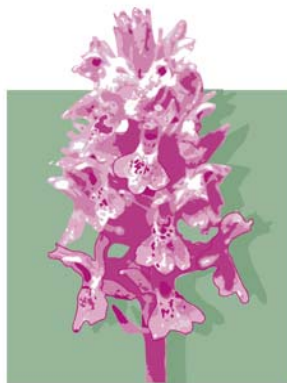


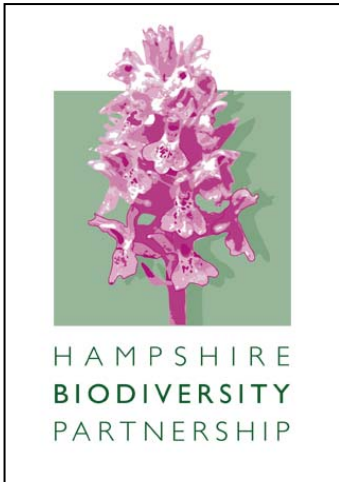
Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire

**2nd Review of Progress
2006/08**



H A M P S H I R E
B I O D I V E R S I T Y
P A R T N E R S H I P

September 2008



Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire Review of Progress 2006/08

This is the 2nd review of progress against the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership's key objectives.

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 reviewed its aims and objectives and 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.

Every 2 years the Partnership carries out a review of progress against the 21 key objectives. **The results for 2006 to 2008 are summarised on the following pages.**

Progress April 2006 to March 2008

To undertake the review, biodiversity partners were asked to submit a summary of key activity undertaken between April 2006 and March 2008. Results have been aggregated by the Partnership's Monitoring Group to give an overall assessment:

Green – excellent progress: *an extensive amount of activity achieved by partners during 06/08*

Amber – some progress: *although there has been a range of activity during 06/08, there are obstacles hindering progress and there is room for improvement*

Red – little or no progress: *generally minimal activity by most partners during 06/08*




The results show excellent progress in half (11) 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 one (1) of the Partnership's key objectives. A summary is shown on page 4.

Examples of activity by partners are given on pages 5-16. These examples illustrate the wide range of action for biodiversity in Hampshire during 2006/08.

Hampshire Biodiversity Partners submitting progress for 2006/08:

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	Gosport Borough Council	Natural England
Butterfly Conservation	Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group	New Forest National Park Authority
Eastleigh Borough Council	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	Portsmouth City Council
Environment Agency	Hampshire County Council	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Fareham Borough Council	Hampshire Ornithological Society	Rushmoor Borough Council
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Solent Forum
Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust	Joint Hampshire BAP Bird Monitoring Group	

Review of Progress 2006/08: Summary

Key Objective		1 st Review Progress 2005/2006	2 nd Review Progress 2006/2008
Theme 1 - Land Management			
1a	Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects		
1b	Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)		
1c	Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)		
1d	Ensure favourable management of local authority land		
1e	Promote management of land at 'landscape scale'		
1f	Ensure appropriate action for priority species		
1g	Restore/recreate priority habitats or create new habitats		
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		
2b	Ensure all priority habitats and species assemblages that meet SINC or SSSI criteria are designated		
2c	Ensure Community Strategies in Hampshire include biodiversity policies and plans		
2d	Establish biodiversity as a key element of all relevant plans and strategies and promote appropriate changes in regulations and legislation		
2e	Produce and implement local biodiversity action plans		
Theme 3 - Data, Information and Survey			
3a	Develop the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to share data and make more widely available		
3b	Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups		
3c	Survey/monitor extent and condition of key habitat and species		
3d	Monitor the implementation of your organisation's/group's action for biodiversity		
3e	Monitor 'external' influences on biodiversity		
3f	Pro-actively encourage research and ensure that research is disseminated		
Theme 4 - Education, Awareness and Communication			
4a	Promote the aims and work of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership		
4b	Promote biodiversity as beneficial to quality of life (health, wellbeing etc) and key to sustainable development		
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/User Groups		
	- Public		
KEY	 Excellent progress	 Some progress	 Little/no progress

Theme 1 Land Management

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

Much effort has been put into ensuring positive management of land for biodiversity. Many organisations promoted Environmental Stewardship schemes to landowners, benefiting priority habitats and species. The condition of SSSIs continues to improve and there are an increasing number of landscape-scale initiatives in Hampshire.

