

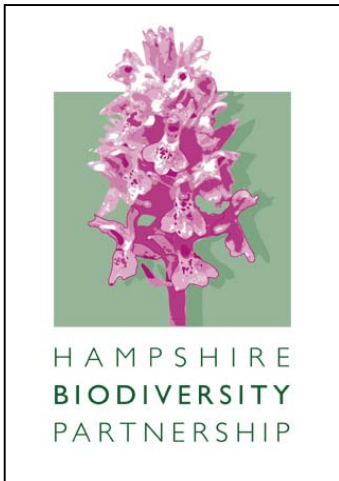
Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire

Review of Progress 2005/06



HAMP SHIRE
BIODIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP

July 2006



Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire Review of Progress 2005/06

Reviewing objectives and reporting progress is key to the biodiversity process in Hampshire and throughout the UK. It provides an opportunity to examine what has been achieved and refocus priorities. It also helps biodiversity partners to communicate achievements with each other and the wider community.

During 2005 the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership undertook a thorough review of its aims and objectives. Many of the Partnership's original goals published in 1998 are still very relevant, but new priorities have also been added to take account of developments in policy and practice.

As a result of the review, the Partnership agreed 21 key objectives divided into 4 main themes:

◇ **Theme 1 Land Management**

Aim: to ensure favourable condition of priority habitats and species in Hampshire (Objectives 1a – 1g)

◇ **Theme 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 (Objectives 2a – 2e)

◇ **Theme 3 Data, Information and Survey**

Aim: to ensure availability of appropriate data and information on Hampshire's habitats and species (Objectives 3a – 3f)

◇ **Theme 4 Education, Awareness and Communication**

Aim: to broaden awareness of biodiversity and involvement in its conservation (Objectives 4a – 4c)

The objectives encompass the wide range of action for biodiversity being undertaken in Hampshire. Each year the Partnership will review progress against the 21 key objectives, and **the results of this year's review are summarised on the following pages.**

Progress April 2005 to March 2006

To undertake this year's annual review, biodiversity partners were asked to submit a summary of key activity undertaken between April 2005 and March 2006. Progress was submitted against the 21 key objectives, and results have been aggregated to give an overall assessment:

Green – excellent progress: *an extensive amount of activity achieved by partners during 05/06*

Amber – some progress: *although there has been a range of activity during 05/06, there are obstacles hindering progress and there is room for improvement*

Red – little or no progress: *generally minimal activity by most partners during 05/06*

The results show excellent progress in almost half (10) of the 21 key objectives. Slightly fewer (9) key objectives have been assessed as making some progress. Little or no progress was evident in only a few (2) of the Partnership's key objectives.

Some examples of activity by partners are highlighted under each objective below. This illustrates the wide range of action for biodiversity in Hampshire during 2005/06.

Hampshire Biodiversity Partners submitting progress for 05/06:

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	English Nature	Hampshire Wildlife Trust
Butterfly Conservation	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Hart District Council
Chichester Harbour Conservancy	Gosport Borough Council	Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group
Defence Estates	Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group	New Forest District Council
Defra (Rural Development Service)	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	Southampton City Council
Eastleigh Borough Council	Hampshire County Council	

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Summary

Key Objective		Progress 2005/2006	
Theme 1 - Land Management			
1a	Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects		Excellent
1b	Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)		Excellent
1c	Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)		Some
1d	Ensure favourable management of local authority land		Some
1e	Promote management of land at 'landscape scale'		Excellent
1f	Ensure appropriate action for priority species		Some
1g	Restore/recreate priority habitats or create new habitats		Excellent
Theme 2 – Planning, Plans and Strategies			
2a	Ensure appropriate consideration of biodiversity in development plans and the development control process, and promote good practice by developers		Excellent
2b	Ensure all priority habitats and species assemblages that meets SINC or SSSI criteria are designated		Excellent
2c	Ensure Community Strategies in Hampshire include biodiversity policies and plans		Little/No
2d	Establish biodiversity as a key element of all relevant plans and strategies and promote appropriate changes in regulations and legislation		Excellent
2e	Produce and implement local biodiversity action plans		Some
Theme 3 – Data, Information and Survey			
3a	Develop the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to share data and make more widely available		Excellent
3b	Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups		Excellent
3c	Survey/monitor extent and condition of key habitats and species		Excellent
3d	Monitor the implementation of your organisation's/group's action for biodiversity		Some
3e	Monitor 'external' influences on biodiversity		Little/No
3f	Pro-actively encourage research and ensure that research is disseminated		Some
Theme 4 – Education, Awareness and Communication			
4a	Promote the aims and work of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership		Some
4b	Promote biodiversity as beneficial to quality of life (health, wellbeing etc) and key to sustainable development		Some
4c	Raise general awareness and commitment to biodiversity in the following 6 sectors		Some
	- Public Sector		Some
	- Farmers, landowners and other land managers		Excellent
	- Business and Industry		Little/No
	- Education		Excellent
	- Community/User Groups		Some
	- Public		Some

