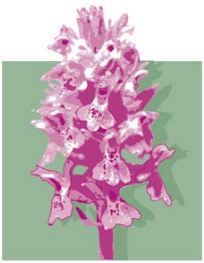


HAMPSHIRE
BIODIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP

Business Plan Jan 2010 – Dec 2011

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HAMPSHIRE
BIODIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP

Business Plan

Jan 2010 – Dec 2011

To conserve and enhance biodiversity in Hampshire for all”

Introduction

The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership was established in 1997 to develop a biodiversity action plan for Hampshire. The Plan sets out strategic direction and specific targets for priority habitats and species and a number of topics such as water, education and awareness, and urban areas.

The Partnership oversees the ongoing development, implementation and monitoring of Hampshire’s biodiversity action plan. To do this, the Partnership brings together representatives from a wide range of organisations that are committed to conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Some partners are involved directly in the Partnership’s steering group or topic groups, others contribute to associated networks and events.

The work of the Partnership evolves and adapts to changing policy and practice at national and local level. This Business Plan sets out priorities from Jan 2010 to Dec 2011.

Hampshire’s Biodiversity

Hampshire is one of the richest areas for wildlife in England. The county contains a landscape of remarkable contrasts and a diversity of habitats unparalleled in other parts of South East England. Hampshire's mosaic of habitats includes ancient woodlands, wildflower meadows, heathlands, chalk downland, river valleys, coastal habitats, and the New Forest - the greatest area of 'semi-wilderness' left in lowland England. These habitats support an exceptional variety of wild plants and animals.

In 2006 the Partnership published *The State of Hampshire’s Biodiversity* to take stock of the status of Hampshire’s habitats and species. Key findings showed a number of losses and gains for biodiversity. Nevertheless, although in many cases losses of habitats had slowed, there was a continued loss of quality in many key habitat types due to lack of appropriate management.

A core thrust of the Partnership’s work for 2010 and 2011 will be to identify priorities within Hampshire’s ‘Biodiversity Opportunity Areas’ (BOAs) for improving land management, to secure biodiversity gains and meet Hampshire’s Habitat Targets (see Annex 3). The 41 regional BOAs that fall partly or wholly within Hampshire can be found at www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/BOAs.html .

Aims and Objectives of the Partnership

The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership aims to raise awareness of Hampshire's natural environment and increase commitment to its conservation. The Partnership includes local authorities, Government agencies and voluntary bodies working together to conserve and enhance nature in Hampshire.

Aims

1. To establish and maintain an effective partnership to implement the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire*.
2. To encourage and support district and corporate biodiversity action plans in Hampshire by providing guidance, advice and a strategic framework.
3. To maintain an audit of Hampshire's priority habitats and species.
4. To monitor and keep under review the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire*.
5. To identify and guide action needed for Hampshire's priority habitats, species and generic issues that affect Hampshire's biodiversity.
6. To promote widespread awareness and interest in Hampshire's biodiversity.
7. To act as a forum for sharing expertise and information related to conserving Hampshire's biodiversity.
8. To act as a link between national, regional and local biodiversity programmes and ensure local participation in national biodiversity objectives.

Objectives

The Partnership has 21 key objectives under 4 themes –

- land management
- planning, plans and strategies
- data, information and survey
- education, awareness and communication

Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership: 21 Key Objectives			
1 Land Management - Aim: to ensure favourable condition of priority habitats and species in Hampshire		2 Planning, Plans and Strategies - Aim: seek to ensure no net loss of biodiversity through the planning process, and establish commitment and implementation programmes for biodiversity through plans and strategies	
1a	Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects	2a	Ensure appropriate consideration of biodiversity in development plans and the development control process, and promote good practice by developers
1b	Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	2b	Ensure all priority habitat and species assemblages that meets SINC or SSSI criteria are designated
1c	Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	2c	Ensure Community Strategies in Hampshire include biodiversity policies and plans
1d	Ensure favourable management of local authority land	2d	Establish biodiversity as a key element of all relevant plans and strategies and promote appropriate changes in regulations and legislation
1e	Promote management of land at 'landscape scale'	2e	Produce and implement local biodiversity action plans
1f	Ensure appropriate action for priority species		
1g	Restore / recreate priority habitats or create new habitats		
3 Data, Information and Survey - Aim: to ensure availability of appropriate data and information on Hampshire's habitats and species		4 Education, Awareness and Communication - Aim: to broaden awareness of biodiversity and involvement in its conservation	
3a	Develop the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to share data and make more widely available	4a	Promote the aims and work of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership
3b	Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups	4b	Promote biodiversity as beneficial to quality of life (health, wellbeing etc) and key to sustainable development
3c	Survey / monitor extent and condition of key habitats and species	4c	Raise general awareness and commitment to biodiversity in the following 6 sectors: public sector; farmers, landowners and other land managers; business and industry; education; community groups; general public
3d	Encourage partners to monitor the implementation of their organisation's/ group's action for biodiversity		
3e	Monitor 'external' influences on biodiversity		
3f	Pro-actively encourage research and ensure that research is disseminated		

Work Programme 2010 – 2011

The 2 year work programme for Jan 2010 to Dec 2011 is set out below.

Key tasks and specific activities are divided into 7 'core services' (as identified by Natural England for LBAP delivery):

1. Establishing and maintaining a broad partnership
2. Delivering BAP locally
3. Fund-raising for BAP delivery
4. Reporting and monitoring progress
5. Integrating BAP into local policies
6. Promoting BAP locally
7. Representation

The work programme outlines key tasks and specific activities in each core service, and identifies responsibilities for delivery and timescale. The programme will be reviewed by the Partnership's Steering Group annually at the September meeting.

Work Programme Jan 2010 – Dec 2011				
Key Tasks	Specific Activities	Responsibility	Timescale	Note
1 Establishing and maintaining a broad partnership - <i>To ensure that all relevant sectors are engaged in the partnership</i>				
Widen membership of Steering Group	Invite FC and SDNPK onto Steering Group	Chair/ Coordinator	Jan 2010	
Review membership of Partnership	Invite new partners to join e.g. SDNPK, Plantlife	Coordinator/ Biod assistant	Jan 2010	
Coordinate Steering Group	Coordinate meetings 2x/yr	Coordinator/ Biod assistant	March and Sept	
Ensure regular meetings of topic groups	Refresh direction and membership of Land Mgt Forum	Chair LMF	April 2010	To follow audit of BOAs
	Develop Research Forum to link Partners and Universities	HWT / Biod assistant	Jan 2010	Pilot event Feb 2010
	Convene Monitoring Group to oversee biennial review against 21 key obj's and State of Biodiversity Report	Chair MonGp/ Coordinator/ Biod assistant	May 2010	
	Recruit new members to Comms Group	Coordinator/ Biod assistant	Jan 2010	
Encourage greater participation and information sharing by all Partners	Activities outlined in Communication Action Plan	Comms Gp/ Biod assistant/ ALL Partners	Various	See Comms Plan – Annex 4

2 Delivering BAP locally - To ensure that targets for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity are formulated and contribute to national and regional targets				
Monitor delivery of Hampshire habitat targets – maintenance, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats	Collate information on delivery of habitat targets in Hampshire via national schemes (HLS, WGS etc)	HBIC/HCC Biod assistant/ EA/FC/NE	Dec each year	See Hampshire habitat targets – Annex 3
	Request and collate information on local delivery towards targets (delivery outside national schemes)	Biod assistant	Dec each year	
	Collate national and local delivery info to gain comprehensive picture for Hampshire	Biod assistant	Dec each year	Report results regionally
Update list of Hampshire priority species	Request and collate information from species groups	HBIC/ Species groups	June 2010	
Assess proportion of SINC in positive management for national performance indicator NI197	Request data from all partners in April each year; compile and assess in May; submit outcome in June each year	HCC/ ALL Partners	Apr 2010 – June 2010 + Apr 2011 – June 2011	
	Develop Partnership strategy to improve proportion of SINC under positive management	HCC / LMF/ ALL Partners	Sept 2010	
Review SINC criteria	In consultation with Steering Group, key partners, species groups	HBIC	Sept 2010	
Review gaps and opportunities in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas	Engage consultant to review influences and operations supporting land management within BOAs and identify opportunity for increased provision	HCC / LMForum/ ALL Partners	Dec 2009 – March 2010	Stakeholder event in Feb 2010
Identify priority list of landscape-scale projects	Produce initial list of priority projects for delivery of habitat (and species) targets	Steering gp / Coordinator	(June 2009)	See Funding Strategy 2009/10 for initial list – Annex 5
	Produce list of projects following gap and opportunity analysis	HCC/ LMForum	May 2010	To follow audit of BOAs
3 Fund-raising for BAP delivery - To secure external funding for project delivery				
Agree priority projects for biodiversity funding streams such as HLF, SITA Trust etc	Agree list of land management projects for potential funding following BOA audit	Steering gp / ALL Partners	June 2010	

