

# HABITAT AND SPECIES ACTION PLANS

*Action plans for priority habitats and species in Hampshire will greatly assist conservation aims. Plans will set out detailed objectives and measurable targets. Implementation of each plan will be closely monitored.*

The audit of biodiversity described in the previous section has enabled the selection of habitats and species of priority concern. For each of the 21 key habitats identified, a detailed action plan is being prepared.

Action for most of the 444 priority species will be covered by relevant habitat action plans. In some cases national species plans will guide action for priority species in Hampshire. Where species cannot be easily accommodated by these plans, a specific species action plan will be prepared. Brief statements will be prepared for each of the 444 priority species, making the link with the relevant action plan.

Volume 2 of the Biodiversity Action Plan will include all of the habitat action plans. It will also identify the relevant action plan that has been, or will be, prepared for each priority species, and include some species action plans. More will be added as they become available.

## **Purpose and Scope of the Plans**

The overall aim of each action plan is to enable successful conservation or restoration of priority habitats and species. Each plan will provide an up-to-date and comprehensive review of the current status of these habitats and species, enabling effective and well-directed action.

Each plan will have several goals:

- to provide information
- to establish comprehensive targets for action
- to direct conservation action
- to raise awareness
- to provide a monitoring framework

Action plans will set the conservation direction, outline priorities, and present challenges to the many organisations and sectors involved. Each will help individual organisations to identify their role: for example, site management, provision of grant-aid, site protection, or perhaps influencing national policy. Plans will give a clear picture of the extent and type of action required and the funds needed for implementation.

The focus of each plan will be the action required at a variety of levels, from the local neighbourhood to national policies and programmes. A complementary goal will be to ensure that action in Hampshire contributes effectively to national objectives and targets.

Each plan should be seen as a working document. The plans will provide a reference point to monitor progress at regular intervals and will be updated over time. Additional species may have plans prepared if the UK Action Plan recommends them or if dictated by local circumstances.



52. Biodiversity at the field edge

**Content**

Each habitat or species action plan will have three main elements:

- Assessment - a summary of status, threats and action to date
- Objectives and Targets - detailed objectives with measurable targets
- Action Points - actions required to meet objectives and targets

Action plans will integrate all relevant previous work, and provide a comprehensive assessment of conservation needs. They will set out detailed objectives, and specific, measurable targets such as area of habitat to be re-created or restored. Targets will be based on funding that might be reasonably available, and indeed action plans may stimulate new resources. Action will be focused to reach targets at realistic yet ambitious timescales. Lack of comprehensive data will not be a barrier to setting targets, and indeed a target may be the improvement of data quality. Targets will be audited and reviewed as further information and resources become available.

Each plan will follow a standard format, ensuring a consistent approach and level of detail. Action plans for Hampshire will also be compatible with plans written for the same habitats and species nationally, and liaison will be undertaken with any neighbouring county preparing an action plan.

In striving to assimilate all pertinent information, action plans will integrate relevant proposals and approaches adopted in other plans and strategies: examples are forestry strategies, Local Environment Agency Plans, coastal management plans, local plans, regional planning guidance, landscape strategies, and projects such as the Hampshire Heathland Project and Wessex Coppice Group. In turn, the action plans will help to refine, develop and implement these other initiatives.

chapter 4



53. Grazing heathland



54. Using hazel coppice



55. Pond restoration

## FORMAT FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

### 1 Introduction

*Reasons for including the habitat in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire - international conservation concern; key habitat within the National Biodiversity Action Plan; habitat of particular Hampshire concern*

### 2 Current Status

**2.1 Description of habitat** - including its variation and associated species

**2.2 Distribution and extent** - regional, national and international context; distribution and extent in Hampshire

**2.3 Legislation and site designation**

**2.4 Summary of important sites**

### 3 Current Factors Affecting the Habitat

*Summary of the current factors causing loss, damage or reduction in quality of the habitat*

### 4 Current Action

**4.1 Site and species protection** - legislation and site designation

**4.2 Habitat management and programmes of action** - incentive schemes, habitat management projects, plans, strategies and policies

**4.3 Survey, research and monitoring** - audits, research into impacts, research into techniques for management/restoration etc.

