leaving wildlife with long journeys through short, flailed, dangerous hedges with no resting places.
- Although we have above average tree cover in Teignbridge, much of it is **plantation woodland** where non-native trees are planted in rather sterile blocks; for many species, they can be a **barrier** rather than a connection to other habitats.

- Many **small woodlands** are isolated from other woodlands, with flailed hedges as their only link. Ancient woodland plant species are famous for not having seed dispersal strategies - which is why primroses and bluebells will only colonise a new broad-leaved woodland if they are seeded/planted there.
- Some **birds** are able to move many miles to a new habitat - but many species have inbuilt 'homing' instincts, so that they either stay within a mile or two of their birth place - or migrate every year to a specific place thousands of miles away - and then come back to their specific place in the UK. They are less mobile than we think!
- **Invertebrates and mammals** need a mixture of shaded and damp habitats, trees, woodlands, rivers and streams to move through.
- Having '**interfaces**' between 3 or 4 different habitats within a small area gives opportunities for many different species. Good examples would be a small area of scrub in a field corner, combined with a ditch beside a well-grown hedge, or a buffer zone beside a hedge sown with wildflower seeds for birds and pollinators. Another good example would be a boggy corner or a small pond.
- On farmland, **buffer strips** against hedges, brooks and rivers, where ground isn't cultivated and fertilisers aren't spread and pesticides aren't sprayed are vital connectivity
- **Connected and adjoining habitats** have much more wildlife than isolated habitats. A woodland with scrub growing along its boundary and coarse grasses growing alongside the scrub will have MUCH more wildlife, with more different species, than a wood with a fenced edge against an intensively grazed field. See diagram below.



The edge effect:

Left hand hedge - flailed annually. **Righthand hedge** - only cut occasionally, so lots of berries, lots of different habitats & connections.

- **Rewilding** is vital for the future of wildlife, but it is equally important to realise that rare habitats, such as species-rich meadows, should not just be 'allowed to rewild'. They are the product of many, many years of traditional livestock farming and will be lost if that stops. Rewilding requires, at the least, wild grazing/feeding by deer, rabbits and badgers. When rewilding much larger areas, low stocking rates of hardy native cattle, Exmoor ponies, beavers and wild-type pigs may also be used to create open areas for more diversity. Isabella Tree's book, 'Wilding' about the Knepp Estate in Sussex is a brilliant read, which includes the best explanation of how we have got into this mess! <https://www.nhbs.com/wilding-the-return-of-nature-to-an-english-farm-book> and/or join <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/.../rewilding-britain>
- You need to be able to **recognise different habitats** in order to look after them - and you also need to know at least some of the species that require these habitats in order to survive.

Task: Habitat and connectivity

Make a sketch map of your favourite local nature area (or print a large-scale one off the internet/OS map). Walk around it mapping different habitats and noting where they join each other.

See how many different habitats there are (put a rough key on one side of the map) and how closely they are linked.

Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs). This information is taken from the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre website www.dbrc.org.uk

What are SNAs? They are NOT designated areas. They are areas of Devon's countryside which contain higher than average concentrations of existing wildlife habitats such as native woodlands, flower-rich grasslands, bogs and heathland (many of these habitats will have an international, national or local designation). For simplicity, each SNA is classified on the map according to the dominant habitat type (e.g. East Devon Pebblebed Heaths is classed as lowland heathland). However, the majority of SNAs are a mix of different wildlife habitats and other land uses.

Profiles were drafted for most SNAs (around) 2009 to provide basic information (including maps) on habitats and species in the SNA. [Find an SNA in your area and download the profile.](#) The aim for each SNA is to ensure that the condition, area and distribution of the wildlife habitats within it can support populations of characteristic species e.g. the area and condition of habitat at Rackenford Moor SNA should support populations of marsh fritillary butterfly.

Uses: Devon's Nature Map is used to focus efforts for maintaining, restoring and re-creating habitats and the conservation of associated species. Example uses include: Providing the focus for the [DWT Working Wetlands project](#)

Providing the focus for landscape conservation efforts within Dartmoor National Park and the development of Living Dartmoor. Note that SNAs are known as Key Wildlife Areas within the Dartmoor Strategy. A delivery plan is being developed for each [Key Wildlife Area](#)

Developing a strategic approach to locating compensatory habitats required as a result of some unavoidable development impacts - <http://www.naturaldevon.org.uk/biodiversity-offsetting-pilot/>

Targeting of funding such as the New England Land Management Scheme.

In order to ensure that any work in SNAs strengthens landscape character please see http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/natural_environment/landscape/landscapecharacter.htm

4. Using maps to help wildlife:

Magic maps provide useful and easy-to-use environmental maps: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

This might help you to get started:

- Click on Accept all cookies, so that you can see the taskbar and the top of the map.
- Check out the taskbar and what it offers (including the Legend icon).
- You can enter a postcode in the search area to find your area quickly (then remove the postcode to get rid of the shading).
- Put your cursor roughly where your Parish is, holding the 'left click' of your mouse/mouse pad down, while you drag the place you want to the centre of the screen.
- Enlarge the map by clicking on the + sign until the map shows field boundaries.
- Go to the Table of contents on the left and play with the different options - use the Legend icon to understand the key.

Devon County Council Environment Viewer is also easy to use: <http://map.devon.gov.uk/DCCViewer/> .

Accept the conditions at the bottom of the first page that shows to find its layers, which include arial photos going back to 1945, so you can track changes in habitats and hedges over 75 years (on the right under 'base maps') - and much, much more! Hours of fun...

ACT website maps <https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/maps-and-data/> Jules is developing and adding to these great maps.

The OS Explorer 31 Torquay and Dawlish and the Dartmoor OS Explorer OL28. 1:25,000 maps are a wonderful resource, showing Parish boundaries, field boundaries, Public Footpaths and Bridlepaths. OS maps with rather less detail are available on-line (osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk). Open Street Map (www.openstreetmap.org) is also free to use and to print maps from.

Task: You could build up a file of these maps showing the main habitats in your Parish right now - and maybe how they have changed over the last 20 yrs.

5. Identifying wildlife species:

Don't worry if you don't feel confident about accurately identifying wildlife; there is no better way than simply watching. You can use pocket-sized books (Mitchell Beazley books are very small and good), apps like Seek https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app and websites such as: www.firstnature.org . We can also learn from each other and from some of the real experts who live in South Devon. We will be arranging training courses, using a mixture of site-visits and Zoom meetings.

