

### **Draft Policy A2 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Wildlife – draft plan v5.3**

The priority for new development should be to avoid direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. Where impact cannot be avoided, mitigation and then compensation measures should be provided.

Development proposals should demonstrate how biodiversity will be protected and enhanced, including wildlife in the neighbourhood area as set out in paragraphs 5.1.9 and 5.1.10, ecological networks along water courses and hedgerows, and statutory and non-statutory locally designated wildlife sites and habitats.

#### **Landscaping**

Landscaping schemes should include wildlife enhancements wherever possible, for example incorporating ponds, retaining existing areas of woodland and hedgerows, and planting new tracts using locally appropriate native species. Where appropriate, planting of wildflower meadows is supported.

#### **Buildings**

Development should take into consideration the need to protect and encourage wildlife which may be using the building(s) as habitats, such as barn owls which are known to nest locally.

#### **Lighting**

Lighting schemes should be designed sensitively to reduce any adverse impact on wildlife and to protect the dark skies which are characteristic of this rural area.