

# WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY SURVEY



Before any site clearance begins, the Town Council is carrying out a wildlife and biodiversity survey.

This survey is required under planning regulations and forms part of our legal duty to protect and enhance local biodiversity.

Why is this important?

- Identifies protected species and habitats
- Helps safeguard local wildlife
- Ensures all work complies with environmental law

## Who could live here?

The common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) is the UK's most widespread reptile. The common lizard eats insects, spiders, worms and other tiny creatures it can catch on the ground. It hunts by waiting, watching, then darting forward to grab its food. It's small, fast, sun-loving, and gives birth to live young rather than laying eggs.



The slow-worm is not a snake but a legless lizard, common across gardens, grassland and woodland edges. It has smooth, shiny scales, a small head, and can shed its tail to escape danger. Slow-worms eat slugs, worms, spiders and other soft-bodied invertebrates, helping keep garden pests down. They are harmless and protected by law

The common toad is a warty, brown amphibian found across the UK. It walks rather than hops, moving slowly unless threatened. Common toads eat slugs, beetles, worms and other small invertebrates, helping control garden pests. Each spring they return to the same breeding ponds, often travelling long distances. They are harmless and legally protected.



Nesting birds are legally protected, and it is an offence to take, damage or destroy any active nest, eggs, or young, or to disturb birds while they are nesting. Many species nest in hedges, trees, buildings and even on the ground, often hidden from view.

