

1.0 Primary Objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy:

- 1) *To provide clear guidance on why biodiversity needs conservation and enhancement*
- 2) *To strive for biodiversity gain in developments*
- 3) *To outline actions and targets for South Cambridgeshire District Council in order to secure biodiversity gain across all of its functions.*
- 4) *To outline opportunities for partnership working to achieve biodiversity gain.*
- 5) *To present policies to guide the working practices of the Council as a whole in order to achieve biodiversity gain.*

(insert pics of 1 - me on site giving guidance, 2- habitat creation at Cambourne, 3- pond creation to illustrate progress against BAP targets, 4 – illustrate GBP working at a wildlife sites, 5 – pic to illustrate policy)

2.0 Biodiversity Conservation – The Need

97% of wetlands in the Fens have disappeared since 1650, with 40% lost since 1930 (source: Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England).

In recent years awareness has grown of the pressure from development and changing land-uses upon biodiversity and its associated habitats. There is a need to safeguard biodiversity interest throughout the countryside and the built environment, and not just at specific sites. Apart from identifiable sites of biodiversity interest, Planning Policy Guidance Note 9: Nature Conservation (PPG9), requires that the value of areas providing corridors or stepping stones for biodiversity between one habitat and another be given proper consideration. Such corridors and stepping-stones may include woods, ponds, rivers, ditches and hedgerows. All of which contribute to the establishment of “functional green infrastructure” which is fundamental to the quality of life in the district.

PPG9 is currently under going a review process through open consultation. PPG9 is to be replaced by Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9). This document is currently attaching a greater weight to the conservation of biodiversity within the development control process. The policies within section 7 of this strategy reflect both PPG9 and the emerging principles of PPS9.

In its capacity as the Local Planning Authority the District Council has an obligation under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, to consider how development will affect biodiversity. The conservation and enhancement of an ecologically diverse countryside, and the built environment alike, is a prime consideration of this strategy. Very little of the landscape that we see today has not been influenced by Man. However, recent decades have seen an increased rate of change that has resulted in a significant loss of habitats including hedgerows, flower rich meadows, and wetlands. Other habitats, such as planted woodlands and grasslands, are fragmented and are unlikely to ever receive the transfer of species that occurred in the past, thus their potential to be ecologically rich is limited.

In 1994 “Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan” was published listing habitats and species considered to be threatened nationally. Whilst the national plans provide a framework for action, in order to deliver action on the ground County Biodiversity Action Plans have been produced.

The recent Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) for East Anglia, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, have emphasised the responsibility that Local Planning Authorities have in achieving the targets set out in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans. This draft strategy is therefore a contribution to meeting that requirement.

3.0 Policy Context

“Local authorities are pivotal to nature conservation in the UK. They have a central responsibility through forward planning and development control, yet their influence extends well beyond: from land ownership and habitat management, to education and community involvement.” Ecology In Local Government, Association of Local Government Ecologists, 1996.

The conservation and further enhancement of biodiversity within the modern dynamic setting of South Cambridgeshire depends upon the proper use of national and international law together with a strict adherence to guidance and an innovative approach to policy formulation based upon accurate data and a clear need.

Many aspects of the District Council’s activity have an impact on biodiversity so it is important that all Council Members and staff recognise that they can make a contribution to its protection and enhancement. Biodiversity conservation is also a significant element of sustainable development. It also contributes towards economic, social and environmental well-being.

3.1 Corporate

The District Council has four Corporate Objectives that set a general direction for the next 10 years. The objectives reflect medium term challenges facing the Council. In setting the objectives the views of the public were sought, priorities of Government were considered together with the development pressures facing the area alongside the general character of the district.

Objective	Statement	Relevance to biodiversity	Inter-departmental working opportunities
High Quality, Accessible, Value for Money Services	The Council will work to ensure that it provides the services that people expect, delivered in a way that is convenient and relevant to their needs.	Development sites can be the feature of pre-application assessments where guidance may be given upon biodiversity impact. Assistance can be offered to community wildlife schemes.	Development Services Community Services
Quality Village Life	The village is the cornerstone of life in South Cambridgeshire. The Council aims to improve quality of life through having a quality environment and sense of community, both important in a period of development pressure and other changes.	Conservation and maintenance of locally distinctive landscapes and species assists in creating a sense of place and continuity within the villages. Experiencing biodiversity adds a rich life experience to people within the countryside and for those visiting.	Communities Services. Sheltered housing Shire Homes (council housing stock) Environmental Health Sports Development Land Drainage Development Services
A Sustainable	Our actions in the next	The Local	Strategic

