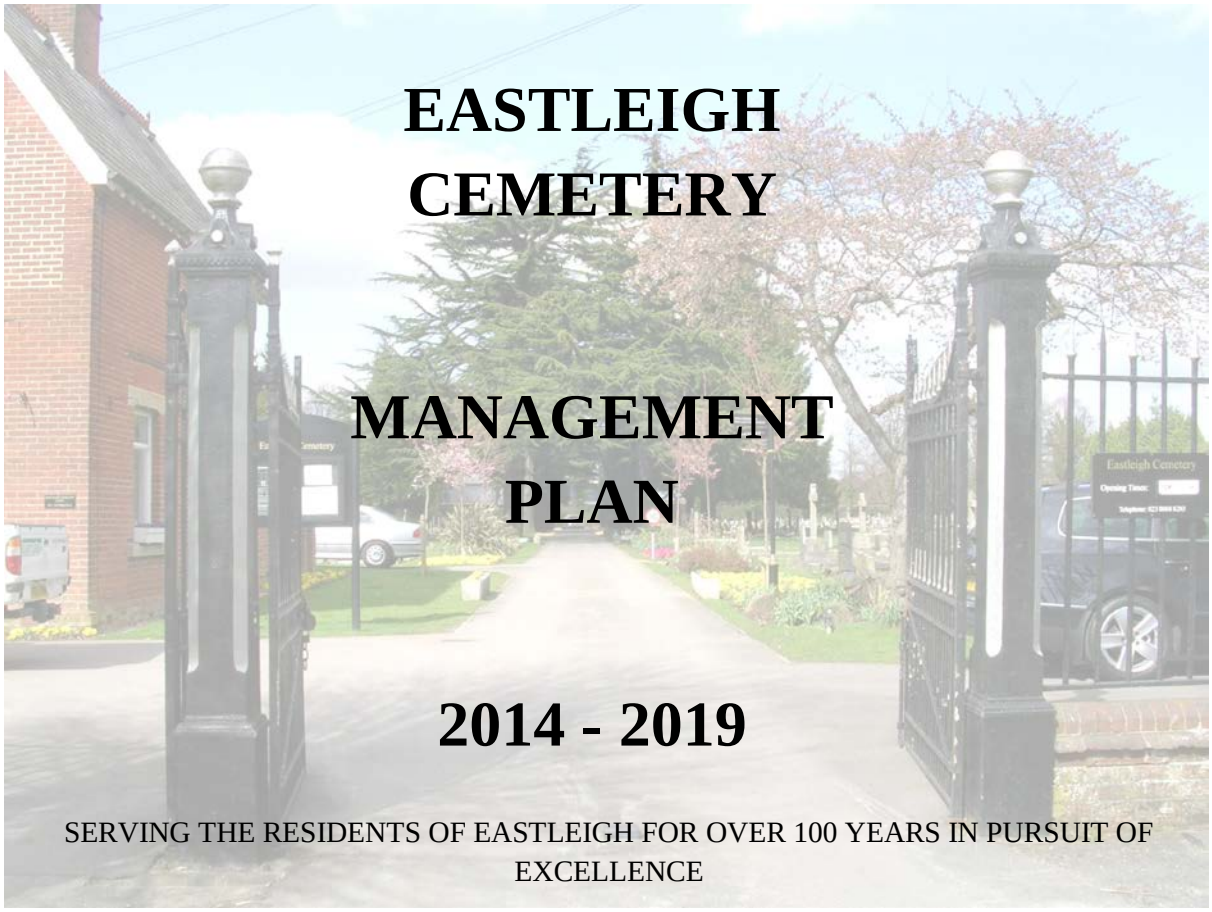
EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL



EASTLEIGH CEMETERY

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2014 - 2019

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF EASTLEIGH FOR OVER 100 YEARS IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Green Flag Award

Eastleigh Cemetery has achieved the Green Flag Award annually since 2006

Management Plan 2013

Reviewed 2014


Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) spotted in Eastleigh Cemetery extension photo by Ian Travers 2007

VISION FOR THE CEMETERY

The cemetery has been set out to provide burial and cremation plots for a wide variety of denominations/faiths for the residents of Eastleigh. The remaining areas between these facilities have been set aside for general amenity use and contains mature trees, shrub planting and annual bedding.

Generally the Cemetery has been laid out to specifically cater for quiet contemplation but now it is used a lot more by local residents for walking, bird watching and as an education resource by local schools.

The Cemetery should provide a focal point where grieving relatives can visit which is clean, tidy and quiet.

The Cemetery is also available to provide as much choice as possible to the public in the type of internment, memorials and coffins.

To provide a Cemetery of the highest quality for the people of Eastleigh, both as a site of commemoration and as a recreational open space for public enjoyment.

Eastleigh Borough Council's vision as a Burial Authority is to provide:

"A model Cemetery Service constituting both a site of Excellence in Bereavement Services and in Cemetery Conservation."

To achieve this vision we will:

Serve the Residents of Eastleigh by achieving the highest standards in Customer Care, Conservation Management and a Sustainable Burial service, achieving Best value for Money.

Develop Eastleigh Cemetery so that it will be appreciated for its beauty as much as it is now valued as a place to mourn, remember and respect the dead.

Contribute a unique area of cemetery open space for the public to enjoy nature, the landscape and learn about Eastleigh's history.

Ensure that Eastleigh continues to develop best practice in the provision of its burial service that provides ecologically sustainable facilities for the internment of the deceased whilst meeting the needs of the bereaved.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council enjoys a high reputation for the quality of its Cemeteries and Cemetery Service.

Eastleigh Cemetery at Brookwood Avenue serves the residents of Eastleigh and provides an important burial facility.

Eastleigh Borough Council faces the challenge of meeting the needs and expectations of the bereaved while operating the site as a recreational open space for public enjoyment. The Cemetery represents over 100 years of funeral culture in burial and commemoration of the dead and has a landscape that has evolved by responding to changing demands and expectations of the bereaved and society generally.