**4.4 Action for species** - current action on priority species

### 5 Objectives and Targets

*Objectives and targets (timescales and areas) for habitat safeguard, management, restoration and expansion; objectives and targets for species conservation; taking into account national objectives and targets*

### 6 Proposed Action with Lead Agencies

*How the objectives and targets will be delivered, and by whom*

**6.1 Habitat protection and management** - site designation; policy changes; programmes for management, restoration and re-creation; special projects and the involvement of existing projects and initiatives

**6.2 Incentive schemes and other resources** - targeting and strengthening of incentive schemes; identifying and increasing other resources

**6.3 Species action** - action required for priority species

**6.4 Advice** - liaison with landowners and land managers; provision of support and information to relevant organisations

**6.5 Survey, research and monitoring** - to support local and national action plan objectives

**6.6 Communication and publicity** - raising awareness and providing information to all relevant sectors

### 7 Sources of Information

*Lists of projects, schemes, publications and contacts*

**FORMAT FOR SPECIES ACTION PLANS****1 Introduction**

*Reasons for including the species in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire - species of international conservation concern; priority species within the National Biodiversity Action Plan; species of particular Hampshire concern*

**2 Current Status****2.1 Ecology and habitat requirements****2.2 Population and distribution** - international, national and Hampshire**2.3 Legislation and site designation****2.4 Summary of important sites****3 Current Factors Affecting the Species**

*Summary of the current factors causing decline in populations and distribution*

**4 Current Action****4.1 Protection** - legislation and site designation**4.2 Site management and programmes of action** - habitat management, special projects e.g. recovery programmes; incentive schemes**4.3 Survey, research and monitoring** - audits; research into impacts; research into habitat requirements and habitat restoration techniques etc.**5 Objectives and Targets**

*Objectives and targets for maintaining and increasing species populations and distribution, taking into account national objectives and targets*

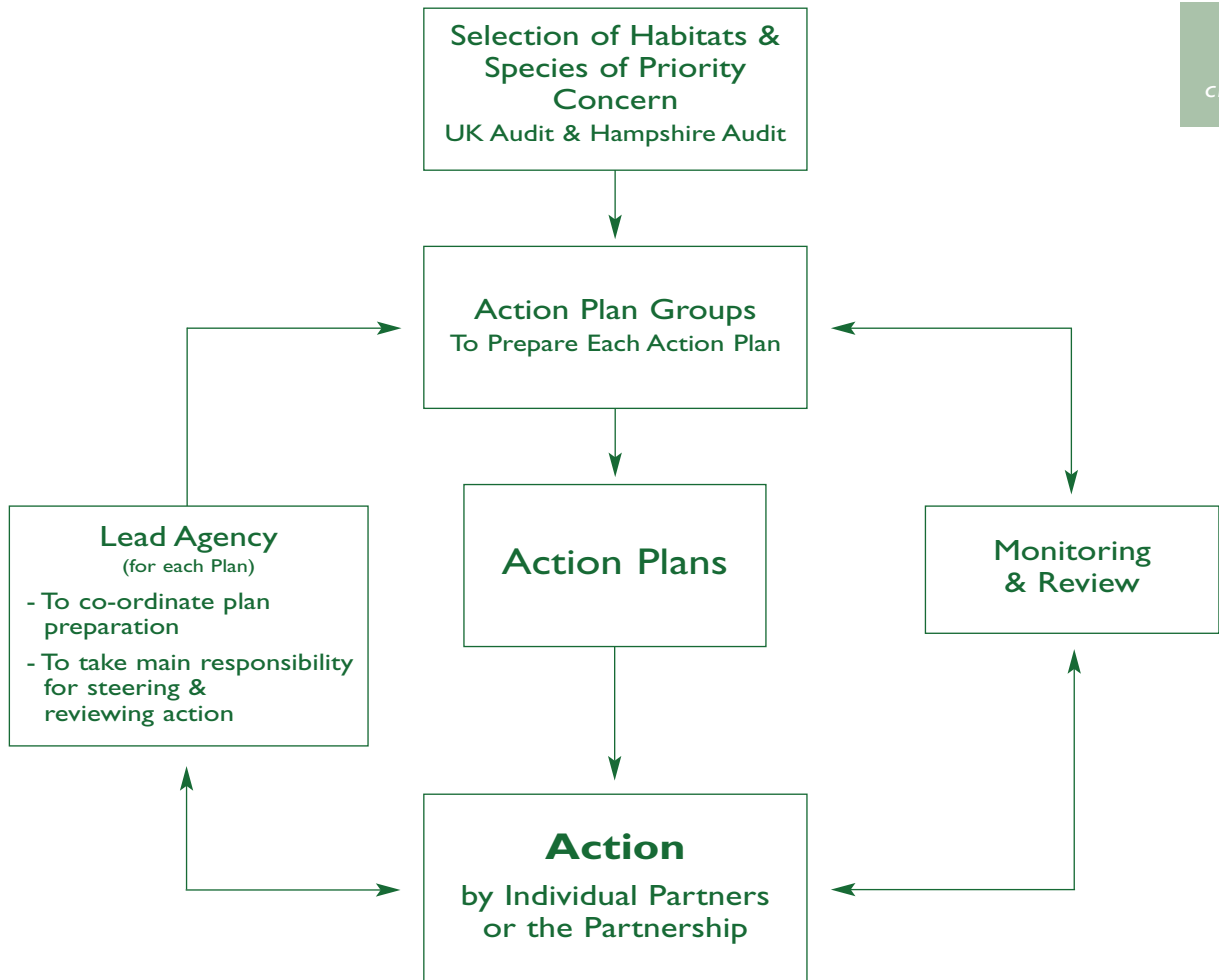
**6 Proposed Action with Lead Agencies**