Theme 1 Land Management

Aim: to ensure favourable condition of priority habitats and species in Hampshire

Hampshire Biodiversity Partners are putting enormous effort into ensuring that large areas of land in Hampshire are managed appropriately for biodiversity. Particular effort was put into improving the condition of SSSIs, restoring priority habitats, maximising the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and projects, and promoting appropriate management at a landscape scale.

Objective 1a *Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects (see also 1e below) – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

Agri-environment

- **DEFRA** introduced a new agri-environment scheme consisting of an Entry Level Scheme (ELS) and Higher Level Scheme (HLS).
- First ELS agreements started in August 2005, first HLS agreements in February 2006.
- **DEFRA's Rural Development Service** report that there were 214 ELS agreements and 2 HLS in Hampshire by the end of March 2006.
- **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Hampshire Wildlife Trust** and **Butterfly Conservation** have been some of the organisations particularly involved in promoting the schemes.

Land management projects

- Strategic projects coordinated by **Hampshire County Council** continued to benefit biodiversity in substantial areas: e.g. about 11,000 ha of land were in receipt of support from the Hampshire Heathland Project (HHP) and Grazing Initiative, and the New Forest LIFE project achieved 10km of river restoration.
- The Habitat Management Advisory Project (**Hampshire County Council** and **Hampshire Wildlife Trust**) offered management advice and assistance to all landowners of SINC's during notification (phase one complete).
- Large areas of MoD land (**Defence Estates**) have benefited from HHP work and will benefit from a new grazing license with **Hampshire Wildlife Trust**.
- Management of the Loddon catchment through the Loddon and Eversley Heritage Area Project

Other projects

- **Eastleigh Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council** report good progress in managing land to support biodiversity through schemes such as the **Forestry Commission's** Woodland Grant scheme and 'Woodland Welcome' Grant.

Objective 1b *Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

English Nature report that Hampshire was one of the top counties for improvement of condition of SSSIs between April 2005 and March 2006: from 63.8% to 74.8%.

- **English Nature** gave a considerable amount of advice to landowners to improve SSSI condition.
- Condition of the New Forest SSSI was greatly assisted by the **Forestry Commission's** management works and **Hampshire County Council** co-ordinated LIFE 3 project.
- MoD own large tracts of SSSI land in Hampshire (2,556 ha) and **Defence Estates** report that favourable or recovering condition increased from 18% in 2004 to the current 56%
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** report that all Council owned SSSI land in the borough (approx 108 ha) has been assessed as in favourable (or recovering) condition.

Several partners are working with the **English Nature** 'Remedies' project to further improve SSSI condition.

Objective 1c *Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

SINC notification

- The Habitat Management Advisory Project (**Hampshire County Council** and **Hampshire Wildlife Trust**) is undertaking a rolling programme of SINC notification in Hampshire. About 1/3 of landowners ask for management advice following notification.

SINC management

- Several local authorities (e.g. **Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council**) and **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** have management plans in place for a high proportion of their SINCs.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** and **Hampshire County Council** advise landowners on the management of SINCs.

Objective 1d *Ensure favourable management of local authority land – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

Hampshire County Council continued and improved management for biodiversity on its landholdings and property, e.g.:

- audit of the County Council's 200 SINCs and proportion of County Farms;
- appropriate management of ecologically important road verges;
- incorporation of management for wildlife at HCC buildings and grounds.