The past policies of subsidising burial provision without setting aside any provision for the long term liabilities created has made the Cemetery financially unsustainable.

Efforts continue to be made to reduce operational costs and the need to continue without affecting income generation or reduction of maintenance standards.

The management of Eastleigh Cemetery is guided by a range of themes derived from the Council's key aims. The purpose of this Plan is to provide the framework for developing the service ensuring that it will be implemented in the most co-ordinated and effective way possible.

To be successful, this Management Plan must become a working tool that prioritises co-ordinates and implements our objectives. As a working tool this document rests upon the action points, the timetable for implementation and the system for monitoring and reviewing the success of the management plan. Ultimately, the management plan is designed to help us achieve our vision.

This plan has some key themes for delivering improvements in the following key areas:

CUSTOMER CARE – Maintaining the high quality service currently provided and making continuous improvements by identifying and responding to customer needs and expectations. The primary vehicle for meeting this aim is through engaging users through quality questionnaires with Cemetery Users and liaison with Funeral Directors, Stone Masons, War Graves Commission and British Legion.

DEVELOPING PEOPLE – Our staff are the key to our success and, therefore, their development is pivotal to making continual progress in the quality of service provided. This will be achieved through a greater focus on individual learning and development plans for each member of staff combined with an overall plan to ensure skills match service requirements.

SUSTAINABILITY – Environmental performance and sustainable use of the cemetery landscape are equally important to the viability of the cemetery through initiatives such as drought resistant planting and low maintenance features.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING − Is undertaken using four methods of review. Three formal methods are through CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Professional Financial Accountants) and

APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) and the Charter for the Bereaved. We also undertake customer surveys and carry out regular site inspections.

INTRODUCTION

The Cemetery was opened in 1901 by Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Town Council and has been of significance to many generations as the final resting place for their loved ones. In addition to its importance to relatives as a place of remembrance, the Cemetery is a public space of some dignity even for those who have no personal connection to it.

As a burial Authority, Eastleigh Borough Council is a significant provider of burial and bereavement related services. The provision of high quality, accessible and responsive service benefiting the residents of Eastleigh is a key deliverable within the Council's Strategic Aims.

The cemetery can no longer be considered as a burial facility alone, it is a community asset within a site providing a public place of some dignity even for those who have no personal connection to it. In 2006 Eastleigh Cemetery achieved the Green Flag Award for the high standards of maintenance and service to the residents of Eastleigh.

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Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) seen in Eastleigh Cemetery on cherry tree along main drive photo by Ian Travers

Purpose

Eastleigh Cemetery, in the main, serves the residents of Eastleigh and 98% of all funerals received arise from deaths in Eastleigh.

The management plan recognises that cemeteries are an essential and high profile service area to the community. The grounds within the cemetery are a natural resource that requires careful management, if we are to continue to manage and promote the sites natural environment.

The continued provision of a management plan therefore shows the Councils recognises its responsibility and executes them in a professional, responsible, relevant and sympathetic manner. It is therefore intended that this plan will show how the council operates and manages the service. The key areas of the management plan are:

- Aims and Objectives of the Service
- Cemetery Management
- Environmental Management Systems
- Site infrastructure
- Management of Burials
- Management of Grounds
- Training and Health and safety

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the management plan is to highlight what the cemetery service is responsible for and what we aim to achieve over the life of the plan. The management plan provides the focus and overall direction, for the activities we as a cemetery service will carry out.

The following objectives have been reviewed for the development of the service, the development of the objectives to capitalise on our strengths, while attempting to remove any weaknesses. The continued awareness of the external environment affects will assist in providing a service to the community that is responsive to current changes and trends.

The main aims and objectives of the cemetery service, are as follows:

- **To provide a quality service at an affordable cost**
- **To improve environmental awareness**
- **Review current costs**
- **Seek the communities views on the cemetery service**

In setting out these aims, the Council has ensured that adequate funding is available to maintain the quality of the cemetery to a high standard, which recognises its value as an open space. The management plan sets out how these standards are being achieved, through current practices.

A Welcoming Place

Eastleigh Borough Council offers a range of services at the cemetery.

Bookings for funerals may be made via the Funeral Director or by telephoning between 09.00-16.00 Monday to Friday.

The primary aim is that the cemetery shall remain a peaceful, safe, clean and aesthetically pleasing place for the bereaved. Any visitor to the cemetery shall be presented with an open space and surroundings that are safe, clean peaceful, relevant and relaxing.

The cemetery service now has a high reputation for providing a well maintained environment, customer friendly service and proactive solution in how the cemetery is managed. It would be foolish to sit back and feel that all the hard work has been done, as all services within local government, need to consistently monitor and review its services if it wants to remain effective.

Charter for the Bereaved

Eastleigh Borough Council are members of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematoria Management and is a Charter Member of their Charter for the bereaved. Under this, there are two central promises which are as follows:

1. To comply with the Charter Rights and National Standards

2. To provide a service which meets the social, ethical and environmental needs of the community and offers choices which enable every individual to arrange a meaningful funeral.

The cemetery is primarily a Christian burial ground, provided a burial site for all people no matter what denomination, religion or belief. Where possible any special requirements will be met to ensure each service is individual and appropriate to the wishes of the deceased and relatives as possible.

Cemetery Staff

During the week gardening staff are available to assist the public.

The cemetery is managed and maintained by Direct Services, Streetscene team in accordance with a detailed specification.

Opening Times

Vehicle access gates open from 8.30am – 4.30pm pedestrian access at any time**.**

Management of the Burial Service

Eastleigh Cemetery caters for the internment of coffined remains and cremated remains, as the Council do not provide a Crematorium function. If residents require cremation services, they are directed to the private crematorium, located at Hedge End or Southampton City Councils crematorium.

Eastleigh Cemetery caters for the needs of the community, irrespective of religious beliefs, or ethnic origin. The aim of the service is to ensure that the cemetery is effective in its service provision and provides an efficient burial service to the community. There are many legal requirements and constraints relevant to the management of any cemetery, within the framework of Local Authority Cemetery Order 1977. The service will also cater for special requirements within acceptable reason, in order to provide a sense of ownership and individuality to the wishes of the family of the bereaved. The cemetery services provide information regarding the cemetery operation. This will include details concerning the burial process, funeral directors, location, type of grave, memorial choice and all associated costs.