Objective 1a *Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects (see also 1e below) – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

Agri-environment

- **Natural England** report that in 2008 there were 534 Environmental Stewardship agreements across Hampshire, including 469 Entry Level Schemes (ELS) and 65 ELS/Higher Level Schemes (HLS) combined or HLS only.
- ELS agreements cover 262,000 ha, HLS cover 27,000 ha.
- Approximately 350 Countryside Stewardship Schemes/Environmentally Sensitive Area agreements are still active.
- **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust, RSPB, Solent Forum** and many other organisations are actively promoting the schemes and/or assisting landowners with applications.
- Over 750ha of heathland (**Defence Estates**) is being restored under HLS through the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** MoD Grazing Project

Land management projects

- Many projects promote wildlife sensitive farming, including the **New Forest National Park Authority's** Forest Friendly Farming initiative and the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust's** Loddon Farm Advice Project.
- Notification of landowners of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation throughout Hampshire was completed under the Habitat Management Advisory Project (**Hampshire County Council** and **Hampshire Wildlife Trust**).
- Sustainable Wetland Restoration in the New Forest (Life 3) Project coordinated by **Hampshire County Council** was completed in 2006 with over 600 ha of wetland habitat restored.
- **Hampshire County Council's** strategic land management projects for heathland and woodland supported biodiversity across Hampshire.

Objective 1b *Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

Natural England report that 80% of Hampshire's SSSI's are now meeting the PSA target (favourable or favourable recovering condition).

- Significant progress in the New Forest, Avon Valley, Wealden Heaths. For example, the **New Forest National Park Authority, Natural England,** the

Forestry Commission and others are restoring 4,000ha of SSSI through 'The New Forest SSSI Project', and there are large gains across the Wealden Heaths through the **Defence Estates/Hampshire Wildlife Trust** MoD Grazing Project.

- 84% of the 2,000 ha of SSSIs owned by **Hampshire County Council** were in target condition in Feb 2008. However a number of coastal SSSIs were reassessed in spring 2008 and found to not meet the PSA target due to coastal squeeze and water quality issues.
- **Eastleigh Borough Council, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Portsmouth City Council, Gosport Borough Council** are some of the partners securing positive management on Hampshire SSSIs.

Objective 1c *Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

- The notification of SINCs in Hampshire has been completed through the Habitat Management Advisory Project (**HCC** and **HWT**). New SINCs will be notified to owners by the **Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre**.
- Land management advisors from partner organisations (**Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust, Butterfly Conservation** etc) provided advice to landowners of SINCs.
- Some local authorities have management plans and are carrying out active management on many of their SINCs e.g. **Gosport Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council**.
- **Hampshire County Council** initiated a review of the management of SINCs under their ownership.
- The draft management plan by the **New Forest National Park Authority** includes targets to survey and protect SINCs in the New Forest National Park.

Objective 1d *Ensure favourable management of local authority land – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

- **Hampshire County Council** has incorporated biodiversity into management of road verges of ecological importance and the Highway Asset Management Plan. A road maintenance policy has been developed for roads in the New Forest. Many **Hampshire County Council** Countryside Sites are being grazed for conservation, and changes to routine grassland maintenance to promote biodiversity in school grounds and other parts of the County Council's estate are being piloted.
- Partners such as the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** and **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** work with local authorities to give advice and practical support to conservation initiatives on local authority land.
- **Portsmouth City Council** has developed a 'Sustainable Planting Policy' for promoting biodiversity in parks and open spaces.
- Other initiatives include conservation mowing regimes by **Rushmoor Borough Council** and **Gosport Borough Council**, conservation management of countryside sites and Country Parks by **Eastleigh Borough Council**, and ongoing conservation management on **Fareham Borough Council** sites.

