

## 6 Generic Issues

### Background

- 6.1 A number of issues and concerns are common across a range of habitats.
- 6.2 The following section highlights objectives and specific actions which address these generic issues. All of the objectives and actions apply to each Habitat Action Plan and should be considered alongside these Plans.

### Generic objectives

#### **G1 To deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan**

Everyone in Buckinghamshire can do something to help save wildlife, whether by practical conservation or awareness-raising activity. This includes actions by individuals, business, industry, landowners, land managers, non-governmental organisations, statutory agencies, local authorities, parish councils, the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership.

#### **G2 To strengthen policy and legislation**

The demand for future housing and industrial development is one of the greatest challenges facing the natural environment in Bucks. The strengthening of planning legislation to ensure the full recognition and protection of our wildlife resource both locally and nationally is important if wildlife and habitats are to be conserve.

#### **G3 To promote positive management for biodiversity in agri-environment schemes**

Agricultural intensification is a great threat to natural habitats. The revision and development of appropriate management prescriptions in future agri-environment schemes should promote positive management for biodiversity. An integral part of this will be the need to influence and educate politicians, key decisions makers and national organisations to the value of semi-natural habitats. Greater financial incentives for landowners would encourage more environmentally sensitive management of land. Agricultural support schemes should be reviewed to address the current situation where subsidies far outweigh those which support agri-environment initiatives.

#### **G4 To safeguard existing semi-natural habitats, prevent further losses and encourage restoration and creation**

All owners of semi-natural habitat should be encouraged to maintain and manage their land with wildlife in mind. Positive measures such as linking existing areas of good quality habitat will increase the value of

such areas. Land within the ownership of local authorities, statutory agencies and conservation organisations represents a solid base from which habitat fragmentation and isolation can be addressed. Initiatives such as Environmental Stewardship and Woodland Grant Scheme are integral to this and should be supported.

**G5 To establish data on species and habitats**

Buckinghamshire is nationally notable for a number of rare and endangered species. The status of key species for each Habitat Action Plan should be established. This should be carried out through an audit of existing records and further species-specific surveys.

The collection of data on habitats and species is fundamental to the implementation of the BAP – action can only be effective if it is underpinned by relevant and accurate information. Therefore, co-ordinated and easy access to such data is essential. The Bucks and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre forms the natural focus for assembling such information and making it accessible.

The UK Biodiversity Steering Group Report also stresses the fundamental importance of a co-ordinated approach to data management at a local and national level. It recommends the development of and support for, local Environmental Records Centres. The National Biodiversity Network is a project promoted by a consortium of national conservation organisations that will help provide a framework for this national and local data provision.

**G6 To provide advice on conservation management to landowners and managers**

A key area in the successful delivery of the Plan will be the availability and quality of advice on conservation management to a wide range of audiences including local authorities, farmers, schools, community groups and individuals. The participation, co-operation and support of all these groups is vital to achieving long term gains for the County's biodiversity. This objective relies on the work of existing agencies such as FWAG, FRCA, Countryside Management Projects and conservation advisors.

**G7 To continue and establish further monitoring and research systems**

Monitoring systems and further research for species and habitats should be developed where there is a shortage of ecological data. Research into sustainable management regimes for all habitats and species should be continued. Monitoring systems also provide information on the effect of our actions, both positive and negative and will be vital in determining the effectiveness of the BAP. Monitoring the state of our biodiversity could take place through devising and applying local sustainability indicators, related to national headline sustainability indicators (DETR 1998). These headline indicators include an indicator for the state of wildlife and habitats, based on populations of wild birds

**G8 To raise awareness of habitats and species**

The Plan includes actions which seek to raise awareness of habitats and species conservation. It seeks to increase the number of people who are actively involved in nature conservation in the County and provide them with the necessary support. Increased awareness will help address issues such as balancing the needs of recreation and conservation and will encourage people to take a positive attitude to the need to conserve wildlife

**G9 To build in resilience to the impacts of climate change**

Nature conservation in Britain has traditionally focused on the protection of sites.

This approach has proved partially successful in defending wildlife on and around these sites, but has also led to the isolation of sites, surrounded by a landscape with less value for wildlife.

Isolated nature reserves and other protected sites are unlikely to be able to sustain wildlife in the long term on their own. Sites need to be buffered, extended and linked if wildlife is to be able to adapt to climate change.