Burial operations are managed in line with the industry requirements for internments. However if due to religious beliefs a Saturday morning or a 24 hour service is required this can be accommodated where all legal documentation is provided (by 12.00 the preceding day), subject to operational requirements.

Management of the site is directed by our policies. The current policies for the period of this management plan 2014 to 2019 are as follows:

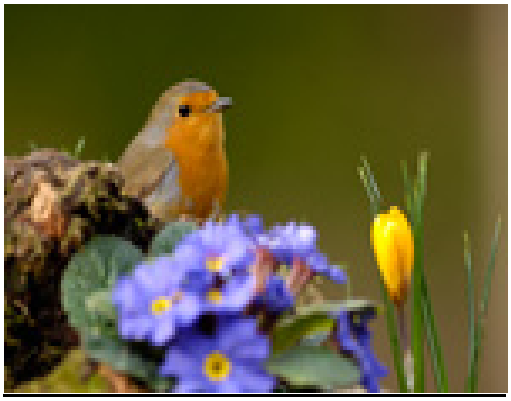
- To maintain a sustainable burial service
- To provide a burial facility primarily for the residents of Eastleigh

- To meet the needs and expectations of the bereaved
- To honour the rights of burial granted since 1901
- To maintain the memorials and grounds within the cemetery
- To provide a high quality service to the residents of Eastleigh
- To achieve sustainability in the use of resources, land and the environment
- To fulfil the powers, duties and responsibilities as a burial authority as defined by Section 214(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- To review management plan annually.

Disability Discrimination Act

The Council has a positive attitude to ensuring compliance with the act to ensure equal access to all users of the cemetery.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURE


Robin (*Erithacus rubecula)* seen in Eastleigh Cemetery

Cemeteries are both a place of work and a public place. Health and safety issues apply to both the workforce and visitors.

The two principal sources of health and safety law are Statute Law and Common Law. Statute Law consists of Acts of Parliament e.g. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Regulations e.g. the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Under the 1974 Act and various Regulations, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees and others.

We must maintain a safe place of work, safe equipment and safe systems of work, and employ competent people who will not pose a safety risk to others.

Common Law has been derived from precedents established by judgments in individual cases since the 11th century. Regarding safety matters, it is based on the rule that everyone owes a duty to anyone who might be affected by their conduct to take reasonable care not to cause them foreseeable injury or loss.

The Council (under the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 which is a guide used by most burial authorities) states that a burial authority may take any action that may be necessary to remove a danger which arises by means of the condition of a memorial.

Under Article 4.1 a burial authority shall keep the cemetery in good order and repair. Article 10 gives the authority the discretion to grant a right “to place and maintain” a memorial on a grave.

The Cemetery Manager is to undertake site Health and Safety Inspections monthly.

An Annual site safety inspection is undertaken by Cemetery Manager and Council's Health and Safety Officer.

Risk assessments have been developed for all tasks and are reviewed annually or immediately after an accident to see if anything can be done to prevent further incidents.

Safe systems of work developed for Cemetery service.

COSHH assessments to be produced for all chemicals.

Management action

Monthly site inspection detail of completed inspection placed on notice board in Cemetery lodge

Annual tree inspection

Annual review of Safe systems of work, Risk assessments and COSHH assessments

Annual safety inspection by StreetScene Manager and Council's Health and Safety Officer.

Annual vibration checks carried out on equipment.

Hand and Arm vibrations medical checks carried out on staff.

CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

The Cemetery is maintained by Streetscene to a performance specification whereby tasks are carried out in accordance with sound horticultural and cemetery management practices.

1. The regular maintenance to a high standard of lawns, grass areas, hedges and shrub beds.
2. The planting of new tree, herbaceous plants and shrubs.
3. Routine sweeping, litter collection and general cleaning.

Sweeping and Cleaning

Litter bin emptying is carried out as required throughout the year.

Required standard:

- Sweeping is carried out once a week but may be carried out more frequently to maintain the grounds in a clean condition.
- Litter bins emptied as required.
- Loose litter to be removed as and when required.

Horticultural Management

Lawns

Lawns and grass areas are to be cut as required to maintain the site in a good well maintained manor.

Required standard:

- Formal lawns around lodge and Garden of Remembrance will normally be cut weekly.
- Grave areas cut once a fortnight this includes cutting grave tops.

Perennial Planting, Shrubberies, Trees and Roses

There is an ongoing programme of renewal and replanting of shrubs, perennials, trees and roses during the life of this management plan.

The beds along the main drive and other beds around the site have been planted with a mixture of shrubs, trees, herbaceous plants and bulbs to create interest throughout the year.

Tree Management

Trees receive an annual inspection and any work required is undertaken to ensure the safety of both the operatives and visitors to the site,

Eastleigh Cemetery has an aging *Pinus sp, Cedrus sp*as well as *Tilia sp* along the perimeter next to the railway lines. Due to the age and condition of the planting we have now reached a point when consideration for replacement planting needs to be developed.

It is important to keep the landscape in keeping with the original design but also to develop it by using a greater diversity of species by creating a greater mix of deciduous and evergreen planting.

New bins designed specifically for Eastleigh Cemetery 2009 photo taken by Ian Travers

Litter and Refuse clearance

Removal of litter from this site is undertaken in compliance with the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991, in the transfer and disposal of all extraneous matter. For the purpose of litter collection, Eastleigh Cemetery is designated Category 2 zone under the code of practice issued by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

As well as litter bins we have dog bins because the cemetery is used by dog walkers.

Vandalism

If vandalism or graffiti occurs within the cemetery it is dealt with within 24 hours. We are lucky that we do not suffer in the main with vandalism of any kind.

Management of the built environment

Day to day repairs is carried out as and when required.

Major work to areas such as the Lodge, Roadways and Paths are met from the Councils capital programme.

