EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Biodiversity Action Plan for Eastleigh Borough

## 2012-2022

www.eastleigh.gov.uk/biodiversity

December 2012


Itchen Valley

Biodiversity Action Plan
for Eastleigh Borough
**2012-2022**


Hamble Esturary

# Executive summary

This document sets out a revised Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Eastleigh Borough, building on the first BAP, "Wild about Eastleigh", published in 2002. Much was achieved during the life of the first plan, but provision of advice to private owners of local wildlife sites and other land outside Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), in order to restore and create habitat, was limited.

These difficulties are echoed in the findings of recent national reviews which have emphasised that biodiversity is highly important to people's wellbeing and economic prosperity, but found it is undervalued and many priority habitats and species are still in decline.

## Threats and pressures on biodiversity in the borough fall into five categories:

- Habitat Loss or damage as a result of development
- Habitat decline and loss through lack of appropriate management
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Lack of Knowledge about species and habitats
- Invasive Non-Native Species

The borough's biodiversity has been assessed using up to date biodiversity information. This Plan sets out where conservation action should be focussed by the Borough Council and its partners over the ten years 2012 – 2022 to address these threats and pressures.

## This Biodiversity Action Plan has identified:

- 10 Priority Biodiversity Areas (PBA's), which contain hotspots for biodiversity, and are areas where conservation action can achieve the greatest biodiversity gain;
- 15 Priority Biodiversity Links (PBL's), where conservation work can achieve biodiversity stepping stones or corridors for wildlife movement;
- 18 Borough Priority Habitats;
- c. 500 Borough Priority Species;
- Actions across the Borough and within the Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links to achieve the greatest possible benefits for biodiversity.


Hazel Dormouse

Biodiversity Action Plan
for Eastleigh Borough
**2012-2022**


Monks Brook Woodland

# Contents




Adders Tongue Fern


Watervole


Cuckoo Flower


Common Lizard

# Appendices




Red Fox




Great Crested Newt

# Introduction and background

## Definition of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all life. It includes all rare and common species of animals and plants, the complex ecosystems which they are part of and which support them, and their physical environment e.g. soils.

## Benefits of Biodiversity

Biodiversity and the natural environment are linked together in structures and functions known as ecosystems. The benefits of biodiversity are immense - human survival depends upon the services they provide.

**Biodiversity provides**

- All our food, water and clean air
- Organic materials such as timber, wool, cotton
- Many of our medicines
- Diverse wild species, that pollinate our crops and control pests and diseases

**It regulates our environment:**

- Healthy working wetlands protect against the impacts of floods
- Diverse natural vegetation helps rainfall to top up groundwater and protects against soil erosion
- Robust natural systems help provide a buffer against the effects of climate change and other disturbances

**It provides cultural and health benefits:**

- Creating relaxing, enjoyable places for recreation
- Contact with nature provides physical and mental health benefits

These benefits are increasingly referred to as Ecosystem Services. Natural habitats and systems often provide the most sustainable cost effective ways of meeting human needs. Artificial engineered solutions are expensive and may not work as well.


Water Vole


River Itchen

## Previous Biodiversity Action Plan 2002-12

Many of the borough's valuable wildlife habitats declined significantly in the last sixty years.

The first Biodiversity Action Plan, entitled 'Wild about Eastleigh - a biodiversity action plan for the borough', was published by Eastleigh Borough Council in 2002. It was drawn up with the help of partner organisations, community groups and local experts, covering all areas of the borough. It set out action needed to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity to halt and reverse these declines, which can be taken forward by any organisation or person in their local area.

Chapters one and two of 'Wild about Eastleigh' provide a wealth of relevant information on policy and legislative background to the BAP, as well as the social and natural history of the borough. This information is not repeated in this Plan, but it still remains a relevant evidence base for this document.

## Achievements and Progress

Much progress was made under the previous plan during 2002-12:

- The Local Plan Review (adopted 2006), which guided development in the borough, contained a specific chapter on nature conservation. It set out policies for the conservation of important international, national and local wildlife sites, features of biodiversity importance, and protected species, with a requirement for enhancement where opportunities existed.
- A variety of projects have been undertaken by partner organisations, parish councils and local community groups. An example is the Itchen Navigation Project which has sensitively restored miles of historic public footpath and wildlife rich habitats within the internationally important River Itchen Valley, reconnecting people and wildlife.
- There has been significant take-up of land management advice and agri-environment incentive schemes on nationally important wildlife sites (SSSIs) to enable the vast majority (97% by area in the borough) to be returned to a favourable or recovering condition.
- New Local Nature Reserves have been designated by Local Authorities, including Netley Common by Hampshire County Council, and Hocombe Mead by Eastleigh Borough Council.

However, some actions have been more difficult to achieve:

- The provision of management advice to owners and managers of local wildlife sites (SINCs) and other habitats, and achieving positive practical biodiversity management on these sites, has been limited.
- Creation and restoration of habitats on private land outside SSSIs has also been limited. This has been mainly due to the funding priorities of partner organisations and the difficulties in resourcing projects which can engage and support private land managers.


*Common Blue on Trefoil*


*Diverse Grassland*

## Biodiversity in Decline

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) published in June 2011 gives a comprehensive account of how the natural world, including its biodiversity, provides us with "ecosystem services" that are critical to our wellbeing and economic prosperity (see list on page 6). However, this assessment also showed that nature is consistently undervalued in decision-making; that many of the services we get from nature are in decline; and that over 40% of priority habitats and 30% of priority species were declining.

The Lawton Review "Making Space for Nature" (2010), concluded that England's collection of wildlife areas (both legally protected areas and others) does not currently represent a coherent and resilient ecological network capable of responding to the challenges of climate change and other pressures, and a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea is required. It summed-up what needs to be done to establish a more coherent and resilient ecological network in four words: **more, bigger, better and joined-up.**

Building on this, the England Biodiversity Strategy 2020, published in 2011, sets out the measures which should be taken nationally to halt the alarming decline in biodiversity still being observed today.


Autumnal Scrub


Adder

# Review of the Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan

The Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed in light of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA), the Lawton Review and the England Biodiversity Strategy 2020. The Eastleigh Borough BAP has the following aims:

## Aims

1. To establish coherent and resilient ecological networks that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people against the challenges of climate change and other pressures.
2. To identify, protect, maintain, restore, create and enhance priority habitats.
3. To identify, protect, maintain, restore and enhance viable populations of priority species.
4. To focus conservation action in Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links to achieve maximum biodiversity benefit.

Although published by Eastleigh Borough Council, the review has been carried out in partnership and close consultation with a range of other organisations including the Environment Agency, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Natural England. It is not a plan of action just for Eastleigh Borough Council, but for all organisations with a role to play in conserving Biodiversity in the Borough of Eastleigh.

## Threats and Pressures

Many of the threats and pressures described in the previous Biodiversity Action Plan 'Wild about Eastleigh' (2002-12) remain. Examples of these are set out below in five general categories, with action which can be taken to address them at a Borough-wide or more local scale.

## Habitat Loss or damage as a result of development

Development can have a direct or indirect impact on biodiversity if it destroys or damages valuable wildlife habitats.

***Example of Direct Impacts:*** New buildings, roads and gardens will permanently destroy any habitat they are built on.

***Examples of Indirect Impacts:*** New development adjacent to a wetland habitat may cause it to dry out by reducing or changing the flow of water into it. New housing next to woodland may result in increased disturbance and trampling as a result of more people visiting it. Both these impacts will alter the types and/or numbers of species the habitat supports.


Reptile Translocation


Bank Vole

***Action:*** Most development requires planning consent from the Local Authority. All planning applications are screened for biodiversity impacts and policies are applied which aim to protect wildlife from damaging effects.

## Habitat decline and loss through lack of appropriate management

Many habitats have developed as a result of human intervention and management over hundreds of years, and will decline and may be lost if management changes or discontinues.

***Examples - grassland:*** Removing grazing animals from a flower-rich grassland or heathland allows scrub and trees to grow, leading to the loss of the original habitat. Use of fertiliser and herbicides on flower-rich grassland will benefit grasses at the expense of flowering plants and reduce the variety of species. Grazing too many animals or grazing at unsuitable times of year may churn up the ground, damaging rare plants and allowing weeds to become established.

***Example - woodland:*** the historic practice of coppicing within woodland opens up sunny glades. If this stops, the shade from the resulting tree growth suppresses light loving plants and insects which thrive in sunny conditions.

***Example - Ownership:*** Where important habitats become divided into small parts between multiple owners, this makes it more difficult for a whole site to be managed appropriately. This problem becomes acute where important habitats are adjacent to housing and bought to extend gardens.

***Action:*** Landowners are sometimes unaware of rare or declining habitats and species on their land, or how to manage the land to benefit wildlife. Providing advice to the landowner, and assistance with funding through agri-environment schemes, can help with the management of sites.

## Habitat Fragmentation

Many habitats in the Borough have become increasingly fragmented over the past 100 years. The size of habitat blocks has declined and they have become more isolated from each other as a result of development and other land-use changes.

Studies have shown that small areas of wildlife rich habitat, present in a fragmented landscape, suffer higher species declines than those that are larger and more inter-connected.

***Action:*** The Council as Local Planning Authority has opportunities to enhance, restore and create new habitats and wildlife features as part of development proposals, in order to create stepping stones and corridors linking areas of important habitat. Agri-environment schemes also provide financial assistance to landowners to restore degraded habitats.


