

28 Generic actions

28.1 Introduction

Many actions within this Biodiversity Action Plan occur across two or more of the individual habitat or species action plans. These have been brought together in this chapter, rather than be repeated. These actions form a key component of the whole BAP, particularly in the areas of lobbying, research and monitoring and communication and publicity.

28.2 Proposed actions

28.2.1 Policy and legislation

G1. Biodiversity Action Plans to be prepared for each district/borough by 2001.

Action: LA's.

G2. Establish a working group to investigate the resource implications of this BAP, by 1998.

Action: HEF, HCF.

G3. Lobby for improved incentives and advice through Countryside Stewardship or successor schemes for management, restoration and creation of habitats.

Action: RSPB, CLA, NFU, HMWT, WCCF.

G4. Lobby for a Chilterns ESA scheme to be introduced by 2002 to include options providing attractive financial incentives and advice for management of Wildlife Sites and to support low input farming systems.

Action: CC, HCC, HMWT, RSPB.

G5. Local Authorities to support the Wildlife Sites Project from 1998.

Action: LA's, HMWT.

G6. Ensure that all Wildlife Sites are identified in Local Plans at the next review and protected through appropriate development control policies.

Action: LA's, HBRC.

G7. Establish a national system of approved locally native seed supplies for use in grassland creation schemes, by 2000.

Action: MAFF, seed merchants, seed users.

28.2.2 Site safeguard and management

G8. Identify sites meeting Wildlife Site status by 1998.

Action: HMWT, HBRC.

G9. Seek to notify landowners of Wildlife Sites of their importance by 2001.

Action: HMWT.

G10. Develop a system for linking owners of Wildlife Sites with potential contractors and graziers, perhaps linked to the ENPACT database.

Action: EN, HMWT, CMS.

28.2.3 Species management and protection

G11. Prepare list of additional species requiring action plans, by 2000.

Action: HBRC, HMWT, HNHS, RSPB, BC, PL.

28.2.4 Advisory

G12. Establish demonstration farms in key areas to raise awareness and provide training and advice. Draw up initial objectives and target areas by 1999. Key issues include low input mixed farming, unimproved grasslands, hedgerows etc. Establish two farms by 2007.

Action: HCC, LEAF, FWAG, HMWT.

28.2.5 Research and monitoring

Research

G13. Complete Hertfordshire Habitat Survey by 1997.

Action: HMWT, HBRC, EN.

G14. Prepare and publish a Red Data Book for Hertfordshire, including rare/notable species for wetland habitats by 2000.

Action: HNHS, HBRC.

G15. Complete Flora Project by 2002.

Action: HNHS, HBRC.

G16. Within the Watling Chase Community Forest area, undertake a strategic study identifying suitable areas for the creation of woodland (Chapter 4), heathland (Chapter 6) and neutral grassland (Chapter 7) habitats, by 1998.

Action: WCCF, UH, HBRC, WHC, Hertsmere BC, SADC, HMWT.

G17. Within the Chilterns AONB undertake a strategic study identifying suitable areas for the creation of woodland (Chapter 4), heathland (Chapter 6), neutral grassland (Chapter 7) and new chalk grassland (Chapter 8) habitats, by 2000.

Action: CC.

G18. Develop a methodology to identify Key Biodiversity Areas and use this to refine the identification of HBAs in Hertfordshire by 2000.

Action: HBRC.

Monitoring

G19. Establish programmes to monitor and annually review the progress towards achieving targets set in all action plans by 1998.

Action: HEE, HCF.

G20. Devise and implement a strategy for recording/monitoring notable species, including Red Data Book species and key indicators of local habitat quality, by 2000.

Action: HBRC, HNHS.

G21. Encourage recording of plant and animal species through a programme of field events, training courses and seminars.

Action: HNHS, HBRC, HMWT, HBC, BC, RSPB.

G22. All biological data gathered in Hertfordshire to be passed to HBRC for entry into the county database.

Action: HNHS, HMWT, BC, CMS, LA's and others as appropriate.

G23. Devise and implement systems to record the extent of each habitat type being restored and re-created annually by 1998.

Action: HBRC, HMWT.

G24. Monitor the targets set for restoration and re-creation of habitats at least every five years from 1997.

Action: HBRC, HMWT.

28.2.6 Communication and publicity

G25. Site managers to provide interpretative materials for key woodland, neutral grassland, chalk grassland, heathland, wetland and urban habitats, including nature reserves, publicly accessible sites, demonstration, restoration and re-creation sites.

(There is a real need to highlight the benefits of sympathetic management in all interpretative material).

Target: at least five examples of each habitat type within five years.

Action: HCF, LA's, HMWT, CMS, WCCF, WT, RSPB.

G26. Seek to establish projects to help involve local communities in the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Action: LA's, Gwk, CMS, CDA, HMWT.

G27. Promote the Biodiversity Action Plan and individual plans.

Action: All.