	Compile summary of potential funding streams for priority land mgt (and other) projects	Biod assistant	June 2010	
	Produce list of projects delivering other key objectives e.g. planning; data and information; social and economic (themes 2,3,4 of key objectives)	Steering gp / Coordinator/ Biod assistant/ ALL Partners	Sept 2010	
4 Reporting and monitoring progress - To track progress against objectives and targets agreed by the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership				
Produce biennial report against 21 key objectives	Request information from partners in March and collate to produce 2008 - 2010 assessment by June	Monitoring Group / Biod assistant / ALL Partners	March 2010 – June 2010	Traffic light asst by Mon Group
Review priorities of HBP at least annually	Use findings of biennial report, annual review of progress against this work programme, and changes in national/regional policy and practice	Coordinator/ Steering gp	Sept meeting each year	
Monitor Hampshire habitat targets to contribute to annual regional report	See relevant activity under core service 2 above	HBIC / Biod asst	Dec each year	
Contribute to triennial national BAP reporting in 2011	Contribute Hampshire priority habitat and local data through BARS	Biod assistant	Dec 2011	
Produce 5-year update of State of Hampshire's Biodiversity report	Scope produced for steering gp	HBIC	Sept 2010	
	First draft	HBIC/ Monitoring gp/ ALL Partners	Mar 2011	
	Produce and launch	HBIC/ Biod asst	June 2011	
5 Integrating BAP into local policies – To assist local authorities and others in delivering biodiversity objectives through plans and strategies				
Promote biodiversity in local plans and spatial strategies	Produce biodiversity SPD template to support LDFs	HCC / LABF	tbc	Under review – other examples available
	Raise awareness of ecological networks and BOAs in LDFs, GI strategies, other spatial plans	LABF/ HBIC	Sept 2010	With SEEBF

Increase awareness of the biodiversity duty	Improve advice for local authorities through HBP website	Coordinator/ Biod asst	Sept 2010	
	Raise awareness through networks	LABF members	Continuous	
6 Promoting BAP locally – to raise awareness of the aims and objectives of the Partnership and increase engagement both internally and externally				
Produce annual communication plan	Review progress and update plan at regular meetings of Comms Group	Communication Group/ Biod asst	Annual plan agreed March each year	See Comms Plan 09/10 -Annex 4
	Develop programme of activities linked to IYB 2010	Comms Gp/ Biod asst	Feb 2010	
Update HBP website	Make changes to home page and add priority information as needed	Biod asst	Continuous	Consider need for new public website
Develop web-sharing site for internal communications	Initial development Nov 09 to be expanded/refined through feedback	Biod asst / ALL Partners	Continuous	
Arrange conferences / seminars / workshops to engage partners	Partners workshop to gather information on BOAs	HCC	Feb 2010	
	Partners workshop and follow up to develop strategy for the management of SINC's	HCC	Dec 2009 then follow up	
	Pilot research exchange event HE establishments/ partners	HWT/ Comms Gp/ Biod asst	Feb 2010	
	Wider research event	HWT/ Comms Gp / Biod asst / ALL Partners	Oct 2010	
	Major conference to launch State of Hampshire's Biodiversity	Steering Gp / Comms Gp / ALL Partners	June 2011	
7 Representation – to link the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership to regional and national biodiversity programmes				
Represent HBP at regional and national meetings	Contribute to South East Biodiversity Officers (SEBOF) quarterly meetings	Coordinator/ Biod asst	quarterly	
	Work closely with regional biodiversity manager and SEEBF	Coordinator / Biod asst	Continuous	
	Attend national / regional BAP conferences and report key topic summary to partnership	Chair/ Coordinator/ Biod asst	Ad hoc	
Respond to regional and national BAP consultations	Provide county input as needed	Coordinator/ Biod asst/ HBIC	Ad hoc	

Monitoring and reporting

Partners, individuals or topic groups responsible for particular work areas in the work programme will provide information towards an annual progress review in December. Reporting will be coordinated by the Partnership coordinator.

Monitoring delivery of the specific activities in the work programme will be overseen by the Partnership's Steering Group.

Monitoring delivery of the Hampshire habitat targets (Annex 3) is a key part of reporting. This will be based on the county information submitted for annual regional BAP reports. The first regional report is due at the end of 2010. It is likely that the regional report will be split into data on the BAP habitat area under appropriate management and the area where there has been improvement through national or local projects and schemes.

Partnership structure

The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership currently includes 32 partner organisations as shown in Annex 1 (framework). Partners are kept in touch with developments in the Hampshire biodiversity programme through email networks, the Partnership's website, conferences and events.

The work of the Partnership is overseen by a **Steering Group**. A number of **Topic Groups** develop particular aspects of this work. A part-time **Biodiversity Coordinator** and **Biodiversity Assistant** are employed by Hampshire County Council to support the Partnership.

The Steering Group

The Steering Group is comprised of representatives from partner organisations (see table below). The main aim of the Steering Group is to direct and oversee the collective work of the Partnership. The Steering Group also fulfils the role of the 'local sites partnership' in Hampshire on behalf of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership.

The Group meets 2x per year in March and September to discuss strategic issues. The Chair (or a representative) of each Topic Group provides a report on their area of responsibility to each meeting of the Steering Group. Terms of reference for the Steering Group are provided in Annex 2.

Membership of Steering Group (at Dec 09)	
Chair	1
Biodiversity Coordinator	1
Biodiversity Assistant	1

Statutory	Environment Agency	1
	Natural England	1
	Forestry Commission **	1
Local Government	Hampshire County Council	1
	District Councils	2
	Unitary Council	1
	National Parks **	2
Local Record Centre	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	1
Conservation NGOs	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	1
	RSPB or other	1
Total		15

** FC and SDNP to be invited to join Steering Group - see work programme re: widening membership of Steering Group

Topic Groups

The Partnership currently has 7 Topic Groups that oversee progress in specific areas of work. Members of Topic Groups share expertise and progress initiatives to help achieve the Partnership's key objectives.

Each Topic Group is chaired by a member of the Steering Group to provide continuity and facilitate communication. Topic Groups raise strategic issues with the Steering Group for discussion and decision. Current membership of each Topic Group is shown in the Partnership framework (Annex 1) and terms of reference for each Topic Group are provided in Annex 2.

Local Authority Biodiversity Forum

The Forum is particularly concerned with strategic issues related to development control and planning. It was established in 2003 and has overseen the production of guidance on biodiversity and development on behalf of the Partnership e.g. *Biodiversity and Development Guidance for Hampshire*.

Data and Information Group (HBIC)

The data and information needs of the Partnership are provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre established in 2002. The data group does not exist independently but relevant work is overseen by the HBIC Strategic Management Group. HBIC produced *The State of Hampshire's Biodiversity* on behalf of the Partnership in 2006.

Land Management Forum

Established in 2004 this Forum initially focussed on issues such as coordination of advice and promotion of support schemes and projects. The Forum is reviewing its priorities for re-establishment in 2010.

Monitoring and Reporting Group

The Monitoring and Reporting Group oversees links with national biodiversity reporting, progress with projects that have county-wide significance for monitoring changes in biodiversity, and tracking and reporting progress with delivery of the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire*. The Group was established in 2004 and was responsible for reviewing all actions in the BAP to identify the Partnership's key priorities.

Biodiversity Research Forum

The Forum was launched in 2005 with the objectives of implementing research needs identified in the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* and coordinating research in conjunction with educational and research institutions. The Forum currently operates as a virtual group.

