



# Wilder Kent AWARDS

Thank you for applying to take part in the Wilder Kent Awards 2024. By entering, you will be showing your ambition to connect people with nature and protect wildlife for the future. Any achievement is a helping hand for wildlife and the scheme allows you to increase your award level year on year so you can help wildlife for as long as possible.

This form will be your submission document. You can use it to track your progress across the year and then submit this form, along with supporting evidence, by **31<sup>st</sup> May 2024** to the following website: [kwtg.uk/upload-evidence](http://kwtg.uk/upload-evidence)

We **strongly encourage the use of photographs and videos** to evidence and support your submission. Throughout the year, it may be a good idea to create three folders on your computer to store supporting evidence for each of the three categories listed below. These folders can then be uploaded along with this submission form to the above website in May 2024. Please **do not insert photos into this form** – only use this form to describe the ways you feel you have met the criteria.

Name of village, town or city:	
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Have you applied for the Wilder Kent Awards before?	No – this is our first time!	Yes – please state the year you applied and level of award achieved

We have broken the awards down into three categories: **1. Protecting Wildlife**, **2. Sustainability and Carbon Reduction** and **3. Engage with Nature**. Use the below table to detail and record your work towards each of the criteria. You do not have to have completed everything in each category, but the more you do the more you will be helping to protect nature and create a wilder Kent.

## 1. Protecting Wildlife – Lead by Example

Criteria	Please identify which criteria you have met and describe how you have met them:	Score
Set out a clear policy commitment through your Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan to create green corridors and networks of habitat to support wildlife in your local area:		
Map out areas for nature’s recovery (e.g., develop a Neighbourhood Plan with designated green spaces to protect habitat and wildlife).		

<p>Set out clear policies on Biodiversity Net Gain, aspiring to create 20% improvements for wildlife through the planning process.</p>		
<p>Explain how you will use these policies to enhance habitats in your area (e.g., a tree planting policy for new development to support nature's recovery).</p>		
<p>Influence planning applications locally to protect and enhance wildlife:</p>		
<p>Oppose developments which will damage wildlife and encourage schemes which improve biodiversity (e.g., objecting to applications, speaking at planning committee, working with community groups on campaigns).</p>		
<p>Work with specific developments to ensure that the best outcome is achieved for wildlife (e.g., provide advice on making developments better for wildlife or monitor developments to ensure they are prioritising wildlife).</p>		
<p>Create a Biodiversity Strategy for your village, town or city and set out and implement priorities for nature's recovery.</p>		
<p>Commit to manage council-owned land and buildings to support wildlife (e.g., install solar panels, create a wildlife friendly management plan, install bird and bat boxes to all Council owned or managed buildings and suitable trees on Council land, create hedgehog highways and install hedgehog houses).</p>		
<p>Promote "No mow May" (e.g., include promotional information in a Council newsletter, on the Council website or put-</p>		

<p>up posters in the town, city or village. No mow May could also be promoted as part of a Biodiversity Strategy / Wildlife Action Plan).</p>		
<p>Raise awareness of the value of your local Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) (e.g., by promoting RNRs in a Biodiversity Strategy / Wildlife Action Plan. The Council could join the Roadside Nature Reserve Project in partnership with KCC and Kent Wildlife Trust. Information about the important role RNRs play in enhancing biodiversity could be included with Council newsletters).</p>		
<p>Ensure that management companies align their work plans with your Biodiversity Strategy (e.g., by creating a habitat management plan which has clear goals such as creating wildflower areas that will not be cut until late in the year, leaving deadwood in place or forming log piles and not using pesticides).</p>		
<p>Form a Climate and Biodiversity Committee to guide action (the committee could look at creating and implementing a Climate Action Plan and developing / promoting multifunctional green infrastructure to deliver climate mitigation and enhance biodiversity).</p>		
<p>Implement a Pesticide Free Village/Town/City Action Plan and set a date to become pesticide free (this could include encouraging residents to be pesticide free by providing information on the impacts of slug repellent on hedgehogs. Or installing bat boxes to encourage bats as they are nature's</p>		

natural pest control (one pipistrelle bat can consume up to 3000 mosquitos in a single night)).		
Encourage management of allotments to benefit wildlife (e.g., direct engagement with allotment owners to look at installing bug boxes, reptile hibernacula, and bird and bat boxes. Composting could be promoted with bonfires and pesticides/chemical use discouraged. Owners could be encouraged to reduce hosepipe use and instead to harvest rainwater).		
Develop local wilding projects (The Council could work with Kent Wildlife Trust to implement a wilding project. These types of projects could be developed through a habitat management plan).		

