



COULSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy



ADOPTED 07.01.2025. REVIEWED MAY 2026

Biodiversity

Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives .

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth¹. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains Rivers and the sea.

The Local Area

Coulston Parish Council is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, and farmland.

Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council owns one pieces of land beside the village as well as holding a lease for the allotment gardens.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the grass cutting of verges, and has responsibility for the cutting of a number of hedges within the village.

What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land
- Hedge cutting takes place twice a year, and is very much a balancing act as the Parish Council hedges run alongside narrow, well used footpaths so require cutting. All hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.

¹ As defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems' by DEFRA