Objective 1e *Promote management of land at ‘landscape scale’ – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

Landscape scale projects include initiatives in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), restoration of the Alver Valley, Loddon and Eversley Heritage Area, New Forest National Park, Tytherley Woods, Itchen floodplain, Thames Basin Heaths, and Wealden Heaths.

Objective 1f *Ensure appropriate action for priority species (see also 3c below) – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

Many species are supported through agri-environment schemes, including farmland birds such as the stone curlew and those associated with arable habitats, wading birds, rare arable flora, invertebrates such as the southern damselfly and various butterflies, reptiles such as sand lizard and natterjack toad, and various mammals such as otters, watervoles and bats. Specific initiatives by partners include:

- The **Environment Agency’s** Test & Itchen gravel cleaning programme for salmon spawning sites and removal of mink to benefit otter and water vole
- **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group’s** farmland management advice to promote arable plants, tree sparrows and many other priority species
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust’s** large programme of initiatives for species including otter, water vole, crayfish, southern damselfly, little terns, sand martins, brent geese, dormouse, harvest mouse, brown hare, great crested newts, various butterflies and more
- **Butterfly Conservation** have established ‘species champions’ for priority butterflies and carried out woodland management for pearl-bordered and small pearl-bordered fritillaries.
- Monitoring and pond restoration for great crested newt by **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group**.

Objective 1g *Restore / recreate priority habitats or create new habitats – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

Many partners have been involved in restoration and recreation of priority habitats:

- Examples from the **Environment Agency** include restoration of habitat at Titchbourne and at Nuns stream (River Itchen), at River Anton and Tanners Brook, improvements to the River Meon, and the identification of sites for saltmarsh restoration within the Solent.
- **Hampshire County Council** have restored hundreds of hectares of priority habitat through partnership programmes including the Hampshire Heathland Project, New Forest Life 3 and Hampshire Grazing Project.
- **Natural England** reports restoration and creation of habitats through Environmental Stewardship, including wood pasture, woodland, wet grassland, species-rich grassland, heathland, reedbeds and fen.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** has restored heathland, woodland and wetland on their reserves and other locations such as the Meon Valley.
- **Butterfly Conservation** have restored chalk grassland e.g. on their Magdalen Hill Down reserve.
- Habitat creation projects include those in the Alver Valley by **Gosport Borough Council**, and **Rushmoor Borough Council’s** initiatives in local parks.

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

Considerable effort is focussed on developing good policies and practice for biodiversity within the planning process and in related plans and strategies. The Partnership has produced further guidance on LDFs for local planning authorities in Hampshire, and a 'biodiversity checklist' to assist with planning applications.

Objective 2a *Ensure appropriate consideration of biodiversity in development plans and the development control process, and promote good practice by developers – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

- As part of the new national planning application form (1APP), **Hampshire County Council, Natural England** and other Partners have developed a 'biodiversity checklist' for use by local planning authorities.
- On behalf of the Partnership, **Hampshire County Council** produced guidance on policies for biodiversity within LDFs. HCC and other partners also influenced a robust approach to biodiversity in the South East Plan and initiated a collaborative approach to the Habitat Regulation Assessment of LDFs for PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire).
- The **New Forest National Park Authority** is promoting best practice for biodiversity in the Park's Management Plan, Core Strategy and development control policies.
- **Gosport Borough Council's** Local Plan review contains biodiversity policies and there is generally a requirement to submit information on biodiversity with planning applications as part of Design and Access Statements
- **Eastleigh Borough Council's** Local Plan Review contains policies which consider protected species, designated sites, and biodiversity in the wider environment.
- **Rushmoor Borough Council's** Sustainable Design and Construction SPD includes information and guidance for developers on biodiversity within new developments.

Objective 2b *Ensure all priority habitat and species assemblages that meets SINC or SSSI criteria are designated – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

The **Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre** and many partners are working together to identify SINC's in Hampshire and ensure that they are included in Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks.