Japanese Knotweed


Himalayan Balsam

## Lack of Knowledge about species and habitats

High quality scientific information is at the heart of the biodiversity process. Accurate data about the status of species and habitats is crucial to decision making. Once gathered, it is vital that such information is made widely available.

***Action:*** The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) is funded and supported by a partnership of local authorities (including Eastleigh Borough Council), government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups. HBIC stores, collates and provides information on a wide range of designated sites, habitats and species. This information is available to anyone including local authority policy makers, developers, land managers, local community groups and residents to help them understand and manage land appropriately.

## Invasive Non-Native Species

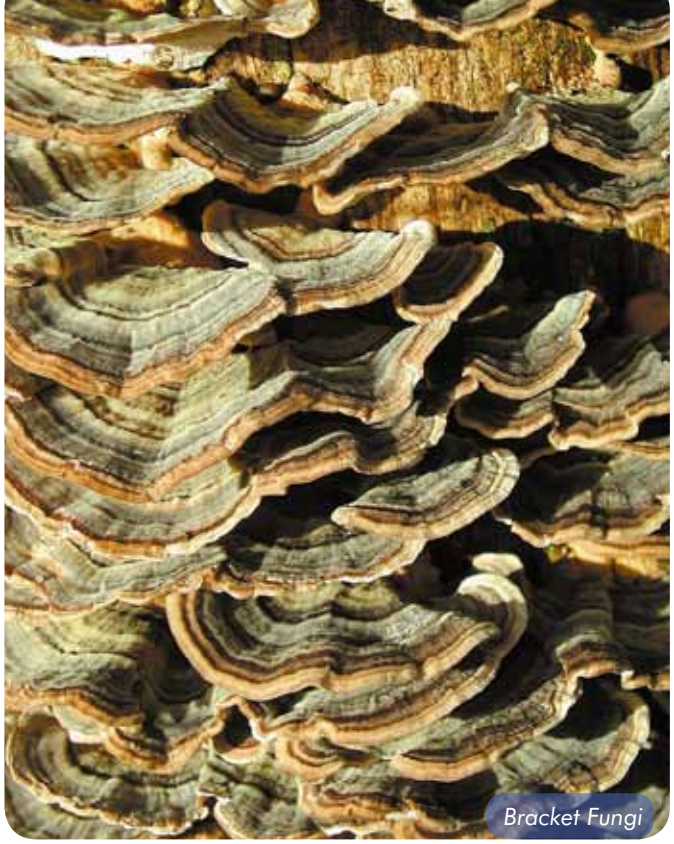
Most areas of the borough contain non-native species, and a minority of these can become dominant in the environment and affect native species by transforming habitats. These are known as invasive non-native species.

***Examples:*** Aquatic invasive non-native plants such as parrot's feather *(Myriophyllum aquaticum)* and New Zealand swamp stonecrop *(Crassula helmsii)* can spread rapidly and exclude other plants from ponds. This threatens other wildlife, such as aquatic insects which depend on particular plant species or areas of open water for example.

Quick growing Indian (Himalayan) balsam *(Impatiens glandulifera)* and Japanese knotweed *(Fallopia japonica)* can rapidly spread along river banks dominating other plants and shading out native vegetation.

Rhododendron (Rhododendron ponticum) and cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) have spread from gardens into woodland and heaths, casting heavy shade and affecting the soil so that native plants are unable to grow.

***Action:*** Landowners and residents are sometimes unaware of the risks non-native species can pose to our native wildlife and environment. Landowners can be encouraged and given information to control species when they are found, and residents can be encouraged to behave responsibly to prevent the escape and spread of non-native species in the wild.


*Bracket Fungi*


*Migrant Hawker*

## Underlying principles: Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan and the Lawton Review

This evidence-based review has sought to address these threats and pressures by taking forward the findings and **four key actions (as listed below)** identified in the Lawton Review to establish coherent ecological networks as follows:

**More and Bigger** – the borough's Priority Biodiversity Areas have been reviewed based on the presence of existing priority habitats and species, and opportunities for restoration. As a result they have increased in size, and two additional Priority Biodiversity Areas at Chilworth and Allbrook have been identified which link acid grassland, heathland and woodland habitats with those in adjacent Boroughs. For a summary of the changes to Priority Biodiversity Areas please see the map in Appendix 1.

**Better** – including actions within the Biodiversity Action Plan which aim to improve the quality of habitats within each of the Priority Biodiversity Areas so they can support a more diverse range of species in a balanced ecosystem.

**Joined up** - The expansion of the Borough's Priority Biodiversity Areas has resulted in the potential to improve connections between habitats and other land with existing or potential ecological value. New Priority Biodiversity Links connecting Priority Biodiversity Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in adjacent Boroughs have been identified where distances are small and/or habitat continuity can be promoted.

These principles are supported by the National Planning Policy Framework. Section 11, "Conserving and enhancing the natural environment". states that:

"The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by –

- recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity, where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;"

and, "To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should –

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries; identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan".


*Badnum Copse Pond*


*Snipe*

# Action Plan and Monitoring

## Action Plan

Twenty high level actions have been identified within this plan based on the actions within the previous Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan 2002-12 and the 21 key objectives (which also act as indicators) for the 'Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire'.

These actions are grouped into the following themes:

- Protection
- Land Management
- Data and Information
- Education and Awareness

The 20 high level actions apply across the borough. Where more specific action has been identified within certain Priority Biodiversity Areas (PBA) and Links, these have been set out in more detail under the relevant heading for each PBA and Link and in the spreadsheet listed in Appendix 6.

The 20 actions have been kept deliberately high level and 'broad brush' to aim at project level initiatives. This means conservation work can be guided to fit into the objectives of the plan as and when opportunities and resources arise.

It is recognised that resources within the partnership are scarce and some actions may not be delivered within the lifetime of this plan.


*Water Shrew*


*Lakeside Country Park*

## Monitoring and Reporting

It is recognised that project level actions may pose difficulties for target measuring in some cases. A traffic light system of reporting, which flags actions depending on progress made, will be used. An annual report will be produced reporting against each of the actions in the table below.

**Table: The twenty high level borough-wide actions**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **P** | | **Protection (P)** |
| | | **Aim: to ensure no net loss of biodiversity through the planning process** |
| P | 1 | 1. Include policies in the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan to protect, maintain, enhance and create features of nature conservation value, including ecological green corridors and stepping stones. |
| P | 2 | 2. Screen planning proposals for impacts on biodiversity and ensure appropriate informed consideration of biodiversity in development control and strategic planning processes. |
| P | 3 | 3. Provide advice to ensure features of nature conservation value are not harmed by permitted development (i.e. where planning permission is not required). |
| P | 4 | 4. Support the Local Sites Partnership to designate SINCs where land meets SINC selection criteria, particularly where land supports priority habitats or species. |
| P | 5 | 5. Declare qualifying Local Authority land as Local Nature Reserves (LNR). |


*Volunteer Balsm Clearance*


*Belted Galloways at Lakeside*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **L** | | **Land Management (L)** |
| | | **Aim: to ensure favourable condition of priority habitats and species** |
| **L** | **6** | 6. Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes, land management projects and conservation advice to: |
| **L** | **6a** | a. Ensure favourable or 'favourable recovering' condition of SSSIs. |
| **L** | **6b** | b. Ensure favourable conservation management of SINCs. |
| **L** | **6c** | c. Restore and re-create priority habitats. |
| **L** | **6d** | d. Create new habitats e.g. Wild areas and wild flower meadows within urban amenity spaces. |
| **L** | **6e** | e. Ensure appropriate management for priority species. |
| **L** | **6f** | f. Ensure unauthorised activities are effectively controlled. |
| **L** | **6g** | g. Create and enhance ecological green corridors and stepping stones to help link priority habitats and species. |
| **L** | **7** | 7. Identify, raise awareness of, control and/or eradicate Invasive Non-Native species (INNS). |


Doormouse Box Check


Flexford Meadows

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **D** | | **Data and Information (D)** |
| | | **Aim: to ensure availability of data and information on habitats and species** |
| **D** | **8** | 8. Support the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) to gather, share and make available high quality biodiversity data. |
| **D** | **9** | 9. Promote the Survey and monitoring of habitats and species. |
| **D** | **10** | 10. Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups. |
| **D** | **11** | 11. Pro-actively encourage survey and research and ensure research is disseminated. Encourage consultancy reports for the borough to be submitted to HBIC. |
| **D** | **12** | 12. Collect information on land ownership and management history to assist with the work of the Eastleigh BAP. |
| **D** | **13** | 13. Collect information on volunteer effort (man hours) undertaking biodiversity work in the borough. |




*Harvest Mouse*


*Slow Worm*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | | **Awareness and Communication (A)** |
| | | **Aim: to broaden awareness of the values of biodiversity and the steps people can take to conserve it and use it sustainably** |
| A | 14 | 14. Make links between biodiversity, quality of life and improved health in all project initiatives and communications. |
| A | 15 | 15. Publicise the Eastleigh Borough BAP. |
| A | 16 | 16. Develop the Eastleigh Biodiversity Forum to support land managers, community groups and volunteers carry out positive conservation action. |
| A | 17 | 17. Support the creation of 'Friends of Groups' and provide assistance to help community groups contribute to the work of the BAP. |
| A | 18 | 18. Improve and increase the number of interpretation and information panels incorporating biodiversity. |
| A | 19 | 19. Provide training to raise awareness of biodiversity issues for all sectors of society. |
| A | 20 | 20. Raise general awareness and commitment to biodiversity in the following sectors:- |
| A | 20a | a. Statutory and non-statutory organisations. |
| A | 20b | b. Farmers, landowners, and other land managers. |
| A | 20c | c. Business and industry. |
| A | 20d | d. Education. |
| A | 20e | e. Community/user groups e.g. Promote wildlife gardening. |
| A | 20f | f. Public. |


Itchen Valley Wet Meadows


Milkmead Copse

# Eastleigh Borough Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links

## Introduction

Information on the location of priority habitats and species in the Borough has been combined to identify Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links (stepping stones or corridors) where action should be targeted first and foremost to most benefit biodiversity.

Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links are shown in Appendix 2.

## Evidence base

The following sections set out and explain the Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links within the borough. For further information about how Priority Biodiversity Areas, Links and Priority Species have been selected please refer to:

- **Appendix 3:** Assessing the Biodiversity of the Borough: Designated Sites and Eastleigh Borough Priority Habitats
- **Appendix 4:** Assessing the Biodiversity of the Borough: Eastleigh Borough Priority Species
- **Appendix 5:** Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) explained
- The previous Biodiversity Action Plan 2002-12 'Wild about Eastleigh, a biodiversity action plan for the borough' (Eastleigh Borough Council, 2002).

## Priority Biodiversity Areas

### Definition

Priority Biodiversity Areas contain hotspots for biodiversity which hold the greatest concentrations of priority habitats and species, and land where there is potential to enhance or restore priority habitats. They are the areas where action should be targeted first and foremost to achieve the greatest benefit to biodiversity.

Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links are shown in Appendix 2.

### How were they selected?

Priority Biodiversity Areas incorporate:

a. Priority Biodiversity Areas identified with the previous Eastleigh Biodiversity Action Plan, (Eastleigh Borough Council, 2002).

b. Additional locally identified priority areas, which contain priority habitats and local wildlife site designations.

c. Regionally identified Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs). These are regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats, which have been identified by county-based biodiversity records centres across South East England. For more information on BOAs please see Appendix 5.


Common Spotted Orchid


Grazing Management

### Development

Development within or near Priority Biodiversity Areas can provide opportunities to enhance, restore and create biodiversity within these areas. Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links form part of the borough's Green Network.

Ten Eastleigh Borough 'Priority Biodiversity Areas' have been identified:

- Flexford & Hocombe
- Chilworth
- Allbrook
- Lakeside & Fleming Park
- Itchen Valley
- Wyvern
- Stoke Park
- Moorgreen
- Netley & Bursledon Commons
- Solent Coast, Hamble Estuary & Ford Lake

For each area, the priority habitats and species are described and the main issues that affect their biodiversity are explained. Where specific action has been identified within certain Priority Biodiversity Areas (PBA), these have been set out in more detail under the relevant heading for each PBA and in the spreadsheet listed in Appendix 6.

The overall aim of each action plan is to enable successful protection, management, restoration, enhancement and creation of priority habitats that will promote the protection and enhancement of viable populations of priority species.


*British White Cows at Avenue Park*


*Hazel Dormouse*

# Action for Priority Biodiversity Areas

## Chilworth Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Chilworth |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 32ha |
| Within Parishes: | Eastleigh (Local Area), Chandler's Ford CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | 24: Ampfield - Baddesley - Chilworth - Lordswood |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | 4 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Lowland Meadows<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland<br>Parkland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4<br>Includes: dormice, adder, common lizard, slow-worm |
| Accessible sites: | Avenue Park |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | No |
| Description: | This is a complex of ancient semi-natural woodland overlying relic heath, and (potential) species-rich neutral/acid grassland, which links to similar habitats in the neighbouring borough of Test Valley. The Eastleigh and Test Valley wider area supports dense concentrations of SINCs and several notable SSSIs including Baddesley Common & Emer Bog SSSI/SAC, an incredibly important area of valley bog and associated habitats within Test Valley Borough. |
| Threats: | Habitat degradation and fragmentation reducing the quality, extent and continuity of priority habitats in this area. Priority species populations becoming fragmented and isolated. |
| Actions: | Land Management initiatives to restore and reconnect priority habitats for priority species.<br>Research the effects of fragmentation on priority species populations including genetic viability of adder and common lizard populations. |




*Purple Loosestrife at Hocombe Mead*


*Galloway Cow at Hocombe Mead*

## Flexford and Hocombe Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Flexford and Hocombe |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 36ha |
| Within Parishes: | Chandler's Ford CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | 24: Ampfield - Baddesley - Chilworth - Lordswood |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | 6 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Lowland Meadows<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland<br>Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4<br>Includes: common toad, wetland plants, butterflies |
| Accessible sites: | Flexford Nature Reserve<br>Hocombe Mead Local Nature Reserve |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes (22ha) |
| Description: | A mosaic of wet unimproved flower-rich grasslands, ancient oak woodland overlying relic heath, and wet alder carr woodland. The Monks Brook, a tributary of the River Itchen, connects these habitats along its course. This area links to similar habitats in the neighbouring borough of Test Valley. |
| Progress 2002-12 | Coppicing of woodland has been continued at Hocombe Mead and Ramalley Copse by Eastleigh Borough Council.<br>Significant grassland restoration has been achieved by reinstating appropriate grazing and cutting scrub back by hand, particularly at Flexford and Hocombe Mead Reserves.<br>A newly seeded wildflower meadow now spans the width of the Hiltingbury Recreation ground, enhancing a habitat connection between Hocombe Mead and Pine Walk cemetery. |
| Threats: | Any reduction in habitat restoration and management practices. |
| Actions: | Continue attempts to restore ling heather on patches of remnant heath, and remove rhododendron from woodland at Hocombe Mead. Ensure that up-to-date management plans are in place and being implemented on all land within local authority control. |


*Great Spotted Woodpecker*


*Woodsorrel*

## Allbrook Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Allbrook |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | (10ha) |
| Within Parishes: | Allbrook and North Boyatt CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | 24: Ampfield - Baddesley - Chilworth - Lordswood |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | 1 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Lowland Meadows<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4 |
| Accessible sites: | None |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | No |
| Description: | Comprising lowland meadows/fields and ancient woodland boundary banks, this area adjoins bluebell rich ancient woodland to the north (Otterbourne Wood) within Winchester City district. Streams and ditches within the area connect the site to the Itchen Valley Biodiversity Priority Area. |
| Threats: | Lack of suitable Land Management. |
| Actions: | Encourage up take of agri-environment scheme and sympathetic land management practices. |




Lakeside Country Park


Cows grazing at Lakeside Country Park

## Lakeside & Fleming Park Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Lakeside and Fleming Park |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 76ha |
| Within Parishes: | Chandler's Ford CP Eastleigh (Local Area), |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | 09 Itchen Valley |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | 3 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Chalk River<br>Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4<br>Includes: common toad, grass snake, slow worms, kingfisher |
| Accessible sites: | Lakeside Country Park<br>Fleming Park |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | No |
| Description: | The Monks Brook is a tributary of the River Itchen and parts of Lakeside Country Park (gravel pits restored to open water) and Fleming Park lie within its flood plain. Fleming Park includes a former golf course which has been opened up to the public for informal recreation. Habitat management on the former golf course has been relaxed to provide areas of wildflower meadow. |
| Threats: | Irregular and/or low water levels<br>Habitat degradation through lack of management Invasive Species. |
| Actions: | Maximise uptake of agri-environment schemes such as HLS at Lakeside Country Park.<br>Enhance Fleming Park's accessible natural greenspace.<br>Increase awareness and appreciation of the area's biodiversity value amongst users and local residents.<br>Seek to control the spread of invasive non-native aquatic plants such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed within this catchment including beyond the Borough boundary. |


River Itchen Carrier


Water Vole

## Itchen Valley Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Itchen Valley |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 643ha |
| Within Parishes: | Allbrook and North Boyatt CP, Eastleigh (Local Area), Bishopstoke CP, Fair Oak and Horton Heath CP, West End CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | 09 Itchen Valley |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest<br>River Itchen Special Area of Conservation<br>24 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Chalk River<br>Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Lowland Meadows<br>Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures<br>Reedbeds<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4<br>Includes: Southern Damselfly, otters, water voles, eel |
| Accessible sites: | Itchen Valley County Park<br>Lakeside Country Park |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes (481ha) |
| Description: | The Itchen is a classic chalk stream and is botanically very important with extensive areas of unimproved vegetation along its length including fen, carr and herb-rich meadows, much of it on peat. Many of the meadows were managed as water meadows until the early 20th century. The rich vegetation supports important populations of wetland birds and the river supports breeding otters, nationally important populations of water vole and Southern damselfly, and freshwater fish including bullhead, brook lamprey and Atlantic salmon. |

*Southern Damselfly*

*Mink Trapping*

| | |
|---|---|
| Threats: | Irregular and/or low water levels<br>Habitat degradation through lack of management<br>Inappropriate management and impact of public access<br>Invasive Species<br>Legacy of past channel modification |
| Actions: | Agree and implement operating contracts with operators of water control structures along River Itchen SSSI that optimise nature conservation interests, in line with the River Itchen Water Level Management Plan.<br>Maximise uptake of agri-environment schemes such as HLS across the catchment, including Itchen Valley Country Park.<br>Introduce sensitive grazing to floodplain habitats.<br>Develop river restoration projects<br>Carry out co-ordinated mink control between landowners on the River Itchen.<br>Seek to control the spread of invasive non-native aquatic plants such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese Knotweed, and Parrot's feather within this catchment including beyond the Borough boundary. |




Wyvern Meadow


Great Crested Newt

## Wyvern Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Wyvern |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 19ha |
| Within Parishes: | Fair Oak and Horton Heath CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | None |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | 3 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Lowland Meadows<br>Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland<br>Ponds |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4<br>Including Great crested newt |
| Accessible sites: | |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes 19ha |
| Description: | The area is made up of ancient wet woodland, unimproved lowland meadows full of orchids, ponds which are home to great crested newts and streams that provide habitat for aquatic creatures such as mayflies fish and otter. This is all that remains of a much larger area which has since been drained to provide land for housing and playing fields. |
| Threats: | Habitat degradation through lack of management<br>Invasive non-native species |
| Actions: | Secure HLS for Wyvern Meadow by 2014.<br>Support the creation of a Friends Group to manage Wyvern Meadow and the wider area.<br>Manage a pond network to support breeding populations of great crested newt<br>Control invasive non-native species including New Zealand Pigmyweed *(Crassula helmsii),* Indian (Himalayan) Balsam *(Impatiens glandulifera)*, Rhododendron and Laurel. |




*Silver-Washed Fritillary*


*Stag Beetle*

## Stoke Park Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Stoke Park |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 206ha |
| Within Parishes: | Bishopstoke CP, Fair Oak and Horton Heath CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | None |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | 5 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland<br>Hedgerows |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4<br>Including ancient woodland plant indicator species<br>Butterflies<br>Insect e.g. Stag Beetle<br>Amphibian and reptiles |
| Accessible sites: | Stoke Park Woods<br>Crowdhill Copse<br>Upperbarn Copse |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes 207ha |
| Description: | Stoke Park has the highest concentration of woodland present in the borough. It includes Stoke Park Wood which is a commercial plantation on semi-natural ancient woodland run by the Forestry Commission, and Crowdhill and Upper Barn Copses owned by The Woodland Trust. The surrounding arable landscape is connected by a network of old hedgerows. |
| Threats: | Habitat degradation through lack of management<br>Fragmentation of Hedgerows in the arable landscape |
| Actions: | Carry out sympathetic hedgerow and woodland ride management to promote priority species. |




Moorgreen Meadows

Public Entrance

## Moorgreen Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Moorgreen |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 27ha |
| Within Parishes: | Hedge End, West End |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | None |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | Moorgreen Meadows SSSI<br>1 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4 |
| Accessible sites: | |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes 15ha |
| Description: | The unimproved wet meadows are botanically rich and include marsh orchids, bog pimpernel and bog myrtle. They are surrounded by alder carr which follows the line of the moorgreen stream. |
| Threats: | Lack of groundwater feeding wet meadow SSSI<br>Habitat degradation through lack of management |
| Actions: | Investigate and action options to increase ground and surface water flow to the SSSI.<br>Ensure compliance with HLS management on Council and private land. |

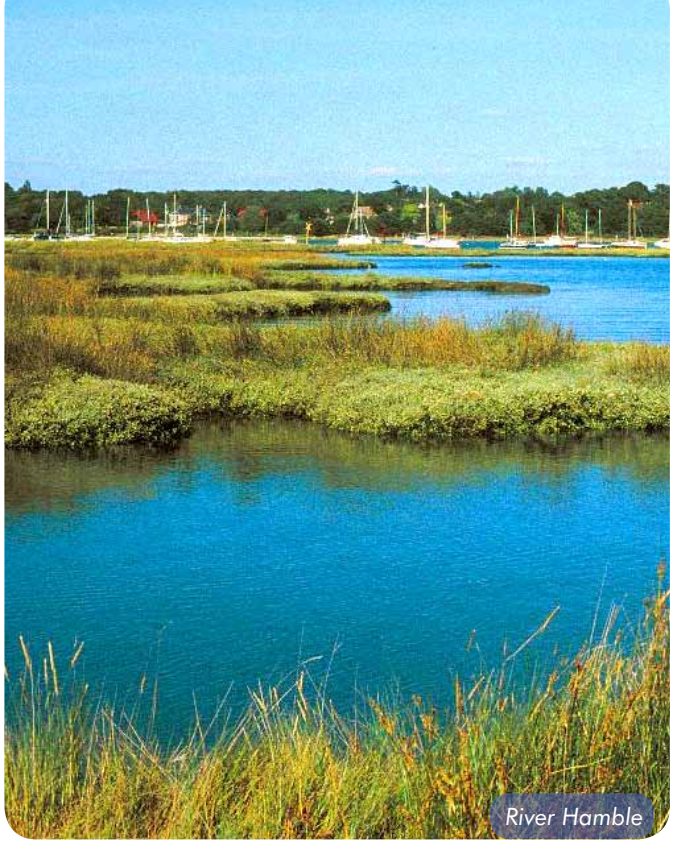

Netley Common


Orange Tip Butterfly

## Netley & Bursledon Commons Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Netley & Bursledon Commons |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 143ha |
| Within Parishes: | Hedge End, Hound, West End |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | None |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | Netley Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR)<br>8 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Lowland Heathland<br>Lowland Dry Acid Grassland<br>Lowland Meadows<br>Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4 |
| Accessible sites: | Netley Common<br>Telegraph Woods |
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes 143ha |
| Description: | The majority of the area was formerly common land and most important habitats now surviving are remnants of this past use. Remnant fragments of heathland can be found in small patches between houses and small glades within large secondary woodlands such as Dumbleton's Copse and Telegraph Woods. |
| Threats: | Habitat degradation through lack of management<br>Habitat isolation<br>Invasive Non-Native Species |
| Actions: | Restore heathland and woodland areas and bring into favourable management using agri-environment schemes where appropriate.<br>Reconnect priority habitats as opportunities arise.<br>Control invasive species such as laurel and rhododendron. |




River Hamble


Heathland

## Solent Coast, Hamble Estuary & Ford Lake Priority Biodiversity Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area Name: | Solent Coast, Hamble Estuary & Ford Lake |
| Priority Biodiversity Area Size (ha): | 1081ha |
| Within Parishes: | Botley CP, Bursledon CP, Hound CP, Hamble-le-Rice CP |
| Incorporates Biodiversity Opportunity Area(s): | 20: The Solent<br>21:Hamble Valley |
| Nature Conservation Designations: | Lincegrove & Hackett's Marshes SSSI<br>Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI<br>Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods SSSI<br>Solent Maritime SAC<br>Solent & Southampton Water SPA<br>Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar<br>Hackett's Marsh Local Nature Reserve (LNR)<br>Manor Farm Local Nature Reserve (LNR)<br>Mercury Marshes Local Nature Reserve (LNR)<br>Westwood Woodland Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR)<br>42 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: | Lowland Heathland<br>Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh<br>Lowland Meadows<br>Reedbeds<br>Coastal Saltmarsh<br>Intertidal Mudflats<br>Saline Lagoons<br>Coastal Vegetated Shingle<br>Wood-Pasture and Parkland<br>Wet Woodland<br>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland |
| Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: | See list in Appendix 4 |
| Accessible sites: | Westwood Woodland Park<br>Royal Victoria Country Park<br>Manor Farm Country Park<br>Hamble Common<br>Priors Hill Copse (area next to Butlock's Heath Community Centre only) |


Black Headed Gull


Bar Tailed Godwit

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority Biodiversity Area in 2002-12 Plan: | Yes 910ha |
| Description: The Hamble | This area comprises the Hamble river valley and its main tributaries and headwaters. The upper section of the Hamble estuary supports mudflats, saltmarsh, reedswamp and ancient semi-natural woodland. Twelve types of ancient broad-leaved woodland occur within the Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods SSSI. Of particular interest is the transition between pedunculate oak and sessile oak woodland and the gradation from ancient semi-natural woodland to estuarine saltmarsh. The Hamble woodlands are also notable for their stands of small-leaved lime. A number of small unimproved neutral/wet grassland SINCs occur further along the river valley & its tributaries, including complexes at Ford Lake. |
| Description: The Solent | The area comprises extensive intertidal muds with a littoral fringe of vegetated shingle, saltmarsh, reedbed, marshy grasslands, soft rock cliffs and deciduous woodland. The site is an integral part of Southampton Water which is of international importance for over-wintering dark-bellied brent geese, and of national importance for three species of wildfowl (great-crested grebe, teal and wigeon) and five species of wader (black-tailed godwit, dunlin, grey plover, ringed plover, redshank). The area also supports an outstanding assemblage of nationally scarce coastal plants. SSSIs include the Lee on Solent to Itchen Estuary, which includes Hamble Common containing a mosaic of acidic grassland and wet heath. Neighbouring<br>SINCs supporting species-rich grassland, secondary woodland with relic heath, also grazing marsh. Areas of less interesting vegetation are included where they are known to support over wintering Brent geese and other waders or are of high potential for re-creation of semi-natural coastal habitats. |
| Threats: | Coastal Squeeze and Disruption of Natural Coastal Processes<br>Water Quality and Pollution<br>Changing Land Use<br>Recreation<br>Lack of Management |
| Actions: | Devise and implement strategies to sustainably maintain the extent of coastal habitats in the face of sea level rise.<br>Establish projects which promote best practice in the use and disposal of harmful marine anti-fouling agents.<br>Ensure adequate land management buffers to priority habitats are included place, including sustainable drainage systems, for all development activities.<br>Secure agri-environment schemes for priority habitats within the area.<br>Support the Hamble Estuary Partnership as a forum to help deliver action.<br>Ensure provision of suitably managed high-tide sites for coastal birds. |




*Adders Tongue Fern*


*Upper Flexford*

# Priority Biodiversity Links

## Definition

Priority Biodiversity Links include land where there is opportunity to enhance, restore or create areas, corridors or stepping stones of habitat to facilitate the movement of priority species.

Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links are shown in Appendix 2.

## How were they Selected?

Priority Biodiversity Links contain land which can join up or link Priority Biodiversity Areas and/or Biodiversity Opportunity Areas due to their

a. close proximity, or

b. connections with linear features such as streams, hedgerows, motorways or railway banks/planting, or

c. potential to enhance, restore or create biodiversity features

## Explanation of Boundaries

Priority Biodiversity Links illustrate approximate areas within which opportunities for biodiversity links can be explored. These are graphically drawn as zones of land to allow them to be visualised on a map. Therefore, they do not have rigid or fixed boundaries.

## Development

Development within or close to Priority Biodiversity Links can provide opportunities to enhance, restore and create biodiversity within these Links. Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links form part of the borough's Green Network.

**15 Priority Biodiversity Links have been identified:**

- Allbrook Stream
- Monks Brook
- HCBP (Hampshire Corporate Business Park)
- M3
- M27
- Railway
- Bowlake
- Knowle Park
- Chalcroft
- Moorgreen Stream
- Cricket Ground
- Wildern
- Marks Farm
- Old Netley
- Tickleford Gully
- Airfield


Melonistic Adder


Great Tit

# Action for Priority Biodiversity Links

## Allbrook Stream Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Allbrook Stream** |
|---|---|
| Location | Allbrook and North Boyatt CP |
| Description | Watercourse linking Otterbourne Hill and Pitmore Copse to the River Itchen. |
| Potential | Restoration of stream, woodland, hedgerow, grassland and wetland habitats. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Hedgerows, Rivers. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with ancient and lowland mixed deciduous woodland and open water, including butterflies. |
| Issues | Constrained by urban development and modified hydrology in many places. |

## Monks Brook Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Monks Brook** |
|---|---|
| Location | Chandler's Ford CP |
| Description | Urban watercourse linking Flexford & Hocombe Priority Biodiversity Area with the Itchen Valley. |
| Potential | Restoration of Priority Habitats. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Rivers, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with watercourses. |
| Issues | The channel is heavily modified in many locations. Invasive non-native plants are spreading such as Japanese knotweed (***Fallopia japonica***) and Indian (Himalayan) balsam (***Impatiens glandulifera***). |


Hazel Coppice


Grass Hopper

## HCBP Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **HCBP** (Hampshire Corporate Business Park) |
|---|---|
| Location | Valley Park, Chandler's Ford |
| Description | Heavily modified watercourse linking priority habitats in Hut Wood into North End Nature Park (part of the Itchen Valley priority biodiversity area). |
| Potential | Corridor for species movement. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Rivers. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with watercourses. |
| Issues | The channel is heavily modified. |

## M3 Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **M3** |
|---|---|
| Location | Chandler's Ford CP and Eastleigh (Local Area) |
| Description | Motorway, including grassy verges, landscape planting and adjacent woodland copses. |
| Potential | Habitat management to enhance continuous linear habitat corridors, particularly woodland to support dormice. Possibility of restoring or creating lowland meadow to support widespread reptile species. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Lowland Meadow, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Heathland. |
| Priority Species | Reptiles: Adder, Slow-worm,<br>Common Lizard<br>Small mammals including Dormice. |
| Issues | Habitat management regimes which complement highways maintenance requirements can be challenging. |




Blackberry Scrub


Hazel Dormouse

## M27 Priority Biodiversity Link

| Name | M27 |
|---|---|
| Location | Eastleigh (Local Area), West End CP, Hedge End CP and Bursledon CP |
| Description | Motorway, including grassy verges, landscape planting and adjacent woodland copses. |
| Potential | Habitat management to enhance continuous linear habitat corridors. Possibility of restoring or creating heathland habitats. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Lowland Heathland, Lowland Meadow, Coastal and Wetland habitats. |
| Priority Species | Reptiles: Adder, Slow-worm, Common Lizard<br>Small Mammals including Dormice. |
| Issues | Habitat management regimes which complement highways maintenance requirements can be challenging. |

## Railway Priority Biodiversity Link

| Name | Railway |
|---|---|
| Location | Allbrook and North Boyatt CP, Chandler's Ford CP, Eastleigh (Local Area), Hedge End CP, West End CP, Hedge End CP, Botley CP, Bursledon CP, Hound CP, Hamble-le-Rice.<br>All railway lines, even if not identified on the maps are considered links. |
| Description | Railway lines including sidings, embankments and surrounding associated habitats. |
| Potential | Habitat management to enhance continuous linear habitat corridors. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet woodland, Grasslands and Wetlands. |
| Priority Species | Reptiles, Bats, Stag Beetle. |
| Issues | Habitat management regimes which complement railway maintenance requirements can be challenging. |




Otter


Water Vole

## Bowlake Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Bowlake** |
|---|---|
| Location | Bishopstoke CP |
| Description | Farmland surrounding River. |
| Potential | Restoration and creation of priority habitats to facilitate species movement. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Lowland Meadows, Wetlands, Hedgerows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with priority habitats, such as otter and water vole. |
| Issues | Lack of features supporting riparian mammal (e.g. otter and water vole) movement along river corridors. |

## Knowle Park Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Knowle Park** |
|---|---|
| Location | Fair Oak and Horton Heath CP |
| Description | Knowle Park and adjacent land containing stream network |
| Potential | Restoration of stream and hedgerow network to facilitate otter movement between the Itchen and Hamble river catchments. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Hedgerows, Rivers, Ponds, Lowland Meadows. |
| Priority Species | Otter and species associated with open water, hedgerows, meadows and woodland. |
| Issues | Lack of features supporting riparian mammal (e.g. otter and water vole) movement along river corridors. |


*Purple Loosestrife*


*Juvenille Adder*

## Chalcroft Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Chalcroft** |
|---|---|
| Location | Botley CP, Fair Oak and Horton Heath CP, West End CP |
| Description | Farmland containing stream network. |
| Potential | Restoration of stream, hedgerow, grassland and wetland habitats to facilitate otter movement between the Itchen and Hamble river catchments. And encourage uptake of agri-environment schemes to achieve this. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Hedgerows, Rivers, Ponds, Lowland Meadows. |
| Priority Species | Otter and species associated with open water, hedgerows, meadows and woodland. |
| Issues | Lack of features supporting riparian mammal (e.g. otter and water vole) movement along river corridors. |

## Moorgreen Stream Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Moorgreen Stream** |
|---|---|
| Location | Botley CP, Hedge End CP |
| Description | Urban watercourse linking Moorgreen Meadows SSSI to Ford Lake and on to the River Hamble. |
| Potential | Restoration of stream, hedgerow, grassland and wetland habitats. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Hedgerows, Rivers, Ponds, Lowland Meadows. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with open water (such as riparian mammals; e.g. otter and water vole). |
| Issues | Constrained by urban development and modified hydrology in many places. |


*Slow Worm New Born*


*Marsh Marigold*

## Cricket Priority Biodiversity Link

| Name | Cricket |
|---|---|
| Location | West End, adjacent to the cricket ground and M27. Hedge End CP, West End CP. |
| Description | Large area of golf course comprising woodland, grassland and open water habitats. |
| Potential | Redevelopment of land includes habitat enhancements on golf course. Hydrological connections could be enhanced to help water levels at Moorgreen SSSI. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Lowland Meadows, Open Water, Hedgerows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. |
| Priority Species | Slow-worm, Dormice. |
| Issues | Hydrological connection to SSSI is disrupted by M27. |

## Wildern Priority Biodiversity Link

| Name | Wildern |
|---|---|
| Location | Hedge End CP, Botley CP |
| Description | Heavily modified urban stream. |
| Potential | Restoration of associated priority habitats. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Rivers, Lowland Meadows and fen, Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures, Hedgerows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with priority habitats. |
| Issues | Constrained by urban development in many places. |


*Marbled White*


*Hedgehog*

## Marks Farm Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Marks Farm** |
|---|---|
| Location | South of Botley, Botley CP |
| Description | Stream. |
| Potential | Restoration of associated priority habitats and corridor for species movement. |
| Potential Priority Habitats | Rivers, Lowland Meadows, Wetlands, Hedgerows, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with priority habitats. |
| Issues | |

## Old Netley Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Old Netley** |
|---|---|
| Location | West of Old Netley, Hound CP |
| Description | Modified watercourse. |
| Potential | Restoration of associated priority habitats and corridor for species movement. Investigation of silt levels and water quality may be useful downstream. |
| Priority Habitats | Rivers, Hedgerows. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with priority habitats. |
| Issues | Constrained by urban development in many places. |


