

## Foreword

In 1998, as Hertfordshire's response to the national biodiversity planning process, a 50-year vision for the wildlife and natural habitats of Hertfordshire was prepared on behalf of the Hertfordshire Environmental Forum by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. This represented the first Biodiversity Action Plan for the county and was one of the earliest to be produced in England. It identifies those habitats and species which are a priority for conservation action and provides a valuable source of information on the county's natural assets.

In 2002, a Hertfordshire Biodiversity Officer was appointed and a review of the achievements against the targets identified within the action plans was undertaken. Progress was variable, with wetlands work considerably advanced, whilst other plans were less successful. During 2005/06, a review of the original habitat and species action plans, focussing solely on the objectives, targets and actions, was undertaken, led by the Biodiversity Officer and supported by the various leads of the species and habitat action plans. Additional species action plans were developed for Purple Emperor and Black-necked Grebe and an action plan for Traditional Orchards is nearing completion.

To help focus our activities during the next five years, the Biodiversity Action Plan is being relaunched by the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Partnership to incorporate the revised habitat and species action plans. This relaunch is timely, given the imminence of the East of England Plan, the increasing concerns about climate change and the need to seek biodiversity protection and gain within new planning frameworks. It is intended that this plan form the framework for action by the Biodiversity Partners, local authorities, businesses and the many voluntary groups associated with wildlife conservation across the County.

Judy Adams

Chair of the Biodiversity Partnership Group  
(Hertfordshire Environmental Forum)

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## Acknowledgements

Particular thanks must go to Graham White, who prepared the initial Biodiversity Action Plan on behalf of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust in 1998 for the Hertfordshire Environmental Forum. At that time many people contributed comments and ideas, in particular colleagues from the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre, local authorities, nature conservation organisations, English Nature and the Environment Agency, as well as a large number of individuals. As the bulk of the document remains unchanged, everyone who contributed to its production is thanked.

A large team of people were involved in revising the individual habitat and species action plans and thanks must go to the habitat and species working groups. Special thanks are due to the action plan leads:

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