When you are visiting good wildlife sites:

- Take a notebook and pencil to make notes and simple drawings (even if you think you can't draw!) - or, if you prefer, use the voice-recording facility on your phone.
- Take binoculars if you have some - they don't need to be expensive ones.

- Install the free Seek app on your phone - it is good for helping identify wildlife that doesn't move too fast, like plants!
- Take your mobile phone or a camera for pictures. Pictures of plants and slower-moving insects can be very helpful when identifying to species level - filming birds, mammals and fast-moving invertebrates can be a challenge!
- Always start by noting the date, rough temperature and weather conditions.
- Allow yourself time to stand and stare for at least 10 minutes in 3-4 different places/habitats. Look for a tree to lean on, somewhere to sit, or a bush that will hide you.
- Make a list of everything you see that you either recognise or can describe. If I don't know a species' name, then I invent one that describes it to me, until I find its real name.
- If you are watching an animal, note what it is doing (eating something, preening, gathering nest material etc). It will help you to understand what sort of habitat and food it needs.
- Describe bird songs, contact calls and alarm calls in your own words. During the breeding season we tend to concentrate on song, but throughout the year, their other sounds are very important - and birds such as nuthatches have a BIG vocabulary!
- If you want to learn bird songs, try watching a bird singing, then close your eyes as you listen and imagine what it looks like. Next time you hear a song, but can't see the bird, close your eyes - and with experience, you will be able to 'see' the bird that you are listening to!

Task: Send us a few notes you made on a recent visit.

6. Recording species and sightings:

Recording is an interesting and really useful way of finding out what species of wildlife are in your Parish; if you don't know what is there, you cannot look after it! It is equally important to try to work out how common different species are - and to know how common they should be in a given habitat. Knowing whether our own activities are affecting them is also important. Without local information we wouldn't know what wildlife there is and what is special about each Parish. Unfortunately, few people note down the wildlife they see and fewer still submit those records to recording schemes.

Here are some easy ways to get into recording.

The [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' annual Big Garden Birdwatch](#),

[Nature's Calendar](#) from the Woodland Trust.

Butterfly Conservation's [Big Butterfly Count](#) and their newly launched [Garden Butterfly Survey](#)

Also [OPAL's explore nature](#) projects.

It is important to be confident of records before submitting them, as bad records can result in the wrong management decisions.

Recording common species is as important as rare ones - adding numbers and behaviour in the 'notes' section is important too.

We are currently very happy to be working with the **Devon Biodiversity Record Centre**, our local, county-based organisation. DBRC is run on a 'not for profit' basis. It was set up and is hosted by Devon Wildlife Trust to act as a central reference point for anyone who wants to know about wildlife in Devon. DBRC is supported by a large partnership of organisations and individuals including Devon County Council.

DBRC is supporting the Wildlife Warden Scheme by supplying us (when they can spare any time) with information such as Parish Maps. These will show key habitats and areas that need surveying/ground truthing. (Ground truthing is information provided by direct observation as opposed to information provided by inference - for example by interpreting aerial photographs). By doing this, we can help each other. We are currently working together to find ways of producing Parish species lists, so that you can learn more about your local area.

You can record wildlife that you see at <https://www.dbrc.org.uk/wildlife-sightings/>. If you have many records to upload, use the Excel spreadsheet provided [here](#) and email it to the address on the DBRC website. <https://www.dbrc.org.uk/>

To submit records, you need the following information:

- **What have you seen and how many?** You need to be certain of your identification so if you're not sure take some photographs and ask for some expert advice.
- **Who took the record?** It is always important to provide the details of who took the record so that the record centres can get in touch with the recorder to verify details.
- **When was the sighting?** Be specific of the date to make the record valid - you need to note down the **day, month and year**.
- **Where was the sighting?** Give as much detail as possible so the record can be accurately located. Usually a 6 figure grid reference or more is best, but you could also include descriptions of locations and post codes.
- **DBRC are developing an easy-to-use app** which will give them useful information and also collect records for ACT and for your Parish. More info on this soon.

You can also record through the [iRecord App - Record any species on the go.](#) (irecord.org.uk)

But at present these records aren't available to DBRC, so we recommend that you use the DBRC recording link - and use iRecord in the field **as well** if that works for you. **There will be more information in this section as we continue our work with DBRC.**

7. Helping habitats in your Parish - recording, connecting and improving them is very important, including practical habitat management.

Finding land that we can improve for wildlife can be a real challenge!

DBRC are hoping to gradually provide us with Parish maps with some wildlife information on them. The main aim of the maps is to show areas which are known to have good wildlife, as well as other areas where little is known about the habitat types and how valuable they are.

Another key is to look at the maps and look for opportunities to connect existing wildlife habitats.

Land that isn't privately owned:

- **Some Parish Council's** own land and you might be able to work with them to improve it for wildlife. Look for opportunities in corners of play areas, sports pitches etc.
- **School grounds:** See if your local school has a wildlife area and if they need volunteers to help look after it. (There may be child safety issues here, but worth trying)
- **Churchyards - God's Acre:** Your Parish churchyard may be the most biodiverse area in your whole Parish, with many different wildflowers, insects, birds and lichens! Although churchyards are often mown and strimmed very harshly, it is rare for them to have been sprayed or fertilised. Very old churches may have very old meadows. Working closely with the Vicar, the Churchwardens and the congregation and talking about David Attenborough a lot (!) may help you to make small changes that become bigger. A key necessity is to keep path edges and grassy paths tidy, so that everyone knows the churchyard is cared for! During lockdown many people glimpsed wonderful wildflower meadows around their churches that they had never seen before!
Try these websites: <https://ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/actions/living-churchyards>
The annual CPRE competition for the best Devon Churchyard for wildlife and people <https://www.cpredevon.org.uk/competitions/devons-best-churchyard-competition/> .
Caring for God's Acre www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk, where you will find: Advice sheets; Involving the Community: fundraising and working parties case study; Caring for Grassland. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/biodiversity>
- **Teignbridge District Council** has Nature areas and reserves in many Parishes. The TDC Green Spaces team are keen to work with Wildlife Wardens. The bigger sites will have management plans that you can find on the TDC website <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/search?q=nature+reserve+management+plans>

Task: Identifying land in your Parish that is publicly owned. If we have a DBRC (Devon Biodiversity Records Centre) map with wildlife information for your Parish, we will give it to you. If not print off a Magic Map or Devon County Council Environment Viewer map, or use an OS map and mark any areas (with approximate boundaries) that are not owned by farmers or estate-owners.

