

# **Making A Difference**

## **A Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Authority Services**

Report Sponsored by Gateshead MBC

A Product of the Durham Biodiversity Partnership

## About This Guide

This document is intended to provide an easily assimilated, working guide for the local authority officer or operations supervisor, to help them incorporate the concepts of 'Action for Wildlife - The Durham Biodiversity Plan', into their jobs.

In the guide a wide range of service provision areas are highlighted and for each of these a number of suggestions are made on how working practices might be changed or re-emphasised, to effect improvements for biodiversity. Across the Plan's area of influence the responsibility for delivering different services will be seated in different departments, according to the organisation of the local authority concerned. Hence, the suggestions for working practices have been grouped under service provision headings rather than departmental ones.

This is a guide only and it is not designed to be comprehensive. In many cases council officers will already be doing much to maintain biodiversity and, furthermore, they will be able to identify many ways of delivering even greater improvements for biodiversity. Any such action is warmly welcomed by the Durham Biodiversity Partnership.

## Introduction

Biodiversity is the variety of life. It concerns the whole range of living things, from trees, flowering plants, birds and butterflies to mosses, lichens and even bacteria. Biodiversity also refers to the wide range of habitats that these animals and plants depend upon. It is not just about rare and threatened species but embraces all life, from the commonplace to the greatly endangered, including mankind - biodiversity is, after all, also about people.

Protecting the variety of life around us, by ensuring the continuing existence of a wide range of species and habitats, is becoming increasingly important, not just for the intrinsic worth of the plants and animals themselves, but for man's own needs. It is not just large-scale human activities, such as urban development and agricultural intensification, which impact negatively on our wildlife. Even small actions, like cutting down a tree or neglecting a pond can make a difference. Many ordinary, daily activities are slowly eroding our local wildlife - our local biodiversity.

Why is biodiversity so important? It improves our quality of life and boosts our economy, through tourism for example. There are many species on which we are dependant, not least those used in food and medicine production. In short, biodiversity ensures our own survival. Without plants and animals, i.e. without maintaining biodiversity, we would not be able to survive. No life form can live in isolation from other living things.

In January 1999, the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (**DBAP**) was launched by Stephen Hughes MEP. This was a key stage in a process set in train by the 1992 Rio Earth

Summit and the UK Government's signing of the Biodiversity Convention, which grew out of that conference.

It should be stressed that biodiversity action plans are not just pieces of paper, they aim to encourage and co-ordinate conservation action for important species and habitats. Hence, action is the key word in the term Biodiversity Action Plan. The main objective of the **DBAP** project is to ensure that biodiversity is maintained, enhanced or re-established across the plan area. The **DBAP** is a local Biodiversity Action Plan and it is just one of many local plans currently running across the UK. Local biodiversity action plans are a key mechanism for achieving national biodiversity objectives and targets.

Agenda 21, which also grew out of the Rio Summit, is a worldwide programme stimulating sustainable development into the next century. Sustainable development can be defined as "development that meets our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs". If it is to be achieved, Agenda 21 will rely primarily on local action (i.e. Local Agenda 21), which aims to encourage sustainability in a wide range of human activities, including transport, waste, energy conservation and social activities.

As part of their LA21 initiatives, local authorities are expected to contribute to local BAPs (draft Regional Planning Guidance, 1999). The conservation of wildlife is an essential aspect of Agenda 21; as the conservation of biodiversity is a key test of sustainability. Hence, the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan is a vital element in delivering a Local Agenda 21.

## **Biodiversity and Best Value**

Best value is now accepted as the most effective method by which services delivered by local authorities can be improved. Incorporating sustainable development into best value, as part of Local Agenda 21, is a pre-requisite of the best value process. However, best value activities can only be formulated after the council's corporate view on what it is they wish to achieve has been determined. It is hoped that a fundamental element of what all local authorities wish to achieve is an improvement in biodiversity; thereby assisting the delivery of local, regional and national biodiversity targets. As biodiversity, environmental, social and economic objectives are inextricably linked through Local Agenda 21, it follows that an increase in biodiversity is also a vital element of any local authority's best value process.

