

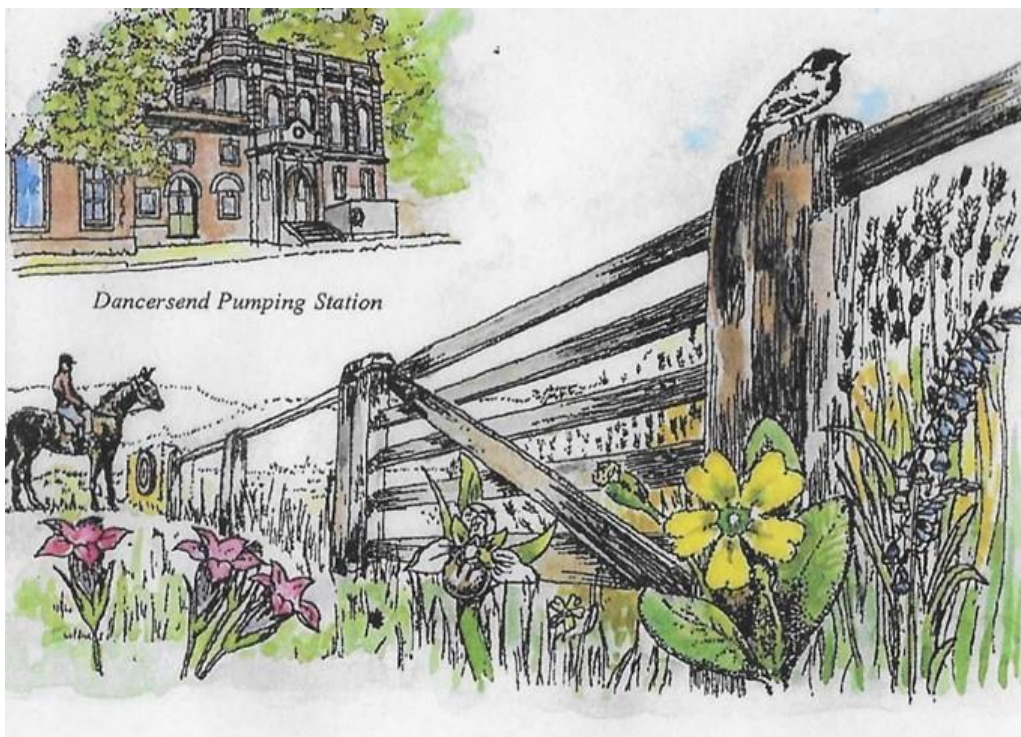
BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Buckland Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective. This duty means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

The Buckland Neighbourhood Plan (2022 version) includes the following section on the Natural Environment and policy BP15 on Biodiversity:

Natural environment



Buckland is a Parish very rich in flora and fauna with rare species and important habitats stretching from the Vale in the north to the beechwoods of the Chilterns in the south. This is supported by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Record for the Parish.

Rare native black poplars are to be found on farmland to the north of the Parish and also in the village of Buckland, mainly around field margins and ponds, some now dry. It is proposed to take every opportunity for more of these rare trees to be planted in the Vale section of the Parish.

Hares, badgers, muntjac and Chinese water deer are to be found on farmland from the Parish's northern boundary to the Wendover Arm canal. The two canals are home to water voles and bats, including Daubenton's and Noctule bats. There are also bats found within the village: pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelles, and brown long eared bats have been recorded here. Rare white clawed crayfish have been recorded at Buckland Wharf.

The farmland throughout the Parish is home to a variety of birds, several of which are on the RSPB's red and amber lists such as skylarks, lesser redpolls, fieldfares, lapwings, yellowhammers, teal, pink-footed geese, meadow pipits, stock doves, mistle and song thrushes, cuckoos, redwings, tawny owls. Many varieties of moths, butterflies and insects are also present throughout the Parish.



The Chilterns bear witness to other species, with bluebells, harebells, wild strawberries, orchids and wood sorrel. Badgers can be found throughout the length of the Parish, but in the beechwoods of the Chilterns they are joined by polecats and glis glis.

This is also home to the Dancersend SSSI. Here are recorded a variety of orchids including rare fly orchids, greater butterfly orchids, birds nest orchids. It is also home to the very rare Chiltern gentian, the rare meadow clary and kidney vetch. This SSSI is the only place in Buckinghamshire where wood vetch grows. There are over 770 species of butterflies and moths, including the chalk blue and small blue. There are over 600 species of fungi here and 390 species of flowering plants and ferns.



It is important that these rare species and their special habitats are preserved and enhanced. This rural area is a very important environment - its canals, open fields, footpaths and woods are very well used and enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages, walkers, horse riders, cyclists, and many family groups.

Policy: BP15 - Biodiversity

Proposals for new development in the Plan area must protect and enhance the biodiversity and wildlife in the parish by:

- Providing a net gain in biodiversity
- Safeguarding designated sites and priority species, habitats (hedgerows, woodlands, grasslands)
- Protecting rare black poplar trees in the Vale and making every effort for more of these trees to be planted in their natural habitat
- Ensuring landscaping maximises the opportunity for native flora and fauna, including wildlife corridors
- Replacing any lost trees and hedgerows with native species



The list of Parish Projects includes:

- Formation of a Community Orchard, wildflower meadow and nature reserve at Lower Buckland to return lost biodiversity to the area
- Renovation of Primrose Copse to provide a community leisure facility with nature trails, etc.

The aim of these policies is to ensure that all development respects the environment including local flora and fauna and achieves a net gain in biodiversity.

The Council will:

- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces, including the cutting of vegetation and timing of maintenance work
- Source sustainable materials when necessary.
- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters
- Involve the local community in biodiversity projects such as tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making, etc.
- Ensure that the management of grass verges respects the need to increase biodiversity while maintaining highway safety