<p>Future for South Cambridgeshire</p>	<p>few years will shape the future of the district for many years to come and we are working towards a long-term sustainable future. In combination with other measures we aim to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that development plans and other policies drawn up in the next five years will lead to a quality of life which is supportable in the long term, through the completion of Local Plan No 2 and preparation of the Local Development Framework. b) Ensure that the major new settlements at Northstowe and around Cambridge lead to successful, sustainable communities. 	<p>Development Framework provides a mechanism by which to introduce a more robust set of Biodiversity Policies. This document will be proposed as a Supplementary Planning Document whereby it will become a material consideration within the planning framework of South Cambs.</p> <p>Biodiversity is seen a key test a sustainability by the Government. Biodiversity issues are being fed into the concept planning for the major new settlements.</p>	<p>Development Officer (Chief Ex) Performance Improvement Officer (Chief Ex) Land Drainage Development Services</p>
<p>A Better Future through Partnership</p>	<p>The Council will be a full participant in local partnerships working for a better future. We also wish to establish better dialogue with the public through improved communications, consultation and involvement in decision making. Key aspects of this objective are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Working with the Local Strategic Partnership to establish and monitor the Community Strategy b) Continuing to work with parish councils, particularly through parish council charters 	<p>In order to achieve a gain in biodiversity upon land that it does not control partnership working is crucial to the conservation of biodiversity across South Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Village Green Spaces are to be promoted through the Community Strategy. This will increase the local opportunities for people to experience biodiversity.</p> <p>Parish Plans will also be extremely important in guiding the local allocation of development land and for highlighting the</p>	<p>Community Services Land Drainage</p>

	and parish plans.	presence of species and habitats of value.	
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3.2 National Government

Guidance document	Statement	Relevance to biodiversity
"Working with the grain of nature – a biodiversity strategy for England" DEFRA, 2002	Takes account of the move to conserve biodiversity up to 2006. States that designated sites and species and habitat action plans are not enough; a fundamental shift in policy and behaviour is required across the board.	The strategy to mainstream biodiversity into all activities including business and urban areas. The strategy sets a work programme up to 2006 to be taken forward by the England Biodiversity Group.
"Better Quality of Life: a strategy for sustainable development in the UK" Government, 1999	Wildlife (populations of wildbirds) is included as one of the 15 Headline Indicators for Sustainable Development in the UK within the strategy. BAPs and native species at risk are included along with other landuse indicators.	The conservation of biodiversity at a local level can make a real contribution towards addressing national concerns.
"Consultation on Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation" ODPM, 2004	Reflects and refines previous guidance on Nature Conservation (PPG9). Outlines statutory obligations for nature conservation.	Places a clearer focus upon the need to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity. A supplementary good practise guide is to be produced.
"Draft Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system" ODPM, 2004	Sets out administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation.	States that it is "essential" to have data relating to the presence or otherwise of protected species before a planning permission is granted.
The Local Development Framework (LDF) for South Cambridgeshire (2004)	Sets out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the District for the period to 2016. It sets out a vision for the future of South Cambridgeshire and includes objectives and targets which developments must meet to secure that vision. Planning applications and other decisions will be made in accordance with it.	The LDF contains a comprehensive chapter on the Natural Environment. It states ten objectives, of particular relevance to this document is the objective, " <i>to protect and enhance biodiversity</i> ". This is further strengthened by the policy EN/5:Biodiversity which states, " <i>Development proposals will protect or enhance the biodiversity of its area</i> ".

3.3 Local Authority Documents

Guidance document	Statement	Relevance to biodiversity
Local Government Act, 2000 The preparation of Communities Strategies	<p>Places a statutory duty upon local authorities to prepare an overarching community strategy for the “economic, social and environmental well-being” of their area.</p> <p>Community Strategies must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. Biodiversity enhancement is a fundamental requirement to be included in community strategies as it is a cross-cutting “quality of life” issue.</p>	<p>The South Cambs Community Strategy places a significant emphasis on the enhancement of biodiversity in the district with a vision to achieve a:- “high quality environment with better access to a more biodiverse countryside which is protected and improved.”</p> <p>Actions to address this vision are established in Action 22 which seeks to:- “promote opportunities for access to the countryside including creating local greenspaces and biodiversity enhancement projects for wildlife habitats and planning to meet Strategic Open Space needs in the district.”</p>
The Local Development Framework (LDF) for South Cambridgeshire (2004)	<p>Sets out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the District for the period to 2016. It sets out a vision for the future of South Cambridgeshire and includes objectives and targets which developments must meet to secure that vision. Planning applications and other decisions will be made in accordance with it.</p>	<p>The LDF contains a comprehensive chapter on the Natural Environment. It states ten objectives, of particular relevance to this document is the objective, “<i>to protect and enhance biodiversity</i>”. This is further strengthened by the policy EN/5:Biodiversity which states, “<i>Development proposals will protect or enhance the biodiversity of its area</i>”.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy will be a fundamental component of the LDF as a “Supplementary Planning Document” which will outline the Council’s policy on the impact of the development on species and habitats.</p>