The vast majority of land in Teignbridge Parishes is owned by farmers and estate owners (if you are Warden for a Newton Abbot Ward there are likely to be more Parks, wildlife areas and allotments and relatively little farmland; if you are in Dartmoor National Park or other very rural areas, then there will be more farmland/heathland).

- **Farmers**, whether owner-occupiers or tenants, may have real difficulty in changing the use of their land - even if they want to.
 - **The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)** Land managers receive an annual BPS payment based on the number of hectares of agricultural land, excluding any areas of scrub, ponds, woods etc. This means that farmers may feel unable to even plant a few trees on the land for which they receive BPS. This has forced many farmers to remove their small areas of good wildlife land. In the Southwest (and elsewhere), most farmers would make a loss without BPS. They can only leave land for wildlife if they fill in forms and give up some of their payments. So, if you ask farmers about making space for a small number of trees, they might want to, but feel unable to at the minute.

- **The new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)** Planting trees and hedges and creating new habitats is very urgent, but ELMS won't start till 2024-2027, when the **BPS starts to be phased out**. The ELMS payments will be for Public Goods, it will pay farmers for environmental services and benefits and the payments will be based on a natural capital valuation approach. The services include improved air, water and soil quality; increased biodiversity and climate change mitigation.
- **Countryside Stewardship Schemes** will also be phased out as the ELMS schemes are introduced. These have given farmers extra payments for environmental benefits that they have signed up to, on 5 or 10-year contracts. These schemes have really benefitted wildlife, but they are inflexible, and it is very difficult for farmers to change them in order to provide even more benefit for wildlife; each area is measured and any habitat changes made without permission that can be seen on satellite pictures can result in fines or worse.
- **Woodland Carbon Guarantee:** If farmers decide to plant a new wood or hedge now, they may miss out on payments when this new scheme comes in - but if offered help with planting new woods (for example, under this new scheme <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-guarantee>), they may be willing to fill in the forms and go ahead!
- **Hedge planting:** The Woodland Trust supplies heavily discounted hedge plants for new hedges - once again, offering help with planting may persuade a farmer to plant a hedge along an existing fence line.
- **Estates:** many Parishes in Devon have large estates owned by a single family. If there are several farms, then some or all may be rented out to tenant farmers. Sometimes there is still a 'home farm' run by the owner. In both these cases, the farmers will almost certainly be constrained by the Basic Payment Scheme (see above) and can use some of the schemes above, such as the Woodland Carbon Guarantee. Many estates have large areas of woodland which may be managed as part of a shooting business. There is sometimes scope to improve these for wildlife, maybe with more native trees. Good communication, offering community help and accessing free/discounted trees may make it happen!
- **Owners of pony paddocks and small patches of land:** having local contacts can be really helpful here. Many of these smaller areas of land don't get BPS payments and owners may be interested in planting trees in a field corner, or sub-dividing a field with a hedge. This may mean planting a hedge along an existing fence. Wherever you plant trees, hedges or orchards, make sure that they are well-fenced/protected against grazing animals - whether ponies, cattle, sheep or wild deer!

If you are interested in working with farmers, landowners and estate owners:

- The **Nature Friendly Farming Network** is a good resource - and you can join it for no charge as a member of the public. Go to <https://www.nffn.org.uk/public-sign-up/> .
- **The Farming and Wildlife Group South West** has been working with farmers for many years to improve the environment. There is a fee to join, but the website is interesting and informative <https://www.fwagsw.org.uk/> .

- **The National Farmers Union** is different in that it is a lobbying group for farmers and is funded by membership fees which are calculated according to the farmer's land area. The NFU represents many different farmers, regions and philosophies. The current President, Minette Waters, has put climate change and the environment high on the agenda, with a brief Net Zero Plan. Nevertheless, the Environmental Forum includes some interesting farmers who put the environment high on their agenda. <https://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/nfu-governance/nfu-governance-pages/nfu-environment-forum/> .
- **The Country Landowners Association** is specifically for landowners (approx 50% of farmers are tenants). To find out a little about them, go to <https://www.cla.org.uk>

Task: Note on a map any small areas of privately-owned land where it might be possible to talk to the owners about making them into better habitats.

8. Wildlife Gardening:

Giving advice and getting people involved as a community. There is plenty of information about wildlife gardening available, but we need to find ways to make it of community interest.

Weblinks: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening> ; <https://wildlifegardenproject.com/> ; <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/wildlife-garden> ; <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/discover-wildlife/wildlife-devon/your-garden>; <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/actions/>; <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/actions/how-make-bog-garden>

Here are some ideas you can add to:

- Providing small signs that people can put on a garden gate, in a lawn or flowerbed, to recognise a wildlife friendly front garden, to show that it is managed with wildlife in mind.
- Having a Parish competition for the best wildlife-friendly gardens - with classes for small, medium and large gardens, best pond, best child's bug hotel etc
- Making sure there are classes for organically-grown vegetables, fruit and flowers if your Parish has a Garden Produce Show (or set up a little one in the Village Hall).
- Getting people to sign up to a Parish Garden Pledge (not using pesticides, making spaces for wildlife, growing flowers that are good for pollinators etc). Useful criteria can be found at <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-actiongarden-wildlife/exeter-wildlife-gardening-award>.
- Making and delivering wildlife gardening fliers to new homes, telling them about your local wildlife and how to make a space for it.
- Starting a Parish Community Garden using spare allotments or a borrowed piece of land. There will be more information on the ACT Wildlife Warden website if you are interested.

Task: Add any ideas that you have.