## **The Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership**

The partnership which manages the Durham Biodiversity Project includes representatives from local authorities (from across the plan area), statutory bodies, such as English Nature and the Environment Agency, as well as business, voluntary nature conservation groups, independent ecologists, landowners and non-governmental organisations. It is a truly collaborative approach and a very tangible example of how partnership working can deliver effective and innovative action for wildlife.

## **Local Authorities and the Biodiversity Action Plan Process**

The biodiversity concept has been quickly adopted and supported throughout the **DBAP** area by all of the relevant local authorities. However the key to delivering real improvements in biodiversity lie in the step between being merely aware of biodiversity and beginning to actively champion it. This can be progressed by treating the conservation of biodiversity as an integral part of the service provision process, which is central to the role of all local authorities.

Why are local authorities so important to the biodiversity process? The target audience of the **DBAP** has been identified as comprising three broad groups:

- landowners and land managers;
- policy makers and policy implementers;
- the wider community e.g. schools, businesses and consumers.

Clearly, local authorities represent or have contact with a significant element of each target audience. Furthermore, participation by local authorities in the biodiversity process may facilitate the award of funding to them and aid successful grant applications by illustrating how they are contributing towards national biodiversity targets.

As key partners in the biodiversity process, local authorities do not only have the potential to be major deliverers of action for biodiversity, they can also become outstanding examples of best practice to other partners working for biodiversity. As local authorities go about their vital business of delivering services to local people, they will find many opportunities to deliver ground breaking, exciting action for wildlife in a host of innovative ways. Such 'Action for Wildlife' could not be brought about by any other partner organisations and this re-affirms the fundamental role which local authorities play in helping to deliver the targets of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan.

**"our vision is for a place richer in wildlife that is cared for,  
and treasured, by all who live and work there"**

### **Acknowledgements**

This document has been considerably improved by the knowledge, expertise and valuable input of many officers, from a wide range of local authority partners of the Durham Biodiversity Partnership, who commented upon various drafts. Thanks must be extended to, Darlington Borough Council, Derwentside District Council, Durham County Council, Gateshead M.B.C., Sedgefield District Council, South Tyneside M.B.C., the City of Sunderland and Teesdale District Council.

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# **Opportunities for the Enhancement of Biodiversity by Service Provision Area**

## **Architectural Services**

- incorporate into building designs specific, wildlife-friendly features e.g. nesting platforms for kestrels, nesting spaces and openings for titmice and, for buildings in suitable habitat, barn owl niches/boxes in roof spaces or out-buildings.
- when ever possible specify materials that do not impact negatively on biodiversity e.g. try to use only sustainably-sourced timber for construction.
- during the redevelopment of buildings, conserve existing features which are important for wildlife. If conservation is not possible replace with other, designed features nearby.
- use re-cycled or 'secondary' aggregates wherever possible e.g. for hard core. This would help to reduce demand for newly won aggregates and therefore 'land take' for new quarries/mineral extraction proposals.
- be aware of the possible presence of roosting bats in all buildings to be refurbished or redeveloped and take appropriate action under guidance from English Nature and Durham Bat Group if animals are present.

## **Community Safety Strategy**

- this policy area can be used to help improve the conservation of biodiversity by facilitating liaison between local Police and the local authority on wildlife and countryside law. Ensuring that all staff, including the local authority liaison officer (LALO), are aware of relevant legislation pertaining to biodiversity in the area covered by the authority. This should allow for more effective protection of any vulnerable or protected species in the area such as badger.
- improve liaison between the Police, countryside officers, countryside managers and other local authority officers through the establishment of regular liaison panels at which relevant information can be exchanged.

## **Countryside Management**

There is a wide range of biodiversity issues that can be addressed by staff working in this area, amongst these are included:

- accurate biological recording, and the monitoring of species and habitats.
- liaison and records exchange with the Local Biological Records Centre and other recorders of fauna and flora.
- effective management of all habitats for wildlife, in general.
- effective management of key habitats and species (see Durham Biodiversity Action Plan).
- providing advice on, and implementing, appropriate habitat creation schemes.
- providing advice on the recreation/restoration of wildlife habitats in countryside areas.