Equipment Maintenance

All equipment is either maintained in the council's workshop or by specialist fitters.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Eastleigh Borough Council, through its Corporate Strategy, is dedicated to the development of initiatives to promote and improve the quality of life for all local people.

The Council endeavors to improve our environment by

- Encouraging waste minimisation.
- Developing and managing a healthy stock of trees within the Borough.
- Raising awareness of sustainability issues including conservation and use of all natural resources, to minimise undesirable impact upon the environment.

Other initiatives included in the Corporate Strategy are

- Climate Change
- Procurement
- Waste minimisation
- Biodiversity

In the Cemetery we follow the Council's Corporate Strategy on Environmental issues by composting as much of the green waste generated on site rather than sending it to recycling centre's or to landfill sites. Other non compostable but recyclable items are separated from normal waste and are then sent to the recycling centre's.

Sustainability

Green Waste Management is an important part of our work. Plans are being developed to provide better facilities for controlling and managing green waste produced at the Cemetery.

The Cemetery extension will be planned within sustainable guidelines, using drought resistant planting schemes and low maintenance features.

Earth Star fungus (*Geastrum fimbriatum*) found in Eastleigh Cemetery under conifers near to compound photo by Ian Travers

Pesticides

Where practical, the use of pesticides will be minimised and other methods sought to eventually lead to no pesticides being used. (See appendix 5 Pesticide Policy)

Watering

Planting schemes are designed, where possible, to reduce the amount of watering required to maintain good horticultural impact.

Peat use

The use of peat products in the Cemetery has been greatly reduced by using compost produced on site and further improvements are actively being investigated.

Waste Minimisation

Over the period of the last management plan it has been our aim to reduce the amount of waste material being sent to landfill sites. During the past 5 years we have developed a composting area which initially was for the green waste produced from the maintenance operations undertaken in the Cemetery. This has now been developed with public support to include recyclable waste from floral tributes brought to the Cemetery. During 2008/09 the amount of waste from floral tributes going to landfill was reduced and this year 4 cubic metres of our compost has been used to top dress the shrub beds and bedding areas.

Also over the last year, cans, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard have been collected from the cemetery bins which has resulted in 5 cubic metres going into the recyclable waste stream.

In addition to the green waste and recyclable waste generated within the cemetery a lot of spoil is produced from grave digging. In 2009, 20 cubic metres of soil has been used in the cemetery extension to create banks for wildlife and wildflowers

CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation

The Local Authority has been working in Partnership with The Wildlife Trust to ensure that sites owned and managed by the Authority are wildlife friendly.

Within the Cemetery we have tried to provide a habitat for as wide arrange of plants, insects, birds mammals and reptiles as possible. We have planted native hedges within the Cemetery extension to provide food sources, nesting and roosting sites for birds and insects. Wild flower seed has also been sown to create nectar for bees and insects as well as seed for birds.


Wildlife signage in Cemetery Extension 2011 photo by Matt Clarke.

Annual bedding has been reduced and more shrubs and herbaceous plants have been planted to provide food sources for birds and insects.

Insect refuges have been created by cemetery staff and been placed around the cemetery to provide sites for overwintering

Maintenance regimes have been developed to maintain the wildlife balance.

The Cemetery Extension has been laid out with a 5m wide wildlife barrier maintained around the edge of the site as a habitat for slow worms and other flora and fauna. The remainder of the area will be kept close mown to prevent slow worms moving back into the area. (Appendix 1 Cemetery Extension Bio-diversity Management Plan) and (Appendix 4 BAP repot)

Some of the residents have gates leading from their back gardens into the Cemetery Extension and are cutting the grass outside which was part of the wildlife barrier which conflicts with our biodiversity aims for this site. Consultation with residents backing onto the site needs to be undertaken before matters worsen.

Plans need to be drawn up for the layout of the Cemetery Extension and budgets set up for construction of roadway, paths, plots and Garden of Remembrance.

Management action

Continue to improve planting so that a diverse habitat is maintained.

Continue to create insect refuges

Appendix 1

EASTLEIGH CEMETERY EXTENSION WILDIFE AREA MANGEMENT PLAN

JANUARY 2009

Written by Matt Clarke, Cemeteries Team

Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) found in Eastleigh Cemetery in cemetery extension photo taken 2010 by Matt Clarke

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SUMMARY

In 2006 Eastleigh Cemetery was extended to include an area of land that was formally allotments. Following a survey it became evident that a high population of slow-worms (*Anguis fragilis*) was present on the site. Development of the site included the translocation of slow-worms and this began in 2005. As part of the mitigation for extending the cemetery a buffer surrounding the extension was created. This buffer was to become a wildlife area and left to provide habitat to slow-worms that remained around the perimeter of the extension.

This document outlines the management plan required to enhance the wildlife area for slow-worms and other wildlife. At present the wildlife area consists mainly of tussock grassland and bramble scrub. The main objectives of this management plan are to increase the biodiversity of the site, provide a green corridor for wildlife, as well as to promote enjoyment and education to the public.

The management of the site will be undertaken in two stages. The first year management will include 'one off' jobs that will create the overall structure site and composition of various habitats. In subsequent years the focus of the management will predominantly be on maintaining these habitats in order to increase biodiversity. Wildlife monitoring on the site will begin in the first year and will continue thereafter.

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Site Introduction

Eastleigh Cemetery is situated at the end of Brookwood Avenue on the outskirts of the town of Eastleigh, Hampshire (see **Map 1- Site Location**). Eastleigh Cemetery is bordered by a railway line to the north, allotments to the west, residential housing to the south, and an industrial site to the east.

This management plan is for the wildlife area that surrounds the cemetery extension, which is situated on the southwest corner of Eastleigh Cemetery.

Site History

Eastleigh Cemetery was created in 1900 with the first internment being in 1901. Prior to 1900 it seemed that the land use was agricultural. As the cemetery has gradually filled up over the years it has extended on a few occasions.