9. Planning and Development

Local Plans give guidance as to what sort of development is acceptable, where it is acceptable and what is protected:

- Local Plans are written by Councils as a guide on where homes, employment land, business infrastructure and community facilities could be built over the life of the Plan.
- The Plan **has** to include enough land for the number of houses that the Government has decided should be built in that district.
- **It includes policies to protect environmentally important sites.**
- When it is written there are several opportunities to comment and influence the content.
- The Plan tries to plan in advance the best places for development; places that have good infrastructure (or the possibility of providing it); local employment (or the possibility of developing it); and good, sustainable transport links.
- In the Plan, the Council labels land for development. Developers buy the land, but they will only build on it when the housing and industrial markets are profitable - so quite a lot of land development land can be waiting, unused, for the economic conditions that will generate the most profit. This can result in the Council being challenged by the Government for not building enough houses.
- None of us will ever feel completely happy with a Local Plan, because (even with 'mitigation'), development damages wildlife, changes landscapes and uses up precious resources. But it is better than not having a Plan and fighting even more damaging piece-meal applications.

Teignbridge's Local Plan is here: <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policy/teignbridge-local-plan-2033/>

The Teignbridge Local Plan is currently under review. See <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policy/local-plan-review-2020-2040/>

The Dartmoor National Park Authority Local Plan applies to all Teignbridge Parishes within the Park: <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/business/planning-policy/local-plan>

The DNPA Local Plan is also being reviewed <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/business/planning-policy/local-plan-review>

Neighbourhood Plans: from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#what-is-neighbourhood-planning>

Neighbourhood Plans give communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

Does your Parish have a Neighbourhood Plan?

Commenting on Planning Applications about Biodiversity, Geodiversity & Green Infrastructure.

How to comment on a Planning Application:

- Everyone has the right to object to, comment on, or support planning applications as an individual.

- ACT would like you to contact the Wildlife Warden Coordinator if you think that ACT should respond, using the information below to give as much detail as possible.
- The local planning authority (LPA) tries to make it easy for people to comment online or in writing.
- On the TDC planning webpage <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/> click on 'View and comment on planning applications and appeals. You can search by planning application number (if you know it), address, location via a map, or do an 'advanced search' which allows you to choose the type of application or area you're interested in, e.g. search by Parish.
- For Dartmoor National Park Authority go to: <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning>

Making your comment effective:

- Your comments will hold more weight if you provide evidence and if your comments take account of national and local planning policy.
- Search for the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019, see p5-7 re 'Sustainable Development' and paras 170 to 177 for wildlife policies.
- See <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policy/local-plan-review-2020-2040/> for Teignbridge
- See <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/business/planning-policy/local-plan-review> for Dartmoor
- See Teignbridge Local Plan 2033 (LP) via link above, policies EN8 to EN12 for wildlife, WE11 for Green Infrastructure and S22 for Countryside/wildlife.
- These NPPF & LP Policies and LP Text, set out how far TDC is expected, and allowed, to go in protecting wildlife, etc. It may not be as far as you would like. And Local Plans are expected to balance the 'Constraints' such as wildlife, against the need for the development (e.g. places for people to live). The need might outweigh the constraints.
- There are similar policies in the DNPA Local Plan: <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/business/planning-policy/local-plan>
- The DNPA <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/management-plan/management-plan-review>

National and local policies change from time to time:

- TDC and DNPA are both currently reviewing their Local Plans following consultation.
- Govt has promised a big shake up of the planning system soon. Look out for public consultations and send in your views!

It helps to know the law too! Rather dry reading, but check out:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- NERC Act Section 40-41
- Badgers Act
- Hedgerow Regulations.

Explore the **TDC Planning Biodiversity** webpages for more info to help you get to grips with wildlife planning issues.

Housing numbers:

It is central Government that tells local councils how many houses they must 'deliver' per year.

As the actual delivery is up to developers, the Council has to have a '5-year housing supply' of planning permissions and hope that developers choose to build the number dictated by Government each year.

How Planning Applications are assessed:

- Each planning application will be assessed by a Planning Case Officer, who collects all the relevant information, including comments from consultees (for biodiversity, this includes the TDC and DNPA Biodiversity Officers, Natural England, Environment Agency, RSPB, etc...), and the public.
- TDC and DNPA review the information in light of national and local policies and present this in a report, recommending refusal or approval with conditions.
- Smaller applications are usually decided by planning staff.
- Larger and controversial applications are usually decided by the Planning Committee.
- The local District Councillor and the Parish/Town Council can ask for applications to be decided by the Committee.

Refusals:

If planning permission is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal against the refusal: refused applications may be granted permission by the Appeal Inspector.

How can your input be useful?

- Make sure the Local Planning Authority knows about any wildlife that might be affected by a proposed development. TDC has maps of Devon's wildlife sites, including SSSIs and County Wildlife Sites, and of some locations for rare and protected species, but there are many habitats and species they don't know about. They won't always know about how a development might affect nearby wildlife. The National Biodiversity Network Atlas <https://nbnatlas.org/> is a freely available source of species data and the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre may have useful information too.

Protective measures and mitigation:

Suggest protective measures that will be needed if the development goes ahead, and appropriate wildlife enhancement.

Remember, the role of the LPA is to 'enable appropriate development', not to stop development. So even if you are Objecting because you want to see a development stopped, it is useful to suggest avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures, because permission may be granted, despite objections, or permission may be given at appeal.

The Weekly List:

Town/Parish Councils get sent a weekly list of all the applications in their area and can comment on them.

If you work with your Parish/Town Council, you might be able to be involved in commenting on applications through them, e.g. as a co-opted member of their local planning committee.

We hope you will be sent the TDC weekly list as a Wildlife Warden.

Checking developments as they are being built:

It's important to check up on developments as they are being built. Please report any suspected infringements of conditions to the ACT Wildlife Warden Coordinator and to the Local Planning Authorities, which don't have enough staff to keep checking.

You can also report any development you see happening that you think hasn't got the planning permission it needs. Again, please contact the Wildlife Warden Coordinator.

Devon Wildlife Trust's DIY Planning Guide: This document has very important and interesting information about protected habitats and protected species. This was prepared in 2016, so not totally up to date - please check details before using. <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/2018-02/DIY-planning-Guide.pdf> We hope to have a more up to date document soon.

Here is a useful extract:

Wildlife, biodiversity and ecological importance

Many people's understanding of wildlife/planning issues is blurred by the terminology used. Most of the enquiries we receive are concerned with 'wildlife'. The planning system, however, is concerned with the wider issue of 'biodiversity'.

