

Adur District Council

Biodiversity Duty Report 2024–2025

Reporting period: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025

1. Introduction

The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the biodiversity duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Public authorities must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, establish appropriate policies and objectives and take action to deliver them.

Adur District Council published its first consideration of biodiversity actions in response to the strengthened duty. This identified action across corporate policy, nature recovery, green infrastructure, protected sites, parks, planning and partnership working.

This report summarises action taken during the Council's first reporting period and identifies priorities for the next reporting period.

2. Action taken

During the reporting period the Council continued to make biodiversity and nature recovery part of its wider objective of creating a thriving and climate-resilient environment.

Key actions included:

- supporting development of the **West Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy**, including the provision of local evidence and advice;
- progressing nature recovery initiatives including the Adur River landscape recovery project, saltmarsh and intertidal habitat creation at Pad Farm, and meadow habitat creation at New Salts Farm;
- continuing to identify opportunities to renature parks and open spaces;
- working with local green-space volunteer groups and nature recovery partners;
- supporting strategic coastal and marine nature recovery through Sussex Bay and other partnerships;
- continuing to protect biodiversity and green infrastructure through the Adur Local Plan 2017, particularly Policies 30 and 31, and Policy SH7 of the Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan
- developing the Council's approach to Biodiversity Net Gain, green infrastructure and habitat banking.

The Council also continued partnership working through bodies including the Sussex Local Nature Partnership, Adur and Ouse Catchment Partnership, Sussex Kelp Recovery Project and Living Coast Biosphere.

3. Biodiversity Net Gain

Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain came into effect during the reporting period. The Council incorporated the statutory requirements into its planning work and continued to develop its approach to BNG and associated green infrastructure guidance.

No statutory Biodiversity Gain Plans were approved by Adur District Council during the reporting period ending 31 December 2025.

4. Priorities for the next reporting period

The Council will continue to conserve and enhance biodiversity through its functions. Priorities include:

- supporting implementation of the West Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy;
- progressing nature recovery and habitat creation projects;
- improving ecological management of Council-owned land and protected sites;
- continuing renaturing and partnership work;
- integrating biodiversity and green infrastructure into planning policy and decision-making
- implementing and monitoring Biodiversity Net Gain, including approved Biodiversity Gain Plans.