

Biodiversity Net Gain Report

2026



**North Warwickshire
Borough Council**

***published
25th March 2026***

Introduction

- 1.1 This is the first report by North Warwickshire Borough Council to comply with the strengthened biodiversity duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act), as amended by the Environment Act 2021.
- 1.2 The Environment Act 2021 introduced a legal requirement for all public authorities in England to consider what action they can take, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The strengthened duty ensures biodiversity is an integral part of decision making and is essential to achieving environmental goals outlined in the recently published [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) and the local priorities set out in emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Guidance

- 1.3 The Government has published guidance on how to comply with the biodiversity duty which can be found on [GOV.UK website](#).
- 1.4 A key part of this strengthened duty is the new statutory obligation to publish biodiversity reports. Local authorities and Local Planning Authorities (excluding parish councils) are required to prepare and publish a biodiversity report at least every five years. This report is therefore the first for North Warwickshire Borough Council to meet the deadline for publication of its first biodiversity report under the revised section 40 of the NERC Act. The first reporting period must conclude **no later than 1 January 2026**, and the report must be published **within 12 weeks of this date (26 March 2026)**.

Purpose

- 1.5 The reporting requirement is seen as a vital mechanism for transparency, accountability, and demonstrating the meaningful impact of local nature recovery efforts. They will provide a comprehensive national picture of biodiversity action and progress. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) intends to include references to these reports in future reviews of the [Environmental Improvement Plan](#).

Format

- 1.6 There is no prescribed format for the report although certain matters must be covered. Past and future actions are set out in Table 1 of this report.

Content

- 1.7 By law, the report must include:
 - a summary of the action NWBC has taken to comply with the biodiversity duty

- how NWBC plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
 - any other information considered appropriate.
- 1.8 As North Warwickshire Borough Council is a local planning authority the report must also include the following biodiversity net gain (BNG) information:
- the actions NWBC has carried out to meet BNG obligations
 - details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans NWBC has approved
 - how NWBC plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period
- 1.9 NWBC can also add other information it believes supports its work in relation to BNG.

Time period

- 1.10 This report covers the period between 1st January 2021 and 1st January 2026. After this, the end date of each reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period therefore the next report must be before 1st January 2031.

The Borough

- 1.11 North Warwickshire Borough Council is a rural authority lying between the major cities and towns of Birmingham, Coventry, Nuneaton, Hinckley and Tamworth. The Borough covers some 119,000 hectares. A large percentage of the Borough lies within the estates of Merevale, Blythe and Packington. It is one of the most wooded of the Boroughs or Districts in Warwickshire with almost 10% of the area covered in woods.
- 1.12 The NWBC owns a limited amount of land within the Borough and cannot therefore have a major impact on BNG across the area. It will need to work with partners, landowners and developers to encourage and negotiate the delivery of nature projects within the Borough. NWBC is a member of the Natural Capital Investment Strategy Board and Management Group that looks to promote how BNG and other regulatory Nature Market monies are utilised across the region.
- 1.13 NWBC has been an active partner of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (previous called Habitat Biodiversity Audit and Local Wildlife Project since early 1996. This project has provided vital information for the area and is constantly being reviewed and updated. In addition, it sits on the Board of the Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership.
- 1.14 NWBC has played an active Supporting Authority role in the formation of the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and understands the roles that it can play in nature's recovery across the county and surrounding local nature recovery strategies. NWBC will support the LNRS's delivery through the Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership.

Actions

- 1.15 Actions can be taken in a number of ways. NWBC has carried out actions through plan making, as the landowner, as a partner and then through the planning application process. The following table (Table 1) provides information on actions that have taken place and actions that will be undertaken over the next five years.

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	Ref	Last Five Years (up to 1st January 2026) Period 1	Ref	Next Five Years (2026 to 2031) Period 2
The Council				
	C1 (1)	Adoption of the Council priorities focusing on addressing environmental sustainability assisted by reviewing the Local Plan (Regulation 18 consultation in 2025).	C1 (2)	Reassessing the future priorities and ensuring conserving and enhancing nature within the Borough is at its heart. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review by Sustainability Working Party
	C2 (1)	The Council prioritising the protection of the area's rural character while managing growth and supporting local employment.	C2 (2)	Further training for Officers and members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two training sessions to have been carried out. By April 2027
	C3 (1)	All Board Reports to consider environmental impacts	C3(2)	Ensure that assessment in Board Reports are measurable and can be evaluated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All board reports to have clear information in the implications section of the reports. To be reviewed by April 2027 once new board document management system up and running from June 2026.
Partner				
	P1 (1)	Member and Board Member of the Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership	P1 (2)	Continue the existing partnerships

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Review by Sustainability Working Party on an annual basis
	P2 (1)	Board Member of the Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS)	P2 (2)	<p>Seek out other partnership opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Review by Sustainability Working Party on an annual basis
	P3 (1)	Contributor to Nature Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP) (formerly the Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) and Local Warwickshire Sites (LWS) Project)	P3 (2)	<p>Continue funding for the NCAP to maintain and where possible improve the standard of information across the Borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing. • Review by Sustainability Working Party on an annual basis
	P4 (1)	Assisted the Responsible Authority WCC to produce the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Warwickshire.	P4 (2)	<p>LNRS to be published in 2026. Update required within 8 years' time. Will assist with its delivery, any review or updating, if necessary, of the LNRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing involvement. • Update references in the forthcoming Local Plan