Objective 2c *Ensure Community Strategies in Hampshire include biodiversity policies and plans – LITTLE/NO PROGRESS*
06/08

There is generally minimal reference to biodiversity in community strategies in Hampshire. However progress includes:

- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** is represented on a number of Local Strategic Partnerships
- Reference is made in the **Gosport** Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy to the importance of biodiversity
- One of the strategic aims within the Community Strategy in **Rushmoor** is "To introduce and support initiatives designed to conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity"

Objective 2d *Establish biodiversity as a key element of all relevant plans and strategies and promote appropriate changes in regulations and legislation – EXCELLENT PROGRESS*
06/08

Biodiversity continues to be integrated into a wide variety of plans and strategies. Examples include:

- Conservation of wildlife of the **New Forest National Park** is a key statutory purpose and underpins development of strategies. The Corporate Plan is committed to producing a BAP and using it to inform development of other strategies.
- Sustainable development and climate change will be an important element of the overarching policy of **Gosport Borough Council's** Core Strategy, and this will include the importance of biodiversity.
- Policies to protect and enhance biodiversity are included in **Rushmoor Borough Council's** Climate Change Strategy under a section on 'Biodiversity and Habitats'.
- **Fareham Borough Council** has adopted an Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Biodiversity forms part of the **Eastleigh Borough Council's** climate change action plan for 2008-09.
- **Hampshire County Council** has incorporated biodiversity into many plans and strategies, including Strategic Environmental Assessments for the Minerals & Waste LDF. HCC is building biodiversity into its corporate decision-making framework.

Objective 2e *Produce and implement local biodiversity action plans – SOME PROGRESS*
06/08

- **Hampshire County Council's** Corporate BAP summarises the breadth of work that supports biodiversity and sets out a comprehensive range of actions and targets 2005-2008. A new BAP for 2008-11 has been produced.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** has completed/updated local BAPs for **Test Valley** and **East Hampshire** and has assisted the development of Whitehill & Bordon Parish BAP.
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** employs a biodiversity officer who continues to implement actions identified in Eastleigh's BAP.
- **Fareham Borough Council** are reviewing their Local BAP.

- **New Forest National Park Authority** has established a working group to guide the production of a New Forest BAP.
- The **Solent Forum's** nature conservation group coordinates nature conservation actions arising from Strategic Guidance for the Solent and other documents such as the coastal BAPs that cover the Solent area.
- A local BAP is currently being produced for **Gosport Borough Council**.
- **Rushmoor Borough Council** have employed a Biodiversity Officer to help them implement actions in Hampshire BAP and a Rushmoor BAP is being produced.

Theme 3 Data and Information

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

Further development of the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre has increased the knowledge base on Hampshire's habitats and species. HBIC's survey team and surveys by many partners and volunteers provide up-to-date data to assist monitoring. During the reporting period there was increasing interest in monitoring influences on biodiversity, particularly climate change.

Objective 3a *Develop the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to share data and make more widely available – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

- **HBIC** has service level agreements with 24 funding partners, including local authorities, government agencies, utilities and voluntary organisations. HBIC is mapping areas of opportunity for biodiversity improvement and is developing the methodology for the condition assessment of SINC's.
- 'The State of Biodiversity in Hampshire' was compiled by **HBIC** on behalf of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership in Nov 2006.
- **HBIC** is providing data for district council LDF monitoring reports.
- During the reporting period new partners included the **New Forest National Park Authority** and **Gosport Borough Council**.
- New data exchange agreements with organisations such as **Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS)** and **Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group** has helped to increase the number of records held by **HBIC** to over 2.4 million.

Objective 3b *Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

- Many of **Hampshire Ornithological Society's** 1200 members supply bird data and information on priority habitats such as the Thames Basin and Wealden Heaths.
- The **British Trust for Ornithology's** bird recording network has expanded considerably as result of their Bird Atlas project 2007-11. Ongoing population monitoring through BTO Breeding Bird Survey further improved by increased number of recorders, and BTO appointment of Hampshire Garden BirdWatch

Ambassador, supported by Lottery Funding, will also increase number of recorders.

