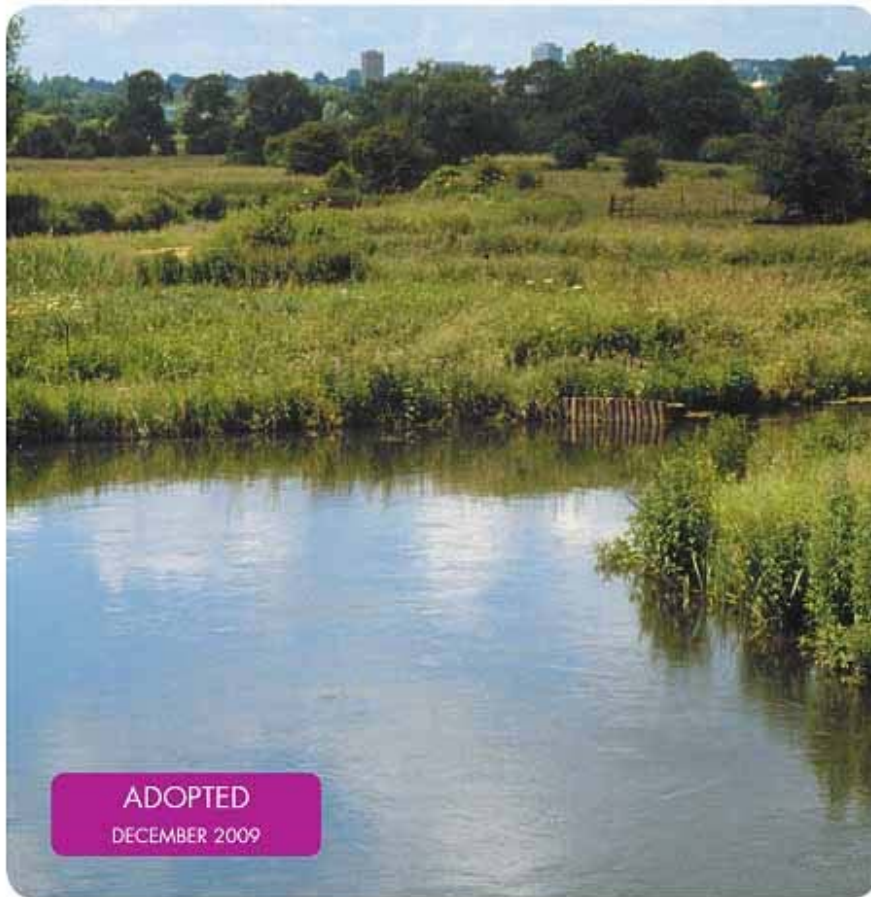


Biodiversity

Supplementary Planning Document



ADOPTED
DECEMBER 2009

Hampshire Biodiversity
Partnership seminar 9th July
2010

**Experience from the districts:
Eastleigh**

Gemma Christian

Planning Officer,
Eastleigh Borough Council

Structure of Presentation

- Status of plan within the council
- Policy Context
- Relationship to Eastleigh Biodiversity Action Plan and other key documents
- Benefits of Document

Status of plan within the council

Purpose of Document:

- Additional guidance on the nature conservation policies within the Local Plan Review 2001-2011.
- Details the procedures, information and proposals that the council expect to see as part of planning applications.
- Forms part of the Local Development Framework

Departments

- Key departments:
 - Countryside and Trees
 - Joint author, Rachel Hardy Biodiversity Officer
 - Development Control
 - Regeneration and Planning Policy

Geodiversity

- Geodiversity is defined within the SPD as

The variety of rocks minerals, soils and landscape, together with the natural processes which form them. Geodiversity provides the framework for life on earth so underpins biodiversity with soil the link between them

- The important link between geodiversity and biodiversity throughout the borough is outlined within the document.

Policy Context

- International and European Policies
- National Policies including:
 - PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological conservation,
 - Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation,
 - PPS1: Delivering Sustainable development and
 - PPS3: Housing.

Local Plan Review Policies

- In 2009 policies within the Local Plan Review had to be saved under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and a Secretary of State direction May 2009
- A list of the key legislation and guidance is in the appendix
- SINCs - How these will be dealt within in the LDF is currently under review

Links to other documents

- Wild About Eastleigh - Biodiversity Action Plan 2002
 - Developed by a partnership of organisations and provides a framework to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the borough
 - Eastleigh BAP is a material planning consideration
- Environmentally Sustainable Development SPD 2009
- Planning Obligations SPD 2008
- Green Infrastructure work (ongoing)
- Landscape Assessment

Planning Applications

- Sets out requirements
- Biodiversity checklist
- The importance of surveys:
 - Desktop studies
 - Field surveys
- Sharing data with HBIC
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Habitats Regulations Assessments

Case Study : Habitat Creation

- Southern Damselfly Habitat
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area – Itchen Valley
- Biodiversity Action Plan – Target Species
- Proactive Mitigation – Habitat Regulations
- Linked to regeneration area

Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail
Southern Damselflies

Diagnoses and damselflies are flying insects which live near rivers and ponds. The ditches through this meadow have been dug to create a new haven for the southern damselfly, which is a very rare insect. It is only found in handful of places across Europe and the Itchen Valley is one of three national strongholds.

In the Itchen Valley, southern damselflies generally like to live in wet ditches, but they can only fly quite short distances to colonise new areas. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and Eastleigh Borough Council are looking at opportunities to create 'stepping stones' of wet ditches between existing populations to help their long term survival. We hope that southern damselfly and other wildlife will discover these new ditches and make them their home.

How to spot a southern damselfly:
Body length: 2.5cm
Flight period: Mid May to early August
Males: Bright blue and black banding with a key identifying feature: a small black mark behind the main body called a 'necros mark'.
Females: A slightly darker green or blue colour and thicker black banding.

Protecting wildlife, Inspiring people



Benefits of Document

- Key tool for Development Control
- Brings clarity to the process
- Highlights links with external agencies such as HBIC, the Environment Agency and Natural England
- Concise and signposts users to other information e.g. Reference table of designated sites, ecological survey timetable etc