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		Last Five Years (up to 1st January 2026) Period 1			Next Five Years (2026 to 2031) Period 2
	P5 (1)	Worked with the lead partner, WCC, with partners of the Coventry and Warwickshire local authorities to update the Coventry and Warwickshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.	P5 (2)	Will assist in delivery through the planning process and advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing. • Review by Sustainability Working Party on an annual basis 	
			P6 (2)	Work with Parish and Town Councils to assist them in bringing forward additional BNG sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a meeting by December 2026 to discuss potential sites with Parish and Town Councils • Liaise with WCC and WWT, including the Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership to assist in projects being brought forward 	
Plan Making					
	PM1 (1)	Local Plan was adopted in 2021. This document included: LP16 Environmental Improvement LP18 Tame Valley Improvement Area LP19 Local Nature Reserves (including 1 proposed) 5 designated.	PM1 (2)	The Borough Council published Regulation 18 Issues and Options for the review of the Local Plan. This included consideration of the updating and review of the above policies from the 2021 Local Plan as well as additional policies:	

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		Last Five Years (up to 1 st January 2026) Period 1		Next Five Years (2026 to 2031) Period 2
			PM1 (2) continued	1 Anker Valley Access and Nature Project 2 Mancetter Quarry 3 Rewilding Packington To seek improved connectivity between ecological sites within the planning process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To comply with the latest Local Development Scheme (Local Plan timetable), ongoing. • To consider within the planning policy and development control roles of the Borough Council when dealing with development proposals.
Local Planning Authority				
	LPA1 (1)	Consideration of planning applications (see Table 2 below with information on planning applications)	LPA1 (2)	Implementation of new Planning Software system which includes a BNG module to assist with considering, approving and monitoring BNG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BNG monitoring software to be fully operational by April 2027

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		<i>Last Five Years (up to 1st January 2026) Period 1</i>		<i>Next Five Years (2026 to 2031) Period 2</i>
	LPA2 (1)	Service level agreement with WCC Ecology team to provide ecology advice and guidance	LPA2 (2)	Will maintain an ecological advice provision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the Ecology service level agreement with Development Control on an annual basis
	LPA3 (1)	Officer and Member training	LPA3 (2)	Monitor the delivery of BNG across the Borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor by the Sustainability Working Paper and the Planning and Development Board on an annual basis the delivery of BNG
			LPA4(2)	Further Officer and Member training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two training sessions to have been carried out. By April 2027 training
Landowner				
	L1 (1)	NWBC has considered its landownership and if there are opportunities to have potential BNG sites.	L1 (2)	Identification of further sites: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cole End Park and Nature Reserve Project, River Cole rewinding and rewinding river channel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board report to consider initial Council owned sites by June 2026

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	L2 (1)	<p>Four sites have been identified to be added to the BNG sites list for markets credits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Kingsbury Link 2 Hartshill corner of Nuneaton Road and Mancetter Road 3 Riverside (River Anker, Atherstone Project) 4 Cole End Park rewinding of the river <p>Draft Management Plans in being prepared for sites 1 and 2 above.</p>	L2 (2)	<p>The delivery of enhancements to the four sites identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of draft management plans for sites 1 and 2 • Drafting of further two Management Plans for consideration of adoption underway by WCC • Start to deliver improvement by summer 2027 • Annual review to ensure delivery by the Sustainability Working Party
		<i>Last Five Years (up to 1st January 2026) Period 1</i>		<i>Next Five Years (2026 to 2031) Period 2</i>
	L3 (1)	<p>Local Nature Reserves established and improved: Cole End Park, Kingsbury Meadow, Abbey Green Park, Daffern's Wood and Riverside.</p>	L3 (2)	<p>Consideration of future LNR's. One potential further Local Nature Reserve identified and designated in Local Plan in Policy LP19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Review once Local Plan is adopted
			L4 (2)	<p>Seek sites to be beneficiaries of BNG market credits, including the LNR's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing in addition to L1 (2) above
<i>Developer</i>				

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	D1 (1)		D1 (2)	<p>Redevelopment of Atherstone Leisure Centre will include additional wildlife features as well as delivery the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By April 2028 on the reopening of the Leisure Centre• Ensure ongoing maintainance
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Appendices

	Title	Author	Date
1a	North Warks LNR Winter 2021-22	WWT	Spring 2022
1b	North Warks LNR April 2022 to March 2023	WWT	Summer 2023
1c	North Warks LNR April 2023 to September 2023	WWT	Autumn 2023
2	2024 Report on State of Habitats brochure	Natural Capital Assessment Partnership	2024
3	State of Habitats: North Warwickshire	Natural Capital Assessment Partnership	2024
4	Investing in our natural environment - Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities Natural Capital Investment Strategy Project update report January 2026	Prepared by Chris Bowden Consulting and the Warwickshire County Council Ecology, Historic Environment and Landscape Team. Supported by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities Interim NCIS Management Group and Technical Advisory Groups.	January 2026
5	Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure Strategy	Warwickshire County Council Ecology, Historic Environment and Landscape Team. supported by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities	2024 (refresh)
6	Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Warwickshire County Council to be delivered by the Local Nature Partnership (LNRS WCS LNP)	April 2026