Communication Group

Communication and raising awareness within the Partnership and externally has been identified as a priority issue for effective delivery of the Partnership's overall aim and objectives. The Communications Group was established in 2007 to recommend improvements to communications and identify priority actions.

SINCs Panel

The Hampshire SINCs Panel oversees the evaluation and selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire. The Panel acts as an expert group on behalf of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership (Hampshire's 'local sites partnership'). Survey data for proposed new SINCs or SINC revisions is provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Staff support

A Biodiversity Coordinator and Assistant are employed part-time by Hampshire County Council to:

- provide support and assist the development of the Partnership
- maintain links with national and regional biodiversity fora
- oversee monitoring and reporting
- facilitate Partnership communication and liaison

Operational costs of the partnership

Costs required for maintaining the partnership are indicated in the table below. This includes the cost of staff to coordinate partnership activities only. The table excludes time spent by Partners (e.g. staff in HCC, HBIC, HWT) on key initiatives such as work on BOAs, NI 197, research exchange etc. Income from Natural England (in accordance with the MoA 2008/11) currently runs until end of March 2011.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Expenditure			
Staff (0.8 FTE)	£23k	£23.3k	Tbc
Hosting costs (20% of salaries)	£4.6k	£4.7k	Tbc
Total	£27.6k	£28k	
Income			
Natural England	£16k	£16k	Tbc
Hampshire County Council	£11.6k	£12k	Tbc
Total	£27.6k	£28k	

Further Information

Jacklyn Johnston, Biodiversity Coordinator

Helen Boulden, Biodiversity Assistant

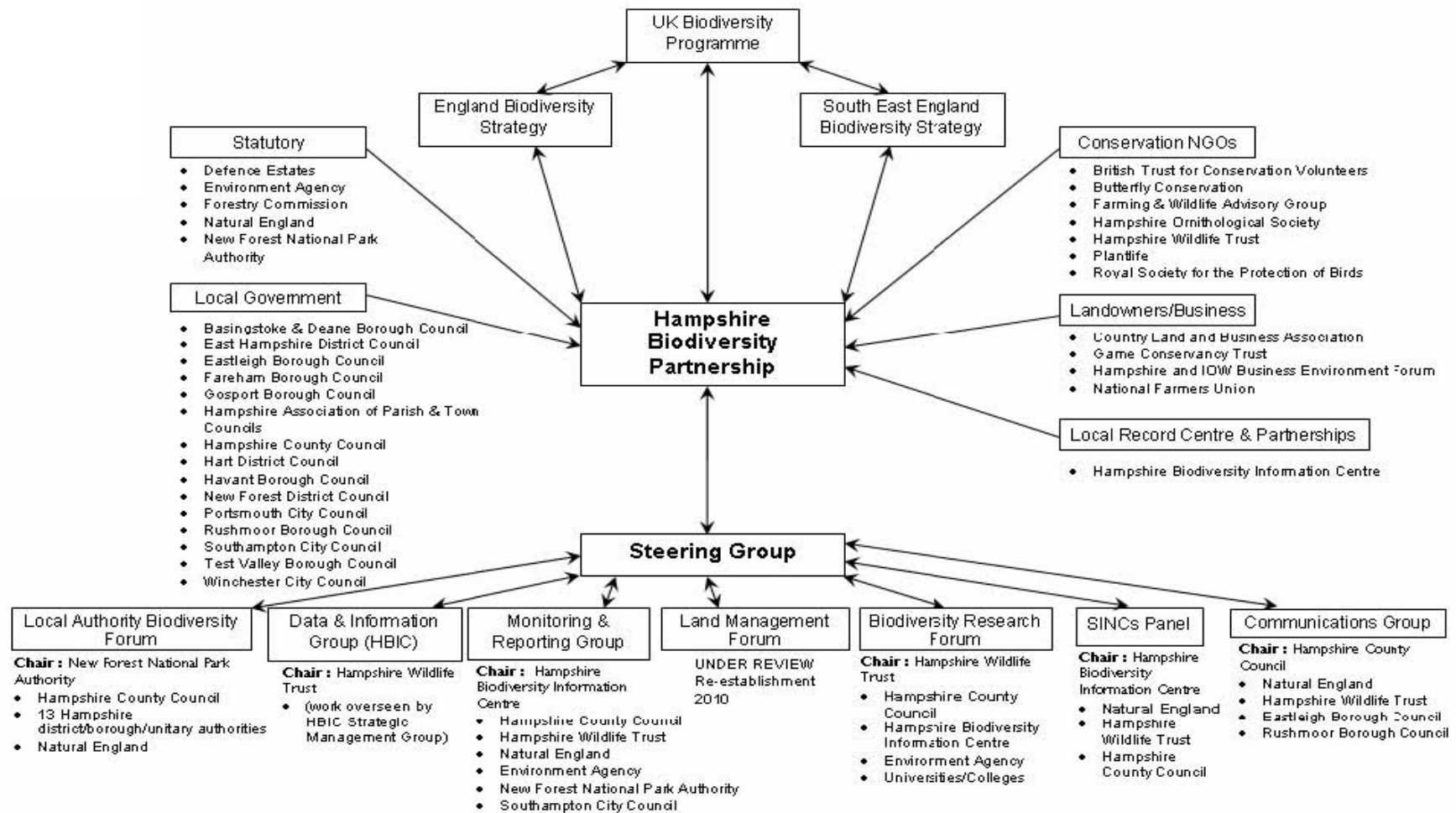
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Annex 1: Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership Framework



Annex 2: Terms of Reference – Steering Group and Topic Groups

Steering Group

Purpose -

The main role of the Steering Group is to:

- Steer the Partnership's activities
- Consider strategic issues relevant to biodiversity in Hampshire
- Oversee the delivery of the work programme
- Seek to secure funding for core costs of coordinating the Partnership and its activities
- Ensure that the Partnership acts as a forum for sharing expertise and information

Organisation -

The composition of the Steering Group is shown on page 8/9.

The Steering Group meets 2x per year in March and September. The Group is currently chaired by Hampshire County Council.

Topic Group – Local Authority Biodiversity Forum

Purpose -

The main role of the Local Authority Biodiversity Forum is to:

- Identify issues of particular relevance to local authorities
- Act as a forum for disseminating information to and between local authorities
- Assist with production of guidance materials for local authorities

Organisation –

Membership consists of representatives from each of Hampshire's local planning authorities, National Parks in Hampshire and Natural England.

The LABF meets 2x per year. The Forum is currently chaired by New Forest National Park Authority. The Chair (or representative) reports to each Steering Group.

Topic Group – Data and Information (HBIC)

Purpose –

The data and information needs of the Partnership are provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Much of the work of HBIC underpins the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* as illustrated by HBIC's purpose:

To collect, collate, manage and disseminate information of known quality on Hampshire's biodiversity to those who require it, to increase knowledge and understanding, and to enable informed decisions to be made about factors affecting the environment.

Organisation –

HBIC Strategic Management Group oversees the work of HBIC including the programme of work for the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership.

HBIC SMG meets 3x per year and the Centre Manager reports progress to the HBP Steering Group. The chair of HBIC SMG is currently Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Topic Group – Land Management Forum

Purpose –

This Forum initially focused on coordination of land management advice and promotion of support schemes and projects. The main role of the Land Management Forum is currently under review but a key focus will be to decide priorities for effective delivery of sustainable land management in Hampshire BOAs.

Organisation –

Membership is currently under review. Representatives will be drawn from organisations with a strategic land management focus.

Meeting arrangements and chairmanship of the Forum to be decided in 2010.

Topic Group – Monitoring and Reporting Group

Purpose –

The main role of the Monitoring and Reporting Group is to:

- Ensure provision of information for national and regional reporting
- Progress projects that monitor changes in biodiversity across the county e.g. state of biodiversity reporting
- Oversee progress reporting for the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire*

Organisation –

Membership consists of representatives from Environment Agency, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, New Forest National Park, Eastleigh Borough Council, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

The Group meets on an ‘as needed’ basis. The chair of the Group is currently the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Topic Group – Biodiversity Research Forum

Purpose –

The main role of the Biodiversity Research Forum is to:

- Identify research needed to help deliver the objectives of the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire*

- Promote liaison between biodiversity practitioners and educational and research institutions electronically and through seminars/conferences
- Maintain lists of current biodiversity research projects and potential future projects

Organisation –

The Forum is a virtual group based on information exchange. A small group of members (Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council, Environment Agency) oversee the activity of the Forum.