In more recent years it was decided that a further extension to the cemetery would be required. The proposed extension included a section of adjacent allotments bordering the south west of the cemetery. Consequently an ecological assessment found a high population of slow- worms *Anguis fragilis*, inhabiting the proposed extension. Slow worms are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly injure or kill them, and so subsequently a reptile translocation was carried out in order to protect animals from the proposed development. Most of the animals were moved to a separate receptor site but some were retained within the remaining habitat surrounding the extension, which is now the wildlife area.

This wildlife area now requires a wildlife management plan to ensure that the favorable conservation status of reptiles is maintained, the area is enhanced for all wildlife, and the visiting public can gain enjoyment and education from it. This is in line with Government Policy and Best Practice Guidance.

2.0 Site Description

The cemetery extension covers an area of approximately 4628m2. The wildlife area is approximately a 5m strip of land that surrounds the proposed burial ground. At present the burial ground comprises of shortly mown amenity grassland, which receives a once fortnightly cut.

The wildlife area covers approximately 1340m2. It is predominantly comprised of tussock, rough grassland, with a large encroachment of bramble. There are a few shrubs within the wildlife area including a buddleia and cherry sp. *Prunus sp.* The northern edge of the site which separates the extension from the main cemetery includes a hedgerow which consists of privet spp. *Ligustrum spp.* and is inter-dispersed with a few maple trees predominantly situated at the western end. The eastern and southern edges of the site border the gardens of

residential properties. There is evidence of human encroachment from the adjacent properties onto the wildlife area. This encroachment is exhibited in the form of mown grass, digging up of vegetation, dumping of garden waste, and non native planting. A chain link fence exists between the western edge of the extension and the current allotments.

EVALUATION

Current Conservation Value

Species Recording

Ongoing recording of species has been undertaken within Eastleigh Cemetery as a whole (see **Appendix 1**). Species that have been recorded in the surrounding area could potentially utilise the habitats with the wildlife area, either as a corridor for dispersal or colonisation.

Site Context

The wildlife area is in a relatively urban setting, however it is located amongst other green areas and green corridors, such as the railway line and the cemetery itself. The site already supports a population of slow- worms, and if managed appropriately it will enhance the general area for wildlife. In compliance with the European initiative – Natura 2000 it would help to link up wildlife habitats.

Notable Species

One reason for the creation of the wildlife area was to provide suitable habitat for the remaining population of slow-worms after the cemetery extension had been created. In order to maintain the favourable conservation status of slow-worms within the local area it is imperative that the management plan takes this into consideration. Slow-worms are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species.

Stag beetles have been recorded within the cemetery. Stag beetles are also a BAP species and the favourable conservation status of this species should be promoted within this plan. The larval stage of the stag beetle requires rotting/dead wood from tree species such as oak *Quercus sp.*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, apple and beech *Fagus sylvatica*. Therefore, this must be considered in order to cater for all life stages. Because dead wood is also such an important resource for many other species, by providing stag beetle habitat other species would benefit. Thus, biodiversity would be increased.

Evaluation

The wildlife area is of value at local level. It provides a habitat for specifically the notable species mentioned above, but also provides a green corridor and sanctuary for many other species of flora and fauna. Together with other sites it has the potential to aid in increasing and conserving biodiversity within the borough.

Site Potential

Habitats and species

At present the site is not particularly bio diverse or structurally diverse. However with the correct management it has the potential to harbor a more diverse array of species and habitats. Currently the wildlife area is comprised of rank grassland and a large amount of bramble. The following management practices could improve this structure and thus increase biodiversity:

- Increase grassland sward diversity including wildflower species.

The more bio diverse the sward, the more invertebrate and bird species are likely to exploit it.

- Create log piles and half submerged logs.

Log piles and rotting wood provides excellent habitat for invertebrates whilst offering good refuges for other animals like voles, frogs, mice and slow-worms. The creation of this dead wood habitat is of particular interest to the wildlife area due to previous sightings in the cemetery of both larval and adult life stages of the stag beetle. Increasing the diversity and population size of invertebrate fauna will in turn support an increased diversity of flora and fauna in general. In particular this will help to maintain and possibly increase the slow-worm population, by providing a greater food source and more natural refuges.

- Create ridges and mounds

By creating mounds and ridges the overall structure of the site will become more diverse; this in turn creates a variety of habitats and microclimates. Mounds that create south facing slopes with a mixture of open areas and cover provide species such as slow-worms with basking spots and refuges. Newly created soil mounds will also allow wildflowers and grasses to get an initial foothold over the present dominating species.

- Reduce the amount of bramble

Bramble is a dominating species and currently out competes other plants. It does however offer many benefits to wildlife and therefore does have its place in the wildlife area but must be appropriately managed. If selected areas of bramble thickets are left then they will provide cover and food for birds, mammals and invertebrates.

- Plant native shrubs

By planting a variety of native shrubs from local origin, it will naturally increase the floral diversity and at the same time will provide an enhanced habitat for fauna species.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are important as they allow dispersal and colonisation for wildlife in between suitable habitats. Consequently populations are interlinked instead of being isolated. Ultimately this is understood to reduce genetic bottlenecking and strengthen populations.

One example for this being put in to practice within the wildlife area is for the slow-worm. Although this rough grassland habitat will allow good slow-worm habitat for resident animals it will also join up surrounding parts of the cemetery with other green areas adjacent such as residential gardens and allotments.

It is hoped that the wildlife area will become such a corridor for a number of species whilst allowing suitable habitat for more permanent or visiting species.

Public education and enjoyment

Eastleigh cemetery is a public area, therefore as well as the management objectives designed for the benefit to local wildlife the public must also be considered. It would be beneficial for the wildlife area to provide enjoyment and education to the public particularly as this coincides with more of the councils overall objectives.

It would be useful to put up a sign explaining about the wildlife area with information about the species present and the importance of the site. It is hoped that as well as providing an educational resource, the sign will discourage such activities as fly tipping, dog fouling and encroachment as the site will appear more official and purposeful.