- **Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust** now have around 40 landowners returning grey partridge count data in Hampshire.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust's** Awards for All grant was used to support species recording groups Hampshire Mammal Group, Hampshire Flora Group, Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group and Hampshire Invertebrate Network. HWT have also utilised volunteers and commissioned experts on reserves for surveys for a range of taxonomic groups, and trained biodiversity group to enable them to carry out local surveys.
- **Butterfly Conservation** have developed various recording schemes and training courses (eg MapMate, ID).
- **Gosport Borough Council's** Countryside Section actively promotes, trains and supports recorders.
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** and **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group** received over 100 replies to requests for allotment holders to record reptiles seen. EBC and **Hampshire Mammal Group** received over 150 records of hedgehog sightings from Eastleigh residents.
- **Rushmoor Borough Council** encouraged local people to take part in the Rushmoor Spring Bird Survey in Spring 2007 – over 100 recorders sent in records.

Objective 3c Survey / monitor extent and condition of key habitats and species – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08

A large programme of biological survey is carried out in Hampshire annually. The **HBIC** survey team survey c.400 sites each year, and many organisations also carry out surveys of habitats and species:

- The **Environment Agency** carried out a detailed survey to facilitate otter migration between the Itchen SAC and East Hampshire.
- The **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** survey key BAP habitats and undertake condition assessments for developing Farm Environment Plans and to monitor HLS agreements.
- The **British Trust for Ornithology** completed county-wide surveys of Dartford warbler, woodlark, ringed plover and little ringed plover, and **Hampshire Ornithological Society** embarked on a Hampshire Bird Atlas covering both breeding and wintering species.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** carried out numerous species surveys, including otter, water vole, native crayfish, southern damselfly, harvest mouse, brown hare, great-crested newt, nail fungus and Solent seagrass. **HWT** also commissioned surveys and condition assessments of several nature reserves.
- The **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group** is collecting data for a new county atlas and is preparing a long-term monitoring programme for great crested newt on Southampton Common with **Southampton City Council** and conducted a slow-worm survey with allotment holders throughout Hampshire.
- The **New Forest National Park Authority** and **Hampshire Bat Group** continue to identify roosts of Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats and their behaviour in the New Forest.
- **Butterfly Conservation** conduct surveys for key species in their role as champions for priority butterflies and moths
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** monitors key species and habitats on its reserves.

Objective 3d *Monitor the implementation of your organisation's/ group's action for biodiversity – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

- **Hampshire County Council** monitors progress in achieving its Corporate BAP targets annually.
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** undertake an annual review of the Eastleigh BAP
- The Joint Hampshire Bird Monitoring Group (**BTO, RSPB, HWT, GWCT, FWAG** etc) monitor implementation of BAP targets for birds.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** evaluate action for biodiversity through strategic performance indicators.
- **Butterfly Conservation** report annually on BAP targets at both national and county level.
- **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group** are progressing targets for a range of Hampshire priority species including smooth snake, sand lizard, natterjack toad and great-crested newt.

Objective 3e *Monitor 'external' influences on biodiversity – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

- **Hampshire County Council** worked with partners to investigate the potential implications of climate change for biodiversity and submitted evidence on climate change and biodiversity to the Climate Change Commission. In partnership with others such as the **Hampshire Wildlife Trust, HCC** has also investigated the implications of sea level rise on coastal habitats.
- Organisations such as **Butterfly Conservation, Hampshire Ornithological Society** and **British Trust for Ornithology** are monitoring external influences such as climate changes on species distributions.
- Several local authorities are monitoring the effect of development control decisions on biodiversity.
- **Butterfly Conservation** and **British Trust for Ornithology** are monitoring effectiveness of agri-environment schemes through butterfly transects, including the new "Butterflies in the Wider Countryside" monitoring scheme.