The Forum is currently chaired by Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Topic Group – Communication Group

Purpose –

The main role of the Communication Group is to:

- Guide and prioritise the communication work of the Partnership
- Produce an annual communication action plan
- Oversee key partnership communication activities such as seminars, publications, electronic communications etc.

Organisation –

Membership consists of representatives from Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Eastleigh Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

The Group meets 2-3 times per year and is currently chaired by Hampshire County Council.

Topic Group – SINC's Panel

Purpose –

The main role of the SINC's Panel is to oversee the evaluation and selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire on behalf of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership. The Panel:

- Reviews and evaluates survey data provided by HBIC
- Approves new SINC's against agreed criteria

Organisation –

Membership consists of representatives from Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Hampshire County Council.

The Panel meets annually and is chaired by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Annex 3: Hampshire Habitat Targets 2015 (compiled May 2008)

Habitat	Maintenance (ha) (current extent)	Restoration (ha)	Creation/ expansion (ha)
Native woodland (LMDW)	48,475 ¹	1,300 ²	0 ³
Wood-pasture and parkland	> 15 sites ⁴	10 sites ⁵	3 sites ⁶
Lowland meadows	1,400	98 ⁷	56 ⁸
Lowland dry acid grassland	4,310 ⁹	43 ¹⁰	43 ¹¹
Heathland	10,068 ¹²	n/a	1,050 ¹³
Lowland calcareous grassland	1,991 ¹⁴	40 ¹⁵	400 ¹⁶
Purple moor-grass and rush pasture	190	2 ¹⁷	2 ¹⁸
Eutrophic standing waters	1,635 ¹⁹	no info. on condition	
Mesotrophic lakes	none	none	none
Lowland raised bog	none	none	none
Fens	285 ²⁰	55 ²¹	n/a
Reedbed	286 ²²	n/a	105 ²³
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	8,058 ²⁴	320 ²⁵	80 ²⁶
Coastal sand dunes	75 ²⁷	2 ²⁸	n/a
Coastal vegetated shingle	287	0	n/a
Maritime cliff and slope	9.5km ²⁹	no opportunities?	
Saline lagoons	58	n/a	2 ³⁰

¹Includes all ancient semi-natural (12,656ha) & other lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and the 4100ha of wood pasture in New Forest

² Area of PAWs = 9,362 (AWI) which is mostly conifer or mixed plantation. Aim to restore UK BAP target of 14% = 1,300ha which is an increase on original Hants BAP target of c945ha

³ Do not need to create more woodland. Would want to restore non-ancient conifer back to heath or some other habitat

⁴ 15 sites taken from Hants HAP - includes 4100 ha of New Forest Pasture Woodland, 151 ha Binswood etc.

⁵ A reasonable proportion of regional target; will include the New Forest target to clear conifers and introduce grazing in Inclosures over next 10 years to restore 598 ha of pasture woodland

⁶ A reasonable proportion of the regional target

⁷ 7% recommended by EBG - have over 1,400ha of rough, neglected and 'not quite good enough' lowland meadow

⁸ 4% = UK BAP target

⁹ Most of this occurs as mosaic with heathland

¹⁰ UK BAP target of 1%

¹¹ UK BAP target of 1%

¹² includes wet heath, dry heath and valley mire

¹³ Proportional amount from UK BAP target. Quite ambitious - FC New Forest Man. Plan aims to restore 362ha from Inclosures over next 10 years

¹⁴ excludes 434ha semi-improved downland - target for restoration

¹⁵ UK BAP target of a 2%

¹⁶ UK BAP target of 20% (!) expansion- from arable/improved leys

¹⁷ UK BAP target = 1% increase

¹⁸ UK BAP target = 1% increase

¹⁹ no. of ponds & lakes mapped on GIS - likely to be at least double in reality

²⁰ not inc. valley mire (with the heath category) or Molinia fen

²¹ UK BAP target of 19% restoration of former fen habitat

²² All tall swamp veg. along rivers/around ponds (AQ2 & 3 on GIS)

²³ UK target = 37% = 105ha - ambitious

²⁴ Figure taken from 06/07 AMR data - includes all improved/unimproved and wet grassland within the EA Fluvial floodplain boundary & 882ha of coastal grazing marsh.

²⁵ UK BAP target of 4% - less ambitious than the HBAP target of 647ha

²⁶ UK BAP target of 1%

²⁷ Includes dune scrub

²⁸ Proportion of regional target - to be recovered from dune scrub

²⁹ more accurate figure from GIS

³⁰ proportion of regional target

Annex 4: Communication Plan 2009/10

Communication and raising awareness within the Partnership and externally is key to effective delivery of the Partnership's overall aim and objectives.

The main aim of the Communication Strategy is to guide and prioritise the communications work of the Partnership. The Strategy includes an Action Plan that summarises activity to be carried out this year. The role of the Partnership's Communication Group is to oversee the development and implementation of the strategy.

This Strategy takes a pragmatic approach to communications. The Partnership has limited resources and needs to identify the most effective and efficient way to ensure effective implementation of the aims and objectives of the Hampshire BAP, and how to continue to 'add value' to the communications activities of individual member organisations.

Background

Since its launch in 1998, the Biodiversity Partnership has placed considerable priority on communications and raising awareness. In 1999, the Partnership formed an education and awareness group and produced a special 'topic' action plan in 2000 on this subject. The plan identified target audiences and set out a comprehensive range of activities.

Since the production of the awareness plan, a great deal has been achieved. Highlights include:

- The development and launch of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership website in 2003
- The production of key planning guidance on biodiversity and LDF's and a 'biodiversity checklist' for use with the new national planning application
- Biennial reviews of achievements and progress towards the partnership's key targets
- The printing and wide distribution of high-quality biodiversity leaflets and brochures, including the comprehensive 'State of Hampshire's Biodiversity' in 2006.
- Several major conferences on biodiversity in Hampshire, including a roundup of national policy and practice in November 2006 and a stakeholder conference on the biodiversity duty, biodiversity opportunity areas and the national biodiversity indicator NI197 in February 2009

Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the Partnership:

The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership aims to raise awareness of Hampshire's natural environment and increase commitment to its conservation. The Partnership includes local authorities, Government agencies and voluntary bodies working together to conserve and enhance nature in Hampshire.

The principal work of the Partnership is to oversee the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire. To do this the Partnership has identified 21 key objectives covering 4 themes: land management, policy and planning, data and information, and communications. Progress is reviewed every two years to help realign priorities.

The main purpose of the Communication Strategy is to help the Partnership achieve its goals. The Communication Strategy has three specific objectives:

1. To ensure widespread awareness of the Hampshire BAP within the county and a high level of engagement of partners in its implementation
2. To encourage the incorporation of biodiversity in strategies, policies and plans such as local development frameworks, sub-regional and green infrastructure strategies, sustainable community strategies
3. To promote public understanding of the value and benefits of biodiversity and some of the steps that can be taken to conserve and enhance it

Target Audiences

The Communication Strategy needs to address both internal communications within the partnership and external communications beyond member organisations. Priority audiences include:

- Member organisations of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership
- Local authority councillors and officers
- Other public bodies, e.g. local strategic partnerships, health authorities
- Land management advisors, farmers, landowners
- General public

Messages

The Partnership's logo and branding was established in 2003 and is used in all publicity materials. Consideration could be given to development of a 'strapline' to help consolidate a main message - the phrase 'action for wildlife and people' has been used in the past but this has not been consistent.

The Partnership aims to communicate a number of key messages to its audiences:

- Hampshire is one of the richest areas for wildlife in England
- The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership aims to protect and restore the natural environment of the county
- A joint commitment to the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* is required to safeguard the future of Hampshire's wildlife
- A healthy natural environment is key to quality of life, health and well-being
- Everyone can help to conserve and enhance Hampshire's natural environment

Communication Tools

The main communication tools used by the Partnership are the internet and electronic networks, electronic and printed materials, and conferences, seminars and other stakeholder meetings.

Internet

The Partnership's website www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk is the main tool for communicating the aims and activities of the Partnership to stakeholders and the public. The website was launched in 2003 to:

- outline the importance of Hampshire's biodiversity
- make the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* and other publications accessible to a wide and varied audience
- give target audiences advice on incorporating biodiversity into their activities.