- publicising the importance of biodiversity through interpretation and environmental education, e.g. guided walks, countryside events.
- assisting in the designation of more Local Nature Reserves.
- raising the awareness of officers throughout the local authority by the provision of in-house biodiversity training.
- provide appropriate advice on biodiversity issues to all consultees and partners working within, or with, the local authority in a wide range of fields; thereby helping to raise awareness of biodiversity in the wider community.
- liaise with Highways Department/Section to ensure that the Public Rights of Way network is managed in a wildlife-friendly manner, e.g. footpath verge mowing regimes.
- liaise with Highways Department/Section to ensure that the Public Rights of Way network is managed in a way that helps to raise awareness of, and protects, biodiversity. This can be achieved by implementing a strategy which combines interpretation and channelled access, i.e. encouraging the public to visit suitable, robust sites to enjoy wildlife, but protecting sensitive sites from excessive visitor pressure.

### **Crematoria and Cemeteries**

- develop wildlife areas within the grounds as 'contemplative zones' for visitors.
- explore the opportunity to plant 'commemorative' native trees and shrubs in gardens of remembrance etc.
- develop areas of churchyards for nature and wildlife as part of the 'Living Churchyards' scheme.
- explore the feasibility of woodland burial schemes.

### **Education**

#### Schools/Careers:

- encourage careers teachers and the careers advice service to promote placements for students within countryside management sections and at similar environmental facilities.
- support the development of programmes for student placements with organisations which are involved with running/servicing the National Biodiversity Network or in supporting the work of Local Biological Records Centres.
- incorporate awareness and conservation of biodiversity, into lesson plans and the National Curriculum across as many subject areas as possible, using appropriate published guidance for support.
- encourage the creation of wildlife areas in school grounds.
- encourage the creation/management of wildlife areas in the local community through partnership between schools, business and local authorities.
- utilise good quality countryside facilities (which champion biodiversity) as teaching resources/locations for days out and study visits - see list below:

#### **Environmental Educational Facilities:**

Durham Wildlife Trust:            Low Barns (01388) 488728

	Rainton Meadows (0191) 5843112
	Bowlees (01833) 622292
	Hylton Dene (with Sunderland City) (0191) 5480152
English Nature:	Oakerside Lodge, Castle Eden Dene (0191) 5860004
Forestry Commission:	Chopwell Woods (01207) 542231
	Hamsterley Forest (01388) 488312
Gateshead M.B.C:	Thornley Woodlands Centre (01207) 545212
Groundwork South Tyneside:	West Boldon Environmental Centre (0191) 5364873
Durham County Council:	Hardwick Hall Country Park (0191) 3833359
RSPB:	Marsden Bay (0191) 281 3366
Seaham Harbour Coastal Centre	(0191) 5819848
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	Washington (0191) 4165454

Adult Education/Life-long Learning:

- bring biodiversity into community education, highlight its importance through community centres, offer community groups opportunities to access wildlife and the countryside through lectures, events and day-trips.
- promote evening and recreational classes with strong biodiversity elements for adult and continuing education.
- run well-supported, broad-based countryside volunteers' schemes. These can act as a conduit by which information about biodiversity can enter local communities.

**Engineering Services**

- ensure, as far as is possible, that all necessary works are undertaken without a negative effect upon biodiversity. This is especially important where works are to be undertaken adjacent to sensitive sites or habitats, such as SSSIs, SNCIs, County Wildlife Sites or key habitats identified in the Durham BAP.
- where ever possible, ensure that bridges and culverts over/under roads are re-designed to accommodate the safe passage of species such as badger and otter.
- where ever possible ensure that bridges and culverts over/under roads are designed to incorporate features such as bird and bat boxes appropriate to the location, e.g. over a fast flowing stream/river, incorporate a nest box for Dipper.
- ensure that road drainage schemes do not discharge into wetland sites or on to sensitive habitats that could be damaged by salt or petrochemical run-off.
- ensure that foul water outlets from domestic, and other drainage, schemes are correctly connected to avoid pollution of watercourse by sewage.
- utilise Geographical Information System (GIS) to highlight areas of ecological importance to operators/contractors and therefore minimise negative impacts on biodiversity.
- maximise opportunities for habitat creation through design and development of all schemes, including the re-creation of natural land forms and features, such as river and stream meanders.
- be aware of the potential presence of water voles in urban water ways and along ditches. Design appropriate protection for all populations of water voles (as well as other

vulnerable species) when drainage and similar works are to be undertaken (liaise with Environment Agency).