3.0 Constraints

One of the current issues perceived as being a constraint is the encroachment from bordering residents on to the wildlife area. The encroachment is in the form of cleared land that has been converted to vegetable plots and other areas that are being mown as a short lawn. This encroachment will be detrimental to the wildlife area and indeed the wildlife itself. This issue needs to be addressed at an early stage to ensure that the objectives of this management plan are met and are successful.

There have been a number of incidences of fly tipping on the wildlife area. This constraint impacts on the wildlife, the management practices and the aesthetics of the area so therefore needs to be managed.

Dog fouling is a current problem in the cemetery. This as well as being unpleasant for visitors can have a negative impact to the wildlife as it degrades the grassland diversity by over-nitrifying the ground and allowing for the most dominant grasses to overtake other plant species.

4.0 Management Objectives

The objectives of this management plan are as follows:

- To increase the biodiversity of the wildlife area;
- To enhance the site for the species currently present;
- To maintain a healthy population of slow-worms following the past mitigation work carried out for this species when the cemetery extension was created;
- To enhance the site aesthetically for public enjoyment and education;
- To contribute to the connectivity of green areas within the borough.

5.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 Operational objectives and outline prescriptions

Table 5.1

Operational Objective	**Outline Prescription**
Increase grassland sward diversity	1. Planting wildflower seed mix such as Emorsgate. The wildflower seed will be sown on patches of bare ground to limit the amount of competition from other plants; 2. Cut grassland with a strimmer on a rotation annually; 3. Scrub management, particularly encroaching bramble.
Create deadwood habitat	1. Create log and brash piles; 2. Create stag beetle loggery's by half burying large logs and covering with soil and wildflower seed mix.

Increase species and structural diversity of shrub layer	1. Management of encroaching bramble by cutting back; 2. Plant new areas of native fruiting shrubs including hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn; 3. Manage scrub to create a graded edge between grassland and shrub layer; 4. New shrub planting to be managed as coppice on a rotational cycle.
Provide increased basking spots for reptiles and other animals	1. Create ridges and mounds in several locations to provide south facing slopes; 2. Plant ridges and mounds with wildflower seed mix to provide reptiles with cover and food for invertebrates.
Reclaim land encroached upon by bordering residential properties	1. Enforce the Councils procedure on encroachment of land. 2. Re-wild areas that have been encroached upon.
Provide educational resources and enjoyment of the site for the general public	1. Provide an interpretation board at the entrance to the cemetery extension.
Biodiversity recording.	1. Ongoing day-to-day recording of species sightings. 2. Monitoring of slow-worm population.

5.2 Work Programme

Table 5.2 outlines the work program for the first year (2009) for the cemetery extension, it includes initial work that needs to be undertaken in order to covert the extension from an area of rough grassland to a wildlife area. Management for the following 4 years is shown on **Table 5.3** and will include ongoing management to help maintain and increase biodiversity on the site.

Table 5.2 Work program for the first year (2009)

Prescription	**January**	**February**	**March**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**August**	**September**	**October**	**November**	**December**
Plant wildflower seed mix on bare ground			■	■	■							
Strimming									■			
Scrub Management Cutting	■	■									■	
Create log piles			■									
Create stag beetle loggeries					■							
Plant new native shrubs	■	■										
Prune shrubs whips									■			
Creation of mounds and ridges			■	■								
Enforce the Councils Encroachment procedure to reclaim land				■								
Re-wild encroached areas with wildflower and grass seed mix			■									
Install interpretation board	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Ongoing species recording	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Slow worm monitoring			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		

Table 5.3 Ongoing management programme

Prescription	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
Strimming	Undertaken during September	Undertaken during September	Undertaken during September	Undertaken during September
Scrub management	Cut back bramble each November avoiding nesting bird season.	Cut back bramble each November avoiding nesting bird season.	Cut back bramble each November avoiding nesting bird season.	Cut back bramble each November avoiding nesting bird season.
Non-native shrub management	Cut back in October at the end of the nesting bird season	Cut back in October at the end of the nesting bird season	Cut back in October at the end of the nesting bird season	Cut back in October at the end of the nesting bird season
Native shrub management	Left for natural growth	Prune tops of shrubs to encourage a dense shrub layer	Left for natural growth	Prune tops of shrubs to encourage a dense shrub layer
Biodiversity recording	Ongoing throughout the year, species recorded once sighted	Ongoing throughout the year, species recorded once sighted	Ongoing throughout the year, species recorded once sighted	Ongoing throughout the year, species recorded once sighted
Slow worm population monitoring	Reptile surveying undertaken by volunteers March-October	Reptile surveying undertaken by volunteers March-October	Reptile surveying undertaken by volunteers March-October	Reptile surveying undertaken by volunteers March-October
Maintenance inspection	Once monthly inspections to record encroachment, fly-tipping etc.	Once monthly inspections to record encroachment, fly-tipping etc.	Once monthly inspections to record encroachment, fly-tipping etc.	Once monthly inspections to record encroachment, fly-tipping etc.

Map of Eastleigh Cemetery showing extension into allotment site

Appendix 1

Eastleigh Cemetery Species List

The following list is an account of the species that have been sighted in Eastleigh cemetery as a whole within the last two years.

Birds

Little egret *Egretta garzetta*

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*

Blue tit *Parus caeruleus*

Great tit *Parus major*

Coal tit *Parus ater*

Long tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Black bird *Turdus merula*

Wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Greater black backed gull *Larus marinus*

Herring gull *Larus argentatus*

Black headed gull *Larus ridibundus*

Mallard duck *Anas platyrhynchos*

Crow *Corvus corone*

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Magpie *Pica pica*

Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Greater spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Green woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Sparrow hawk *Accipiter nisus*

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Gold crest *Regulus regulus*

Gold finch *Carduelis carduelis*

Green finch *Carduelis chloris*

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Pied wagtail *Motacilla alba*

January 2014

Mammals

Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*

Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Reptiles

Slow worm *Anguis fragilis*

Grass snake *Natrix natrix*

Amphibians

Common frog *Ranus temporaria*

Invertebrates

Wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi*

Garden spider *Araneous diadenatus*

Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*

Ground beetles – several species

White lipped snail

Conehead grasshopper

Peacock butterfly *Inachis io*

Red admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Appendix 2

List of equipment used in the Cemetery

Badger used for grave digging

Powerfab used for grave digging on areas the Badger can not go

Arien zero turn mower

Honda rotary mower

Strimmer

Hedge cutter

Knapsack sprayer

Shoring and covers for open graves

Appendix 3

Page 1

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

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 geo-diversity, 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 recreation 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".