The Partnership's website will remain the main vehicle for communications. However further development of the website is required as outlined in the action plan below.

Electronic and printed materials

The Partnership has a history of producing effective and attractive printed materials such as guidance notes, progress updates and reports. Materials for production in 2009/10 are outlined in the action plan. Priority should be given to producing materials in PDF format rather than as printed materials.

Conferences, seminars and meetings

The Partnership plays a key coordination role for exchange of information on biodiversity issues in Hampshire. Conferences and seminars are arranged to keep the biodiversity community abreast of the latest policy and practice.

The Partnership's steering group and topic groups have a regular schedule of the internal meetings. Communication of key decisions could be improved.

Electronic networks are an effective and rapid way to cascade information such as notification of events, publications, newsletters etc. Contact lists need to be reviewed and updated.

Action Plan 2009/10

A detailed action plan (below) summarises the key communications activities for the priority target audiences in 2009/10. The Partnership's Communication Group will oversee the delivery of priority action and report progress to the Steering Group.

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Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership
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t: 01962 832333

Communication Action Plan 2009-2010

Target Audience	Key messages	Communication tools	Purpose	Action needed	Timescale
Members of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership	A joint commitment to the <i>Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire</i> is required to safeguard the future of Hampshire's wildlife	Biodiversity website	A source of information and inspiration for partners and other audiences alike	Ensure all relevant information is easily accessed. For example, directing visitors to information on biodiversity opportunity areas, NI 197 etc. Keep updated with news of partnership projects and events.	Continuous
	Working together as a partnership gives added value to the work of the individual members	Electronic newsletter	Sharing recent partnership news and raise awareness of the issues around biodiversity	Develop a template. Survey partners for input and feedback. Produce annually.	Sept 09
		Partnership meetings	To share key decisions taken by steering group and topic groups	Precis key decisions from meetings and distribute electronically	Continuous
		Progress reviews	Annual updates for steering group	Prepare progress reviews for March meeting of steering group	March 10
		Regular electronic communications	To keep partners engaged and updated	Update electronic contact networks. Circulate relevant national regional and local information as well as outcomes of partnership meetings and other partnership news.	Continuous
		Guidance notes	To give partners summary information on key topics	Leaflet on Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Areas; Position Statement on Climate Change and Hampshire's Biodiversity; Leaflet on Green Infrastructure	Sept 09 Oct 09 Nov 09

Target Audience	Key messages	Communication tools	Purpose	Action needed	Timescale
Local authorities	Conserving and enhancing biodiversity is a statutory requirement	Biodiversity website	Key facility for local authorities on biodiversity	Keep local authority section up-to-date with latest information on policy and practice	Continuous
		Guidance notes	Summary information on key topics relevant to local authorities	Leaflet on Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Areas; Position Statement on Climate Change and Hampshire's Biodiversity; Leaflet on Green Infrastructure; Leaflet on biodiversity and health	Sept 09 Oct 09 Nov 09 Oct 09
	The HBP has the expertise and tools to assist local authorities deliver on biodiversity	Technical reports and seminars	To provide specialist information on relevant topics	Prioritise topics through the Local Authority Biodiversity Forum. Further work on biodiversity checklist? Biodiversity duty? NI197	?
Other public bodies e.g. local strategic partnerships, health authorities	Conserving and enhancing biodiversity is a statutory requirement	Guidance notes	To increase awareness of links between biodiversity and topics such as health, economic development, community cohesion etc	Position Statement on Climate Change and Hampshire's Biodiversity; Leaflet on Green Infrastructure; Leaflet on biodiversity and health	Oct 09 Nov 09 Oct 09
		Biodiversity website	Source of information for other sectors to understand the benefits of biodiversity	Create stories and improve links and cross-referencing to topics such as health, economic development, community cohesion etc	August 09
	The HBP has the expertise and tools to assist public bodies deliver on biodiversity	Nature and health network	To engage with the health sector and demonstrate the benefits of access to nature	Build a community of interest and engage through electronic communication, newsletter and periodic meetings	Sept 09
	A healthy natural environment is key to quality of life, health and well-being				

Target Audience	Key messages	Communication tools	Purpose	Action needed	Timescale
Land management advisors, farmers and landowners	Everyone can help to conserve and enhance Hampshire's natural environment	Land Management Forum	To develop a strategic approach to enhancing biodiversity in Hampshire on the landscape scale	Reinvigorate land management forum and ensure regular meetings	July 09
	The HBP has the expertise and tools to assist land owners deliver on biodiversity	Guidance notes	Summary information on biodiversity opportunity areas in Hampshire	Leaflet on Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Areas	Sept 09
General public	Hampshire is one of the richest areas for wildlife in England	Biodiversity website	Key tool for communicating biodiversity	Ensure website is kept fresh with stories to engage the general public. Consider the key information sought by the public and update accordingly. Capitalise on national publicity such as Springwatch and Autumnwatch. Consider a seasonal theme	Continuous
	The HBP aims to protect and restore the natural environment of the county	Other web sites	To direct (the sympathetic) public to the HBP website	Research relevant websites and request a link Ensure partner organisations promote the partnership website	July 09
	A healthy natural environment is key to quality of life, health and well-being	Parish and town councils	To encourage local councils to promote biodiversity	Ensure engagement with Hampshire Parish and Town Council Association. Promote biodiversity via the HPTCA to Hampshire's c250 parishes	Continuous
	Everyone can help to conserve and enhance Hampshire's natural environment	Electronic newsletter	Sharing recent partnership news and raise awareness of the issues around biodiversity	Develop a template. Survey partners for input and feedback. Produce annually.	Sept 09
Education sector	The HBP has the expertise and tools to assist students working on biodiversity	Biodiversity website	To post info of partner supported internships, work placements and thesis subjects	Develop an area on the website and engage partners to populate the pages with details of their projects and opportunities	Continuous

Annex 5: Funding Strategy 2009/10

The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership oversees the ongoing development, implementation and monitoring of Hampshire's biodiversity action plan. To do this, the Partnership has developed 21 key objectives divided into the following four themes:

1. land management
2. planning, plans and strategies
3. data, information and survey
4. education, awareness and communication

This funding strategy is particularly concerned with identifying projects that will help to deliver the Partnership's land management objectives. It does not set out the funding requirements of the Partnership's core costs, nor the costs associated with other areas of work such as communications. The overall funding position of the Partnership will be set out in the Business Plan at the end of 2009.

The overall aim of the Partnership's land management objectives is to ensure favourable condition of priority habitats and species in Hampshire. The specific objectives are to:

- I. Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects
- II. Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- III. Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
- IV. Ensure favourable management of local authority land
- V. Promote management of land at 'landscape scale'
- VI. Ensure appropriate action for priority species
- VII. Restore / recreate priority habitats or create new habitats

Since the development of these objectives in 2006, there has been increasing emphasis both nationally and regionally on restoring biodiversity at the landscape scale. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) have been identified across the region to guide support for land management. BOAs contain major concentrations of priority habitat and embrace land with potential for habitat expansion and reconnection. In Hampshire, there are 42 BOAs and they cover 40% of the land area.

Some BOAs in Hampshire are areas where initiatives supporting land management are already focused, e.g. AONBs, the New Forest National Park, Natural England target areas for environmental stewardship, and areas covered by partnership projects such as the Hampshire Heathland Project in north-east Hampshire or the Tytherley Woods Project in the Test Valley.

The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership intend to review existing support and provision for land management within Hampshire BOAs by March 2010. The review will identify gaps in provision and opportunities for the targeting of land management advice and support. The review will also identify the potential for additional collaborative projects and initiatives to secure land management objectives.

In the meantime, a number of priority projects for funding have been identified. These are set out below in tabular form comprising key funding information.