Initiatives by other authorities included:

- **Eastleigh Borough Council** manages 25 sites for nature conservation and implements management for biodiversity on EBC land wherever possible
- **Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council** introduced sympathetic management practices on Basingstoke Ringway system
- **Gosport Borough Council** carried out appropriate mowing regimes and managed conservation areas within cemeteries and formal parks
- **Southampton City Council** produced and implemented biodiversity statements with management prescriptions for open space managers
- **Hart District Council** declared Elvetham Heath as an LNR and produced a management plan

Objective 1e *Promote management of land at 'landscape scale' – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

Many biodiversity partners supported initiatives in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and other landscape scale initiatives including those at Lodden and Eversley, the Forest of Bere, the Itchen Navigation, Tytherly Woods, Thames Basin Heaths, Tanners Brook Catchment and Alver Valley.

Objective 1f *Ensure appropriate action for priority species (see also 3c below) – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

Land management

- species-specific management by the **Herpetological Conservation Trust** on MoD sites
- benefits to many species from restoration of large areas of lowland heath (**Defence Estates**)
- grassland management for breeding skylarks and mink monitoring and trapping programme to protect water voles (**Gosport Borough Council**)
- scrub management for brown hairstreak, chalk grassland management for blue butterflies and woodland management for helleborines and fritillaries by the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust**
- management plans for grassland re-creation and restoration (**Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group**)
- features for bat roosting incorporated into developments (**Southampton City Council**)
- management for southern damselfly and great crested newt at sites in Eastleigh by **Eastleigh Borough Council**

- management to support small blue, striped lychnis, pearl-bordered fritillary and small pearl-bordered fritillary by **Butterfly Conservation**

Policy

- review of the Brent Goose strategy and Wader Roost Strategy (**Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group**)
- policies to safeguard national and county priority species included in local plans (**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Southampton City Council**)
- general implementation of species action plans (**Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group**)

Advice

- advice to farmers on corn buntings (**Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group, Rural Development Service (DEFRA), Game Conservancy Trust**)
- management advice on priority species as part of farm visits, HLS applications, CSS amendments (**Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group**)
- management advice for dormouse, otter, water vole (**Hampshire Wildlife Trust**)
- **English Nature's** protected species officer gives advice on planning, policy, monitoring and management.

Survey

- data gathering on estuarine birds species (**Chichester Harbour Conservancy**)
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** surveys of Hampshire priority species such as otter, water vole, southern damselfly, Gilkicker weevil, great crested newt (with **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group**)
- river valley birds survey, nightjar survey, corn buntings survey, heathland bird monitoring (**Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group**)

**Objective 1g *Restore / recreate priority habitats or create new habitats*
– EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06**

Large restoration and re-creation projects in Hampshire include:

- LIFE3 project in the New Forest (coordinator **Hampshire County Council**)
- heathland in north-east Hampshire restored as part of Heathland Heritage Project (**Hampshire County Council**)
- widespread restoration of heathland across MOD estate (**Defence Estates**) and in the New Forest (**Forestry Commission, English Nature**)

Many local habitat restoration projects by **Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Gosport Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation.**

Theme 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

During 05/06 considerable progress has been made in safeguarding biodiversity through the planning process. The Partnership produced new guidance for local authorities on biodiversity and LDFs, and appropriate policies were incorporated into several local plans and many other relevant plans and strategies.

Objective 2a *Ensure appropriate consideration of biodiversity in development plans and the development control process, and promote good practice by developers – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

Plans and policy

- the Partnership's **Local Authority Biodiversity Forum** published comprehensive guidance for integrating biodiversity into LDFs – *Biodiversity and Development Guidance for Hampshire*
- recently produced Local Plans contain policies to safeguard biodiversity (**Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, New Forest District Council**)
- **Hampshire County Council** has adopted a headline target to achieve no net loss of biodiversity through its planning decisions and own development. This target was achieved in 05/06
- **Hampshire County Council** architects are promoting and supporting biodiversity within County Council development schemes
- the preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan has taken biodiversity into account within Strategic Environmental Assessment, policies and monitoring proposals
- a range of partners have contributed to the preparation of the biodiversity elements of the South East Plan and Sub-regional strategies
- the **Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre** has continued to provide key data to update schedules of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation for local plans/LDFs
- biodiversity is included in draft residential design guide Supplementary Planning Document (**Southampton City Council**)

a range of biodiversity partners have given advice during consultation on development proposals

Objective 2b *Ensure all priority habitat and species assemblages that meets SINC or SSSI criteria are designated – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and many biodiversity partners have worked together to ensure that appropriate data is available to enable site designation.

Objective 2c *Ensure Community Strategies in Hampshire include biodiversity policies and plans – LITTLE/NO PROGRESS 05/06*

There is generally little reference to biodiversity in community strategies in Hampshire. Some exceptions include:

- **Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council** have established a Natural Environment Forum to improve consideration of biodiversity in the community strategy process
- “to conserve and enhance the natural environment” is a key objective of **Gosport Borough Council**'s current community strategy.
- **Southampton City Council**'s community strategy contains references to biodiversity and targets for producing biodiversity management statements for Southampton City Council's open spaces.

Objective 2d *Establish biodiversity as a key element of all relevant plans and strategies and promote appropriate changes in regulations and legislation – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

Many plans and strategies in Hampshire incorporate biodiversity. For example:

- biodiversity is a main component of the Hampshire landscape sensitivity assessment undertaken by **Hampshire County Council**.
- biodiversity is embedded in **Hampshire County Council**'s Corporate Sustainable Development programme, including the establishment of a Corporate Biodiversity Group
- the Rural Pathfinder project facilitated by **Hampshire County Council** and involving many partners is investigating approaches to more effective co-ordination of work on land management advice
- **Hampshire County Council** and the **Environment Agency** are contributing to the BRANCH project led by **English Nature** investigating climate change and biodiversity issues
- various partners have contributed to the South East England Biodiversity Forum's response to various regional strategies and the review of the South East Biodiversity Strategy
- AONB management plans in Hampshire include biodiversity as a principal element

- biodiversity was key to the Coastal Management Plan Review and forms part of the Sustainability Appraisal of West Solent Coastal Defence Strategy (**New Forest District Council**)
- **Southampton City Council** has an integrated climate change and air quality strategy which includes consideration of biodiversity

**Objective 2e Produce and implement local biodiversity action plans –
SOME PROGRESS 05/06**

- **Hampshire County Council** produced a comprehensive *Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan 2005 to 2008*
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** produced a biodiversity action plan for **Winchester City Council**
- **Southampton City Council** reviewed their *Nature Conservation Strategy* and **Chichester Harbour Conservancy** updated the *Chichester Harbour Biodiversity Action Plan*
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** continue to employ a biodiversity officer to implement actions identified in Eastleigh's biodiversity action plan

Theme 3 Data and Information

Aim: to ensure availability of appropriate data and information on Hampshire's habitats and species

HBIC continued development as the central resource for biodiversity information in Hampshire. The amount of data held was expanded significantly, and research was carried out on the data needs of the wider community. HBIC, other biodiversity partners and a strong network of voluntary recorders carried out a large programme of survey of key habitats and species in Hampshire.

Objective 3a *Develop the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to share data and make more widely available – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

- **HBIC** established service level agreements with 18 funding partners, including local authorities, government agencies, utilities and NGOs.
- **HBIC** received nearly ½ million species records, including almost 8000 notable species records.
- **HBIC** received an HLF grant to develop a plan to research the biodiversity data needs of schools, community groups, recording groups and the wider public.

Objective 3b *Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

- **HBIC** co-ordinated and supported survey and recording work of a range of agencies and groups.
- **English Nature** supported voluntary recorders on National Nature Reserves
- the **Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group** expanded their participation in several national and regional bird surveys
- **Southampton City Council** encouraged local people to take part in the 3rd Southampton butterfly survey
- **Gosport Borough Council** supported volunteer recorders for plants, birds, butterflies and bats and **Eastleigh Borough Council** organised and supported volunteers at Itchen Valley Country Park.
- **Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group** supported a network of volunteers to survey several priority species
- **Butterfly Conservation** developed a website and various recording schemes and training networks
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** hosted and supported **Hampshire Mammal Group, Hampshire Flora Group, Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile**