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.

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).

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).

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.

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.

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 BiodiversityAreas, 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 Linksare 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.

Development

Development within or near Priority BiodiversityAreas 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.

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 Lowland Meadows Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Parkland
Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: See list in Appendix 4 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. Research the effects of fragmentation on priority species populations including genetic viability of adder and common lizard populations.

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 Lowland Meadows Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Eastleigh Borough Priority

Species:
See list in Appendix 4
Includes: common toad, wetland plants, butterflies
Accessible sites: Flexford Nature Reserve 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. Significant grassland restoration has been achieved by reinstating appropriate grazing and cutting scrub back by hand, particularly at Flexford and Hocombe Mead Reserves. 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.

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 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 & 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 Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: See list in Appendix 4
Includes: common toad, grass snake, slow worms, kingfisher
Accessible sites: Lakeside Country Park
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
Habitat degradation through lack of management Invasive Species.
Actions: Maximise uptake of agri-environment schemes such as HLS at Lakeside Country Park.
Enhance Fleming Park's accessible natural greenspace.
Increase awareness and appreciation of the area's biodiversity value amongst users and local residents.
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.

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
River Itchen Special Area of Conservation
24 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan
Priority Habitats:
Chalk River Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Lowland Meadows Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Reedbeds Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Eastleigh Borough Priority
Species:
See list in Appendix 4
Includes: Southern Damselfly, otters, water voles, eel
Accessible sites: Itchen Valley County Park
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.
Threats: Irregular and/or low water levels Habitat degradation through lack of management Inappropriate management and impact of public access Invasive Species 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. Maximise uptake of agri-environment schemes such as HLS across the catchment, including Itchen Valley Country Park. Introduce sensitive grazing to floodplain habitats.

Develop river restoration projects
Carry out co-ordinated mink control between landowners on the River Itchen.
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 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 Lowland Meadows Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Ponds
Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: See list in Appendix 4
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 Invasive non-native species
Actions: Secure HLS for Wyvern Meadow by 2014.
Support the creation of a Friends Group to manage Wyvern Meadow and the wider area.
Manage a pond network to support breeding populations of great crested newt
Control invasive non-native species including New Zealand Pigmyweed *(Crassula helmsii),* Indian (Himalayan) Balsam *(Impatiens glandulifera)*, Rhododendron and Laurel.

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 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Hedgerows
Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: See list in Appendix 4
Including ancient woodland plant indicator species
Butterflies Insect e.g. Stag Beetle Amphibian and reptiles
Accessible sites: Stoke Park Woods
Crowdhill Copse
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 Fragmentation of Hedgerows in the arable landscape

Actions: Carry out sympathetic hedgerow and woodland ride management to promote priority species

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
1 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority
Habitats:
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Wet Woodland
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
Habitat degradation through lack of management
Actions: Investigate and action options to increase ground and surface water flow to the SSSI. Ensure compliance with HLS management on Council and private land.

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)
8 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats: Lowland Heathland Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Lowland Meadows Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Eastleigh Borough Priority Species: See list in Appendix 4
Accessible sites: Netley Common
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
Habitat isolation
Invasive Non-Native Species
Actions: Restore heathland and woodland areas and bring into favourable management using agri-environment schemes where appropriate. Reconnect priority habitats as opportunities arise. Control invasive species such as laurel and rhododendron.

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
21:Hamble Valley
Nature Conservation
Designations:
Lincegrove & Hackett's Marshes SSSI
Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI
Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods SSSI
Solent Maritime SAC
Solent & Southampton Water SPA
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar
Hackett's Marsh Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Manor Farm Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Mercury Marshes Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Westwood Woodland Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
42 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority
Habitats:
Lowland Heathland Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Lowland Meadows Reedbeds
Coastal Saltmarsh Intertidal Mudflats Saline Lagoons Coastal Vegetated Shingle Wood-Pasture and Parkland Wet Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Eastleigh Borough Priority
Species:
See list in Appendix 4
Accessible sites: Westwood Woodland Park
Royal Victoria Country Park
Manor Farm Country Park
Hamble Common
Priors Hill Copse (area next to Butlock's Heath Community Centre only)
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 overwintering
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 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 seminatural
coastal habitats.
Threats: Coastal Squeeze and Disruption of Natural Coastal Processes
Water Quality and Pollution
Changing Land Use
Recreation
Lack of Management
Actions: Devise and implement strategies to sustainably maintain the extent of coastal habitats in the face of sea level rise. Establish projects which promote best practice in the use and disposal of harmful marine antifouling agents. Ensure adequate land management buffers to priority habitats are included place, including sustainable drainage systems, for all development activities. Secure agri-environment schemes for priority habitats within the area. Support the Hamble Estuary Partnership as a forum to help deliver action. Ensure provision of suitably managed high-tide sites for coastal birds.

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

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*).

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,
Common Lizard
Small mammals including Dormice.
Issues Habitat management regimes which complement highways maintenance requirements can be challenging.

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
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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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

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www.eastleigh.gov.uk/biodiversity

Appendix 1

Summary of Changes to Priority Biodiversity Areas Map
Biodiversity Action Plan for Eastleigh Borough **2012-2022**

Appendix 2

Priority Biodiversity Areas and Links (North and South maps)
Biodiversity Action Plan for Eastleigh Borough **2012-2022**

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

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.

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.

Priority habitats are those which are rare, threatenedor 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.

[1] A UK List of Priority Habitats was selected using criteria based on international obligations, high risk, and importance for key species.
* Remnant woodland banks retaining ancient seminatural 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.

