

Policy 4 Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment

1. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should provide at least 10% net biodiversity gain in accordance with national legislation. Exceedance if this is encouraged. Where on site provision is not feasible off-site provision within the Parish is encouraged. Any such measures should be targeted to benefit local conservation priorities as identified in the LCA or Local Nature Recovery Strategy where applicable.

2. Development proposals which would have significant negative ecological impacts will not be supported unless appropriate mitigation and or compensation measures are incorporated in the overall development package.

3. Planting and management should be in accordance with the guidelines set out in DCCs Landscape Character Assessment for the Needwood and South Derbyshire and Trent Valley Washlands character areas. Enhancement measures may include:

- a) strengthening hedgerows (gapping up) and field boundaries to provide more robust habitat 'corridors',**
- b) planting wildflower meadows and strips,**
- c) encouraging native tree and shrub planting on suitable sites, especially species that provide good berry or nectar sources,**
- d) encouraging the creation of sustainable urban drainage schemes (SUDS) where applicable, (e.g. rain gardens, pond and wetland creation) in new schemes and 'retrofitting' where appropriate,**
- e) the installation of habitat features (i.e. nest boxes) to benefit all bats and bird species of conservation concern, such as swifts, swallow, house martin and house sparrow, and**
- f) protecting dry ditches - as these features are essential to the sustainable management of surface water.**

4. Mature trees and hedgerows are significant to the character of the Parish and should be protected and retained. Where it is necessary for higher value tree(s) category A or B,26 to be lost as part of a development proposal, then appropriate mitigation, via compensatory tree planting, will be required. Such tree planting should be on-site wherever possible and be of an appropriate species for the site. Veteran trees are an irreplaceable habitat and will be protected in accordance with national policy.