*How the objectives and targets will be delivered, and by whom*

**6.1 Species protection and management** - site designation; policy changes; habitat management, restoration and re-creation; special projects**6.2 Incentive schemes and other resources** - targeting and strengthening of incentive schemes; identifying other resources**6.3 Advice** - liaison with landowners and land managers; provision of support and information to relevant organisations**6.4 Survey, research and monitoring** - to support local and national action plan objectives**6.5 Communication and publicity** - raising awareness and providing information to all relevant sectors**7 Sources of Information**

*Lists of projects, schemes, publications and contacts*

### HABITAT AND SPECIES ACTION PLANS



## chapter 4

**Preparation of Action Plans**

Each habitat or species action plan will be prepared by a working group or lead partner. The opportunity is open to all partners to be involved in the preparation of any plan. All plans will undergo wide consultation to ensure that plans are comprehensive, accurate, forward thinking and widely supported.

Each group or lead partner preparing a plan will involve those with specialist knowledge and those with a particular remit or ability to influence implementation. Preparation will also be guided by relevant national action plans and the South-east Regional Audit.

**Implementation**

Implementation of each action plan will be achieved through the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership acting collectively, individual partners taking action, or through the actions of others not yet involved. The issues and types of action required will vary widely between plans. On the whole, success will be best achieved through each partner identifying the way in which they can contribute. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food may wish to review the targeting of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme; a district council or AONB management committee may wish to identify land-use and management issues within a specific geographical area; or landowners may wish to review management objectives for their landholdings.

Nevertheless, encouragement or support will be needed to help some partners take action, or to focus efforts. Groups from within the Partnership will be established to oversee and monitor plans. A lead agency will be encouraged to oversee implementation of each plan. This key agency may be the organisation with the most direct influence on the particular habitat or species, but not necessarily so.

Some issues and action may be common across plans. Awareness of common objectives and action will be needed to ensure that action for one habitat or species is also targeted at other relevant habitats or species. For example, several different habitats would benefit from initiatives which encourage grazing. Also, there may be cases where action for one habitat or species works to the detriment of another habitat or species. Such cases will need careful review.

Monitoring progress will be essential. Plans will be continually monitored, with a full review every five years. Plans will also need to be reviewed as circumstances and issues change over time.

**HABITAT AND SPECIES ACTION PLANS: ACTION**

- *prepare action plans for 21 habitats*
- *prepare detailed action plans for individual priority species where these are not catered for by a national species action plan or Hampshire habitat action plan*
- *establish working groups or lead partners to prepare and promote the implementation of the plans*
- *identify a lead agency to adopt each habitat and species action plan and take the lead in monitoring, co-ordinating and encouraging action*
- *involve existing fora and projects in delivering action, for example the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Hampshire Woodland Forum and Hampshire Heathland Project*
- *establish partnership projects and initiatives to help implement action*
- *encourage individual partners to identify objectives and action relevant to their own activities and integrate these, with specific targeting and action, into their own work programmes*

56. Clearing scrub on heathland



57. Coastal vegetation