Objective 3f *Pro-actively encourage research and ensure that research is disseminated – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** host a 'virtual' Biodiversity Research Forum on behalf of the Partnership to link researchers with practitioners. This provides BAP-driven project ideas for undergraduates in local academic institutions. **HWT** also facilitated research projects for otter, southern damselfly and New Forest ponds.
- The **Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust** operates a number of research projects within Hampshire including work on invertebrates, squirrels, wild bird seed mixes and waders.
- **Hampshire Ornithological Society** encourages its members to carry out research projects, for which funding is made available. The results are reported in the annual Hampshire Bird Report.
- The **New Forest National Park Authority** promoted and contributed funding for a New Forest research conference (Autumn 2007) in partnership with British Ecological Society and Bournemouth University. The conference aimed to disseminate research and act as a catalyst for networking of research.

Theme 4 Education, Awareness and Communication

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

Many partners continue to engage landowners and land managers to encourage maximum take-up of Environmental Stewardship schemes. There has also been excellent progress in raising awareness of schools and in promoting the initiatives of the Partnership. Lack of resources continues to hinder efforts to engage large sections of the wider public, particularly new audiences.

Objective 4a *Promote the aims and work of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership – EXCELLENT PROGRESS 06/08*

- The work of the Partnership and biodiversity partners was promoted through a major conference on Hampshire's biodiversity in November 2006.
- The Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership's website was substantially updated in 2008.
- The Partnership produced several guidance notes and reports, particularly to assist local authorities in incorporating biodiversity into their services.
- The work of the Partnership was promoted regionally and nationally through representation on key fora, seminars and other events.
- Members of the Partnership's steering group and topic groups have promoted the work of the Partnership, its aims and objectives through their networks.

Objective 4b *Promote biodiversity as beneficial to quality of life (health, wellbeing etc) and key to sustainable development – SOME PROGRESS 06/08*

- Through its Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan and Corporate Biodiversity Group, **Hampshire County Council** promotes the link between a sustainable future and conserving biodiversity. Health and wellbeing is one of four main outcomes for the HCC Corporate BAP 2008-11.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** promotes the contribution of biodiversity to quality of life in its many publications and events.
- **Butterfly Conservation** raises awareness of butterflies, moths, their habitats and makes links to quality of life and well-being.
- The **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** runs 'green gyms' to promote physical and mental wellbeing through practical conservation activities. BTCV are developing a pilot 'green gym' project for schools.
- Several districts, including **Gosport Borough Council** and **Rushmoor Borough Council**, actively promote the links between biodiversity and sustainability.

Objective 4c *Raise general awareness and commitment to biodiversity in the following 6 sectors (SOME PROGRESS 06/08 OVERALL):*

Many partners raise general awareness of biodiversity across a number of sectors. Activity in specific sectors is highlighted below.

public sector – some progress

- Ecologists and related staff in many districts gave biodiversity advice to colleagues in planning, land management and other service areas – for example **Rushmoor Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council** and **Fareham Borough Council**.
- **Hampshire County Council** ecologists raised awareness of members and staff through a wide range of initiatives from advice on statutory responsibilities to guidance on protocols and best practice.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** continued to give advice to partners in local government and government agencies on biodiversity issues.
- **Butterfly Conservation** provide annual reports and other materials on priority butterfly and moth species to local authorities and other public sector bodies.

farmers, landowners and other land managers – excellent progress

- **Hampshire County Council** and **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** raised awareness of landowners of SINC's through the Habitat Management Advisory Project. All landowners have been notified of SINC's in their ownership and offered management advice.
- Mechanisms for integrating land management support and advice to landowners have been investigated through the Hampshire Rural Pathfinder coordinated by **Hampshire County Council**.
- The **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group** held farmer workshops, events and talks.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** have a team of land-management advisors and have organised workshops and events for landowners.
- **Butterfly Conservation** held site meetings with managers/owners of several large estates and used Magdalen Hill Down reserve to demonstrate arable reversion to chalk grassland.
- Members of the **Hampshire Ornithological Society** provided information and carried out bird surveys of Hampshire farms.
- **Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group** held a great crested newt landowner event to encourage sympathetic management.
- **RSPB** held a wild bird seed mixture event for landowners.

