

# Statutory Biodiversity Report – Summary

## What is the statutory biodiversity report?

Local authorities in England have a statutory duty under the Environment Act 2021 to publish a biodiversity report setting out the actions they have taken and plan to take to comply with their biodiversity duty. The first report was published in February 2026 (see [here](#) for the full report) and subsequent reports at least every five years.

## Why does it matter?

Nature is in long term decline – with the number and abundance of species continually decreasing and many threatened with extinction.

The services and support nature provides us with are invaluable.

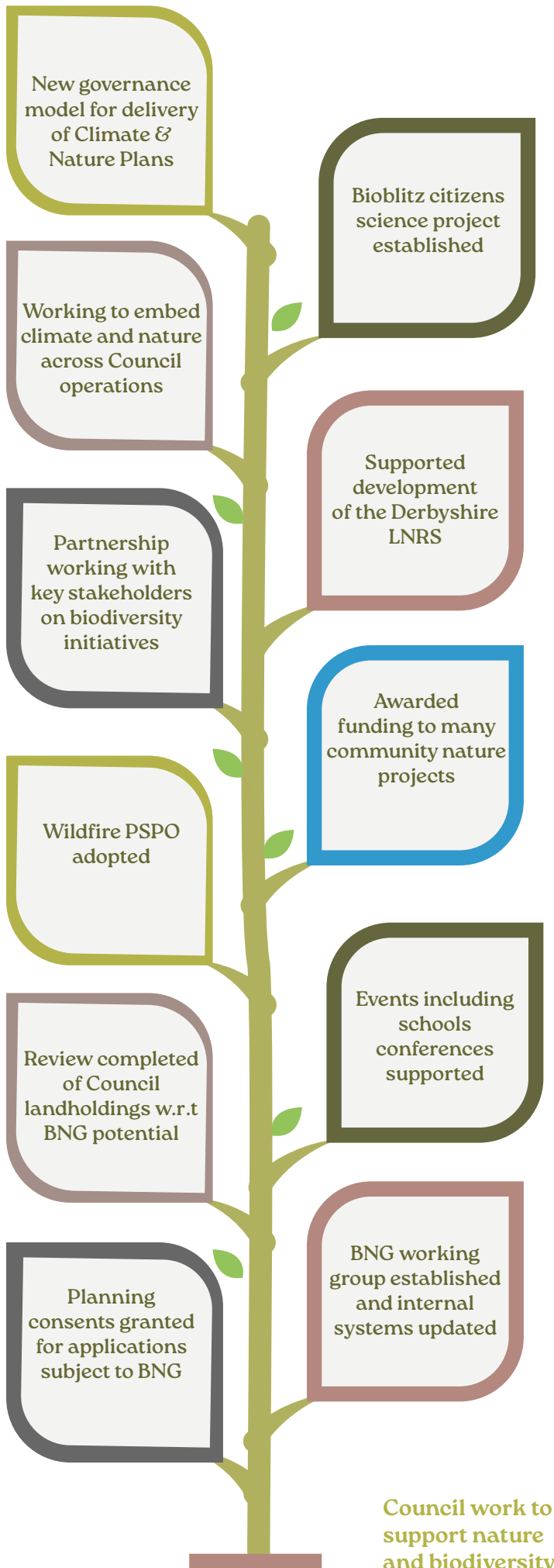
Many areas of the Council’s work have an impact on nature and the co-benefits it provides us: therefore, we have a duty to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity.

## Council work to support nature and biodiversity

Much work has taken place since the enhanced statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity came into effect – discover some of our key initiatives below.

Projects are now managed through the new [Climate & Nature Delivery Plan](#), with milestone dates, KPI’s and RAG ratings applied to each action. Priority has been given to work that can be completed before Local Government Reorganisation. Oversight is provided by the new [Joint Climate and Nature Steering Group](#), with regular bulletins published to update on progress.





## Biodiversity Net Gain

BNG became mandatory in February 2024 for major developments and April 2024 for minor developments.

14 applications subject to BNG were received between 12/02/2024 - 01/01/2026

Officers meet regularly to discuss BNG workstreams, management and monitoring, to ensure effective implementation.

Grant funding has been received from DEFRA and spent on relative work, projects and initiatives.

Other work has included:

- Upskilling and training of staff across the authority.
- A habitat bank audit and further investigation into feasibility.
- Exploration of the S106 process with landowners and prospective habitat bank operators.



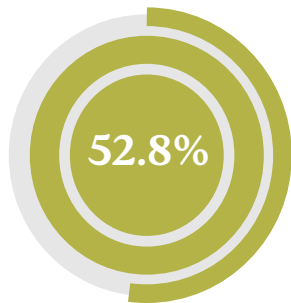
Events including schools conferences supported

## Targets

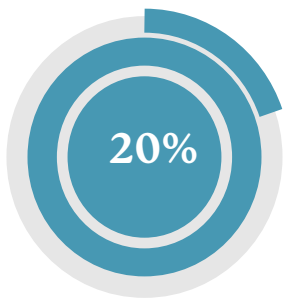
The Government has committed to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030 ('30by30'). The Council's Plan for Nature set a target to "ensure 30% of the borough is managed for wildlife" by 2050, with a list of key prioritised actions for the Council themselves to implement by 2030.

The full statutory report breaks down data into meaningful categories to show what the Council is doing to improve biodiversity on its own land, and how this fits alongside the wider work being carried out by partners across the borough and county.

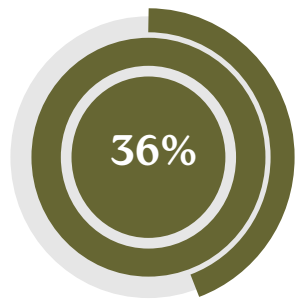
Headline values are shown below:



**Total % of land in High Peak managed for nature**



**Total % Council landholdings managed for nature**



**Total % Council green spaces managed for nature**

The first Statutory Biodiversity Report set the baseline for reporting progress against the Council's nature targets, with work continuing on improving regular reporting mechanisms for climate and nature. The Council continues to work with other local authorities e.g. on the delivery of the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and alignment of plans and strategies.

## Future actions:

- Further improve biodiversity and nature connectedness at the Council's parks and green spaces and other land it manages
- Build upon communications and community engagement work including species-specific campaigns and additional citizens science work
- Hold community workshops with stakeholders to support and inform delivery of the Council's climate and nature plans
- Exploring funding opportunities for larger projects.
- Partnership work with key stakeholders on delivery
- Strengthening planning policy and ensuring effective BNG implementation.
- Embedding nature and climate priorities across the organisation, including through training, policy and procedures
- Improving monitoring and reporting of climate and nature.