*Wasp Spider*


*Urban Hedgerow*

## Tickleford Gully Priority Biodiversity Link

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | **Tickleford Gully** |
| Location | Netley - adjacent to boundary with Southampton City. Hound CP. |
| Description | This area forms a habitat buffer and link to the wet woodland of the adjacent Weston Greenway SINC within Southampton City's area. |
| Potential | To provide a woodland buffer to the existing wet woodland |
| Priority Habitats | Wet Woodland, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland. |
| Priority Species | Species associated with priority habitats. |
| Issues | |

## Airfield Priority Biodiversity Link

| **Name** | **Airfield** |
|---|---|
| Location | Hamble-le-Rice CP |
| Description | Disused airfield with long tussocky grassland and scrub. |
| Potential | Potential to enhance or create priority habitats linking two priority areas. |
| Priority Habitats | Lowland Grassland and other habitats. |
| Priority Species | Bird assemblages, reptiles. |
| Issues | Lack of information on potential habitats and species. |


Bluebells


Bumble Bee Nest

# Acknowledgements

**We are grateful for the support given by the following people during the preparation of this consultation draft:**

*Andy Barker*
*Andy Rothwell*
*Chris & Mike Pawling, Colleen Hope*
*Martin Rand*
*Matt Wisby*
*Paul Howe*
*Phil Budd*
*Simon Ingram, Dave Unsworth, Keith Betton*
*Stuart Skeates*
*HBIC - Nicky Court, Andy Foy, Lizzy Peat, Simon Boswell*
*Natural England - Charlotte Rose, Jinti Gifford*
*The Environment Agency - Tim Sykes, Adam Cave*
*The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust - David Rumble, Pauline Holmes, Debbie Whitfield, Sarah Bignell, Clare Bishop*

# Glossary / Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan |
| BOA | Biodiversity Opportunity Areas |
| HBIC | Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre |
| HLS | Higher Level Stewardship |
| LNR | Local Nature Reserve |
| PBA | Priority Biodiversity Area |
| PBL | Priority Biodiversity Link |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SINC | Site of Importance for Nature Conservation |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |

# Glossary / Abbreviations

**Photographs kindly supplied by**:

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Nother | p6, p50 |
| B. Rown | p1, p47, p67 |
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| Andrew Rothwell | Phillip Lomax |
| Andrew Walmsley | Rachel Hardy |
| Bill Young | Robert Eaton |
| David Cardinal | Tony Blunden |
| Diana Clark | Eastleigh Borough Council |
| Graham Long | Hampshire Wildlife Trust |
| Jenna Dewhurst | GBNNSS |
| Natalie Light | TCV |


Itchen Valley


Ragged Robin

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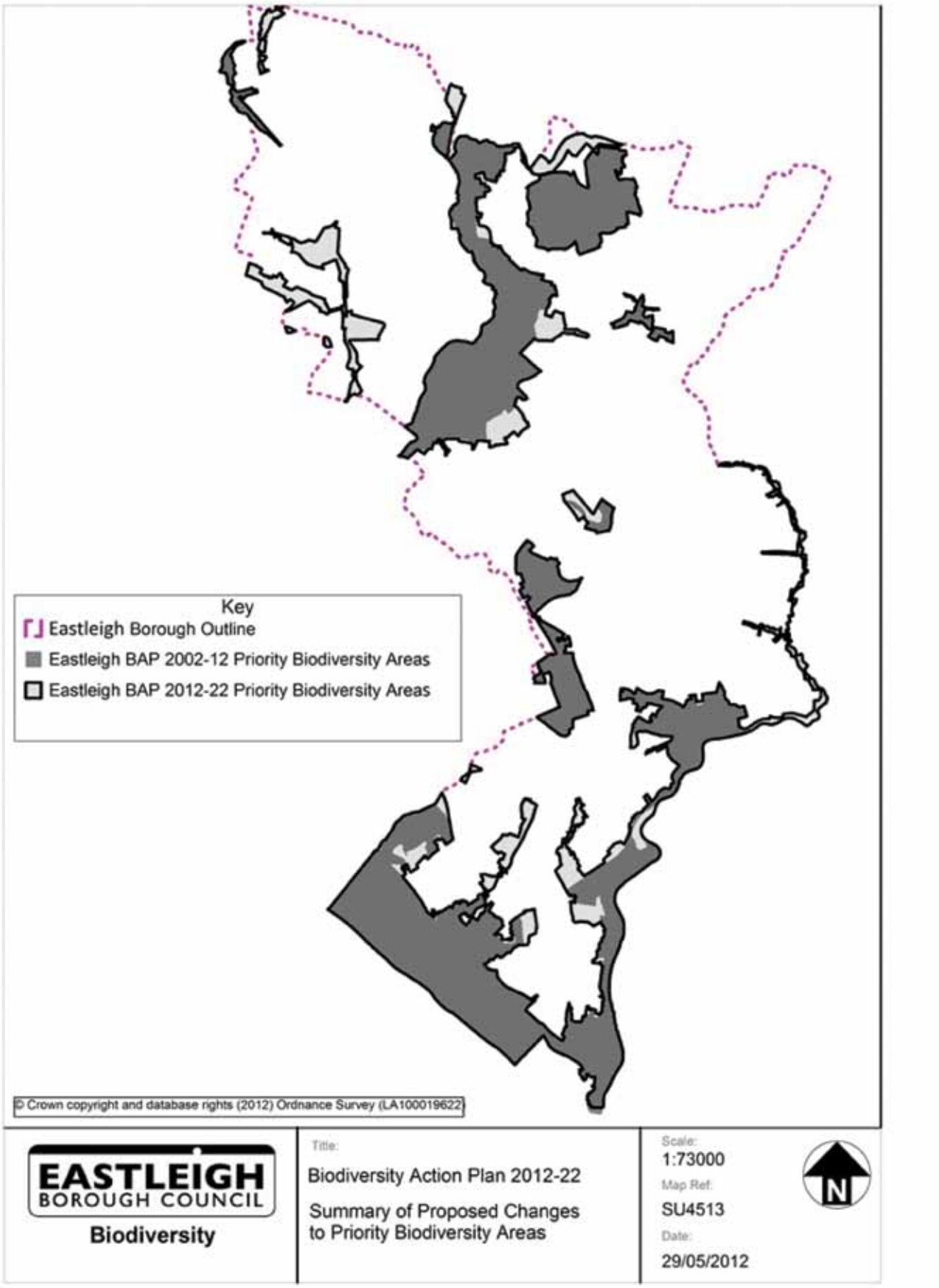
## Summary of Changes to Priority Biodiversity Areas Map



# Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links (North and South maps)




Monks Brook




Lowland Meadows

# Appendix 3: Assessing the Biodiversity of the Borough: Designated Sites

Many of the borough's most important habitats are designated for special protection.

**Sites of European and International importance** are designated Special Areas for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Ramsar wetlands. **Sites of national (UK) importance** are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Such areas include the River Itchen and much of its floodplain which is designated as a SSSI and SAC because it is a rare habitat (chalk river) in Europe and supports many globally threatened species. Other protected areas include the Hamble Estuary and Solent Coast (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and Moorgreen Meadows SSSI just north of Hedge End.

**Sites of local biodiversity importance** are identified as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). They do not receive protection by law, but are afforded some protection from certain activities that may damage them such as land-use change proposals (development) that need planning permission.

**Local Nature Reserves (LNR)** may be designated on land of local wildlife importance, which is managed by local authorities to benefit wildlife, and provides informal opportunities for public enjoyment, recreation and education.

**Table showing Nature Conservation Designations in Eastleigh Borough and their extent**

| Statutory Designation | EBC sites (no.) | EBC area (ha) | EBC area (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Local Nature Reserve (LNR) | 6 | 232 | 2.73 |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ramsar | 1 | 184 | 2.16 |
| Special Area of conservation (SAC) | 2 | 296 | 3.47 |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | 1 | 184 | 2.16 |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | 5 | 426 | 5.00 |
| **Statutory sites combined** *See notes 1 & 2* | **15** | **631** | **7.40** |

| Non-Statutory Designation | EBC sites (no.) | EBC area (ha) | EBC area (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) *See note 3* | 143 | 824 | 9.66 |

*Data taken from: Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11 produced by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.*




*Honey Bee Nest*


*Beech Wood*

Notes:

1. **LNR:** Hackett's Marsh (20.46ha), Hocombe Mead (8.30ha), Manor Farm (144.07 ha), Mercury Marshes (6.36ha), Netley Common (7.51ha), Westwood Woodland Park (45.68ha). **Ramsar:** Solent & Southampton Water (183.55ha). SAC: River Itchen (133.70ha), Solent Maritime (162.04ha). **SPA:** Solent & Southampton Water (183.55ha). **SSSI:** Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary (126.97ha), Lincegrove & Hackett's Marshes (37.22ha), Moorgreen Meadows (14.17ha), River Itchen (157.95ha).
2. The areas total for 'Statutory sites combined' may not equal the total for each of the individual statutory site designations. This is because there is often a spatial overlap between statutory designations as they recognise different biodiversity interests on the same piece of land. For example, SSSI designations entirely underpin all Ramsar, SPA and SAC designations within the borough, and also overlap with some areas of LNR. Ramsar and SPA designations completely overlap each other along the borough's coastline.
3. Some Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) overlap statutory site designations in the borough where locally important SINC interests are different to those recognised by the statutory sites.