- ensure that full ecological surveys are undertaken in all areas prior to the determination of road alignment or re-alignment schemes. This is especially important where works are to be undertaken adjacent to sensitive sites or habitats.
- where possible, works which might disturb nesting birds should be time tabled to avoid the breeding season (April-July).
- make efforts to protect roadside trees from damage to roots during road works or work on utilities' pipes and cables. Raise awareness of this problem with contractors. If trees are lost to such works ensure that they are replaced.
- whenever possible, after works adjacent to townscape trees, the trees should be protected from desiccation by the use of porous, replacement road and paving surfaces, allowing rain water to reach the roots and minimising the effects of drought.

### **Environmental Health**

- ensure that disposal of hazardous chemicals into water courses does not occur (liaise closely with Environment Agency).
- carefully monitor air pollution issues and the burning of materials such as cable insulation.
- implement relevant litter legislation (Environmental Act 1995).
- run environmental awareness courses for authority staff, associate organisations, such as sub-contractors, and community groups.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

- reduce the frequency of grass-cutting on roadside verges. Mow suitable safety margins and all sight lines otherwise, allow the development of a rough grassland network to develop along all major road corridors. This favours wild flowers, small mammals, predatory birds and acts as a network along which wildlife can disperse.
- if roadside hedges are managed, any works should take place in late winter to avoid nest destruction and to maintain winter food supplies e.g. hawthorn berries. Any management should be done in a way as to prolong the life of the hedge as a wildlife resource (see the County Durham Hedgerow Partnership's maintenance guidelines).
- identify areas of species-rich grassland and adopt appropriate management regimes e.g. hay cropping i.e. a single late in the season cut, cuttings removed.
- whilst retaining suitable play and recreation provision, reduce the area of short sward amenity grassland in all areas, set some of this aside to create 'biodiversity banks'.
- chip brush wood prunings in order to produce mulch for establishing and maintaining low maintenance perennial beds etc. (thereby reducing peat usage and costs).
- in appropriate areas, reduce the area of strimming around trees and shrubs and allow blocks of rough grassland to develop around patch planted trees (reducing costs and creating biodiversity banks).

- whenever possible, use native, local provenance species of shrubs, trees and plants in planting schedules.
- use peat alternatives in all situations.
- use more perennials in formal flower beds, reducing the need for replacing bedding plants according to season thereby reducing costs and minimising waste of resources, including water.

### **Health Promotion**

- encourage appreciation of wildlife as part of the promotion of a healthy lifestyle e.g. encouraging countryside walking and cycling.
- relate how healthy eating, and extensive food rearing regimes (e.g. organic crop management systems) can be better for biodiversity.

### **Highways**

- minimise salt-loading of roads, especially by-roads to reduce salt spray effects (particular attention should be paid to areas near wetlands and semi-natural grasslands).
- where possible, and where there are no safety implications, remove small side roads, in rural or semi-rural areas from salt spreading all together.
- do not tie road drains and storm over-flows into water courses or drain them into wetland sites and remove any which currently do, unless specifically designed for the purpose e.g. balancing ponds.
- make sure that all storm water overflows have incorporated into their design appropriate, functioning oil-traps.
- install appropriate wildlife warning signs in areas where road kill may be negatively impacting on important species conservation programmes e.g. red squirrels.
- install appropriate wildlife bridges/overpasses/underpasses where road kill may be negatively impacting on red squirrel or other species of conservation importance.
- report road-kills (e.g. badger, fox, red squirrel etc.) to relevant recording bodies and forward corpses to appropriate research programmes if/as requested (see also Waste Disposal).
- use the Public Rights of Way Officer/Countryside Projects Officer as a way of contacting landowners and farmers with information about biodiversity in the wider countryside. This is particularly pertinent to issues such as hedgerows and how land managers can receive support for more effective wildlife-friendly management.

### **Housing**

- use sustainably-sourced materials in maintenance and construction e.g. re-cycled aggregates.
- use wildlife friendly building materials wherever possible i.e. solvent free or low solvent paints.
- attempt to develop 'pocket wildlife areas' on housing estate greenspace, by using less intensive mowing regimes, native plants, shrubs and trees.

## **Landscaping/Forestry Schemes**

- use locally native species of shrubs, trees and plants in all planting schedules, unless specific biodiversity needs dictate otherwise.
- use locally sourced hay crops, from herb-rich locations to act as seed sources for new wild flower areas.
- where ever possible, use plant based oils for chain saws minimising the use of fossil fuels.
- the restoration and landscaping of currently active quarries, or old quarries with little wildlife value, should be done in a manner which enhances the biodiversity of the site.

## **Leisure**

- promote countryside appreciation and wildlife events to a broader audience.
- produce informative countryside newsletters which raise awareness of biodiversity. This medium could be used to give regular updates upon, and promote, each authority's own biodiversity projects.
- promote the use of community farms for biodiversity.

## **Legal Services**

- make sure that all staff are aware of legislation relevant to the biodiversity of the area and the authority e.g. basic tenets of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as it relates to species protection in their area.
- facilitate the drawing up of appropriate, enforceable countryside bylaws for land managed by the authority, in order to protect and promote the importance of the biodiversity on that land.
- ensure that appropriate comments, regarding the effectiveness of any new legislation's ability to protect biodiversity, are relayed to Government during the local authority consultation phase for such legislation.

## **Libraries/Arts/Museums**

- support the local biological record centre (through funding, facility time or by assisting with the set up of satellite stations for inputting wildlife/biological data).
- interpret the countryside and explain what biodiversity is to all library users.
- have a copy of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan available for people to consult, and make information available through council systems such as websites and intranets.
- ensure that biodiversity information is accessible to as wide a range of client groups as is possible, including those without direct access to the written word e.g. through 'talking newspapers'.
- act as information centres/contact points for details about biodiversity within the region. Each library could have a section of the public notice board set aside for biodiversity contacts and wildlife groups.
- commission wildlife art and stage art events which relate to biodiversity.

- facilitate local groups involved in promoting biodiversity by offering them meeting spaces etc.

## **Parks & Gardens (Horticulture)**

- sign up to the peat charter and use peat alternatives.
- avoid the use of limestone pavement or its derivatives in horticultural operations.
- reduction of maintenance - move towards more extensive management systems on land managed by the local authority.
- explore opportunities for using more native species in formal horticulture
- attempt to use locally native shrubs and trees in all schemes away from formal flower beds and plantings (preferably of local provenance).
- use habitat piles (e.g. small, discrete piles of logs or the prunings from woody plants) and similar features in appropriate locations, to encourage fungi and invertebrates.
- use low maintenance perennial shrubs in beds (minimising watering and expensive establishment and replacement costs - this also minimises peat consumption in growing bedding plants).
- wherever possible, use only biodegradable systemic herbicides; ideally, applied by spot treatment methods.
- use linear features and corridors to connect areas of semi-natural vegetation to minimise fragmentation of habitats e.g. plant hedgerows and unmown strips of grass.
- interpretation, inform people how horticulture can improve biodiversity and what is being done for biodiversity locally by amending horticultural procedures.
- set up composting schemes, using locally collected biodegradable materials, and manage this to produce an effective by-product which can be used in horticultural work, thereby reducing costs.
- facilitate community composting schemes.
- use local provenance wildflower mixes as low maintenance alternatives, on low profile areas, and manage these under a once a year cut/hay crop regime (cuttings being used for composting).
- in all formal parks, develop a biodiversity area. In this area management would be less formal and wildlife would be encouraged by the use of native species and appropriate procedures.
- develop features such as showpiece wild butterfly and bee gardens in formal parks and other appropriate facilities e.g. horticultural nurseries.

