



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW BOARD

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2009 AT 6.00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

The attached papers were tabled at the meeting when the verbal update on Biodiversity Issues was provided.

4. Verbal Update on Biodiversity Issues (Pages 1 - 6)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

31st March 2009

This page is intentionally left blank

Bromsgrove District Council - potential Biodiversity commitments

1) Biodiversity Action Plan Actions

1a) BAP Actions that hopefully can be delivered through planning functions

BAP code	BAP name	Action Code	Action Category	Action Text	Complete Action By	Lead Organisation	BDC dept. or other connection	Supporting Organisations
H2	Traditional orchards	WRC T	7.4	Where appropriate carry out the restoration / creation of traditional orchards through planning agreements.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H2	Traditional orchards	WRC T	11.6	Use the TPO system to protect valuable orchards and individual trees.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H2	Traditional orchards	WRC T	1.3	Ensure local planning documents refer to the value of traditional orchards to wildlife, local landscape and public amenity and the need to protect and enhance them.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H5	Woodland	WRC W	1.3	Ensure that ASNW and other woodlands of nature conservation interest are identified within Local Development Documents and all possible development control measures are used to ensure the protection and, where possible, the enhancement of biodiversity interest.	2017	BDC	Planning	NE WWT WCC
H7	Wet woodland	WRC W	7.4	Use the development control system to secure, where possible and appropriate, section 106 agreements for the restoration or creation of wet woodland in suitable areas.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H7	Wet woodland	WRC W	11.6	Where appropriate ensure areas of wet woodland are given protection through area TPO's.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H8	Reedbeds	WRC R	7.4	Where appropriate demand the inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems within development plans that incorporate reedbeds as a component.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H11,12,13	Semi-natural Grassland	WRC S	9.8	Ensure all SSSI and SWS grasslands are included in appropriate site protection policies and supporting text in Local Development Documents and Supplementary Planning Guidance.	2012	BDC	Planning	NE, WWT, WCC
H11,12,13	Semi-natural Grassland	WRC S	9.8	Where ecological surveys undertaken as part of a development proposal identify the presence of SSSI, SWS or other grasslands of nature conservation importance, appropriate site protection policies and / or mitigation should be applied.	2017	BDC	Planning	NE, WCC, WWT
H16	Urban	WRC U	1.3	Develop and publish biodiversity SPD to include specific information on urban biodiversity and urban greenspace.	2012	BDC	Planning	WCC, WWT, NE
H16	Urban	WRC U	3.15	Encourage best practice amongst the public by promoting the protection and enhancement of biodiversity as part of the information and advice provided to applicants through the development control system.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H16	Urban	WRC U	13.4	Planning application approvals to include where relevant conditions for monitoring, after an appropriate period of time, the impact and success of any action undertaken by the applicant to deliver biodiversity gain as part of the development.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H16	Urban	WRC U	7.4	Using Urban Greenspace concept, identify priority areas for habitat restoration / creation in each urban area to maximise the connectivity of areas of semi-natural habitat across the urban landscape. Develop strategy for each urban area for taking forward habitat creation/restoration on prioritised sites. Use strategy to inform Greenspace work.	2012	BDC	Planning	
H16	Urban	WRC U	8.5	Review baseline data for urban areas and prepare strategy for enhancing data, identifying priority areas for data capture, and levels of data required.	2009	BDC	Planning	WBRC
H16	Urban	WRC U	8.1	Ensure adequate levels of data for priority areas as identified in action WRC URB ID 01 have been collected.	2012	BDC	Planning	WBRC