3.4 Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan

“In the last 200 years more species have become extinct than at any time in the last 65 million years” Biodiversity, EO Wilson (editor) (1990) National Academy Press, USA

The UK Government is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and seeks to meet its obligations under the convention through the biodiversity action planning process. Biodiversity Action Plans should be considered as the drivers for nature conservation across the UK, Counties and Districts for specific species and habitats.

In 2000 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was launched. This listed a total of 45 plans; with 26 Habitat Action Plans and 19 Species Action Plans. Five broad habitat themes encapsulate all of the species and habitat action plans. The broad themes are:

- Rivers and Wetlands
- Trees and Woodlands
- Farmland
- Urban
- Grasslands.

(insert page extract of Cambs BAP)

The full set of species and habitat action plans can be viewed at www.camcnty.gov.uk/sub/cntryside/biodiv

The Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) should be used to focus attention on species and habitats of particular relevance to South Cambridgeshire. The Cambridgeshire BAP has been produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and lists those species considered to be of particular importance at the county level. This Biodiversity Strategy consequently aims to contribute to the achievement of the Cambridgeshire BAP by providing guidance and stimulating action within South Cambs.

4.0 South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan

In addition to those species contained within the Cambridgeshire BAP the following species are to be considered of particular local importance in South Cambridgeshire:

Species	Reason
House sparrow	(TBC following input from BRC)
Barn owl	(TBC following input from BRC)
Native black poplar tree	Nationally scarce tree formerly of floodplain. Unknown number present within district. Use national BAP as guide document

From the Cambridgeshire BAP the following species and habitats have been selected to become the focus of the South Cambridgeshire District Council BAP:

Species / Habitat	Reason
Rivers and Streams	Rivers and river valleys have been the focus of species policies in Local Plans for many years. It is widely recognised that rivers and streams represent a major habitat resource within the landscape.
Otter	Otters are widespread along the Upper Cam and its tributaries. Work must be undertaken

	to ensure that the local environment continues to have the capacity to support otters.
Water vole	Water voles are widespread in some parishes. The species has the ability to live in close proximity with people if suitable habitat is maintained.
Woodland	Woodland provides a diverse habitat for many different species. The protection and creation of woodlands has been the focus of specific Local Plan policies. South Cambridgeshire is relatively poorly wooded.
Scrub	Changes in farming practise over the last forty years has resulted in many small fields becoming over-grown with scrub. Scrub can provide important habitat for many different species and should not be looked upon as over-grown waste land.
Old Orchards	Changes in farming practise over the last forty years has resulted in the loss of many orchards, particularly in the Fen edge villages.
Farmland (arable)	South Cambridgeshire is dominated by an arable landscape. Within this habitat important and declining species remain.
Ponds	Many farm and village ponds have been lost. This has negatively effected upon biodiversity. However, ponds can be relatively straight forward to recreate and can bring back wildlife.
Skylark	The skylark has been chosen as a national indicator of sustainability. Skylarks are still widespread in South Cambridgeshire.
Churchyards and Cemeteries	The tranquil environment of these sites can make them a small reserve for wildlife in otherwise busy areas. If sensitively managed they can be a place for people to quietly enjoy wildlife too.
Parks, shelterbelts and open-spaces	These features are often incorporated into new developments (particularly housing estates) and can provide people with a chance to experience biodiversity.
Great crested newt	The great crested newt receives full protection under law. It may often be encountered at smaller development sites within villages.
Lowland calcareous grassland	Grasslands were once extensive within the District. The diversity of wild flowers contained within chalk grasslands is of particular conservation interest.
Roadside Verges	Roadside verges constitute a significant area of grassland and provide important refuges for plant species lost from the wider countryside. Roadside verges also provide corridors for the movement of animals.
Meadows and pastures	Small meadows were once common within villages. Grazing upon nutrient rich soils created diversity within grass swards rather

than dominance by weed species.

The County BAP actions have been reviewed by the Biodiversity Steering Groups. These reviewed actions have been refined to produce a list of actions and targets specific to South Cambridgeshire District Council (see over page).