'Biodiversity' (biological diversity) is the all-encompassing term for the world of wildlife, ecology, nature conservation, habitats and species, designated sites, wildlife corridors and ecological networks. When decisions on planning applications are being made, it is the proposed development's effects on 'biodiversity' which are considered, not simply 'wildlife'.

Planning applications for larger developments are usually accompanied by Ecology Appraisal Reports written by professional ecologists. These ecologists recognise some aspects of biodiversity as being more important, in ecological terms, than others. For instance, some designated sites, habitats and species are rarer or more threatened and therefore carry more weight (in biodiversity terms) when the local authority deliberates the pros and cons of the development proposal.

By contrast, common species, such as rabbits, foxes and grey squirrels are not regarded as ecologically important. Similarly, the fields used for the growing of vegetables and the fields of rye grass used for cattle, sheep and horses or as sports and recreation grounds, may not be ecologically important. They carry little weight (in terms of biodiversity). The hedgerows around these fields, however, may be of ecological importance.

Task: Familiarise yourself with the TDC and DNPA Planning websites (<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/> and <https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/planning-policy> . If possible, find an application for a house to be built in your Parish within the last few years, and follow its progress, using the website. Note any wildlife issues, surveys, mitigation etc.

10. Wildlife Wardens - working with your communities.

The main aim of the Wildlife Warden Scheme is to help local wildlife to recover - and there is an enormous variety of projects that you can do to achieve that. But if your communities know what you are doing, they can help you in many ways. Here are some ideas:

- When you write your monthly update for ACT, send it to your Parish Council too. Make it as interesting as you can, maybe including a picture, so that people who aren't yet into wildlife catch on!
- You could re-format your report as an A4 poster, which you could put up in your Parish. You could put your name at the bottom, for example, ' Angela Brown, ACT Wildlife Warden forParish
- If you make a poster, only put your email address on it if you are certain that you don't mind being sent messages - which might not be about wildlife at all. You might want to have an email address that is just for your Wildlife Warden work - ask us for help to do that if you need it!
- You will almost certainly achieve more for wildlife if you work with other WWs in your Parish; you may find that you have different skills and projects, or that you want to work together on some projects. Whichever you do, keeping in touch with each other, by meetings or emails, will help keep things running smoothly.
- Working with WWs from neighbouring Parishes will be really important for connecting wildlife habitats - animals don't read maps or books so have no idea about respecting Parish boundaries!
- If you are lucky enough to have a Primary School in your Parish, you could tell them about the school Wildlife Warden Scheme.
- If you need funding for a project, we will send you a document with suggestions that could help you get it. Please let us know if you are thinking of applying for funding, as you will be more successful if you don't compete with another Wildlife Warden for money from the same 'pot' at the same time!
- The Wildlife Warden scheme now has its own Facebook Page for your posts, and a Teignbridge Wildlife Wardens Group.io page for discussions. You will be sent links to these following training. Using them can help you to discuss problems and share solutions. Both groups are for Wildlife Wardens and organisers, the Group.io is also for local Wildlife Groups and people outside of the District who would like to work as Wildlife Wardens.
- There is an area of the www.actionclimateteignbridge.org for Wildlife Wardens, (look for Wildlife Wardens in the 'Topics' drop down) including a large 'library' of resources. This document will be there as individual chapters and there are several Parish Project documents to help you decide what you would like to do in your Parish. If you have any novel ideas, please let us know.

11. Working with schools and young people.

Outside of school, some parents could get together and start a Watch-type nature club - see <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/>

If you have contact with local schools, you may be able to help with forest school, or nature study activities.

When working with children, teaching staff or the child's parent/carer should always be present, so as to avoid any child safety issues.

Schools can be Wildlife Wardens too!

Our wildlife needs help - and most school children understand that! We think that many schools may want to become a Wildlife Warden School too.

Schools may be able to help with some of their local Wildlife Wardens' projects, as well as some extra ones - they can choose some of the following:

- send us lists of wildlife you have seen in the school grounds, or on your walk to school.
- see if they can create some new habitats - log piles, rock piles, wildflower areas, shrubs and hedges.
- find out how the best wildlife habitats can be joined up to let wildlife move around safely when they are looking for food and shelter.
- look at old maps online to see where good habitats, such as hedges, orchards and woods once were - so we can understand why they have gone.
- ask parents, grandparents and older members of the community for their memories of how wildlife used to be in the area - so we can understand how quickly we have forgotten how much wildlife there was 60 years ago.
- tell us which trees, shrubs and flowering plants in their school grounds insects and other wildlife like best.
- go for nature walks and look for good wildlife habitats.
- find out whether there is a special species in their Parish that they could find out about and champion?
- scan and send us pictures and maps showing the best habitats in your Parish.
- write letters to their local farmers, asking them to let their hedges grow bigger - and explaining how that would help wildlife.
- make posters to put up in their village or town, with their ideas for making gardens better for wildlife.
- each school term put a report in their Parish Magazine with ideas for everyone to share (and send a copy to us!).

12. Risk Assessment.

We want our Wildlife Wardens to keep safe while they are helping wildlife, so this is a **really important part** of the Introductory Training.

Wherever we go, whatever we do, we subconsciously or consciously assess the risks and decide

- a) whether we should do the task, or
- b) whether to do it differently, so as to be safer

Wildlife Wardens may carry out work on their own, or with other Wildlife Wardens - whichever, we want you to think about the best and safest way to carry out a task, before you start.

Decide:

- What are the hazards?
- Who is likely to be harmed and how? (*include how many*)
- What controls are already in place?
- Are existing controls working?
- What is the risk? (*the likelihood of things going wrong and the consequences*)
- Is the risk unacceptably large, do you need to reduce it?



Ways to control risk:

- Eliminate the risk or find a different way of doing the task
- Reduce the risk eg allow more time, more/less people
- Control the risk eg by training people and using agreed procedures
- Minimise impacts eg by using the right clothing, masks etc

Legal terms:

Reasonably foreseeable - means a danger which a reasonable person should anticipate as the result of their actions

Suitable and sufficient:

- Suitable: Are the control measures relevant and appropriate?
- Sufficient: Do the control measures take into account best practice and advice as well as HSE Approved Codes of Practice/Guidance and legislative requirements?

Reasonably practicable means weighing a risk against the time, money, resources and effort needed to control it

Here are some infections that can be caught while working outside - including special measures needed to prevent/reduce the risk of infection during practical work:

Ticks and Lyme disease:

Ticks carry several diseases which affect humans and animals; the main disease that humans can catch is Lyme disease.

Where do ticks live? Ticks have become a much bigger problem over the last 30 years and can now be picked up in short grass, as well as bracken and tussocky grass.

When are ticks active? In most months of the year, though the **peaks** in Devon are from March to June and August to November.

How can you reduce the risk of being bitten?

- clothe as much of yourself as you can, including tucking trousers into your socks.
- wear light-coloured clothes so that any ticks show up - they are very tiny before they have latched on and sucked your blood.
- use insect repellent if you can.

What do you do if you have a tick?

- remove it carefully with a tick-removal tool or tweezers, grasping it close to your skin.
- pull upwards - if possible, without squeezing or crushing the tick.
- only a small percentage of ticks carry Lyme disease.
- watch the site for a circular skin rash around the site, which can appear up to 3 months after the bite.
- be aware that a high temperature, headaches and muscle/joint pain are also symptoms of Lyme's disease.
- in either case, see a doctor at once as rapid antibiotic treatment is needed.

Staphylococcus aureus is a serious bacterial infection which many people carry. However, in the context of practical conservation work, it can be caught through scratches, particularly from blackthorn. It is important to take an alcohol-based hand disinfection on practical work tasks, for use when someone has a scratch and whenever soap and water would usually be used.

Symptoms: Any reaction, such a redness and swelling, should be carefully watched and anyone experiencing this after the workday should **always contact a doctor**. This should be done as an **emergency** if there is also a temperature/fever. *S. aureus* can occasionally cause sepsis, which is extremely dangerous.

Prevention: Wear long, strong, preferably leather gloves when cutting back scrub such as blackthorn.

Leptospirosis/Weill's Disease is a rare disease most often caught when working in ponds and waterways. It is present wherever there is pee from infected animals, such as rats.

Symptoms are a high temperature; feeling hot and shivery; a headache; feeling sick or being sick, or you having diarrhoea; aching muscles and joints; red eyes; loss of appetite. It is important to tell the Doctor you have been working water. Antibiotics usually clear this up quickly.

Prevention: It can be prevented by good hygiene, using an alcohol-based hand disinfection whenever soap and water would usually be used. Any scratches should be well-covered before working in water - or simply don't work in water if you have scratches/cuts.

Covid 19:

The situation is currently serious and group work is not allowed.

Easy transmission of the Covid 19 virus means that working in groups is only likely to be allowed when

- rates of infection are low

- and group members have completed vaccination
- and Government advice allows group work.

Risk Assessment for Wildlife Wardens:

Table 1c

Risk Score

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
1 - Rare	1	2	3	4	5
2 - Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
3 - Possible	3	6	9	12	15
4 - Likely	4	8	12	16	20
5 - Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25

Ready to fill in Risk Assessment

Description of activity and main risks:

Hazard	Measures being taken to prevent the problem	Likelihood 1-5	Consequences (seriousness) 1-5	L X C =12 and under acceptable

Task: Fill in the Risk assessment (above)

Either for the sort of task that you might do (for example, when going wildlife-watching on a tidal reserve, such as Jetty Marsh Local Nature Reserve)

Or think of a minor accident that you or a friend have had, and fill it in so that it shows how it could have been avoided!

You don't need to fill in a form every time you go for a walk - but you do need to plan in a structured and methodical way, weighing up the risks.

13. Projects

Being a Wildlife Warden doesn't mean you have to organise lots of projects; there are many simple ways to help wildlife.

Because wildlife is in crisis, it is worth working for large and easy benefits first.

Look for more information on different projects on the Wildlife Warden section of the ACT website www.actionclimateteignbridge.org

Are there other Wildlife wardens in your Parish?

You need to keep in touch with them, so that you don't duplicate work, but do you enjoy working in a team - or do you prefer to mostly work on your own?

Is your Parish Council keen to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies?

Is there a Parish Councillor who you know and could keep in touch with?

Will the Parish Council help you to access grants, from their funds, or from local District Councillors (who have an annual fund to give to local projects)?

Is there land in your Parish owned by the Council or a similar body that could have potential for creating wildlife habitats, however small?

Are there any topics here that you think you would be effective at, and would enjoy doing?

a) Inspiring people:

- Writing Wildlife Newsletters - or a monthly article for your Parish Mag
- Creating fun posters with ideas for helping wildlife - maybe by changing how we live, reducing waste and plastic, driving less etc
- Organising Parish competitions for the best Wildlife Gardens
- Getting your community to help you identify and record species - a year-round Bioblitz!

b) Habitat creation and management projects, such as:

- Practical habitat management
- Working with farmers and landowners

c) Preventing wildlife damage by:

- Monitoring planning applications
- Watching as development takes place to ensure that planning conditions are respected - and that any mitigation is done in a timely way.
- Reporting any possible wildlife crimes to the police by ringing 101 and asking for the Wildlife Crime Officer (or by ringing or emailing your Community Police Officer if contact details are available through your Parish Newsletter or similar)
- Working with communities/young people to increase their love of wildlife.

Projects Task: think what project you might most like to start off with, OR discuss with fellow Wildlife Wardens from same or neighbouring parish

14. Finding Funding:

Many projects need very little actual funding - putting out a request for paper, flower pots, compost, people who will grow seedling trees etc on the village Facebook page can motivate local people to help you **and** do similar things themselves!

Projects such as hedge planting and turning grassy corners into wildflower meadows may need some money (though always ask around for free local seeds - for example, we (John and Audrey) let people come to Deer Park Farm and gather meadow seeds for meadow projects every year).

Many potential funders will only fund properly constituted organisations that have a bank account, not individuals. It possible, work with your local Parish Council, they may have some funds available, or they may help you to apply for funding from your local District or County Councillors. Teignbridge District Councillors each have a small fund for local projects and County Councillors have a bigger fund (their Locality Fund). You may be able to use your local Parish Council's Bank Account if they support the project. If this isn't possible, then ACT may be able to apply, receive the money and be responsible for its proper spending and use. If you are part of a local wildlife group then it will be best for you to either work with your Parish Council, or, if you are a constituted body with a bank account, apply and use the funding yourselves.