H17	Canals	WRC C	7.3 Use the development control system to ensure that the best outcomes for biodiversity are achieved through the use of planning conditions, where impacts on the wider canal environment are identified.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H19	Rivers and streams	WRC R	6.18 Ensure the use of Sustainable Drainage Schemes in all new developments wherever practical and economic to do so.	2017	BDC	Planning	EAWCC
H19	Rivers and streams	WRC R	6.18 Investigate the retrofitting of Sustainable Drainage Schemes into existing development where the contribution of that development to urban runoff has been identified as significant. Implement this work where it is practical and economic to do so.	2017	BDC	Planning	WCCEA
H19	Rivers and streams	WRC R	7.4 Use every appropriate opportunity for the restoration of rivers or streams and associated habitat through the use of planning conditions and Section 106 agreements.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H19	Rivers and streams	WRC R	7.4 Where a culverted watercourse falls within the footprint of a development, the watercourse should be restored to a natural channel as part of the planning conditions.	2017	BDC	Planning	
H19	Rivers and streams	WRC R	9.8 Include policies for the protection and enhancement of river corridors and floodplains in Local Planning Documents and Strategies and ensure these are implemented through the planning system.	2010	BDC	Planning	EA
S3	Bats	WRC B	13.4 Implement or improve the effectiveness of current post-development monitoring of planning applications that have affected bat roosts.	2010	BDC	Planning	NEWCCWBG
S4	Water vole	WRC V	1.3 Ensure the species requirements are included within appropriate local planning policy documents (e.g. Biodiversity SPD) and given due consideration during the development control decision-making process.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S4	Water vole	WRC V	7.6 Use the development control system to best effect to stop further fragmentation of water vole sites and where possible link up fragmented sites.	2017	BDC	Planning	WWTBW
S8	Adder	WRC A	9.8 Planning applications to be assessed for likelihood of damage or disturbance to known adder sites / habitat.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S8	Adder	WRC A	9.8 Where it is considered that an application will impact on an adder site / habitat, a full herpetological survey of the site should be carried out prior to any planning decision.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S8	Adder	WRC A	9.8 Permission for planning applications considered likely to damage or disturb adders or habitat where adders are known to be present to be advised against on ecological grounds unless mitigation that is considered suitable and acceptable by ecologists is agreed with and carried out by applicant.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S13	Brown hairstreak	WRC B	1.3 Ensure the species requirements are included within appropriate local planning policy documents (e.g. Biodiversity SPD) and given due consideration during the development control decision-making process.	2012	BDC	Planning	
S13	Brown hairstreak	WRC B	9.8 Ensure Hedgerow Regulations are used effectively in the protection of hedgerows where brown hairstreak occurs.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S18	Black poplar	WRC B	9.8 Ensure the species is included within appropriate local planning policy documents (e.g. Biodiversity SPD) and given due consideration during the development control decision-making process.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S18	Black poplar	WRC B	11.6 Apply Tree Preservation Orders to notable individuals and those that are perceived to be under threat.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S21	Wood white	WRC V	9.8 Ensure the species requirements are included within appropriate local planning policy documents (e.g. Biodiversity SPD) and given due consideration during the development control decision-making process.	2017	BDC	Planning	
S22	Grizzled skipper	WRC G	9.8 Brownfield site developments to include habitat provision for grizzled skipper as a planning condition if the presence of the species is indicated by ecological survey or data search.	2017	BDC	Planning	WCCBC
S22	Grizzled skipper	WRC G	1.3 Ensure the species requirements are included within appropriate local planning policy documents (e.g. Biodiversity SPD) and given due consideration during the development control decision-making process.	2017	BDC	Planning	BC
S4	Water vole	WRC V	12.3 Produce 'environmental options map' to ensure water vole friendly watercourse management, paying regard to dredging activities and protocols.	2008	BDC	Planning?	WWTEA