## 2. Sustainability and Carbon Reduction

Criteria	Please identify which criteria you have met and describe how you have met them:	Score
Install electric charging points to encourage the use of electric vehicles (EV charging points can be installed within all council owned properties and carparks. EV charging points could also be required as part of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan).		
Encourage green transport to reduce carbon emissions (e.g., provide more cycle parking at council owned /		

<p>managed sites, incorporate a Neighbourhood Plan policy for cycle / walking routes in new developments or set up a cycle to work scheme).</p>		
<p>Explore opportunities to access funding for habitat creation through nature-based solution schemes, e.g., Wilder Carbon, to lock up more carbon in habitats that benefit wildlife (This could be achieved by applying for grants directly or working with environmental bodies on grant funded projects to improve and create habitat for wildlife).</p>		
<p>Set a target of becoming a carbon neutral village/town/city (This could be done through a Climate Action Plan. Support could also be offered to the local community and business on reducing their carbon footprint or by delivering the Future Homes Standard through the Neighbourhood Plan).</p>		
<p>Develop and implement an Action Plan to work towards becoming carbon neutral (the Action Plan could include a timeframe to set out measurable targets).</p>		
<p>Set up a Youth Climate Panel to engage and work with young people in the village/town/city to help to shape the council's decisions (this could include giving talks in local schools about climate change and what the Council are doing or what the school and individuals can do to reduce their climate footprint).</p>		
<p>Run campaigns to inform and educate residents around food sustainability (e.g., creating guides or running workshops for residents alongside local food producers, retailers and community projects to detail the benefits of eating locally grown food which has been produced in ways that</p>		

protect and regenerate the natural environment).		
You could work with KWT to invest in nature to lock-up carbon for the long term (Restoring native habitats can capture carbon and provide substantial benefits including biodiversity recovery and abundance. Find out more here - <a href="https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-carbon">https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-carbon</a> ).		

### 3. Engage with Nature

Criteria	Please identify which criteria you have met and describe how you have met them:	Score
Encourage citizen science projects that record habitats and species in the local area. Ensure that data is sent to the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (KMBRC) to inform the bigger picture (this could be done by providing details in newsletters or on the Council's website and by organising events with local wildlife groups where more information about how to record and report habitats and species information).		
Undertake demonstrable work to protect priority and locally important species (this could include creating, restoring, or enhancing habitats which are specifically used for priority species within your area such as hedgehogs).		
Encourage local people/groups to take part in Wild About Gardens (this could be promoted and encouraged through a Wildlife Action Plan).		

<p>Support schools and community groups to work towards a Wilder Kent Award (this could be achieved by giving talks in schools or to community groups about what actions the Council have taken and how they can achieve something similar).</p>		
<p>Create a mini nature reserve on available unused land (this could be on railway corridors, playing field margins, or roadside land. Information boards could be installed to educate residents about local wildlife).</p>		
<p>Support local landowners and regenerative agriculture projects (e.g., work with local farmers to promote food sustainability).</p>		
<p>Participate in awards schemes that support and benefit local natural heritage.</p>		
<p>Support and promote community initiatives which enhance biodiversity in public spaces and private gardens (talks and workshops could be given on topics in this area such as gardening for wildlife).</p>		
<p>Carry out a fundraising day to help a wildlife or conservation charity of your choice.</p>		

## Other

The Wilder Kent Awards are a chance to showcase what you and your local community have been working on and to evidence your achievements. The lists set out above are not exhaustive and other examples are welcome. Please use this box to detail any additional steps (not mentioned above) which you have taken towards helping make a Wilder Kent: