

## Net Zero &amp; Climate Impact Assessment

| <b>Title of report: Enhanced Biodiversity Duty</b>  |            |               |  |  |
|---|------------|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Report author: Marc Greenwood</b>  |            |               |  |  |
| <b>Anticipated date of decision: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</b>   |            |               |  |  |
| <p><b>Summary of proposals:</b> The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD) was introduced under the Environment Act (2021). It requires all public authorities in England to consider how to actively conserve and enhance biodiversity. Defra requires all Local Planning Authorities and Local Authorities to report and publish what actions have been taken, and are planned, to meet the EBD.</p> <p>A report has been prepared outlining BDC's assessment of the authority's approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.</p> |            |               |  |  |
| Will the proposal impact on...  | Yes/<br>No | +ive/<br>-ive | If Yes...  |  |
|   |            |               | Briefly describe impact  | Briefly describe Mitigation measures   |
| Emissions of Greenhouse Gases or our Carbon Footprint (council & district wide)?  | No         |               |  |  |
| Blaby's resilience to the effects of climate change. E.g. in relation to heat, flooding, drought, high winds/storms or food security?   | Yes        | +             | The actions identified in the report demonstrate Blaby's approach to improving the Districts resilience towards climate change. Examples of actions include the planting of trees, improved flooding measures through planning applications and reduced over management of flood plains. |  |
| Consumption of non-renewable resources?   | No         |               |  |  |
| Production, recycling or disposal of waste  | No         |               |  |  |
| The appearance of the District?   | Yes        | + & -         | The actions identified will create improved spaces for people to enjoy.  | However some areas of the district will receive a reduced management, which may lead to the appearance of some sites looking unkept. |

|                                       |     |   |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---|---|--|
|                                       |     |   |   | However, this is necessary for the improvements in biodiversity. Mitigation can be achieved through clear communication about why this is happening. |
| Pollution to land, water, or air?     | Yes | + | Improved biodiversity may lead to a reduction in pollution. |  |
| Biodiversity - Wildlife and habitats? | Yes | + | This is the primary focus of the report.                    |  |

**Consulted with:** Representatives from across Blaby District Council services including, ES, EH, HLT, P&OS, CWBS, Planning.

**Summary of impacts and mitigation - to go into the main Cabinet/ Council Report**

The actions identified will have a positive impact on the biodiversity of the district. These actions will be monitored and overseen by the Climate Action Group and the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group.

**Checklist completed by:**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Name:   | Marc Greenwood         |
| Dept :  | Place                  |
| Extension:                                    | N/A                    |
| Date:   | 03/03/2026             |
| Verified by<br>Environmental Performance Team | Nick Fear (03/03/2026) |