BAP actions and targets can very rarely be achieved in isolation. Partnership working is seen as key to achieving successful conservation. The table presented below builds upon the list of priority actions, as agreed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, and sets a focus for biodiversity conservation action within South Cambridgeshire. The following abbreviations used in the text:

BSG	-	Biodiversity Steering Group
CCC	-	Cambridgeshire County Council
SCDC	-	South Cambridgeshire District Council
BS	-	Biodiversity Strategy (for SCDC)
SPD	-	Supplementary Planning Document
CVF	-	Cam Valley Forum
EA	-	Environment Agency
GBP	-	Green Belt Project
WiT	-	Wildlife Trust
EN	-	English Nature
FRR&FD	-	Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke
BRC	-	Biological Records Centre (for Cambridgeshire Peterborough)
PCC	-	Parochial Church Council

The South Cambridgeshire District Council BAP is arranged to reflect the five broad themes of the Cambridgeshire BAP and also the published list of Priority BAP Actions. Each issue is presented beneath the appropriate broad theme heading, a target is proposed for the period 2005-2008 and the necessary action required to achieve the target is presented. Each BAP issue is given an individual reference number, for example "water vole population maintenance" falls within the "Rivers and Wetland" theme so it is denoted by the prefix "rw", the corresponding issue number in this case is "9" and the suffix of "wv" indicates that it is a water vole issues. The corresponding reference number thus becomes: BAP rw/9/wv.

The South Cambridgeshire District Council BAP contains a total of fifty-two issues and corresponding actions to guide biodiversity conservation across the district inline with the county and national BAPs.

**South Cambridgeshire District Council Biodiversity
Action Plan 2005- 2008**

Generic					
Issue	BAP Ref. no.	BAP Target 2005-2008	Action	Relevance to South Cambridgeshire	Lead Partner Secondary partner shown in ()
Community & Urban Projects i.e. "Living Lands" & "Village Green Space"	BAP gen/1	Progress 2 Village Green Space projects per year. Input to 2 parish plans by June 2006.	Continue in advisory role to BSG. Identify suitable parishes for Village Green Space projects. Explore the set-up of the "Living Lands" project with CCC.	Partnership projects to deliver community action on biodiversity issues contributing to the Community Strategy.	CCC, SCDC (BSG)
Repeat Survey of Landscape Change	BAP gen/2	Produce report of key landscape change statistics by Nov.2005 (<i>do CCC have enough baseline info to assess change?</i>)	Assess changes in key habitats, such as length and condition of hedgerows, ponds, roadside verges, rivers and County Wildlife Sites across the county Likely to require the provision support funding.	Potential partnership project. Will provide the quantitative information on countryside features to assist impact evaluation.	CCC, BRC (SCDC)
Annual Publicity Strategy	BAP gen/3	4 articles in local press per year. 1 radio interview per year. Report general progress to Conservation Advisory Group in Spring of each year. Produce biennial	Produce press releases following appropriate activities. Establish a media strategy with SCDC Communications teams, and link to Publicity Working Group of the Biodiversity Partnership.	Will promote the range of biodiversity activities within the district and inform the general public of where opportunities for partnership working might exist.	SCDC

		summary of progress against targets for public information starting in October 2006.			
Natural Heritage Awards Ceremony	BAP gen/4	To be held biennially (started Autumn 2004)	Arrange publicity Assist in selecting suitable short-list	Enables SCDC to celebrate the range of biodiversity and landscape based projects within the district	SCDC
Management of Council Owned Sites	BAP gen/5	Ensure at least 4 sites containing BAP habitats and species owned by SCDC are sensitively managed by April 2007. Establish Wildlife Gardening Group for Cambourne Offices by June 2005.	Collate list of all sites and species by Sept 2006. Review existing management, and establish were opportunities to vary practise may exist. <i>(requires site assessments)</i>	Will demonstrate good practise in action on SCDC owned sites (note that these sites may not be accessible to the general public, see "Open Spaces" for accessible sites.) Applicable to selected council residencies. Litlington Chalk Pit and Milton Country Park should be seen as priority sites.	SCDC
RIVERS AND STREAMS					
Issue	BAP Ref. no.	BAP Target 2005-2008	Action	Relevance to South Cambridgeshire	Lead Partner Secondary partner shown in ()
Maintenance of Award Watercourses (streams)	BAP rw/1/gen	Implement best practise on 1 new Award Watercourses per year and monitor the impact through suitable	Agree best practise procedure with Land Drainage Manager by July 2005 Survey 1 "stream-type" Award	South Cambs contains a number of ecologically diverse watercourses. Will build upon ecological data already gathered.	SCDC