Jacklyn Johnston
Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership

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01962 832315

New Forest Heritage Grasslands	
Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s)	03:31 New Forest
Natural England Priority Spatial Area	New Forest
HLS target area	New Forest
BAP habitats	Lowland dry acid grassland Purple moor grass and rush pastures Lowland meadow
BAP species	Various
Lead organisation	New Forest National Park Authority? Hampshire County Council
Other partners	Natural England Environment Agency Hampshire Wildlife Trust New Forest District Council NFU / CLBA FWAG
Aims of project	To improve the condition of grasslands SINC's in the New Forest
Project summary	<p>There are continuing threats to Hampshire grasslands, particularly over-management, under-management, agricultural improvements, fragmentation.</p> <p>This project would establish ownership details of all grasslands SINC's, audit current projects and initiatives that include grassland SINC management, and review current condition of grassland SINC's. It would also identify opportunities for enhancement and ways to take work forward.</p> <p>Liaison with owners/site managers to identify key issues and problems. Work in partnership to tackle the key issues at the landscape scale and also at site level, e.g. facilitating grazing, fencing, increasing the uptake of HLS etc. Set up a grant scheme to fund small-scale capital works not eligible under HLS or ELS.</p>
Partnership land management objective(s)	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII
Costs	Up to £250,000
Potential sources of funding	

Hazeley Heath Grazing	
Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s)	03:37 Thames Basin Heaths
Natural England Priority Spatial Area	Thames Basin & Wealden Heaths
HLS target area	Thames Basin Heaths
BAP habitats	Lowland heathland Lowland dry acid grassland Purple moor grass and rush pastures
BAP species	various
Lead organisation	Hampshire County Council
Other partners	Hart District Council Timpany Trust Open Spaces Society Parish Council
Aims of project	To develop an approach to managing Commons that can be adopted nationally
Project summary	To carry out a grazing trial, using temporary electric fencing, to assess whether grazing is the most sustainable form of management for the heathland. Fence, graze, and monitor a range of taxa to assess effects. Monitor impacts on visitor numbers and behaviour. Develop the confidence of the local community in the fencing and grazing of common land.
Partnership land management objective(s)	II, III, IV, VI, VII
Costs	£ 105K
Potential sources of funding	SITA trust?

Living Commons Project	
Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s)	Hampshire (except New Forest)
Natural England Priority Spatial Area	Various
HLS target area	Various
BAP habitats	Lowland calcareous grassland Lowland heathland Wood pasture and parkland
BAP species	Various
Lead organisation	Hampshire County Council
Other partners	Local authorities Parish and Town Councils Natural England Hampshire Wildlife Trust National Trust Open Spaces Society
Aims of project	To increase the percentage of Commons in Hampshire in active management.
Project summary	<p>There are 204 registered commons in Hampshire (excluding the new Forest). They are a unique resource of considerable value to biodiversity and local communities.</p> <p>This project follows the launch of 'Common Vision' -- a DVD funded by HCC, Natural England, Defra.</p> <p>Potential pilot for other regions. Work to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An audit of current number, uses, condition, issues and opportunity of all commons 2. Explore options for undertaking work to protect and enhance biodiversity value of commons whilst ensuring commons continue to meet wider community needs.
Partnership land management objective(s)	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII
Costs	£ 100K over 3 years
Potential sources of funding	

North Wessex Downs / Hampshire Downs	
Hampshire Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s)	03:01 Facombe 03:02 Verhams Dean to Hurstbourne Tarrant 03:03 Northern escarpment: West Woodhay to Watership Down 03:07 East Woodhay to Headley
Natural England Priority Spatial Area	
HLS Target Area	North Wessex Downs
BAP habitats	Lowland calcareous grassland Lowland meadow
BAP species	Various
Lead organisation	Hampshire County Council
Other partners	Natural England Environment Agency Hampshire Wildlife Trust North Wessex Downs AONB
Aims of project	To improve the condition of grasslands SINC's in the North Wessex Downs and Hampshire Downs
Project summary	There are continuing threats to Hampshire grasslands. This project would establish ownership details of all grasslands SINC's, audit current projects and initiatives that include grassland and SINC management, and review current condition of grasslands SINC's. Liaison with owners/site managers to identify key issues and problems. Work in partnership to tackle the key issues at the landscape scale and also at site level, e.g. facilitating grazing, fencing, increasing the uptake of HLS etc
Partnership land management objective(s)	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII
Costs	Up to £250,000
Potential sources of funding	

Annex 6: Memorandum of Agreement – HBP and Natural England

FINAL DRAFT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT is made on 1st April 2008

BETWEEN

- (1) **NATURAL ENGLAND** of [1 High Street, East Parade, Sheffield S1 2GA] (“**Natural England**”); and
- (2) Hampshire County Council] of [Hampshire House, Southampton Road, Eastleigh, SO50 5PA] (“**Partner**”).

BACKGROUND

(A) The England Biodiversity Strategy “Working with the grain of nature” describes its vision for local and regional action as the “the full integration of biodiversity considerations within regional and local policies, strategies and programmes. Healthy and flourishing broad partnerships that champion, promote and enhance local and regional biodiversity and its distinctiveness and help deliver national priorities. The aims for local action are to:

- Promote the integration of biodiversity objectives with social and economic priorities through local biodiversity mechanisms;
- Develop broad local partnerships delivering national, regional and local priorities for biodiversity in the long-term;
- Promote communication, and shared understanding and community involvement in biodiversity objectives at the local level.

Natural England has identified a suite of “strategically important” or county-based Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships across England that it wishes to support in order that they can deliver their Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). For this support, Natural England requires a suite of coordination and core services to be delivered (namely the appointment of an LBAP Coordinator, a broad partnership established and maintained delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan, fund-raising for BAP delivery, reporting and monitoring using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), ensuring that the BAP is integrated into local policies, that the LBAP is promoted locally, and that the LBAP is appropriately represented in local, regional and national forums. Natural England expects that there will be ‘no net loss’ of resources by partners, that support from partners will remain at least at current levels and preferably increase to ensure that the LBAP partnership remains healthy and active with its targets being met.

(B) This Memorandum of Agreement sets out the principles which shall govern the relationship between Natural England and the Partner including their respective obligations and rights.

IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In this Memorandum, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to:

“Confidential Information” means any information which has been designated as confidential by either party in writing or that ought to be considered as confidential (however it is conveyed or on whatever media it is stored) including information which relates to the business, affairs, properties, assets, trading practices, services, developments, trade secrets, intellectual property rights, know-how, personnel, customers and suppliers of either party and all personal data and sensitive personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998;

“Memorandum” means this document, including all schedules and appendices hereto;

A **“Party”** means any Party to this Memorandum individually and **“Parties”** refers to all of the Parties to this Memorandum collectively. A Party shall include all permitted assigns of the Party in question;

“Project” means the project which this Memorandum is intended to deliver. The project details, obligations of the parties and overarching principles of the relationship are more specifically detailed in the schedule.

The Schedule is an integral part of this Memorandum and shall be interpreted accordingly.

2. PROJECT OUTLINE/PRINCIPLES OF THE RELATIONSHIP

This Memorandum shall be effective from the date of its execution and shall continue until 31st March 2011 subject to a) available funding from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2011, and b) earlier termination in accordance with paragraph 14.

The parties shall work together in delivering the Project and in particular shall perform their respective obligations to the timetables set out in the Schedule.

Furthermore the parties shall provide the following one-off funding amounts in financial year 2008-2009 or in-kind support in accordance with the payment dates identified in section 6 (Timetable) the Schedule:

Natural England	£16,000
Hampshire County Council	£12,000

The amounts set out above shall be inclusive of all taxes which may be payable in relation to the Project from time to time. These amounts do not include contributions towards specific projects/initiatives of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership.

The principles of the relationship between the Parties are also set in the Schedule. The Parties shall endeavour to apply these principles to their relationship throughout the term of this Memorandum. The ‘Structure and Operation of Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership’ are attached to the Schedule as Annex 1.

3. RESOURCES

The Parties shall provide such resources identified in sections 4 and 5 of the schedule as being their responsibility to so provide.

If any of the individuals named as a resource being provided by a Party is unavailable for whatsoever reason, that Party shall offer an alternative member of staff with equivalent skill sets to the reasonable satisfaction of the other Party.

4. FUTURE SERVICES

On or before completion of the Project, the parties shall act reasonably in agreeing ongoing service delivery and support or, if applicable, co-operate to arrange a third party to so deliver the ongoing service and/or support.

5. FURTHER ASSURANCE

Natural England and the Partner shall promptly execute and deliver all such documents and do all such things as may from time to time be reasonably required for the purpose of giving full effect to the provisions of this Memorandum.

6. VARIATION AND WAIVER

Any variation of this Memorandum shall be in writing and signed by or on behalf of each of the parties.

No delay by Natural England in exercising any provision of this Memorandum constitutes a waiver of such provision or shall prevent any future exercise in whole or in part.

7. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

The agreements reached between Natural England and the Partner pursuant to this Memorandum shall continue for the benefit of Natural England's successors and assigns.

The Partner cannot assign, sub-contract or in any other way dispose of the Memorandum or any part of it to any person, firm or company without the prior written consent of Natural England.

8. NOTICES

Any notice or other communication required to be given under this Memorandum, shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally, or sent by pre-paid first-class post or recorded delivery or by commercial courier, to each Party required to receive the notice or communication as set out below:

Natural England: [Rachel Green, 1 Southampton Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7BU];
Partner: [Jacklyn Johnston, Environment Dept, Hampshire House, 84-98 Southampton Road, Eastleigh, SO50 5PA]

or as otherwise specified by the relevant Party by notice in writing to each other Party.

8.2 Any notice or other communication shall be deemed to have been duly received:

- 8.2.1 if delivered personally, when left at the address and for the contact referred to in this clause; or
- 8.2.2 if sent by pre-paid first-class post or recorded delivery, at 11.00 am on the second Business Day after posting; or
- 8.2.3 if delivered by commercial courier, on the date and at the time that the courier's delivery receipt is signed.

8.3 A notice or other communication required to be given under this Memorandum shall not be validly given if sent by e-mail.

8.4 The provisions of this clause shall not apply to the service of any proceedings or other documents in any legal action.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY

All Parties acknowledge that pursuant to this Memorandum they will each disclose Confidential Information to the other. In consideration of the provision of such Confidential Information, each Party undertakes to the other:

to keep secret and confidential all Confidential Information disclosed to it, its employees, agents or advisers by or on behalf of the other in relation to the agreement or the business of the other Party which is of a confidential nature and not to use such Confidential Information for any purpose other than for the purposes of this Memorandum; and not to disclose to any third party (other than its professional advisers or as required by law or any competent regulatory authority) any such Confidential Information other than that which comes into the public domain other than by breach of the undertakings contained in this clause 9.

These confidentiality undertakings shall subsist indefinitely so far as permissible by law.

The obligations of confidentiality set out in this clause 9 shall not apply to information already known to either Party, information in the public domain or information required to be disclosed by law.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

All intellectual property rights in any information or material existing prior to the date of this Memorandum shall remain the property of the Party introducing such information. Each Party shall grant the other a non-exclusive licence to use all such pre-existing information and materials, including any intellectual property rights in the same, in perpetuity.

Any new or future intellectual property rights arising from or as a result of the Project shall be jointly owned by Natural England and the Partner.

All Parties shall do, or procure to be done, all such further acts and things and the execution of all such other documents as may from time to time be required for the purpose of ensuring all new and future intellectual property rights arising from the Project vest jointly in the Parties.

11. INFORMATION

The Partner acknowledge that Natural England are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR") and the Partner shall assist and co-operate with Natural England as necessary to comply with these requirements.

In responding to a request for information, including information in connection with the Project, Natural England will use reasonable endeavours to consult with the Partner. Notwithstanding this the Partner acknowledge that Natural England may disclose information without consultation, or following consultation with the Partner having taken its views into account.

The Partner shall ensure that all information produced in the course of the Project or relating to the Memorandum is retained for disclosure and shall

provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested to enable Natural England to respond to a request for information within the time for compliance and shall permit Natural England to inspect such records as requested from time to time.

All Parties acknowledge that any statutory and other constraints on the exchange of information will be fully respected, including the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

12. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Natural England's total liability arising under, or in connection with, this Memorandum, whether in tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty), contract, misrepresentation, restitution or otherwise, shall be limited as follows:

for non-payment of funding, to the amount unpaid; or

for any other type of liability, to the amount of funding unpaid under this Memorandum.

The Partner's total liability arising under, or in connection with, this Memorandum, whether in tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty), contract, misrepresentation, restitution or otherwise, shall be limited to one (1) million pounds or one hundred and twenty five percent (125%) of the total funding amounts specified in clause 2.3 whichever is the greater.

13. RECONCILIATION OF DISAGREEMENT

Any disagreements will normally be resolved amicably at working level. In the event of failure to reach consensus between the Parties then such failure shall be handled in the following manner:

The dispute shall in the first instance be referred to Natural England's Project Executive officer or manager in the organisation of similar standing and the Partner's Project Manager for resolution at a meeting to be arranged as soon as practicable after the failure to reach consensus arises, but in any event within ten business days;

If the dispute cannot be resolved in accordance with 13.1.1 above within ten business days after such referral, or within any other period agreed between the Parties then the dispute shall be referred to Natural England's Head of Procurement and/or Natural England's Legal Adviser and to the Partner's Director of Environment and/or Hampshire County Councils Legal Practice for resolution at a meeting to be arranged as soon as practicable after such referral, but in any event within ten business days;

If the dispute has not been resolved following a referral in accordance with 13.1.2 the Parties shall settle the dispute by mediation in accordance with the CEDR Model Mediation Procedure. Unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, the mediator will be nominated by CEDR.

14. TERMINATION

Natural England may terminate the Memorandum by notice in writing with immediate effect with no liability to the Partner where:

the Partner undergoes a change of control, within the meaning of section 416 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, which impacts adversely and materially on the Memorandum or the Project; or

the Partner become insolvent, bankrupt, enters into liquidation, enters into a voluntary arrangement, appoints a receiver or such similar event in any jurisdiction save for the purposes of a solvent reconstruction or amalgamation;

or the Partner is guilty of any fraud or dishonesty or acts in any manner which in the opinion of Natural England brings or is likely to bring the Partner or Natural England into disrepute or is materially adverse to the interests of

Natural England; or the Partner suffers or allows any execution, whether legal or equitable, to be levied on its property or obtained against it, or is unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986 or the Partner ceases to trade.

On termination of the Memorandum in accordance with this paragraph 14, each Party shall return to the other the pre-existing information or materials to the Party that provided the information. Without prejudice to any other rights or remedies which Natural England may have, Natural England or the Partner may terminate this agreement by giving three months written notice to the other.

15. VARIATION

No variation of this Memorandum shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by or on behalf of each of the Parties.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Partner shall not make, or permit any person to make, any public announcement concerning the Project (whether before, at or after completion) except as required by law or with the prior written consent of the Natural England.

17. CONTRACTS (RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES) ACT 1999

The Parties do not intend that any term of the Memorandum shall be enforceable by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 by any person that is not a party to it.

18. GOVERNING LAW

This Memorandum and all disputes or claims arising out of or in connection with the activities of the parties in delivering the Project shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England.

Each Party hereby confirms its agreement to the terms contained in this Memorandum.

**Signed on behalf of
NATURAL ENGLAND:**

**Signed on behalf of
PARTNER: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL**

Print Name: PIPPA BOTLEY

Print Name: DAVID PAPE

Job Title: Procurement specialist

Job Title: Head of Ecology

Date:

Date:

SCHEDULE: PROJECT OUTLINE

LBAP COORDINATION AND CORE SERVICES

1. Project Description

Natural England has identified a suite of “strategically important” or county-based Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships across England that it wishes to support in order that they can deliver their Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). For this support, Natural England requires a suite of coordination and core services to be delivered (namely the appointment of an LBAP Coordinator, a broad partnership established and maintained delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan, fund-raising for BAP delivery, reporting and monitoring using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), ensuring that the BAP is integrated into local policies, that the LBAP is promoted locally, and that the LBAP is appropriately represented in local, regional and national forums.

2. General Principles

Natural England expects that there will be ‘no net loss’ of resources by partners, that support from partners will remain at least at current levels and preferably increase to ensure that the LBAP targets are met.

This Schedule sets out the local biodiversity coordination and core services that are required under the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement for the period 2008-2011. These services are divided between:

- a) Coordination and Core services and Outputs - the services that Natural England expects to be delivered by every LBAP partnership; and,
- b) Additional Functions – additional services and outputs required, which are explained in the second part of this agreement.