Group, and the **Hampshire Network for Invertebrate Conservation**.
The Trust also worked with many voluntary recorders on HWT reserves

Objective 3c *Survey / monitor extent and condition of key habitats and species – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 05/06*

- During 05/06 the **HBIC** survey team surveyed 374 sites as part of their annual programme of biological survey.
- **English Nature** commissioned surveys on designated sites as part of their rolling programme of condition assessment
- several BAP priority species were monitored by **Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group, Butterfly Conservation, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group**
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** commissioned surveys and condition assessments of several nature reserves
- **DEFRA's Rural Development Service** collected data on priority species and habitats as part of the HLS application process

Objective 3d *Monitor the implementation of your organisation's/ group's action for biodiversity – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

- **Hampshire County Council** produced a *Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2008*. The Plan includes a comprehensive set of biodiversity targets and indicators that are monitored annually to assess the **County Council's** performance.
- the **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** are developing a system to collate and monitor their activities more effectively
- **Southampton City Council** assessed performance of their Natural Environment Business Plan
- **Chichester Harbour Conservancy** undertakes annual monitoring as part of the AONB management plan review
- **Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group** meets regularly to review progress and assess new schemes
- **Butterfly Conservation** reports progress annually at county and national level
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** has monitored the success of pond restoration work at great crested newt sites in the borough.

Objective 3e *Monitor 'external' influences on biodiversity – LITTLE/NO PROGRESS 05/06*

- Further work has been undertaken by **Hampshire County Council, English Nature** and the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** to investigate methods for monitoring influence of development on biodiversity within Hampshire
- A number of partners are monitoring changes in biodiversity as a result of climate change and sea level rise: for example, **Hampshire County Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire Review of Progress 2005/06**

Council are co-ordinating the **English Nature**-led BRANCH project in Hampshire, and the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** are monitoring vegetation change in the Lower Test nature reserve.

- **New Forest District Council** continue to monitor factors likely to influence biodiversity, including coastal and saltmarsh erosion, and coastal and fluvial flooding.
- **Butterfly Conservation** contribute to monitoring of climate change through shifts in species distributions and are involved in Rothampstead Moth trap time-series data

Objective 3f *Pro-actively encourage research and ensure that research is disseminated – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

The Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire includes a large number of actions to carry out research on habitats and species.

- During 2005/06 the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** organised and hosted the initial meeting of the Partnership's Biodiversity Research Forum.
- a number partners carried out or commissioned research: the **Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group** (grey partridge); the **Chichester Harbour Conservancy** (green shank); the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** (otter, southern damselfly, New Forest ponds); **Butterfly Conservation** (dingy mocha)
- the **Rural Development Service** carried out research into the effectiveness of agri-environment schemes.

Theme 4 Education, Awareness and Communication

Aim: to broaden awareness of biodiversity and involvement in its conservation

Hampshire Biodiversity Partners have very actively engaged landowners and landmanagers to encourage take-up of DEFRA's new agri-environment schemes. Many Partners were also involved in raising awareness of schoolchildren and the wider public. Lack of resources continues to hinder efforts to engage the business sector and there is still limited progress in engaging the general public on a very large-scale.

Objective 4a *Promote the aims and work of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

- During 05/06 the Partnership published *Achievements and Future Action*. This celebrated achievements of the Partnership from 2002 to 2004 and identified key action 2005 to 2007.
- the work of the Partnership was promoted regionally and nationally through representation on key fora, seminars and other events
- a new annual reporting strategy has been established
- Hampshire data has been entered onto the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) to aid national reporting and is included within biodiversity targets in the South East Plan
- members of the Partnership's steering group have helped to promote the work of the Partnership and its aims and objectives

Objective 4b *Promote biodiversity as beneficial to quality of life (health, wellbeing etc) and key to sustainable development – SOME PROGRESS 05/06*

Many partners are working jointly with others to ensure that biodiversity is fully accepted as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

- **Hampshire County Council's *Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan*** promotes biodiversity as key to quality of life and the delivery of services such as education and social care. Biodiversity is promoted in a wide range of plans and strategies and features strongly in the County Council's programme for sustainable development
- Several districts (**Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Gosport Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council**) are including biodiversity messages in their sustainable development initiatives

- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** and **English Nature** promote the relationship between biodiversity and sustainable development in public outreach work
- **Butterfly Conservation** (with **Southampton City Council**) published *Butterflies of Southampton* to promote the richness of the city as a measure of quality of life and 'health of the city'

Objective 4c *Raise general awareness and commitment to biodiversity in the following 6 sectors (SOME PROGRESS 05/06 OVERALL):*

public sector – some progress

- **English Nature** mounted a "roadshow" to visit districts in Hampshire and give statutory advice on biodiversity
- The Partnership's **Local Authority Biodiversity Forum** produced *Guidance on Biodiversity and LDFs* to assist local authorities with their new development plans.
- a number of districts promoted biodiversity internally through staff networks, news bulletins and publications, and day-to-day liaison work
- **Hampshire County Council** produced comprehensive web pages on biodiversity and promoted biodiversity through internal publicity initiatives

farmers, landowners and other land managers – excellent progress

With the introduction of new agri-environment schemes, there has been considerable activity in raising awareness of biodiversity in the farming sector.

- This is a major activity of organisations such as the **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group**, **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group**, **Hampshire Wildlife Trust**, and **DEFRA's Rural Development Service**. For example, a number of these partners and others such as the **Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group** held workshops to promote environmental stewardship.
- **Hampshire County Council** and **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** jointly raised awareness of the landowners of Hampshire's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) through the Habitat Management Advisory Project.

business and industry – little/no progress

- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** raised awareness of biodiversity in a number of businesses through their corporate membership scheme. Corporate volunteers assisted with initiatives such as practical reserve management.

- **Southampton City Council** has produced a sustainability checklist for use by developers

education – excellent progress

- **Hampshire County Council's** sustainable schools programme was significantly developed during 05/06. The programme encourages schools to embrace all aspects of sustainable development, including biodiversity. The county council continued their large programme of environmental work at study centres and also piloted Hampshire School Nature Watch with selected Hampshire primary schools.
- **Southampton City Council's** Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre offered a full biodiversity programme to school visitors to the Centre as well as through outreach in schools and through leading school visits to local nature reserves.
- the three education centres run by **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** were used regularly by schools, colleges and universities groups. Education officers of the Trust made regular visits to Hampshire schools to raise awareness of wildlife.
- **Gosport Borough Council** countryside staff ran events and guided walks for schools and welcomed 20 Hampshire schools to Grange Farm Educational Centre.
- **Eastleigh Borough Council's** education officer at Itchen Valley Country Park runs numerous events and organises visits from schools and colleges to the Park
- **Chichester Harbour Conservancy** organised 'streamwatch' for schoolchildren to monitor ecology at 2 sites
- **Butterfly Conservation** gives advice on setting up butterfly gardens in schools and welcomes educational groups to their nature reserves

community/user groups – some progress

Regular events and talks were organised by many partners to engage community groups and raise awareness of biodiversity. General awareness of biodiversity is perceived to be high, although it is more difficult to judge commitment to biodiversity conservation.

public – some progress

Most Hampshire biodiversity partners have websites, publications, events, and a wide variety of initiatives aimed at raising the awareness of the public. Examples include:

- **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council** has an ongoing volunteer conservation programme
- **Chichester Harbour Conservancy** updated information boards and ran many public events

- **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** organised farm walks for the public
- **Southampton City Council** mounted a biodiversity display at Southampton horticultural show, raised awareness during the Open Spaces Roadshow and organised a full programme of public events and walks.
- **Butterfly Conservation, Gosport Borough Council** and **Eastleigh Borough Council** ran guided walks and talks as well as other events and displays.
- **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group** held a series of field meetings and indoor events to encourage awareness of herptile and other biodiversity issues
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** ran the "Wildline" wildlife information service, raised public awareness through press releases, magazine articles, TV and radio, and promoted the events and talks on their nature reserves
- **English Nature** raised awareness through their website, magazines, events and phone service
- **Hampshire County Council** displayed information about biodiversity at a large number of shows and events, organised a great range of walks at countryside sites and the rights-of-way network, produced many leaflets and other interpretation materials, organised Hampshire Heath Week and Hampshire Water Festival