		surveys. Secure habitat enhancement upon at least 1 Award Watercourse per year.	Watercourses per year.	Will ensure recognition of habitat value of Award Watercourses.	
Cam Valley Forum	BAP rw/2/gen	Establish partnership project delivering community based river enhancement projects by Sept 2005.	Continue to attend committee meetings. Provide input of ecological information and contact base	River Cam and its tributaries constitute an important biodiversity resource across the entire district.	CVF (SCDC)
Rivers and Streams Conservation Management Strategy	BAP rw/3/gen	Produce an over-view of important Award watercourse by July 2005	Provide information to BSG for the production of a Rivers and Streams Conservation Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire based on habitat management and enhancement plans for individual rivers and streams. Provide an input for Award watercourses in S Cambs together with the Land Drainage. Survey 1 "stream-type" Award Watercourses per year.	South Cambs contains a number of ecologically diverse watercourses. Will identify watercourses of particular value from where BAP species can colonise new sites. Will identify enhancement opportunities that might be undertaken through development proposals.	BSG
Ecologically sensitive development adjacent to watercourses.	BAP rw/4/gen	Identify and publicise a development site that demonstrates good practise with respect to the integration of water-based biodiversity by	Ensure that development adjacent to watercourses is ecologically sensitive, and takes account of floodplain habitats. Ensure	Development control process can assist in protection of the water environment. Sensitive "bio-engineering" can provide flood protection and new	EA/SCDC

		<p>April 2006.</p> <p>Identify and publicise a development site that demonstrates integration of biodiversity and flood protection by April 2007.</p>	<p>implementation of the water protection policies (EN2, EN12 & EN45) of the Local Plan, 2004</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of undeveloped bufferzones adjacent to water features.</p> <p>Increase the integration of SUDS to attenuate run-off via wetland complexes.</p>	<p>habitats.</p> <p>May facilitate achievement of other targets, i.e. wetland creation.</p>	
Cam Sustainable Farming Project	BAP rw/5/gen	<p>Secure delivery of 2 significant habitat enhancement projects by April 2007.</p>	<p>Continue to input to progress meetings.</p> <p>Assist in identifying farm-based projects and providing technical guidance.</p> <p>Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate.</p>	<p>Partnership project</p> <p>Provides a link with the farming community through FWAG</p>	FWAG (SCDC)
Large wetland habitat creation	BAP rw/6/gen	<p>Secure the creation of 100 hectares of new wetland habitat by 2008 (<i>fig originates from County wet grassland total divided by 4</i>)</p>	<p>Support the progression of significant projects such as the Cambridge Rowing Lake, Coton Farming and Wildlife Reserve wetland area and the Wicken Fen expansion.</p> <p>Continue in advisory role to Rowing Lake and Coton Farming and Wildlife Reserve.</p> <p>Facilitate delivery of S106 funding to</p>	<p>Will act as "flag ship" projects to show how visionary projects can significantly contribute to habitat creation and accessible open space.</p>	SCDC

			Wicken Fen Vision through appropriately linked developments.		
Drainage Ditches - Maintenance of Award Watercourse	BAP rw/7/dit	Implement best practise on 1 new Award ditches per year and monitor the impact through suitable surveys.	Agree best practise procedure with Land Drainage Manager by July 2005	Will demonstrate good practise in action.	SCDC
Drainage Ditches - Identify important Award drainage ditches.	BAP rw/8/dit	Produce overview of important Award Watercourses by July 2005.	Survey 1 "ditch-type" Award Watercourses per year.	Will build upon ecological data already gathered. Will ensure recognition of habitat value of ditches.	SCDC
Water vole - Population maintenance	BAP rw/9/wv	Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution (<i>use GBP survey of 1996 as baseline</i>)	Identify localities with potential for water voles to and ensure data shared with development control.. Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate.	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC
Water Vole Project	BAP rw/10/wv	Produce water vole distribution map of South Cambs by July 2005. Secure specific water vole habitat enhancement work at least 2 sites by 2008.	Provide assistance and technical guidance to Water Vole Project Officer.	Water voles are widespread in parts of the district. Due to Protected Species status accurate distribution is required to guide decision making.	BSG (SCDC)
Otter - Population maintenance	BAP rw/11/ott	Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution (<i>use Nat. Otter Survey of England '91-'94 for baseline plus GBP data</i>)	Identify localities with potential for otters and ensure data shared with development control. Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate.	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC

Otter - Semi-natural river frontages.	BAP rw/12/ott	Watercourses adjacent to, or within, new development sites to incorporate "otter-friendly" features by Dec 2007. Riparian developments shall maintain undisturbed semi-natural river frontages.	Influence development control process to secure sensitive development in-line with the Design Guide.	Otters are widespread in South Cambs. Otters are a flagship species indicating healthy rivers.	SCDC
Otter - Continue low key monitoring programme.	BAP rw/13/ott	Produce otter distribution map of South Cambs by July 2005	Continue low key monitoring programme, until repeat of 2007 county wide survey Assist in survey planning. Use GBP to undertake surveys.	Otters are widespread in South Cambs. Due to Protected Species status accurate distribution is required to guide decision making.	BSG/GBP (SCDC)
White-clawed crayfish - Population Monitoring and Enhancement <i>RETAIN?</i>	BAP rw/14/wcc	Secure habitat enhancement to last known population in partnership with EA by June 2006	Assist in survey planning. Provide guidance upon habitat enhancement planning and implementation	Were formally widespread in Rhee catchment. Due to Protected Species status accurate distribution is required to guide decision making.	EA (SCDC)
TREES AND WOODLAND					
Issue	BAP Ref. no.	BAP Target 2005-2008	Action	Relevance to South Cambridgeshire	Lead Partner Secondary partner shown in ()
Woodland Creation	BAP tw/1/cre	Produce vision of woodland creation areas	Provide advisory role upon identification of suitable sites for	Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded counties in	WiT (SCDC)

		by April 2006. Increase total amount of woodland across the district by 10% by 2008 (<i>fig is the County BAP target</i>)	woodland creation. Through partnership opportunities and the development control process identify suitable sites for woodland creation.	the country. Will need to be considered against future land-use planning needs and landscape character. NB – not all sites are suitable for woodland creation, i.e. herb rich grasslands.	
Ancient woodlands	BAP tw/2/anc	Ensure no net loss of ancient woodlands as result of development. (<i>is there any baseline info?</i>) Conserve, enhance and expand 25% of notable ancient woodlands (<i>this fig is half of the County 10yr target</i>)	Through partnership opportunities and the development control process identify suitable sites for woodland creation. Provide support for the SW Cambs Woodland Linkage project	South Cambs contains a limited number of fragmented ancient woodlands. Will demonstrate how large-scale habitat creation can enhance the landscape and biodiversity of an area.	SCDC (WiT)
Scrub	BAP tw/3/scr	Secure positive management regimes for 2 acres of scrub within new developments by March 2007.	Promote awareness of the habitat value provided by scrub, particularly for nesting birds.	Changes in landuse can often leave scrub habitats to naturally develop. The areas are often looked upon as untidy and of low value. In a relatively poorly wooded district scrub represents an important woodland resource.	SCDC
Old Orchards	BAP tw/4/orc	Secure positive management regimes for 2 acres of old orchard by March 2007.	Promote awareness of the habitat value provided by scrub, particularly for feeding birds. Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate.	Orchards were once much more widespread across the district. As landuse has changed and pressure for development increased many orchards have been lost.	SCDC (GBP)
Native Black Poplar	BAP tw/5/blp	Produce database of all known native black poplar	Promote awareness of the value of the native black	South Cambs still holds a small number of the native black poplar tree,	SCDC (GBP & EA)

		grassland annually until 2008.	chalk grassland. Influence landscaping schemes to avoid inappropriate planting, such as copses, on area with grassland potential (NB – planting of screening shrubs and trees may be required at some sites, a balance must be struck).	grasslands. Will need to be considered against future land-use planning needs.	
Linear Site Projects	BAP gr/3/cg	Achieve completion of integrated Site Management Plans by May 2005. Implement actions from Site Management Plans appropriate to SCDC according to plan timeframe.	Seek to create chalk grassland adjacent to Fleam Dyke & Roman Road Continue in advisory role to the Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke. Continue to input to site management groups	These two linear features represents some of the most important grassland within the district. Will need to be considered against future land-use planning needs.	EN/GBP/FRR&FD
Creation of acid grassland.	BAP gr/4/ag	Facilitate the creation or restoration of 0.5 hec. of grassland by 2006.	Explore opportunities for creating acid grassland on greensand around Gamlingay. Should avoid inappropriate planting, such as woods, on areas with grassland potential.	South Cambs once contained larger areas of this habitat which is now of a very limited distribution in the district.	WIT (SCDC)
Creation and Restoration of neutral grasslands or hay meadows.	BAP gr/5/mp	Facilitate the creation or restoration of 1 hec. of neutral grassland annually until 2008.	Identify opportunities for creation or restoration of neutral grasslands or hay meadows. Seek	Floodplains and cattle pastures were previously main components of this habitat. Will need to be considered against future land-use	FWAG/SCDC