Maritime Cliff and Slopes


Bluebells

# Eastleigh Borough Priority Habitats

## Definition

Priority habitats are those which are rare, threatened or declining in extent.

## How were they selected?

All habitats which feature in the UK Priority Habitats[1] list are considered borough priorities for conservation action where they occur in the borough.

18 Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats including particular types of grassland, heathland, woodland*, hedgerows, open water, wetland, and coastal† habitat types occur within the borough.

The Table below shows the recorded extent of UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority habitats within the borough and forms the borough's priority habitat list.

* Remnant woodland banks retaining ancient semi-natural features are considered to be particularly valuable for biodiversity, particularly where they occur in urban areas. Action to protect and enhance these woodland banks and their associated wildlife is a priority in this plan.

† Intertidal mudflats often occur in small isolated fragments outside of designated nature conservation sites. Therefore they are particularly vulnerable to activities which may result in habitat loss or degradation. This plan aims to ensure no net loss of intertidal mudflat, and action to protect and enhance intertidal mudflat habitat is a priority.

[1] A UK List of Priority Habitats was selected using criteria based on international obligations, high risk, and importance for key species.

Dew Lane Hedgerow



Woodland at Monks Brook

Table showing Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats

| | BAP Priority Habitat | Comments on Status | Approximate EBC area (ha) | % of EBC area |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grasslands | Lowland Dry Acid Grassland | Comprehensive. Some overlap with Lowland Heath. | 2 | 0.02 |
| Grasslands | Lowland Meadows | Comprehensive. Some overlap with Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and with Wood-Pasture and Parkland. | 54 | 0.63 |
| Grasslands | Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures | Comprehensive. Some overlap with Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh. | 21 | 0.25 |
| Heathlands | Lowland Heathland | Comprehensive. Some overlap with Lowland Dry Acid Grassland. | 18 | 0.21 |
| Woodland, wood-pasture and parkland | Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland | Further work is needed to distinguish from Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland and to identify areas within SSSIs. | | |
| Woodland, wood-pasture and parkland | Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland<br><br>(Includes remnant woodland banks) | Further work is needed as currently all semi-natural deciduous woodland (both ancient and non-ancient) has been included yet not all of it has been surveyed for the qualifying NVC types. Includes some Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland yet to be separated out. | 707 | 8.29 |
| Woodland, wood-pasture and parkland | Wet Woodland | Further work is needed. Other areas exist that are yet to be surveyed for qualifying types. | 189 | 2.22 |
| Woodland, wood-pasture and parkland | Wood-Pasture and Parkland | Further work is needed to classify the Wood-Pasture and Parkland. | 3 | 0.04 |
| Hedgerows | Hedgerows | No comprehensive information yet available. | | |

Harvest Mouse Nest



Little Egret

| | BAP Priority Habitat | Comments on Status | Approximate EBC area (ha) | % of EBC area |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Open waters** | **Ponds** | No comprehensive information yet available. | | |
| **Open waters** | **Rivers** | Incomplete data. Approx. figures for Chalk Rivers only calculated from EA's River GIS layer | 24 | 0.28 |
| **Wetlands** | **Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh** | Further work is needed to identify all qualifying grazing marsh from survey data. Some overlap with Lowland Meadows and with Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures. | 340 | 3.99 |
| **Wetlands** | **Lowland Fens** | Comprehensive. | 1 | 0.01 |
| **Wetlands** | **Reedbeds** | Further work is needed to incorporate areas identified in a recent NE contract with RSPB. | 5 | 0.06 |
| **Coastal** | **Coastal Saltmarsh** | Comprehensive. | 38 | 0.45 |
| **Coastal** | **Coastal Vegetated Shingle** | Comprehensive. | 6 | 0.07 |
| **Coastal** | **Intertidal Mudflats** | Comprehensive. Does not include marinas but may include some sands & gravels. | 127 | 1.49 |
| **Coastal** | **Maritime Cliff and Slopes** | Further survey needed to identify all qualifying habitat. | | |
| | **Total** | | **1,512** | **17.73** |

*Data taken from: Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11 produced by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.*

*See notes 1 & 2*


*Small Copper*


*Young Adder*

**Notes:**

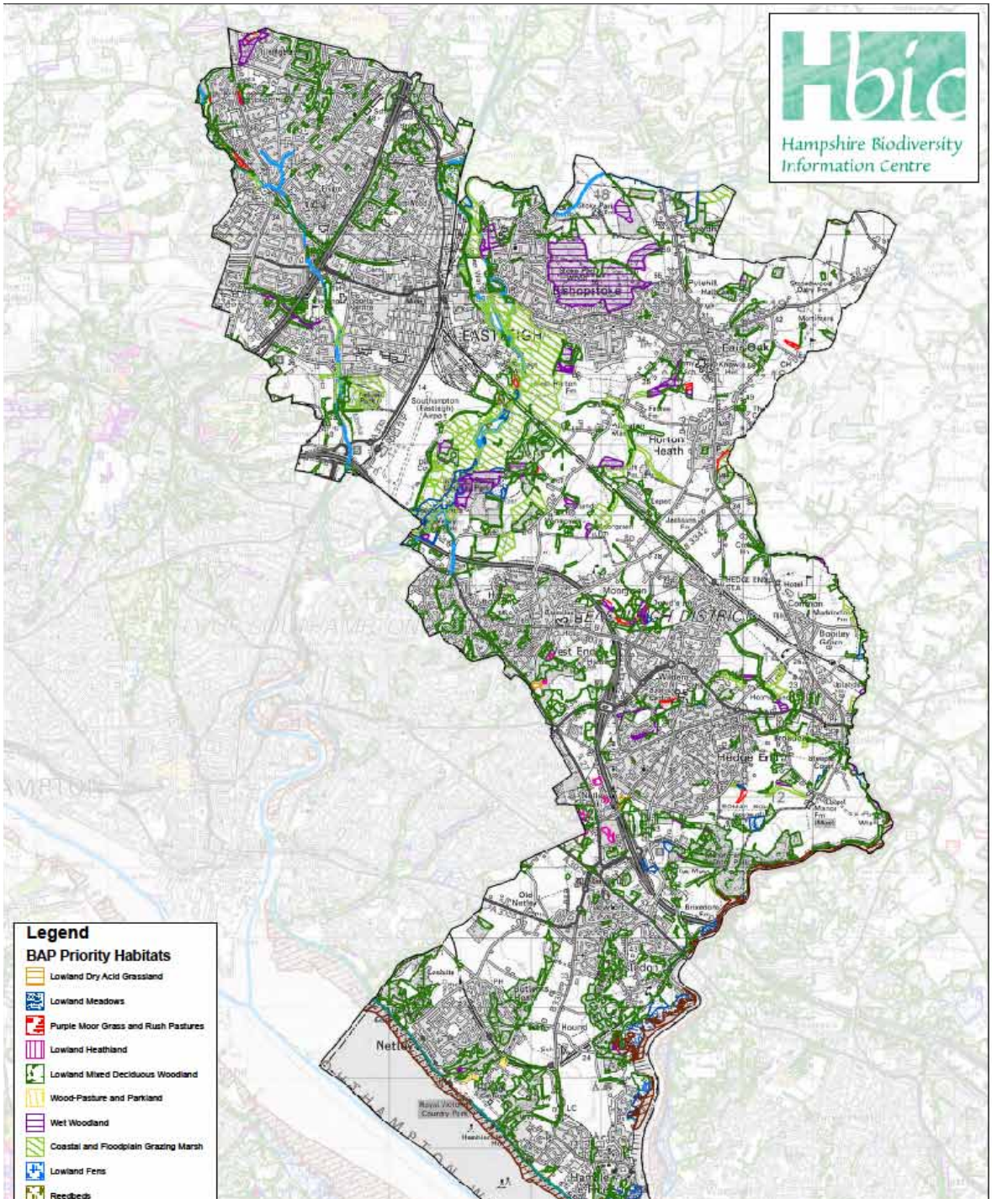
1. The totals of BAP Priority habitat are the sum of the individual BAP Priority habitat types (excluding Rivers). This is not the total area of land covered by BAP Priority habitat within the borough because some BAP Priority habitat types overlap and hence are double counted (e.g. Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh may overlap Lowland Meadows or Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures).
2. The percentage of the borough covered by BAP Priority habitat may be **slightly** over-exaggerated. This is because the total area of BAP Priority habitat may include areas where different habitat types overlap.

The full extent of priority habitats within the borough (and Hampshire) is not yet fully known – and may never be fully known due to the dynamic state of our countryside and the difficulties of obtaining access to many areas. HBIC continues to work with its funding partners to improve information on priority habitat extent and condition.

**Action** - More targeted surveys are needed to identify BAP habitats recently defined in the revised UK List of Priority Habitats 2007, such as 'Hedgerows', 'Ponds' and 'Rivers'.

**Map to show the extent of Priority Biodiversity Habitats within the borough**

Data in the map represents a snapshot in time and is continually revised based on on-going survey and analysis. Please contact HBIC for up-to-date information.