## **Pest Control**

- advise appropriately on pest control issues where they relate to wildlife, e.g. grey squirrel control as part of the red squirrel conservation programme.
- guard against the use of control methods, e.g. for house mice/brown rats, which might affect predatory birds or other non-target species (such as domestic pets). Suitable

assessment methods should be in place, and properly applied, prior to the implementation of any treatments.

- if poisoned baits are utilised (with all appropriate safeguards in place) all loose bait and rodent bodies should be removed at the end of the treatment period.
- avoid control measures against rodents in gardens and outbuildings which may involve wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus*, these are not household pests.
- protect honey and masonry bees from pest control and advise the public accordingly. honey bees should be destroyed only where there is a direct public safety risk, masonry bees, which constitute no risk to the public, should not be destroyed.
- control of public health pests (fleas, bedbugs, cockroaches etc.) in buildings. Use biodegradable non-persistent treatments to minimise transmission effects to wildlife.
- 'garden' ants outside of buildings should not be destroyed.
- be aware of the potential presence of water voles in urban water ways, advise and protect accordingly. These animals are not 'rats' and are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended).

### **Planning/Development Control**

- utilise the DBAP in assessing all relevant planning applications and when formulating and reviewing structure and development plans (e.g. UDP review process).
- consult 'Planning for Biodiversity in North East England', the regional biodiversity planning guidelines, during all stages of the planning process.
- ensure that all relevant environmental protection is put in to practice through the planning process.
- use Section 106 agreements to maximise opportunities for wildlife enhancement and appropriate habitat creation in processing planning applications.
- apply the following hierarchy of principles during the development control process, in descending order:
  - i) enhancement of the environment
  - ii) avoidance of damage to the environment
  - iii) mitigation of damage to the environment
  - iv) compensation for damage to the environment
- whenever possible, use Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees of high wildlife value. For example the scarce native species black poplar, which rarely occurs within nature reserves or other designations which afford it protection.
- it should be general policy to build on brown field sites whenever possible, except where the wildlife interests on a brown field site is demonstrably significant and will be compromised by the development.
- ensure that biodiversity issues are properly provided for in any environmental impact statements.
- ensure that all mineral site restoration schemes accommodate wildlife through significant, appropriate habitat creation programmes.

- develop model biodiversity planning conditions and apply these to planning applications.

### **Regeneration Schemes**

- encourage the creation of biodiversity-friendly greenspace within the context of major redevelopment; incorporate appropriate biodiversity friendly features into all landscaping for such schemes.
- encourage the promotion of biodiversity issues alongside development, to the members of local communities. Thereby providing opportunities to show how awareness of biodiversity can be raised amongst local people and biodiversity itself, imaginatively promoted, within the context of a regenerating area.
- where appropriate, consider biodiversity as a suitable end use for brown field sites, especially if this assists in achieving the objectives of region wide, strategic projects, such as the Community Forests.

### **Social Services**

- take client groups to well run countryside facilities, to allow a wider enjoyment and appreciation of biodiversity.

### **Tourist Information**

- encourage the promotion of biodiversity issues, raising awareness of its importance to tourism in the region and within each district/borough/county through relevant tourist information outlets.
- promote appropriate 'eco-tourism' initiatives.

### **Trading Standards & Licensing**

- officers should be aware of issues relating to trade in endangered animals (CITES, i.e. protecting biodiversity on a global scale) and matters which relate to trade in wild animals through pet shops (e.g. grass snakes).
- develop links with local wildlife liaison officers in Northumbria Police and Durham Constabulary, as appropriate.

### **Transport**

- use 'ultra low sulphur diesel' or liquid petroleum gas in local authority transport fleets, to minimise damaging emissions.

### **Waste Disposal**

- minimise waste in order to reduce volumes going to landfill (reducing the need for countryside take for new landfill sites).
- encourage home and community composting, reducing methane management problems after landfill site restoration.
- minimise the use of old quarries, which have developed significant wildlife value, for landfill. Such usage often leads to a loss of important habitats.