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.
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 (Includes remnant woodland banks)
Further work is needed as currently all seminatural 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.

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

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.

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)

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

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.

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

Appendix 6

An action plan to focus biodiversity work within the borough

(please see attached excel spreadsheet)

Appendix 7

For more information: www.eastleigh.gov.uk/biodiversity
The Biodiversity Officer Eastleigh Borough Council 023 8068 8352 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.

Appendix 4

PESTICIDES POLICY

DEFINITION

Pesticides are chemical substances and certain micro-organisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses and mycroplasms) prepared or used to destroy pests. Pests include creatures, plants and other organisms and, therefore, the term “pesticides” encompasses products such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. For the purposes of the Pesticide Regulations 1986, it also includes other substances such as wood preservatives, plant growth hormones, soil sterilants, bird and animal repellants and masonry biocides.

INTRODUCTION

The use of pesticides will only be permitted where such use is part of good horticultural practice. The maintenance programmes have been designed to effectively minimize the use of such products.

The Councils Local Agenda 21 initiatives recognises the importance of maintaining biodiversity in undertaking land management to enhance and protect existing species and habitats. A national reduction in the use of pesticides has been targeted as a means of establishing a more environmentally sustainable and ecologically acceptable way forward in the maintenance of the amenity landscape.

APPRAISAL AND SELECTION

Pesticides used shall be those approved for the specific purpose under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and Control of Pesticides Regulation 1986.

In order to select the appropriate pesticide for a given situation assessments must be made under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health as to the risk to the operator/user, public and environment. The COSHH assessments must be reviewed annually to ensure safety.

USE

The transport, storage, handling, application and disposal of pesticides shall be strictly in accordance with the manufacture's instructions, the Code of Practice of the Use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity Areas, the HSE/HSC Approved Code of Practice for the safe use of Pesticides for Non - Agricultural Purposes and all other Acts of Parliament and Regulations appertaining to their use.

STORAGE

No pesticides may be stored unless they are within a secure Pesticide Store in accordance with legislation.

RECORDS

Detailed records of pesticide application must be kept.

LEGISLATION

The control of pesticides in Britain is implemented as part 3 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and The Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986.

It is a requirement under the legislation to ensure that reasonable precautions are taken to protect the health of all living organisms and safeguard the environment when using pesticides.

Relevant Acts of Parliament and Regulations used in formulating Policy

The Poisons Act 1972

The Health and safety at Work Act 1974

The Control of Pollution Act 1974

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Health and Safety Poisonous Substances in Agriculture Regulation 1984

The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985

The Control of Pesticide Regulation 1986

The Environmental Protection Act 1990

The Environmental Protection Act Code of Practice 1990

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1990, 1992 and 1994 as amended.

Management of Health and safety at Work Regulations 1992(Risk Assessments)

Provision of Work Equipment Regulations 1992

Manual Handling Operation Regulation 1992

Provision of Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

AIMS OF THE POLICY

The following policy aims, encompass the Council procedure in decision making process, have been adopted for the selection, approval and application of pesticides.

- Pesticides are used only where absolutely necessary to achieve a cost effective service.
- To use the least harmful approved pesticide.
- Ensure only trained personnel undertake pesticide application.
- Comply with manufacturers recommendations relating to the use of pesticides.
- To keep adequate records of pesticide application.
- To comply with all relevant legislation.

Appendix 5

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is an action plan for the 21st century setting out how countries can work towards sustainable development which meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It includes ideals for how we live our lives, reducing our impact on the local and global environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy a good quality of life.

Agenda 21 recognises that man's activities affect the environment far beyond our immediate surroundings. We are using up the earth's limited resources and polluting air, land and water. Plant and animal species are being lost and changes such as global warming are threatening the planet's ability to support human life.

Agenda 21 is not just about the green environment. It brings together the social and economic aspects of our lives as well as the natural environment, all of which contribute to our quality of life. Sustainable development requires us to solve our social, economic and environmental problems in an integrated and balanced way.

Approximately 2/3 of the actions identified in Agenda 21 re quire the active involvement of local authorities and there is the expectation that local authorities throughout the world will work with their local communities to make their own plans to work towards sustainable development – a Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21

Eastleigh Borough Council through its Environmental Charter is dedicated to development of Local Agenda 21 initiatives to promote a sense of well being and quality of life. It is ultimately about changing the way we live as individuals and communities. The Councils Environmental Charter recommends the need to reduce the resources that we use, put right environmental damage, protect environmental quality and raise the quality of people's lives.

Themes for quality of life

1. **More efficient use of resources and less waste.**

   This includes the reduction of waste produced by households in the Borough and the continued recycling of waste. Reduce consumption of energy and an increase in energy efficiency. The re-use of land and buildings. Reduce d use of water.

2. **A more diverse natural environment**

   The protection and enhancement of rural and urban sites for their wildlife interest.

3. **Lower levels of pollution**

   This includes air and water quality, soil, noise pollution and litter and dog fouling.

4. **Where possible meet local needs locally**

   The availability of employment and services locally to reduce the need to travel by private vehicle, thereby reducing pollution.

5. **More opportunity for work in a diverse economy**

   The opportunity to undertake work for fair wages for all.

6. **Access to basic needs for all**

   Access to food, clean water, somewhere to live and warmth for all.

7. **Improvements in Health**

The protection of health as a result of reduced pollution, a clean and pleasant environment and access to local health facilities.

8. Less fear of crime and persecution

Reduced rate of crime and increased sense of safety.

9. Access to facilities, services, goods and people is not at the expense of the environment.

Access is not limited to those with cars. Availability of public transport and safe environments for cycling and walking. Reduced pollution from motor vehicle usage and a reduction in traffic accidents. Access for the disabled.

10. Access to education, skills and information for all.

Access to education, qualifications, skills and information for all members of the community in order for them to be able to play a full part in society.

11. People valuing the neighbourhood and community in which they live.

12. All parts of the community having a say in decision making.

Consultation is carried out in such a way that all members of the community are able to become involved.

13. Opportunities for leisure, recreation and culture for all.