



Action on Climate in Teignbridge

Teignbridge Wildlife Warden Scheme



About the Scheme

The Wildlife Warden Scheme is run by Action on Climate in Teignbridge's (ACT) Ecology Group. ACT is working closely with Teignbridge District Council to achieve a Net Zero District with increased and thriving wildlife as quickly as possible.

The Ecology Group aims to set up a volunteer, Parish-based, Wildlife Warden Scheme to help our wildlife increase and survive the Ecological Emergency and Climate emergency.

A key part of the scheme would be training Wildlife Wardens who would like to improve their wildlife and habitat management knowledge - so you don't need any special knowledge before you start!

Who can be a Wildlife Warden and what will they do?

Anyone interested in and/or knowledgeable in wildlife/ecology can become a Warden.

- You need a commitment to give your Parish's wildlife several hours of your time a month.
- You would look out for opportunities to protect, help and increase the wildlife in your Parish.
- You could carry out practical work in your Parish that would benefit wildlife
- You could either work in a team or possibly train to lead local volunteers on practical tasks (or you could call in specialists from ACT Ecology Group).
- Wildlife Wardens in neighbouring Parishes could work together on joint projects.
- Wildlife Wardens with special skills and knowledge might also help train other Wildlife Wardens.

Wildlife Warden Specification

- Wildlife Wardens need to love wildlife, but don't have to have specialist knowledge - we will provide training.
- Most Wildlife Wardens will be active, outdoor people who can walk/cycle around their Parish; however, there will also be opportunities for people who can carry out desk-based surveys, using existing records and information. Some IT skills would be needed for this.
- Wildlife Wardens who liaise with landowners and the public need to be good communicators.
- Those who carry out surveys need to have good ID skills - but we can help with training.
- Some of those with good ID skills may like to teach others!
- We would like to work with existing Parish Wildlife Groups who will act as their Parish's Wildlife Warden, organising work and sharing expertise.





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Wildlife Warden Specification (con't)

- If there isn't a group in your area, we will encourage you to work with any other Wildlife Wardens in your Parish; ideally you could start a group. If that isn't possible, you will need to agree to either divide the area geographically or undertake different aspects of your wildlife.
- We would like Wildlife Wardens to send a brief, monthly account of what they have been doing in their Parish, so that we can all share successes and difficulties; if there are several individuals, you will need to compile your report together.

Project areas that Wildlife Wardens could help with

Parish habitats

(whether owned by the Parish or surveying privately-owned land with permission):

- Undertaking Parish Wildlife Surveys - working on the ground and/or using online resources (we can help you with links, apps and websites).
- Using existing information to draw up connectivity maps so that key wildlife routes and Nature Recovery Networks can be joined.
- Survey to find new County Wildlife Sites.
- Giving habitat management advice to interested land owners.
- Help owners with wildlife management.
- Undertaking the Actions in your local Parish Biodiversity Audits - if your Parish has one, or wants one.

Parish gardens - Wildlife Gardening

- Promote insecticide-free gardening.
- Encourage Organic Gardening, so people can see there are alternatives to chemicals.
- Encourage wildlife gardening with scruffy areas.
- Promote Plantlife's Say No to the Mow / Square Metre for Wildflowers campaigns.
- Share useful info via ACT's Website (inc our Planting List, which suggests wildflowers that Wildlife Wardens could grow for public areas and private gardens).

Monitoring Building and Development within the Parish

- Checking details of Planning Applications when they are first submitted and informing ACT if any response from the group may be needed.
- Checking developments as they progress for unexpected removal/damage to trees, hedges and other habitats.
- Checking TDCs Tree Preservation Order details online.





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Project areas that Wildlife Wardens could help with (con't)

Free training in some of these areas

- A basic Wildlife Warden Training Day.
- Identification of small mammals, invertebrates, birds/birdsong, flowers, trees and woods, freshwater wildlife
- Habitat management and connectivity: hedges, woodlands, meadows, verges, ponds
- Farming and wildlife
- Writing risk assessments - and working with them!
- Wildlife Garden management and boxes
- Creating Insecticide-free zones
- Carrying out desktop surveys

Code of Practice

The ACT Ecology Group and its Wildlife Wardens aim to:

- Work **with** landowners to help wildlife
- Work **with** Teignbridge District Council planners and ecologists to ensure that developers do as little damage to wildlife as possible and provide the legal mitigation quickly.
- **Only** carry out surveys and fieldwork after getting all of the necessary permissions and making risk assessments.
- Work **with** everyone, on the basis that most people want to learn but don't necessarily want to feel that they are being taught!