hedgerows.		<p>protocol, implement by June 2006</p> <p>Provide 2 demonstration of sites where hedgerows have been preserved and successfully integrated within new developments.</p>	<p>hedgerows in key areas (woodland creation priority areas) across the district.</p> <p>Protection of existing hedgerows should be seen as the priority.</p>	<p>few ancient or species-rich hedgerows. Those that remain should be conserved.</p> <p>Will provide accurate information on distribution and quality in order to guide habitat creation and linkage, in addition to mitigation schemes.</p>	
Hedgerow Restoration and Creation	BAP fm/3/hed	<p>Achieve 1km of hedgerow planting per year.</p> <p>Achieve 0.5km of hedgerow restoration per year.</p>	<p>Promote hedgerow restoration and creation through agri-environment schemes</p> <p>Identify partnership opportunities to achieve planting of new hedges.</p>	South Cambs is deficient in hedgerows.	FWAG/CCC/SCDC
Barn Owl - Population Maintenance	BAP fm/4/bowl	<p>Ensure no loss of known breeding sites. <i>(use Cambs Bird Atlas '94 as baseline?)</i></p> <p>Seek specific nest site creation within 5 suitable developments by 2008.</p>	Ensure that development control has appropriate data on barn owl distribution.	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC
Sky lark - Population Maintenance	BAP fm/5/skl	<p>Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution <i>(use Cambs Bird Atlas '94 as baseline?)</i></p> <p>Increase breeding population distribution to at least 95% of tetrads across the district by 2008. <i>(survey info required)</i></p>	Promote awareness of localities with potential for sky lark.	Conservation of this species is a key indicator of sustainable development.	SCDC
Sky lark - Mitigation for the loss of	BAP fm/6/skl	Secure habitat mitigation for	Ensure suitable mitigation is in	Skylarks are widespread upon the	FWAG/SCDC

farmland habitats.		skylark, and other locally important farmland species, within a major development proposal by Aug 2006.	place where farmland habitat is lost Ensure consideration is given to the presence of skylark when development proposals present negative impacts.	arable landscape of South Cambs.	
Management and Restoration of Ponds. (See BAP target for Great Crested Newt)	BAP fm/7/pd	Facilitate the management and/or restoration of 2 ponds per year until 2008. Arrange for surveys of 8 selected ponds for general assessment of biodiversity value by May 2008	Ensure positive management of ponds Existing ponds should be surveyed and habitat assessments undertaken in order to guide management.	South Cambs has lost many of its ponds as agriculture has changed. Development may provide the impetus and resources to restore ponds.	GBP/SCDC
Creation of New Ponds.	BAP fm/8/pd	Influence the creation of at least 2 new ponds per year.	Ensure designs of balancing ponds include features for biodiversity. Ensure community ponds have resources and guidance for future management.	South Cambs has lost many of its ponds as agriculture has changed Development may provide the impetus and resources to restore ponds. Ponds bring biodiversity to the centre of new developments.	SCDC
URBAN					
Issue	BAP Ref. no.	BAP Target 2005-2008	Action	Relevance to South Cambridgeshire	Lead Partner Secondary partner shown in ()

Built environment - Biodiversity within developments	BAP urb/1/ben	Incorporate specific feature for biodiversity within 3 new major developments and 2 smaller developments per year.	Develop detailed and appropriate planning policy to guide the provision of innovative biodiversity enhancement measures. Ensure that appropriate protection measures are in place during construction to sustain current biodiversity interest of sites.	The high demand for development needs to demonstrate innovative ways in which to provide for the protection and further enhancement of biodiversity.	SCDC
Churchyards and cemeteries - Positive management for biodiversity	BAP urb/2/ch	Ensure all SCDC managed churchyards have an agreed management plan in place, and are implemented by 2006. Seek to influence 1 other non-Council maintained site by March 2007	Ecology Officer to meet with appropriate persons, establish management needs and produce plans. Distribute advisory booklets as appropriate.	Churchyards provide a quiet area for people to enjoy biodiversity.	SCDC (PCC)
Allotments as areas for biodiversity and people.	BAP urb/3/alt	Influence the design or management of 2 allotment sites by Feb 2006.	Promote allotments as areas for biodiversity and healthy living. Avoid the unmitigated loss of allotments.	Small-holdings and allotments were once common in many villages. Allotments are being lost through change affecting many villages.	WIT/SCDC
Parks, Shelterbelts and open Spaces - Guidance on the Provision and Management of Open Spaces for Biodiversity.	BAP urb/4/osp	Produce Design Guidance on the provision and management of open spaces as an SPD to the LDF that takes full account of	Ensure that the policy framework is appropriately focussed to incorporate biodiversity issues.	Fundamental part of the LDF which will have a significant impact on biodiversity.	SCDC