We need to increase the ability of the environment to protect us from flooding and to soak up carbon dioxide to mitigate the effects of climate change. This will demand the restoration of extensive areas of natural habitat, particularly wetlands and woodlands

We do not yet know the exact impacts that climate change will have on the biodiversity of the region, which species will adapt and survive and which will be lost. However delivering projects at a landscape scale rather than at a site scale is the most effective way of minimising the effect of climate change on our biodiversity. .

National Target	Code	Target	Action	Start	End	Action location	Lead	Other Orgs	Target total	Baseline
	G1	All Local Development Frameworks contain policies that ensure protection of all semi natural habitats, and guidelines on the creation of new habitats in developments.		2006	2008				6 LDF policies	0
	G1/1		Produce Supplementary Planning Document to be adopted by all Local Planning Authorities	2006	2008	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC NE BBOWT BMERC	6 LAs adopted	0
	G2	All semi natural habitats to be mapped		2006	2008				5 Districts surveyed	0
	G2/1		Produce a detailed inventory of all semi-natural habitats	2006	2008	Bucks & MK	BCC	BMERC NE	5 Districts surveyed	0
	G3	Landscape scale restoration to be undertaken through the identification of		2006	2010				27 Areas of Opportunity	0

		opportunity areas where habitats can be linked and focus resources on them							rtunit y	
	G3/1		Identify and agree opportunity areas in all districts	2006	2007	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC NE All Partners	27 Area s of Oppo rtunit y	0
	G3/2		Habitat works to be targeted in opportunity areas	2007	2010		BMK BP	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC NE All Partners	20 Proje cts	0
	G3/3		Establish a co-ordinated monitoring programme for works in opportunity areas	2007	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC NE All Partners	All live Oppo rtunit y Area s monit ored	0
	G4	All designated sites in favourable condition		2006	2010					
	G4/1		Obtain favourable management condition of all statutory sites under NE jurisdiction	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	NE	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC BBOWT CCB	83 sites	
	G4/2		Review management plans for all SSSIs	2007	2010	Bucks & MK	NE		67 Plans	X

									reviewed	
	G4/3		Produce management plans or statements for all LNRs	2007	2008	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC EN BBOWT	16 Plans / Statements	X
	G5	Expand network of designated sites			2010					0
	G5/1		Identify and designate sites as LNRs	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	AVDC BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC EN BBOWT	5 New sites	0
	G5/2		Survey and designate Local Wildlife Sites	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP AVDC	BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC	40 sites	
	G5/3		Promote Local Wildlife Sites to landowners through talks workshops and events	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP AVDC	BCC CDC MKC SBDC WDC	5 events	
	G5/4		Establish a co-ordinated monitoring programme for key indicator and BAP priority species	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP BME RC	NE	1 programme	
	G6	Increased levels of recording of flora and fauna and sharing of data with all records being deposited with BMERC		2006	2010					
	G6/1		Encourage the recording of	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BME	All partners	20%	X records

			flora and fauna and the sharing of data with all records being deposited with BMERC				RC		increase records	
	G6/2		Maintain register of seed donor sites and advise accordingly	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP		1 register	0
	G7	Raise awareness of biodiversity in Bucks		2006	2010					
	G7/1		Organise training events to increase understanding of biodiversity related issues	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	5 events per year	0
	G7/2		Produce handbooks and leaflets to provide advice and guidance on biodiversity initiatives and related issues	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	1 Publication	0
	G7/3		Produce and maintain Biodiversity Partnership website	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	1 website	1
	G7/4		Organise awareness raising activities eg interpretation, guided walks, farm open days	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners		
	G7/5		Select sites for educational use and produce educational resources linked to the BAP	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	X resources	0
	G7/6		Promote the importance of semi-natural habitats to all sections of the community through improved access to selected sites	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	10 Sites with access improvements	0

	G7/7		Develop a volunteer groups network for practical management, monitoring, fundraising and promotion	2006	2007	Bucks & MK	BTC V	All partners	1 network	0
	G7/8		Ensure Parish Councils are aware of their responsibilities under NERC act	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	AVDC CDC MKC SBDC WDC BCC	208 PCs notified	0
	G7/9		Produce database of advisors and contractors for practical management, surveys, whole farm plans and ecological appraisals	2006	2007	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	1 database	0
	G7/10		Support voluntary and membership organisations active in biodiversity in Bucks & Milton Keynes	2006	2010	Bucks & MK	BMK BP	All partners	X organisations supported	X