- minimise incineration, thereby reducing pollution which has a negative effect on biodiversity, atmosphere and climate.
- where possible, through appropriate environmental trusts, utilise landfill tax credits for habitat creation schemes, to deliver improvements for biodiversity.
- report road-kills (e.g. badger, fox, red squirrel etc.) to relevant recording bodies and forward corpses to appropriate research programmes if/as requested.
- promote reduction, re-cycling and re-use of materials through Local Agenda 21.

### **Useful Biodiversity Reference Material for Local Authorities**

*Action for Wildlife: The Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP Partnership 1999)*

*The Durham Wildlife Audit (Durham County Council 1996)*

*Species Protected by Law - Guidance for Local Planning Authorities in County Durham (1997)* Environment and Technical Services Department, Durham County Council

*Great Crested Newts, Guidelines for Developers - English Nature (1995)*

*Badgers, Guidelines for Developers - English Nature (1996)*

*Barn Owls on Site – A Guide for Developers and Planners (1995) - Barn Owl Trust*

*Planning for Barn Owls – advice for local authorities and developers (1996) – RSPB/Hawk & Owl Trust leaflet*

*Educating for Life - Guidelines for Biodiversity Education (Council for Environmental Education 1997)*

*Wildlife on Site - A Guide for Developers and Planners (Babtie Group Ltd 1996)*

*Good Practice Guide: Planning for Biodiversity (1999) – RTPi*

*Creating Native Forests (Forestry Commission Bulletin 112)*

*Hedge-cutting Recommendations (Durham Hedgerow Partnership 2000) - Environment and Technical Services Department, Durham County Council.*

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The report has been produced by the **Durham Biodiversity Partnership**. Copies of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan can be obtained from: **The Durham Biodiversity Partnership**, c/o Rainton Meadows, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, DH4 6PU Tel. 0191 584 3112

## Useful Contact Addresses

### **ADAS (Agricultural Development and Advisory Service)**

Government Buildings  
Kenton Bar  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE1 2YA Tel. 0191 2860303

### **Barn Owl Trust**

Waterleat  
Ashburton  
Devon  
TQ13 7HU Tel. 01364 653026

### **Biological Records Centre**

Hancock Museum,  
Barras' Bridge  
Newcastle  
NE2 4PT Tel. 0191 2226765

### **British Herpetological Society**

c/o Zoological Society of London  
Regent's Park  
London  
NW1 4RY Tel. 0181 4529578

### **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)**

Habitat Development Centre  
21, Whessoe Road  
Darlington  
Durham

### **BTCV (Durham)**

The Old School Building  
Finchale Road  
Framwellgate Moor  
Durham  
DH1 8AA Tel. 0191 3832121

### **BTCV (Gateshead)**

210, Durham Road  
Shipcote  
Gateshead  
Tyne and Wear  
NE8 4JR Tel. 0191 4786767

### **British Trust for Ornithology (local rep.)**

Mr. D. Sowerbutts  
9 Prebends Field  
Gilesgate Moor  
Durham  
DH1 1HH Tel. 0191 386201

### **Butterfly Conservation**

P.O. Box 222  
Dedham  
Essex  
CO7 6EY Tel. 01206 322342

### **Butterfly Conservation (North East)**

Mr. S. Ellis  
7, Mayorswell Close  
Durham  
DH1 1JU

### **Butterfly Recorder for Durham & Northumberland**

Mr. I. Waller  
42, College View  
Delves Lane  
Consett  
DH8 7DP

### **Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland**

Dr. Martin J. Willing  
14, Goodwood Close  
Midhurst  
West Sussex  
GU29 9JG

### **County Durham Hedgerow Partnership**

Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UQ Tel. 0191 3834411

### **Durham Badger Group**

c/o Durham Wildlife Trust

### **Durham Bat Group**

c/o Durham Wildlife Trust

### **Durham Bird Club**

Mr. K Spindloe (Secretary)  
30, Swinburne Rd.  
Hartlepool  
TS25 4JQ

### **Durham Wildlife Trust**

Rainton Meadows  
Chilton Moor  
Houghton-le-Spring  
Tyne and Wear  
DH4 6PU Tel. 0191 5843112

**Durham Upland Bird Study Group**

Mr. D. Raw (Chair)  
25, Pinewood Crescent  
Heighington  
Darlington  
County Durham  
DL5 6RR

**English Nature**

Northumbria Team  
Stocksfield Hall,  
Stocksfield,  
Northumberland  
NE43 7TN Tel. 01661 843344

**Environment Agency (Dales Team) Coverdale House**

Aviator Court  
Amy Johnson Way  
Clifton Moor  
York  
YO3 4UZ Tel. 01904 692296

**Environment Agency (Darlington Office)**

Teesdale House  
Lingfield Way  
Yarm Road Industrial Estate  
Darlington  
DL1 4GQ Tel. 01325 480849

**Environment Agency (Northumbria Team)**

Tyneside House  
Skinnerburn Road  
Newcastle Business Park  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE4 7AR Tel. 0191 2034000

**Tyne/Tees-Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group**

Woodleigh  
Flatts Road  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 8AA Tel. 01833 630880

**Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) Unit 3**

Northallerton Business Park  
Standard Way  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL6 2XQ Tel. 01609 760200

**FRCA (Newcastle)**

Government Buildings  
Kenton Bar

Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE1 2YA Tel. 0191 2863377

**The Forestry Commission**

Redford  
Hamsterley  
Bishop Auckland  
County Durham  
DL13 3NL Tel. 01388 488721

**Forestry Commission (Kielder Forest Region)**

Eals Burn  
Bellingham  
Hexham  
Northumberland  
NE48 2AJ Tel. 01434 220242

**Froglife**

Mansion House  
27-28 Market Place,  
Halesworth,  
Suffolk,  
IP19 8AY Tel. 01986 873733

**Game Conservancy Trust**

Burgate Manor  
Fordingbridge  
Hampshire  
SP6 1EF Tel. 01425 652381

**Great North Forest**

c/o Whickham Thorns Centre  
Market Lane,  
Dunston  
Gateshead  
NE11 9NX Tel. 0191 4606200

**Hawk and Owl Trust**

c/o Birds of Prey Section  
Zoological Soc. of London  
Regent's Park  
London  
NW1 4RY Tel. 0158 2832182

**Hawk and Owl Trust (Barn Owl Conservation Advisor - Durham)**

Mr. K. Bowey  
3 Alloy Terrace  
Rowlands Gill  
Tyne and Wear  
NE39 2ND Tel. 01207 545427

**Herpetological Conservation Trust**

655A Christchurch Road  
Boscombe  
Bournemouth

BH1 4AP Tel. 01202 391319

**Groundwork West Durham**

Grosvenor House  
29 Market Place  
Bishop Auckland  
Durham  
DL14 7NP Tel. 01388 662666

**Groundwork East Durham**

Seaton Holme  
Hallwalks  
Easington Village  
Peterlee  
Durham  
SR8 3BS Tel. 0191 5273333

**Mammal Society**

15, Cloisters Business Centre  
8, Battersea Road  
London  
SW8 4BG Tel. 0171 4984358

**Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**

Government Buildings  
Crosby Road  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire

**North East Reptile and Amphibian Group**

Dorian Latham  
2 Stratford Grove,  
Heaton  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE6 5AT Tel. 0191 2761756

**North East Fungus Study Group - the Secretary**

c/o Durham Wildlife Trust

**Northumbria Mammal Group (Secretary)**

Vicky Armitage  
CLUWRR  
Porter Building  
University of Newcastle  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU Tel. 0191 2227789

**Northumbrian Water Ltd.**

Abbey Road  
Pity Me  
Durham  
DH1 5FJ Tel. 0191 3832222

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

4 Benton Terrace

Sandyford Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 1QU Tel. 0191 2813366

**South Tyneside Groundwork Trust**

The Eco Centre  
Windmill Way  
Hebburn  
Tyne & Wear  
Tel. 0191 4564555