Honey Bee Swarm



Grass Snake

# Appendix 4: Assessing the Biodiversity of the Borough: Eastleigh Borough Priority Species

**Please also refer to the attached Excel Spreadsheet for a full list of Priority Species**

## Definition

Priority species are those which are rare, threatened or declining in distribution and/or number.

## How were they selected?

Unless otherwise stated, species are considered borough priorities for conservation action if they

a. feature in the UK Priority Species list [2] (selected using criteria based on international importance, rapid decline and high risk), or

b. have a protected or notable status (national or local), or

c. are considered by experts to be suffering worrying rates of decline, and

d. spend a significant part of their lifecycle in or near to the borough.

[2] 'Report on the Species and Habitat Review, Report to the UK Biodiversity Partnership, June 2007'. Table 2 gives a list of UK Priority Species (starting on page 16 of the Report)

## Is the Priority Species list comprehensive?

The list of priority species has been compiled with the aid of all the data kindly supplied by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and collected by the dedicated volunteer recording groups and natural history experts present in our area.

However, the list is not comprehensive. It should be treated as a well informed guide to the borough's priority species rather than a comprehensive list. This is because

- Species records may not be sent to the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and therefore up to date information may not be available on the species present in our area.
- Whilst some species are well recorded other species are not, with large gaps existing between records both in terms of time (years) and spatial areas surveyed.
- Records for many species within the borough are gathered from ad hoc observations rather than as part of dedicated survey programs.
- Further analysis of the list is required (see below)

*Eel*

*Water Shrew*

## Further Analysis of the Priority Species List

We recognise that further analysis of the borough's Priority Species list by experts is required to identify more accurately our borough priorities. in particular species are currently included on the borough's Priority Species list (because they meet our selection criteria) may in fact be strays or migrants to our area, or have been flagged as UK BAP species "for research only" rather than for conservation action (e.g. some Lepidoptera)

For the avoidance of doubt any species in or near the borough which meets the selection criteria should be considered an Eastleigh Borough Priority Species.

It is intended to revise our Priority Species list and provide updates at suitable intervals. We welcome information and advice on the selection of priority species.

## Eastleigh Borough Priority Species List

The borough's priority species list so far totals 582.

A full list of species is shown in the attached spreadsheet.

**Table showing a summary of Borough Priority Species and taxonomic groups within the borough**

| Taxonomic Group | Eastleigh Borough Priority Species |
|---|---|
| Amphibians & Reptiles | 6 |
| Birds | 141 |
| Higher Plants - Ferns | 4 |
| Higher Plants (excluding Ferns) | 84 |
| Fish | 10 |
| Fungi | 3 |
| Inverts - Colleoptera | 10 |
| Inverts – Diptera | 10 |
| Inverts – Hemiptera | 2 |
| Inverts – Hymenoptera | 18 |
| Inverts – Mollusca | 2 |
| Inverts - Odonata | 5 |
| Inverts – Lepidoptera - Butterflies | 10 |
| Inverts – Lepidoptera - Moths | 257 |
| Lichens | 1 |
| Liverworts, Hornworts & Mosses | 1 |
| Mammals (excluding Bats) | 8 |
| Marine Mammals | 1 |
| Mammals - Bats | 9 |
| **Totals** | **582** |


Greenwinged Orchid


Southern Damselfly

# Appendix 5

## Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) explained

**Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs), identified through the work of the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership, were used as an important evidence base during the preparation of the Eastleigh Borough Biodiversity Action Plan.**

For more information about BOAs please see Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) web site **http://www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic/hbic-projects/hbic-boas.htm**, which is summarised below.

## What are Biodiversity Opportunity Areas?

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas are specific geographical areas with the best opportunity to restore and create habitats of regional importance. They are defined entirely on the basis of identifying those areas where conservation action is likely to have the most benefit for biodiversity based on existing biodiversity interest and opportunities for enhancement.

Within Hampshire 41 BOAs have been identified (see map below). BOAs are not statutory designations and do not infer any constraint to development or land use but are meant as a guide to decision-making for land management.

## How were BOAs identified?

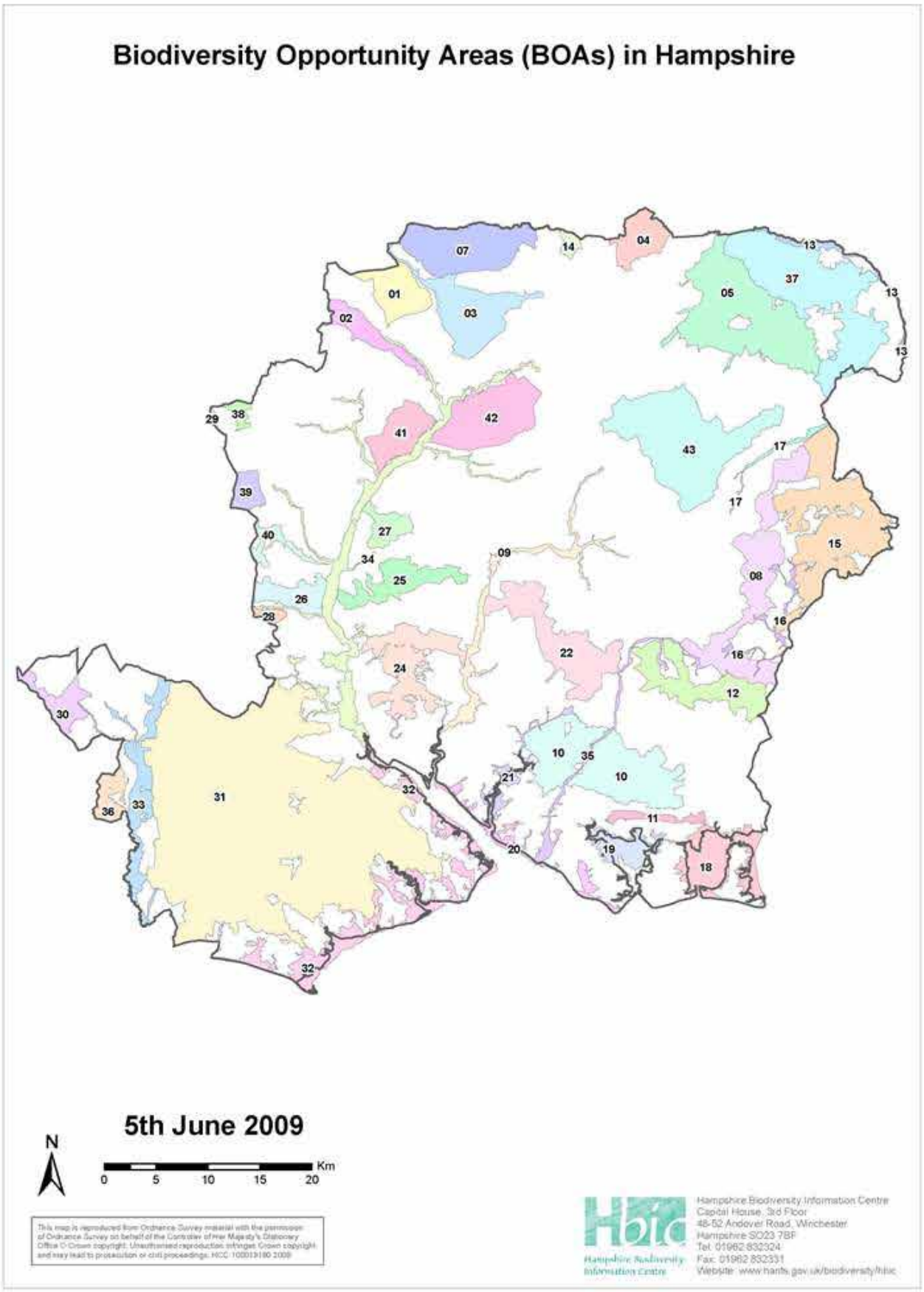
The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and its partners undertook the project on behalf of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership. Common standards were used to ensure consistency in scale and coverage across the counties of the South East. In Hampshire detailed GIS modelling was used, along with existing detailed habitat mapping, to initially identify the opportunity areas. The areas then underwent extensive consultation with a wide range of organisations and individuals to ensure that they represent the best opportunities for Hampshire. The final map of opportunity areas has now been adopted by the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership.

## How are BOAs useful?

- BOAs are part of a 'landscape-scale approach' to nature conservation that aims to make wildlife more robust to the changes in climate and other pressures, by restoring large areas of continuous habitat.
- BOAs are designed to guide land management for the benefit of biodiversity. They aim to complement the work of regional and local organisations to target land management support schemes and initiatives.
- The comprehensive mapping of areas of opportunity will inform green infrastructure and other spatial plans.

## Map showing BOAs in Hampshire

Map sourced from Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership.
**http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshirebiodiversity/boas.htm**



*Emerging Broad Bodied Chaser*



*Coppicing at Flexford*

# Appendix 6

## An action plan to focus biodiversity work within the borough

(please see attached excel spreadsheet)


Mushroom




Belted Galloways at Lakeside

# Appendix 7

For more information:
**www.eastleigh.gov.uk/biodiversity**

**The Biodiversity Officer**
Eastleigh Borough Council
023 8068 8064
biodiversity@eastleigh.gov.uk

**Important Note**

Nothing within this plan confers or implies a right of access onto any privately owned land within the borough.