		<p>biodiversity interests by Nov 2006.</p> <p>Identify and promote a development proposal that integrate biodiversity with open spaces provision and management by April 2006.</p>			
Parks, Shelterbelts and open Spaces - Management Plans for SCDC Managed Open Spaces.	BAP urb/5/osp	Produce and implement wildlife friendly management plans for SCDC managed open spaces by April 2007.	Undertake audit of where council maintained land is, and where there are opportunities to adjust standard management by Sept 2006.	SCDC maintains hecs. of open space.	SCDC
Great Crested Newt - Population Maintenance	BAP urb/6/gcn	Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution (<i>requires amalgamation of EN, SCDC and WiT, is there a baseline for the species?</i>)	<p>Ensure that development control has the appropriate data on the current distribution of great crested newts.</p> <p>Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate to increase awareness of the habitat needs of the species.</p>	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC
Great Crested Newt - Targeted Surveys of Key Parishes.	BAP urb/7/gcn	<p>Ensure all data on great crested newts is shared with the BRC by September 2005.</p> <p>Continue to undertake limited number of initial site surveys on an ad-hoc basis provide all data to BRC.</p>	<p>Collate SCDC information and ensure distribute to BRC.</p> <p>Key parishes for the species should be targeted for surveys and management advice provided to the owners.</p> <p>Investigate the potential of establishing a</p>	Due to Protected Status accurate distribution is required to guide decision making.	GBP & BRC (SCDC)

			network of "Newt Wardens".		
Great Crested Newt - Creation and restoration of ponds	BAP urb/8/gcn	Facilitate the creation or restoration of 1 pond specifically for great created newts per year.	Work with owners to create and restore ponds suitable for GCN. Seek opportunities for terrestrial habitat creation.	Development opportunities may provide the impetus for habitat creation.	GBP, SCDC
Bats - Population maintenance	BAP urb/9/bat	Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution <i>(requires amalgamation of EN, SCDC and Bat grp records, did the Cambs Mammal Atlas get published?)</i>	Ensure that development control has the appropriate data on the current distribution of bat species. Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate to increase awareness of the habitat needs of bats.	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC
Ensure development proposals account for the habitat needs of bats.	BAP urb/10/bat	Ensure that bat surveys are undertaken on at least 4 development applications per year. Secure habitat creation measures upon 2 planning applications per year in addition to any required due to the species legal protection.	Initiate appropriate surveys of possible bat sites. Provide expertise to development control on the evaluation bat issues within development applications.	Due to Protected Status accurate distribution is required to guide decision making.	SCDC
Wimpole and Eversden Wood Special Area of Conservation for the Barbastelle Bat.	BAP urb/11/bat	Produce specific district-based guidance upon the Habitat Regs and the Barbastelle Bats for planning staff	Ensure all development proposals with potential to impact upon the Wimpole and Eversden Wood Special Area of Conservation	The presence of the Barbastelle bat population is of European importance requiring specific conservation measures to be followed.	SCDC

		by April 2005. (seek up-dated info from the Cambs Bat Grp)	are suitably screened and evaluated with respect to the Barbastelle bat population. Ensure that development control has the appropriate data on the current distribution of the bat and its habitat needs.		
House sparrow - Population maintenance	BAP urb/12/hsp	Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution. (seek stats. From bird club)	Promote awareness of the localities with populations of, and potential for, house sparrows.	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC
Song Thrush - Population maintenance	BAP urb/13/sthr	Ensure no net loss of overall population distribution. <i>(is it ok to use Cambs Atlas '94 as the baseline?)</i> Increase breeding population distribution to at least 95% of tetrads across the district by 2008. <i>(survey info required)</i>	Promote awareness of the localities with populations of, and potential for, song thrush. Distribute advisory leaflets as appropriate.	Conservation of species is a key text of sustainable development.	SCDC
Ensure development proposals account for habitat needs of song thrush.	BAP urb/14/sthr	Seek habitat creation measures upon 2 planning applications per year.	Ensure development proposals do not compromise the habitat needs of the species without appropriate mitigation or compensatory habitat creation.	Song thrush are widespread across the district, often making use of mature gardens.	SCDC