1b) Actions that need confirming can be done by EDC

H11,12,13	Semi-natural Grassland	WRC S	9.5 Continue vetting of forestry grant applications to ensure important grassland sites are not planted up.	2017	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	2.1 Develop at least one demonstration site for best practice in urban biodiversity and or greenspace management / enhancement.	2017	BDC	WCC, WWT
H16	Urban	WRC U	3.5 Use local media to highlight and promote a positive approach to biodiversity planning and to raise residents' awareness of urban biodiversity issues through the publication and celebration of relevant good news stories.	2017	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	3.6 Ensure that information provided on urban biodiversity makes reference to the problems caused by invasive species and provides advice about control and prevention of spread.	2017	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	6.14 Identify all priority / designated sites within urban areas within partnership organisation ownership or management and ensure appropriate management plans / strategies to promote and enhance biodiversity are prepared and implemented for each.	2012	BDC	NE, WBRC
H16	Urban	WRC U	6.4 Identify priority sites within partnership organisation ownership or management where controlled livestock grazing is considered necessary to achieve favourable condition and secure appropriate grazing regime.	2015	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	6.11 Review or produce best practice in relation to each Local Authority owned or managed urban site to minimise / manage human impact and disturbance to wildlife, revise as necessary and promote to all relevant parties. Include within this best practice reference to reducing anti-social behaviour in urban greenspace areas.	2010	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	7.2 Ensure implementation of all habitat creation/restoration plans for priority areas identified within the strategy produced for action WRC URB HC 06.	2015	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	3.4 Provide opportunities for contact with biodiversity by holding at least one event per year for local communities focused on urban wildlife within gardens and greenspaces.	2017	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	3.15 Allow local communities the opportunity to contribute to urban greenspace management through the existence of at least one monthly volunteer work party.	2017	BDC	
H16	Urban	WRC U	3.8 Use local media and local events to promote the contribution of urban biodiversity and urban greenspace to mental and physical wellbeing.	2017	BDC	
H18	Ponds and Lakes	WRC P	4.11 Secure / allocate funding for the restoration of 6 individual ponds.	2017	BDC	WCC
S4	Water vole	WRC V	2.16 Use the water vole as a 'flagship' species when carrying out publicity to highlight biodiversity issues within the District.	2017	BDC	Link to water WWT vole strategy refresh?
S4	Water vole	WRC V	3.7 Produce and erect appropriate interpretation and information signs to raise awareness of water vole conservation and to reduce impact of human disturbance.	2008	BDC	Link to water WWT vole strategy refresh?
S4	Water vole	WRC V	12.1 Improve bank side management of all strategic watercourses in Bromsgrove District to increase their suitability for water voles – Sugar, Battlefield and Spadesbourne Brooks and the streams and ditches within Bromsgrove town.	2010	BDC	Link to water EAWWT vole strategy refresh?
S4	Water vole	WRC V	12.15 Incorporate water vole habitat improvement into all projects and management work as appropriate.	2017	BDC	Link to water vole strategy refresh?

S4 Water vole WRC W 12.11 Eradicate Himalayan balsam on 75% of affected watercourses. 2012 BDC Link to water vole strategy refresh?

S15 Stag beetle WRC S 12.1 Manage publicly owned sites in a manner suitable for stag beetles, retaining decaying wood in situ. 2017 BDC

2) Actions from Community Improvement Plan for 09/10

- 2.10.1 BDC to attend launch of revised BAP DONE
- 2.10.2 BDC to hold meeting with BAP Manager to look at revision of District Biodiversity Programme to be arranged - in CIP for Q4 08/09
- 2.10.3 BDC to consider steps to implement recommendations from programme to be undertaken in 09/10
- 2.10.4 BDC to meet Wildlife Trust to discuss revision of Water Vole Strategy (mops up some BAP actions) to be arranged - in CIP for Q4 08/09
- 2.10.5 BDC to decide which actions from Water Vole Strategy to implement to be undertaken in 09/10
- 2.11.1 Discussion paper on Biodiversity pledge to go to BDC council in hand
- 2.12.1 BDC to meet NE rep to discuss Local Nature Reserve designation and agree course of action to be arranged - in CIP for Q4 08/09
- 2.13.1 BDC to attend meeting re: local sites DONE
- 2.13.2 BDC to report on NI 197 (active management of local sites) in hand - being led at county council

BIODIVERSITY TRAINING FOR PLANNERS AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICERS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A three-hour introduction to the legislation, guidance and best practice underpinning the integration of biodiversity into the planning process. Obviously this can really only cover the basic “must have” information and it represents something of a whistle-stop tour through the relevant legislation but we can also include examples of good and bad practice together with details of protected species and habitats found in Worcestershire (or the relevant Districts). Sessions generally close with a question and answer session to help promote discussion about the relevant issues.

Groups of up to 20 people are ideal as larger numbers tend to preclude inclusive discussions. Ordinarily we would expect to use one course leader but more can be made available if this is considered necessary.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Brief introduction to biodiversity.
2. Introduction to the relevant legislation including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, CROW Act 2000, Conservation Regulations and Habitats Directive, Badgers Act 1992 NERC Act 2006 and Hedgerows Regulations 1997.
3. Introduction to the relevant guidance from Government. Principally PPS1 and PPS9 but potentially looking briefly at British Standards and wider commitments.
4. Brief introduction to the Biodiversity Action Plan and its role in biodiversity and the planning process.
5. Introduction to protected sites and species, licensing and survey requirements.
6. Examples of good and bad practice and some of the tools that Planners can use to benefit biodiversity through their work

COURSE COST

We charge for preparation and delivery of the sessions to help cover Officer time. A half-day session costs £500 plus VAT.

This page is intentionally left blank