Please contact us (audrey@boveyclimateaction.org.uk or flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org) if you are thinking of applying for funding.

If you are doing a project as a Wildlife Warden (or partly as a Wildlife Warden), then we need to work together. If the project isn't coordinated properly then our ACT insurance could be in-valid and the funding could be compromised. If you apply for the funding as an individual and the money goes to your bank account, then we cannot help in any way, and our organisation's name cannot be used.

Working closely together will mean that we are aware of all the different projects that are planned in the same area. A Parish Council or a District or County Councillor may not want to fund several different Wildlife Warden projects at the same time. Planning together and prioritising will make us more likely to be successful in getting funding.

Here are some funding sources:

Your Parish Council:

Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, Parish Councils have discretionary powers to award grants to local groups or organisations for the purposes of bringing a direct benefit to the parish or its residents. To be considered for an award, applicants should apply for a grant with details of their project. You are most likely to be awarded funding for your project if you have already been keeping in close contact with them - for example:

- introducing yourself to the Council at an early stage (see Section 15 for information you can send to them)
- talking to the environment committee or nominated Councillor about your role and your ambitions
- sending them monthly or 2-monthly reports about what you have been doing.
- working with other groups and individuals within your Parish, to show that there is widespread support for your project.

Your District Council:

The info below is from <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/community-and-people/communities/community-funding/funding-for-community-and-voluntary-groups/>

Funding for community and voluntary groups: There are grants and funding streams available for community and voluntary groups, such as:

Rural Aid:

- individuals and members of the public are not able to apply for Rural Aid funding; applications must be made through town and parish councils. For contact details for your town or parish council, please visit [town and parish councils](#)
- The Rural Aid grant is only available for the following parishes: Abbotskerswell, Ashcombe, Ashton, Bickington, Bishopsteignton, Bovey Tracey, Broadhempston, Chudleigh, Coffinswell, Denbury, Doddiscombsleigh, Dunchideock, Dunsford, Exminster, Haccombe, Hennock, Holcombe Burnell, Ide, Ideford, Ilsington, Ipplepen, Kenn, Kenton, Mamhead, Ogwell, Powderham, Shaldon, Shillingford, St George, Starcross, Stokeinteignhead, Tedburn St Mary, Teigngrace, Torbryan, Trusham, Whitestone, and Woodland. If your parish is not included in this list, you are not eligible for Rural Aid grant funding

Teignbridge District Council Councillor's Community Funds:

- If you want to apply to the **Councillors' Community Fund**, please contact your local Councillor(s). Applications for the Councillor's Community Fund can be made through your [local councillor](#).
- The **Councillors' Community Fund** can only support one-off projects and cannot be used to replace any withdrawn public funding or provide/imply any ongoing support. Applications can only be received from not-for-profit groups and organisations **and not** individuals. Local Councillors have £1,000 each municipal year to spend on projects within their Wards. There is no lower limit. Projects costing more than £1,000 could be supported by other Councillors combining monies if they wanted to.

Devon County Councillor's Locality Budgets: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-nav/locality-budgets/>

- Each of our county councillors has a Locality Budget Fund of £10,000 that they can use to respond to local needs in any financial period (April to March). **nb Be aware that there is a time-limit of the end of March for using this grant; may be a problem if it is applied for late in the financial year and then must be used within a few weeks.**
- Councillors can, if they wish, make grants to support projects or activities that benefit the communities they represent.
- Locality Budget Funding adds value to projects that are beneficial to local communities, and help meet the Council's strategic objectives as described in the Council's [Better Together 2014-2020](#) plan.
- Projects are diverse and reflect the needs of local communities. All projects should include some other financial contribution(s) and/or local support.
- Any properly constituted not-for-private-profit voluntary or community group (including town and parish councils) can apply to their local county councillor for a grant from the locality budget fund.
- Each councillor will normally make their own decision on which applications they wish to support, the only exception would be where the councillor may have a conflict of interest and the decision will have to be approved by an officer provided that:
 - the locality budget fund grant will be normally used within the financial period (April to March) of each year.
 - the grant is not used to benefit individuals or private businesses.
- You can find details of the grants which councillors have already made from their locality budget fund by viewing their [individual profile pages](#).

To discuss a locality budget fund application, you should contact your [local county councillor](#) in the first instance. You can view a [map](#) of each of the Council's electoral divisions to help you to identify your local councillor. Use the link above to find the application form and further details

Teignbridge Community and Voluntary Services: For further advice and guidance around fundraising for voluntary groups, please contact [Teignbridge Community and Voluntary Services](#). They may have information about small local Trusts and Funds which could help you. But please keep in touch with us too!

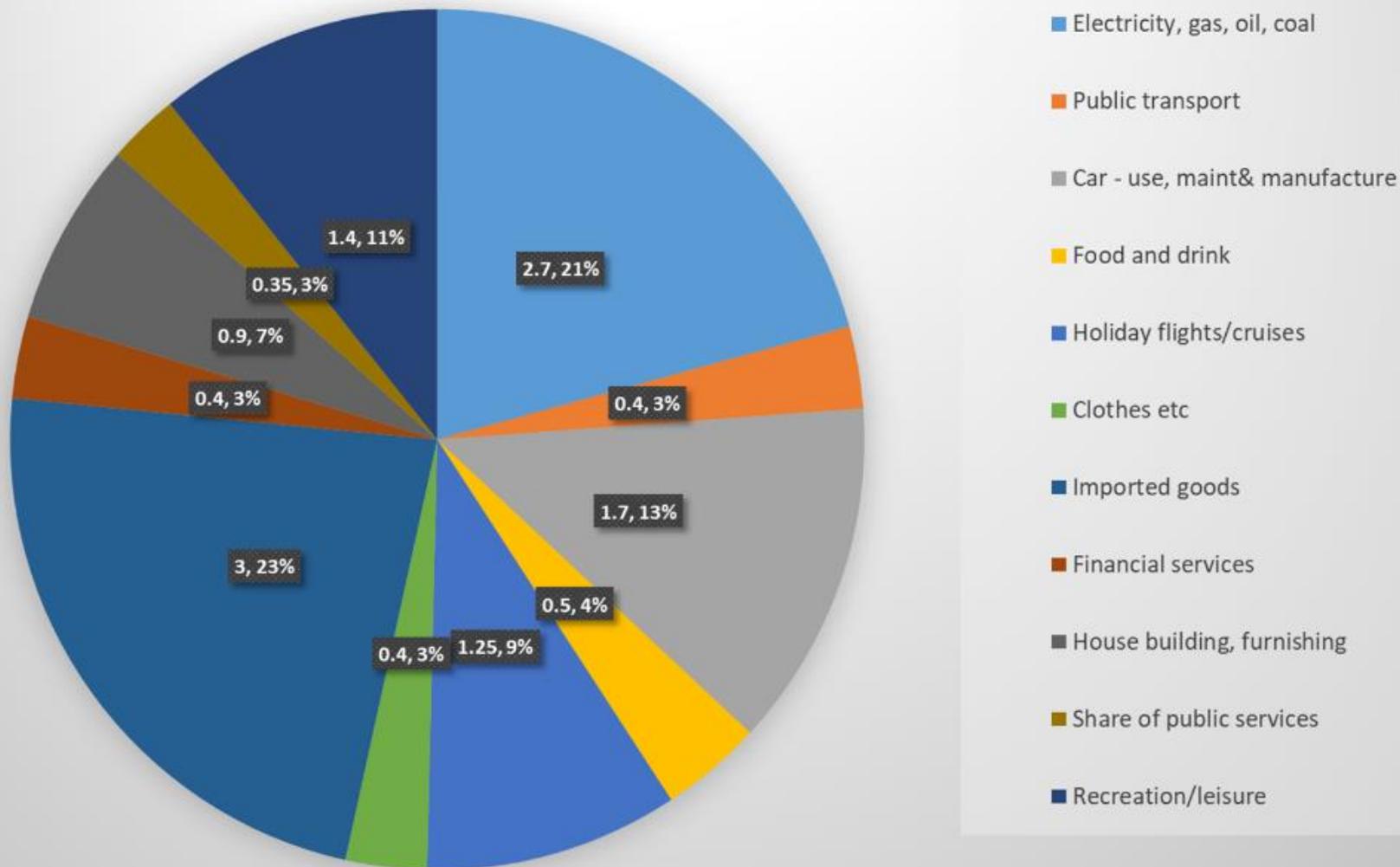
15. Looking after wildlife by changing how we live:

Whatever we do as Wildlife Wardens, we also need to live sustainably for our Planet to survive.

Here are some suggestions:

- **Waste nothing!** Refuse to be influenced by adverts - instead borrow, swap, upcycle and recycle.
- **Avoid synthetic** clothes and home furnishings - polyester, acrylic, lycra and nylon are all plastics and shed micro-plastics, that pollute our world.
- **Reduce your transport footprint** by walking and cycling more - and driving and flying less.
- **Reduce your central heating** temperature, only heat rooms you are using - and wear more clothes!
- **Check your insulation and draught-proofing** and improve the bad areas.
- **Check** your garden shed for pollutants and pesticides. Chemicals such as weed killers, pesticides, white spirits, bleaches, old medicines and any other household chemicals must be taken to your local [recycling centre](#) and must be in a securely labelled container to be placed in the hazardous waste store. There is a limit of 5 litres. (Information taken from TDC website <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/unwanted-items/a-z-of-waste-and-materials/b/>)
- **Look** around your home and stop buying any polluting or damaging products, such as:
 - Detergents, shampoos, cleaning products that **aren't eco-products** - they poison our soils, streams, rivers and seas.
 - Any products that include rain-forest destroyers - such as palm oil, soya, cheap beef (from the UK and imported), uncertified furniture, uncertified coffee, uncertified cocoa, coconut, avocados, and gold (yes, honestly!).
 - Instead look out for Fairtrade, Organic, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) products.
- **Reduce your Food Footprint** by:
 - buying local/seasonal food
 - deciding which foreign luxuries you will buy - and which you will reduce or stop
 - looking for a local Zero Waste outlet so you can minimise packaging and plastics (currently in Newton Abbot market, Moretonhampstead, Bovey Tracey and the Zero Waste van that visits Chudleigh's Thursday Market.
 - grow your own if you can - then swap and barter with friends
 - preserve fruit and vegetables for the winter

An average UK person's 13 tonne Carbon Footprint. Can you reduce yours by 25%?



Follow the chart clockwise from 12 o'clock - with Electricity first at 2.7 tonnes and 21%

Have a great time being a Wildlife Warden and send us a few sentences about what you've been doing every month. We'd also like you to share your reports with your Parish Council so that you can enlist their help and support. We'd also appreciate feedback about our Training, so we can make it as good as possible.

Appendix.

Information about the ACT Ecology Group's parish-based, volunteer Wildlife Wardens Scheme, to share with your local Parish Council.

Here is some information about Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT), which is the Wildlife Warden Scheme's 'parent' organisation. When working with your Parish Council, or other groups, it can be useful to copy this to them, so they understand our structure.

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. Here is some information taken from our ACT website: (here is the website link [ACT mission](#))

ACT's Vision:

Teignbridge is carbon neutral, with communities, economies and a natural environment that are sustainable, resilient and healthy.

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 communities.

Wildlife Wardens can 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 their physical health, giving them more joy and happiness too.

Our aim 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.

They will do some or all of these actions:

- Commit to giving their parish's wildlife several hours of your 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.
- Either work in a team or undertake training to lead local volunteers on practical tasks (or call in specialists from ACT Ecology Group).
- Send ACT and their own parish council a brief, monthly account of what they have been doing, so everyone can share successes and difficulties.
- Wildlife Wardens in neighbouring parishes could work together on joint projects.
- Wardens with special skills and knowledge might also help train other Wardens.

Unfortunately, we don't have funds to pay for Wildlife Wardens' expenses. However, Wardens who are ACT members will be covered by our 3rd party insurance.

Some of our existing parish wildlife groups can be 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 areas:

- A. Surveying and helping to improve and connect habitats.
- B. Promoting organic wildlife gardening
- C. Monitoring building and development within the parish and alerting ACT of any wildlife damage.
- D. Working with communities, schools and local groups.

Project funding:

Many projects will need very little funding, as trees and meadow seeds are often available free of charge. Some projects will need some funding, and 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 Flavio Ford Winkler as our coordinator; he is working part-time to ensure good communication 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.