3. Objectives of the Collaboration between the Parties

The objectives of this collaboration between the parties are that:

- the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is delivered by a functioning and coordinated partnership of organisations
- the agreed SMART Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is appropriately implemented, funded, reported on BARS, promoted and integrated into local plans and policies.

4. Distinctive Responsibilities of Natural England

Natural England will:

- Secure funding for coordination and core services for the period 2008-09
- Seek to secure additional support for the remaining period of the agreement ie 2009 – 2011
- Provide representation at Steering or Executive Group meetings of the LBAP partnership
- Attend/support topic or sub-groups as resources allow
- Support the work of the Partnership in delivering the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

5. Distinctive Responsibilities of the Partner

Hampshire County Council will:

- Act as Lead Partner for the LBAP partnership and employ the LBAP coordinator
- Oversee and manage the delivery of the core services and outputs specified in Table 1 below.

If one or more of the core services are to be delivered by mechanisms within the LBAP partnership other than by the LBAP Coordinator or lead partner, this is to be clearly indicated. If this is the case, a statement is to be provided explaining how the service and associated outputs are to be delivered and the organisation (with a named contact) responsible for reporting on the service should be clearly identified.

Reports to Natural England (on the template to be provided) on how the LBAP Partnerships are delivering all of the core and coordination services will be required at least once a year, usually in the third quarter of the financial year. Examples to be given to demonstrate how the services have been met (or intend to be met in future years of the agreement) together with details of any issues that need to be address in order for the core services to be delivered.

Core Services and Outputs

The core services and outputs that Natural England requires from local biodiversity coordination are set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Local biodiversity coordination services

1 COORDINATION SERVICES	SUCCESS MEASURES AND OUTPUTS
<p>i) Employment of LBAP Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBAP Coordinator employed by one of the partners within the LBAP partnership (ie the Host or Lead Partner to whom Natural England will transfer the agreed funds as stated in the MoA) 	<p>(i) Person appointed to have degree in relevant subject and/or with equivalent and relevant experience</p> <p>(ii) Coordinator is appointed under appropriate terms and conditions that befit the experience and qualifications necessary for the post</p> <p>(iii) Coordinator is employed full time, and where this is not possible, the lead partner identifies who else will deliver the core service(s) not undertaken by the coordinator and secure their agreement</p> <p>(iv) Coordinator coordinates the work of the LBAP Partnership ensuring all work areas are met either by the coordinator or by members of the LBAP partnership</p>
<p>ii) Agreed Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities to be agreed 	<p>(i) Roles and responsibilities to be agreed by all partners (for example, hosting, training and employment of coordinator post, financial or in kind contributions to the work of the Partnership) either as an Addendum to these core services or through Terms of Reference to</p>

	be agreed by all members of the LBAP partnership
2 CORE SERVICES	SUCCESS MEASURES AND OUTPUTS
i) Establishing and maintaining a broad partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As far as possible, LBAP coordinator to ensure that all relevant sectors are engaged in the local biodiversity partnership. 	<p>(i) Local partnership contains representatives from a wide range of sectors including, as far as possible and as appropriate, business and industry, transport, agriculture and land management, water, marine and coastal, forestry, education and health, recreation and access. It also includes local government, NGOs and government agencies.</p> <p>(ii) The whole Partnership meets, or is communicated with, at least once a year</p> <p>(iii) The work of the Partnership is directed by a Steering Group which meets regularly (at least three times per year) and fosters ownership of outcomes by all stakeholders.</p> <p>(iv) Where possible, the Chair of the LBAP Steering Group to be from a different organisation to the employer of the coordinator</p> <p>(v) LBAP coordinator ensures that meetings, particularly those of the LBAP Steering Group, are appropriately recorded.</p>
ii) Delivering BAP locally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where they do not already do so, the partnership with the help of the coordinator to ensure that local biodiversity objectives include spatially-explicit SMART targets for the delivery of habitats and species, taking into account national and regional targets. The partnership to agree a range of projects to deliver the local biodiversity objectives. Partners to implement an agreed suite of projects 	<p>(i) Produce a prioritised list of biodiversity projects that incorporate spatially-explicit targets for the delivery of habitats and species within an agreed timescale that will be undertaken by the LBAP Partnership</p> <p>(ii) Where possible, projects link to social and economic objectives (particularly within relevant LAA or LDF).</p> <p>(ii) Implementation of these projects and demonstration of progress towards local objectives undertaken by specified partners or by the partnership as a whole and coordinated by the LBAP Coordinator.</p>
iii) Fund-raising for BAP delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a funding strategy to obtain national (e.g. HLF) and local sources of external funding in support of BAP projects and to obtain funding for the local biodiversity service in the long term. Work with the regional biodiversity partnership in the development of funding for collaborative projects. 	<p>The partnership with the help of the coordinator to:</p> <p>(i) Produce a funding strategy by March 2009, which covers a 3-5 year period to implement the work of the LBAP partnership</p> <p>(ii) Implementation of funding strategy to lever funds for biodiversity projects and coordination services from external bodies and partners</p>

<p>iv) Reporting and monitoring progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) to report on the implementation and delivery of actions initiated locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) All members of the Partnership (as appropriate) report on BARS (training as required to be arranged by the coordinator) (ii) LBAP Coordinator reports progress of the LBAP to the whole Partnership at least annually (iii) The LBAP Coordinator fully reports the LBAP contribution in triennial national BAP reporting rounds (due to take place in 2008). (iv) Results of monitoring used to inform review of objectives and to set future directions. LBAP Coordinator to facilitate Partnership to undertake a review of the LBAP at least every 5 years seeking to ensure that it remains relevant and adapts to take into account any changes to national priority species, habitats and their targets, and policy frameworks
<p>v) Integrating BAP into local policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively support local authorities, so that they are better able to develop innovative ways of delivering biodiversity locally. • Actively promote the inclusion of biodiversity objectives into Community Strategies and other local plans. • Promote best practice in the planning system, providing support and advice to LPAs to avoid loss of features through development, and to make the most of opportunities from planning gain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) LBAP Partnership assess the Local Strategic Partnership(s) LSPs in their area, and agree how best to ensure that the biodiversity sector is represented on the key LSPs and how to manage the remainder. (ii) Increased profile for biodiversity within existing and new local plans (iii) LBAP partnership encourages all relevant and local Public Authorities to comply with the Biodiversity Duty (NERC S40) (iv) The LBAP partnership encourages relevant Local Authorities to adopt appropriate local biodiversity indicators (such as by working with the Local (Wildlife) Sites Partnership) to provide wider biodiversity benefits.
<p>iv) Promoting BAP locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a communications plan to raise awareness in support of BAP, working with partners and any established public awareness working group. • Increase the engagement of local businesses, other sectors and communities in the BAP process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) LBAP partnership to prepare a Communication Plan by end of March 2009 (ii) Ensure an active web-presence for the partnership is maintained (iii) Take steps to promote the LBAP through implementation of the communications plan
<p>vii) Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the LBAP partnership is represented on the regional biodiversity forum and other relevant regional and national meetings. • Respond to consultation from partners at regional and national levels of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ensure the LBAP partnership is represented at appropriate regional and national meetings and forums (e.g. review groups and training workshops). (ii) Responses to regional and national consultations relating to biodiversity either

BAP process.	<p>direct or through the Regional Biodiversity Coordinator</p> <p>(iii) Regular contacts exist with the regional biodiversity partnership and the national LBAP coordinator and facilitator, with a two-way flow of information including exchange of examples of good practice and over-arching problems</p> <p>(iv) Joint working with other local and regional partnerships on joint priorities of common interest and importance.</p>
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3 Additional Services

This section specifies additional work that Hampshire County Council will provide as part of this Agreement.

- *none*

6. **Timetables**

Funding schedule:

Party	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Natural England	£16,000	Funding to be confirmed	Funding to be confirmed
Hampshire County Council	£12,000	Funding to be confirmed	Funding to be confirmed
Total cash contribution for coordination and core services (does not include contributions to specific projects/initiatives)	£28,000		

Schedule of payments:

Year	1st payment (50%)	2nd payment (50%)
2008/09	15 th April 2008	15 th October 2008
2009/10	15 th April 2009	15 th October 2009
2010/11	15 th April 2010	15 th October 2010

Structure and Operation of Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership:

This is attached to the Schedule for information (see Annex 1).