business and industry – little/no progress

- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** run a corporate volunteer programme raising awareness of biodiversity in businesses e.g. through practical reserve management. **HWT** also run corporate team building days on several reserves (Swanick, St Catherines Hill, Flexford).
- The **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** have also worked with businesses to run practical conservation tasks for their employees.
- Others such as **Rushmoor Borough Council** have promoted environmental projects for corporate volunteer days.

education – excellent progress

- **Hampshire County Council** supported conservation education in schools through the annual 'Hampshire School Nature Watch' and through providing advice on large nature areas within school grounds.

- **HBIC** has audited the need for information on the natural environment by schools, community groups and the public.
- **Hampshire Ornithological Society** organised a fun bird watching day for school children and is working with the RSPB on a larger event.
- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** runs three education centres used regularly by school, college and university groups to increase awareness of local biodiversity. The Trust also has school liaison officers that visit county schools to raise awareness and a youth volunteering programme to raise awareness amongst young people. **HWT** has a full programme of talks, including events for brownies and after school groups.
- **Butterfly Conservation's** nature reserves are visited by schools and other educational groups. Advice has also been given on setting up butterfly gardens in schools.
- The **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** run workshops for Hampshire schools on improving school grounds for wildlife. **BTCV** also run a programme of training courses for members of public, land owners and people working in the environmental sector.
- The **New Forest National Planning Authority** has developed an education and interpretation strategy and support materials for schools e.g education fact sheets. The National Park Education Officer provides outreach services and is working with other partners.
- A number of other partners have run conservation tasks at schools, or given presentations or advice on wildlife in school grounds, e.g. **Fareham Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group.**

community/user groups – some progress

Many partners give talks or hold regular events for community groups, parish councils and other groups throughout Hampshire, including **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group, Gosport Borough Council** and others.

Specific initiatives include:

- Leaflets about hedgerow management for the brown hairstreak butterfly sent to relevant parishes by **Butterfly Conservation.**
- A quarterly newsletter produced for the **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** network of community conservation groups.
- Regular conservation tasks for conservation volunteer groups at **Fareham Borough Council** countryside sites.
- The **New Forest National Park Authority** established a community ranger post to work with young people in areas of the New Forest, in partnership with the **Forestry Commission** and the **National Trust.**
- **Portsmouth City Council** established a friends group for Eastney Beach.
- the **New Forest National Park Authority's** Sustainability Grant Fund contributed to establishing a community group supporting management at Lepe Country Park.

public – little/no progress

Although most partners have a variety of initiatives to raise awareness, there are considerable challenges in reaching large sections of the general public.

Specific initiatives in the reporting period include:

- **Hampshire Wildlife Trust** run the 'Wildline' information service, events for the public on HWT reserves, and raise public awareness through press releases, magazine articles, TV and radio. The Trust also secured HLF funding to prepare Loddon and Eversley Heritage and Wildlife Trails
- Partners such as **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Butterfly Conservation, Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group** exhibited at the BBC Breathing Places event in Southampton and other events
- **Rushmoor Borough Council** organised a biodiversity action event to encourage residents to become more active in nature conservation groups or wildlife gardening
- **Portsmouth City Council** erected interpretative boards at Eastney Beach
- **Gosport Borough Council** held many well attended events throughout the year including walks, talks and displays
- **Hampshire County Council** have a comprehensive programme of events at HCC Countryside sites and Country Parks. HCC started development of Hillier Gardens as a show case for conservation management and produced a nature trail and interpretative materials for visitors
- the **New Forest National Park Authority** provided interpretative messages and information to the public on threatened forest species as part of the 'Aren't Birds Brilliant' project

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.

Further information:

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- 🌐 www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk