

Biodiversity Strategy

‘Working for Warwickshire’s Wildlife’



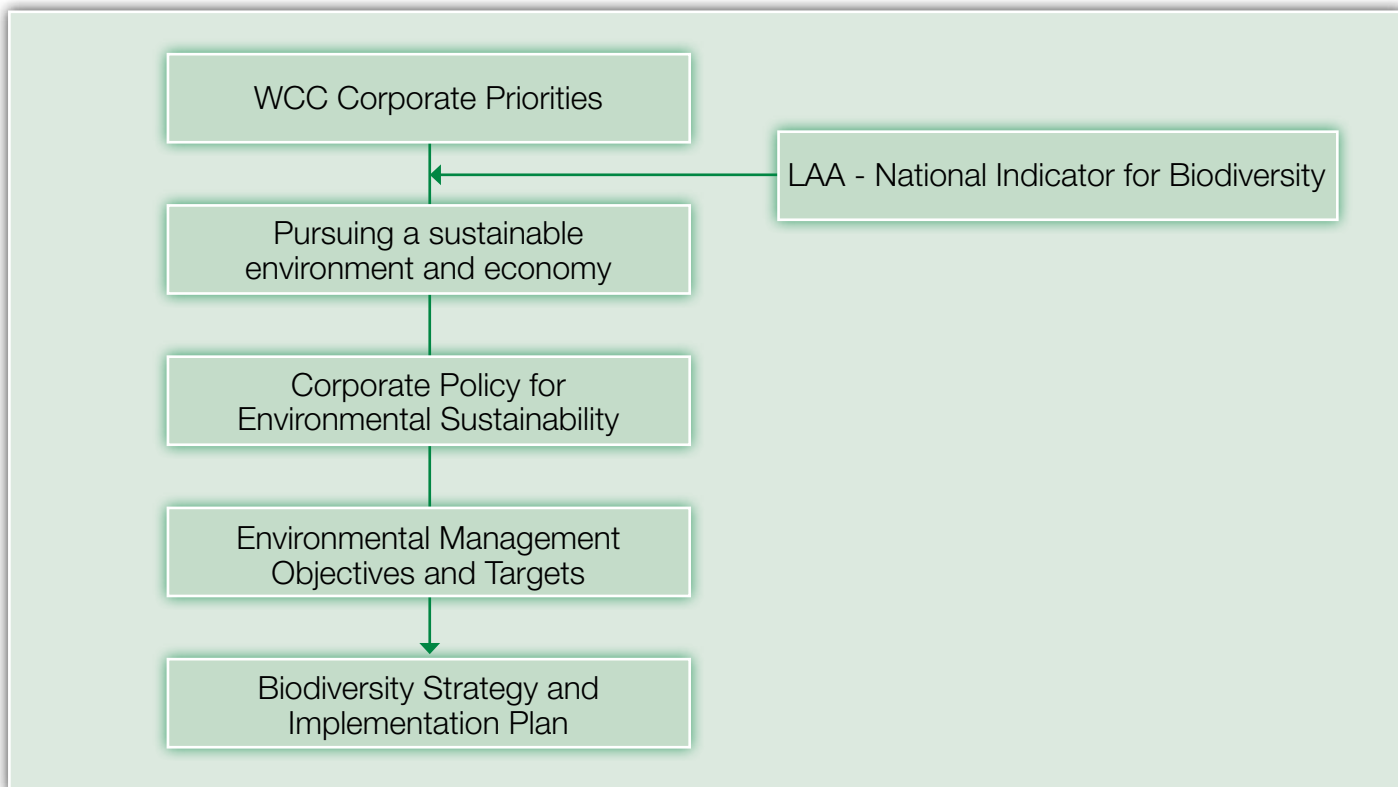
Photograph acknowledgements
© Kevin O'Hara - Otter, Front Page
Other photographs by Steven Falk and Warwickshire County Council

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Strategic Positioning Diagram | 4 |
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| Aims and Objectives | 5 |
| 1 Data and Information | 6 |
| 2 Regulation | 8 |
| 3 Management of our own Estate | 10 |
| 4 Education and Learning | 12 |
| 5 Community Leadership | 14 |
| 6 Reporting and Review | 17 |
| A Day in the Life of the County Family | 19 |
| 7 Implementing the Strategy | 20 |
| Annex A West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge | 21 |
| Annex B Environmental Sustainability Policy | 22 |



Strategic Positioning Diagram



Executive Summary

Warwickshire County Council's Policy for Environmental Sustainability recognises the important role played by Biodiversity in meeting the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. This is reflected in the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement, which includes the National Indicator to measure biodiversity (NI 197).

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, but also their genetic variation, and the complex ecosystems of which they are a part. It covers the whole of the natural world, from the commonplace to the critically endangered.

Biodiversity describes our natural wealth. It forms the natural capital, which makes up the living landscapes around us, sustains living systems and enhances our quality of life. It is an important component of the view from our window, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the materials and medicines we use, and the functioning of the natural systems and processes on which our lives depend.

A full audit of council functions has identified what is currently being done, and what more can be done, to benefit biodiversity. These benefits will contribute to county, regional and national biodiversity targets.

This Strategy sets out our intentions and aspirations. It identifies five key strands through which Warwickshire County Council and our partners will protect, promote and enhance natural habitats and wildlife plus the wellbeing associated with them to create wonderful places for people to connect with wildlife. These strands cover data, regulation, management of our own estate, education and learning and community leadership. A sixth strand deals with reporting and review. The Strategy will be periodically reviewed and updated.

Aims and Objectives

The overarching aim of this strategy is

“To work with partners to protect and enhance existing and future wildlife populations and habitats in Warwickshire, within a resilient landscape. We will achieve this by increasing the amount of land and buildings positively managed for biodiversity, averting local extinction of species and reducing the number of species on the danger list.”

Our Objectives are:

- To obtain, manage and share environmental data to inform decision-making and monitor changes.
- To ensure that WCC considers biodiversity in exercising all of its regulatory functions.
- To improve the management of land and buildings owned by WCC for biodiversity.
- To raise awareness, engender a sense of care and responsibility towards and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning about and understanding of the natural world.
- To act as an exemplar of best practice, by considering biodiversity issues when developing relevant strategies and during partnership working.

Reporting and Review: – We will establish and maintain an internal reporting mechanism to inform and report on how WCC is actively sustaining and enhancing biodiversity.

Warwickshire’s Biodiversity

Warwickshire is situated in the heart of the country, with gentle rolling hills and flat valley floors. It has a varied geological make-up that continues to mould the ecological and cultural landscape either directly or through man’s activities. It has two major rivers whose catchments meet in the centre and connect the north with the south. These are the Avon, which flows into the Severn towards the Irish Sea and the Tame/Anker that joins the Trent before entering the North Sea.

Warwickshire’s wildlife, like its humans, migrate out of, into and through the county, yet there are some that never leave. There are “northern” and “southern” species that are resident in Warwickshire and many others that are seasonal visitors. Like humans they all need a place to stay. In recent years the impact of climate change is becoming more important with new species moving in extremely quickly. This plus agricultural changes and man’s need for housing, energy and water all play a part in affecting the county’s biodiversity. Thus, sadly, there are species that are moving out and becoming extinct in the county.

In order to maintain a viable natural environment we must locate, protect and enhance the habitats and species we have. We must identify and fill gaps by restoring and creating appropriate habitats. We must provide a resilient, connected landscape that can adapt to known and unforeseen changes. We must maintain a Warwickshire where both wildlife and humans wish to live.

1 Data and Information

Objective – To obtain, manage and share environmental data to inform decision-making and monitor changes.

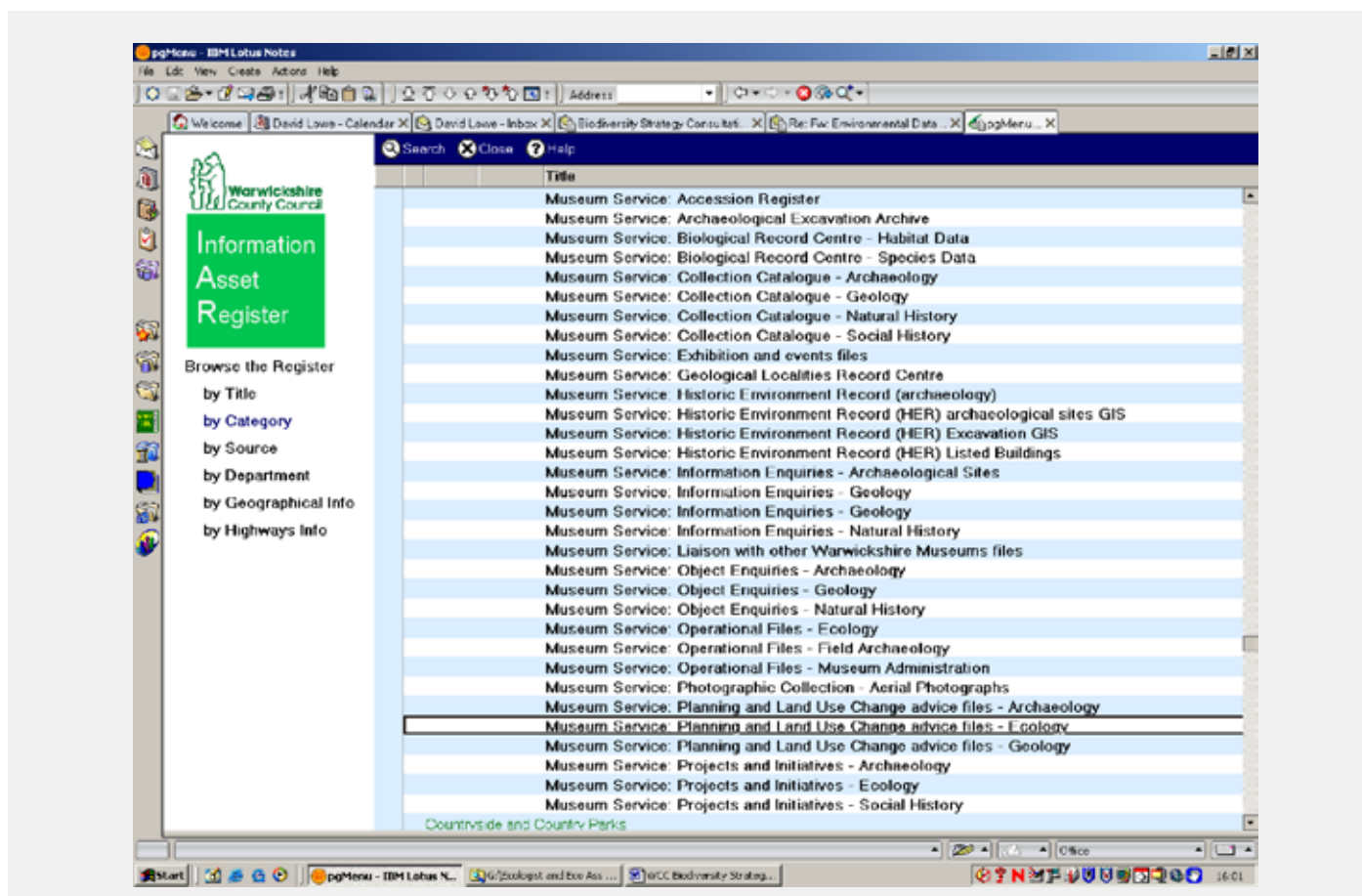
Context

1.1 The County Council has access to, generates and manages a large amount of environmental data. Much of this data can be used to assist in delivering biodiversity outcomes. This can be through identifying existing habitats and species, predicting previously unknown populations, and evaluating how Warwickshire will look in the future. It can be used to assist in ecological enhancement projects, resource mapping, site evaluation, impact assessment, research and monitoring.

Assets Register

1.2 The Assets Register enables officers to be aware of the environmental data held by the Council. Each dataset includes a brief description of what it is, what format it is in, its age and who is responsible for that dataset. Compilation of the Assets Register is an ongoing process.

Figure 2: Example of Assets Register dataset: Museum Service



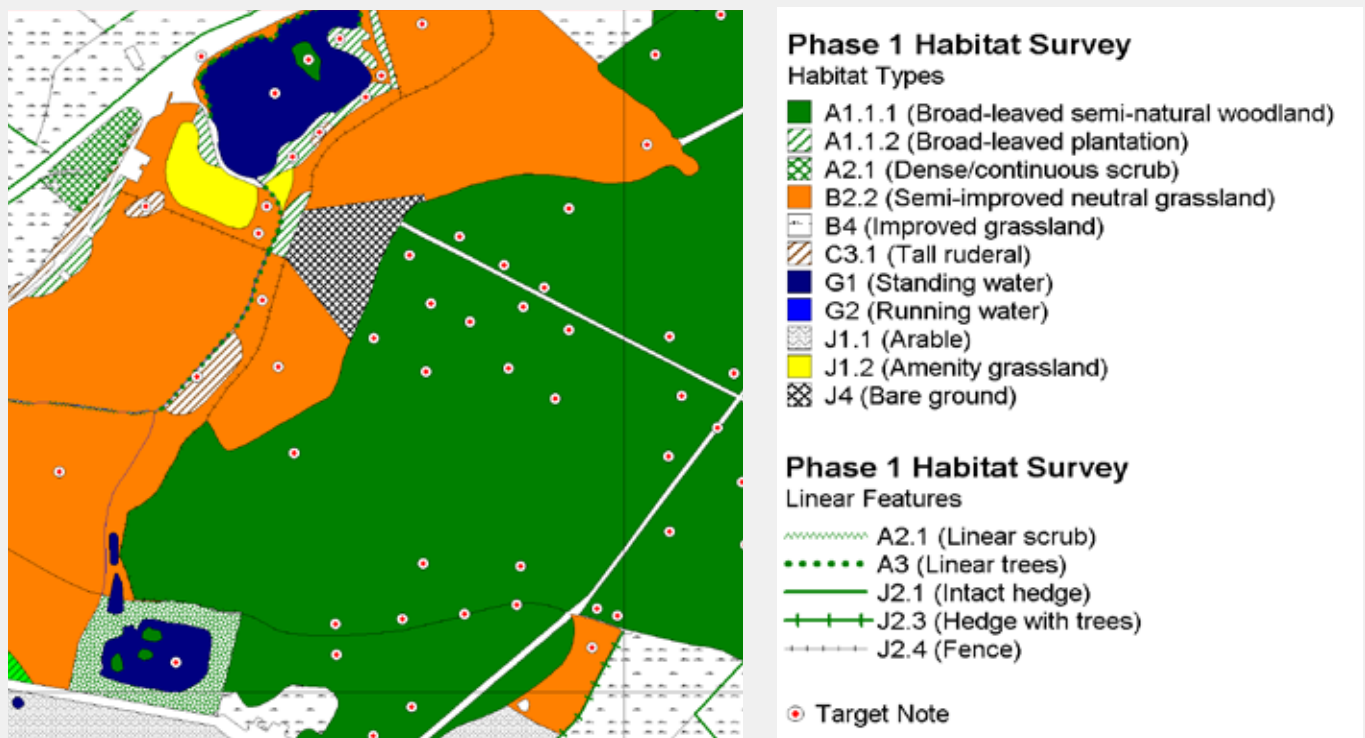
Warwickshire Observatory

1.3 The Observatory collates data from a wide range of sources, on social, economic and environmental themes. Demographic and spatial data can help to highlight human pressure on natural resources. The annual Quality of Life report brings together a range of indicators to illustrate the factors that affect the ways in which the residents of the county experience quality of life.

Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA)

1.4 The HBA was established in 1995 as a partnership between all the Local Authorities within Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull plus Natural England and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Case Study 1). The HBA is a Geographical Information System containing field-by-field, boundary-by-boundary habitat information that is updated annually. In December 2006 the European Union Committee of Regions recognised the HBA as a best practice exemplar for monitoring and auditing.

Case Study 1: Habitat Biodiversity Audit - Ryton County Park and Wood



This plan has been produced specifically to supply an individual with value added Local Authority information. Reproduction from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number 100018285.

Warwickshire Biological Record Centre (WBRC)

The WBRC was established in 1974 and is one of a national network of Local Record Centres. The WBRC has close working relationships with amateur experts and recorder groups and holds over 2.1 million species and habitat records covering Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

Outcomes

- **Establishment of key data and processes necessary to provide the basis for informed decision-making and to monitor change.**
- **Establishment of sustainable ongoing management and resourcing for data collection, collation, management and dissemination.**

2 Regulation

Objective – To ensure that WCC considers biodiversity in exercising all of its regulatory functions.

Context

2.1 The framework for considering Biodiversity within regulation is provided by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Additionally, there are specific obligations within a number of European and UK Government Law and guidance documents. These currently include:

- The Habitats Directive (EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna).
- Environmental Impact Assessment (85/337/EEC) Directive (EIA Directive) (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EEC) Directive (SEA Directive).
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).
- The Environment Act (1995).
- The Protection of Badgers Act (1992).
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) (CRoW Act).
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Sustainable Development (DCLG 2005).
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (DCLG 2005).

2.2 These obligations will be taken into account in the discharge of regulatory functions.

Case Study 2: Planning and Biodiversity

On the 16th October 2000, planning permission was granted for the extraction of sand & gravel at Wood Farm, Bubbenhall, Warwickshire, subject to the site being restored to provide low-level lakes, woodland conservation and grassland.

The site is situated between three blocks of woodland – Ryton Wood (a SSSI) to the north, Wappenbury Wood to the east (owned by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust) and Bubbenhall Wood (owned by Smiths Concrete) to the west.

The overall objective of the restoration scheme for Wood Farm is to enhance the nature conservation value of the site. The restoration scheme is designed to retain features of interest, to mitigate for adverse impacts to existing features and species and to introduce new habitats. Landform is to be gently undulating grassland, as well as varied slopes to create a variety of microhabitats. The site is to be partly planted and partly left to natural tree/shrub regeneration to encourage the development of woodland links between the adjacent woodlands. A geological exposure has been included within the restoration scheme. This is intended to retain an exposure typical of those uncovered during quarrying activities. Such an exposed face may also be suitable for sand martin nesting.



Planning (Strategic Planning, Minerals & Waste and Development Control)

- 2.3 There is strong guidance to maintain and enhance biodiversity within the Strategic Minerals, Waste and Development Control planning process. Applications are encouraged to show how they will improve biodiversity as shown in Case Study 2. Regulatory planning work has a major influence on how Warwickshire's biodiversity is both protected and enhanced.
- 2.4 The County Council plays a strategic role through providing ecological advice to all County, District and Boroughs delivering Local Development Frameworks and spatial strategies. It also offers expert ecological development control advice to District and Borough Councils through service level agreements.

Outcomes

- **Due consideration to biodiversity matters routinely given in all WCC regulatory activity.**
- **No net biodiversity loss resulting from WCC regulatory activity.**
- **Opportunities taken to promote biodiversity gain from WCC regulatory activity.**
- **Provision for robust green infrastructure in strategic planning documents.**



3 Management of our own Estate

Objective – To improve the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by WCC.

Context

- 3.1 The County Council owns and manages a varied estate including buildings, roads, smallholdings and country parks, schools and care homes. All have a place for biodiversity
- 3.2 Some species are protected by European and UK Law and need to be considered in all council operations. For example, cavity wall installation or tree works may affect bats and brook re-alignment works may affect otter habitat. However, before any work begins all nationally, regionally and locally important or scarce species and habitats as well as protected species and habitats must be considered.

Country Parks

- 3.3 Country Parks are described as “stepping stones into the wider countryside” and offer a place to get close to nature in an accessible, safe setting. The County Council has six Country Parks and two Greenways. These include disused railway lines, to ancient woodlands, former landfill sites and quarries. Following restoration and active management they form some of Warwickshire’s finest wildlife sites with important semi-natural woodland, wetland and grassland. A few Country Parks contain nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), of which some are managed in partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Case Study 3: Kingsbury Water Park

The park forms part of the Tame Valley chain of wetlands, consisting of 30 lakes, including fishing lakes and pools set in 620 acres of landscaped countryside. With lakes, streams, woodland, marshes and meadows, as well as a remarkable variety of wildlife, there is always plenty to see and do throughout the seasons.

Partnership working with the Environment Agency has resulted in the creation of reed beds. This contributes to part of a European Directive on increasing wetland habitats. Otters are regular visitors and holts are being built with help of volunteers, to encourage them to become residents. The park is a part of the Tame Valley providing important linkages within the Landscape for Living initiative and the Tame Valley partnership.

Sustainable Schools & Eco-Schools

- 3.4 Eco-Schools is a national programme implemented at local level to increase environmental protection in schools. Students carry out environmental projects such as creating wildlife areas and learning about habitats and species. Schools can also gain awards for the work they do. This programme is helping to implement Warwickshire’s Sustainable Schools Strategy as the Government wants all schools to become sustainable by 2020.

Smallholdings

- 3.5 The Council owns over 60 smallholdings. An audit has been carried out to identify Local Wildlife Sites (sites of county importance) on these smallholdings to support agri-environment scheme applications and the formulation of management statements. Rural Estates also own other areas that are more accessible to the general public, for example Myton Pool (see Case Study 4).

Case Study 4: Myton Pool, Royal Leamington Spa

In 2007, Friends of Myton Pool (FroMP) approached the WCC Ecology Unit to help secure a BBC Breathing Places grant to assist in the management of their local wildlife reserve. The area is owned by WCC through Rural Estates with the intention that it be managed in the interest of wildlife and public enjoyment. The site consists of a redundant WCC tree nursery, waste ground left after the construction of the neighbouring estate, a formal Victorian pond, a weir and bridges and a stream leading to the River Avon.

The FroMP group were successful in obtaining a Breathing Places grant to carry out a survey, write a management plan and carry out essential habitat management work on the reserve. This includes work to create a picnic area and enhance the wildlife present, which has begun after wider community consultation to engage the local schools and Myton Hospice. WCC's Rural Estates, Ecology Unit, Forestry Team, Landscape Section and Building Design all supported the group in this work.

Offices and Buildings

- 3.6 The County Council has numerous offices of varying age, type and use throughout the county. All have the potential to support biodiversity. These could be gardens or grounds, ledges for mosses and ferns, cavities for bats and birds, stonework or mortar for certain lichens, wildflowers and invertebrates.
- 3.7 The County Council is incorporating biodiversity into its Sustainable Asset Management Policy. For example, new buildings should aim to conform to a recognised environmental standard that has a biodiversity element, such as BRE's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). Any new buildings and their surrounding land should assess the biodiversity interests of the site and a biodiversity management statement should be written in order to protect and enhance these features.

Outcomes

- **All WCC landholdings evaluated for current importance and potential for biodiversity gain.**
- **A prioritised programme for preparation and implementation of site-specific management advice to protect and enhance biodiversity on WCC landholdings.**
- **To aim for BREEAM excellent rating (or equivalent) for ecological issues in all WCC owned new property.**

4 Education and Learning

Objective – To raise awareness, engender a sense of care and responsibility towards and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning about and understanding of the natural world.

Context

4.1 The County Council provides many formal and informal opportunities for residents, employees and visitors to experience and learn about the environment they share with wildlife. These can be through formal education at various Key Stages or through museums and libraries. The delivery mechanisms also vary from structured lessons, guided walks, lectures and family events to leaflets, webpages and enquiries to officers, be they estate workers, rangers or home-helpers.

National Curriculum

4.2 Children, Young People and Families Directorate provide resources to deliver Key Stage targets not only specifically on the Environment Theme but also within other core subjects such as mathematics and English.

4.3 A Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) is currently being commissioned with a WCC representative group comprising Outdoor Education, PE and Sport, Forest Schools, Education Rangers, Eco Schools, Heritage Education, and the Youth Service. One of the key objectives of the group is to promote opportunities for LOtC to primary, secondary and youth groups.

BBC Breathing Places

4.4 Libraries have supported the BBC Wild Read and Breathing Places programmes, where all age groups are invited to read fiction and non-fiction titles around a biodiversity theme. In conjunction with the Ecology Unit all libraries have a dedicated Breathing Places poster listing all the wildlife events occurring in Warwickshire each week.

Case Study 5: The Big Wild Read at Compton Verney

Libraries and the Compton Verney estate organised a “BIG Read” family fun weekend on 15th and 16th of September 2007. The aim was to encourage reading through natural environment literature as well as exploring the wildlife within the Compton Verney estate with storytelling, illustration, poetry, mystery book trails, fiction and non-fiction books and rhymes. This involved guided walks on trees and bats, story telling by the “Green Man”, talks from authors and writers and other activities.

Visitor feedback forms reported 98% satisfaction rate with over 1860 children and adults attending the various events.

Museum Service

4.5 The County Council's Museum Service manages collections from the whole county. The Market Hall museum has a dedicated Natural History gallery promoting Warwickshire's past and current biodiversity. The service delivers a wide variety of educational events, a natural history enquiry service and produces a regular natural history newsletter. This newsletter provides information on over 60 local natural history groups plus their events.



Forest Schools

4.6 The Early Years Team works in partnership with other local authorities and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to further the provision of Forest Schools throughout the county. Forest Schools involve taking children from 3 years old out into a woodland area weekly throughout the year. Outdoor play work is also being carried out with the under 3s. The children gain in self-confidence, self esteem and improved team work.

Marle Hall Outdoor Centre

4.7 Marle Hall is a County Council owned residential outdoor centre based in North Wales providing a wide spectrum of educational outdoor programmes. It has 35 acres of grounds include a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which includes beautiful mixed woodland and some rare plants.



Outcomes

- **Increased awareness of biodiversity issues amongst WCC elected members and officers.**
- **Increased public involvement in conservation of Warwickshire's wildlife.**
- **Increased use of biodiversity as a learning medium throughout statutory and non-statutory programmes of study.**
- **Increased inclusion of biodiversity in education in County primary and secondary schools.**
- **Wider range of opportunities for informal learning and understanding about the natural world.**

5 Community Leadership

Objective – To act as an exemplar of best practice, by considering biodiversity issues when developing relevant strategies and during partnership working.

Context

5.1 The County Council works in a variety of partnerships affecting biodiversity within Warwickshire, the West Midlands and the country - for example, WCC is an active member of the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership. WCC strives to promote, conserve and enhance Warwickshire's biodiversity within these close-working relationships.

5.2 Biodiversity has been included in a number of strategies including

- Corporate Business Plan
- Local Area Agreement
- Climate Change Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- Sustainable Schools Strategy
- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Minerals and Waste Strategies

Each strategy works towards the common goal of considering biodiversity within officers' day-to-day work or in planning future projects.

Procurement Statement

5.3 WCC is committed to Sustainable Procurement and has adopted the recommendations of the Local Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2007. The council is recognised as a leader in the field of environmentally sustainable procurement and carries out environmental risk assessment as part of the procurement process, including consideration of biodiversity.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

5.4 The County Council has an influential role within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group, currently one of the largest and most active steering groups in the country. WCC Officers notify actions they have carried out towards meeting Species and Habitat Action Plan targets, which are collated with other partners' actions. These are reported on the national Biodiversity Action Reporting Scheme (BARS – see Case Study 6) to contribute to regional and national biodiversity targets.

5.5 Community involvement is actively encouraged through the LBAP partnership. WCC, with other partners, offer ecological advice or specialist contacts through our network of local wildlife amateur experts and recorders. Examples include Parish Councils, Landowners, "Friend of" groups and Tree Wardens.



Local Area Agreements

- 5.6 The 2008/09 LAA has adopted the National Indicator 197 (NI197), which is described under Chapter 6. This relies upon monitoring biodiversity sensitive management through the Wildlife Sites, Biodiversity Action Plan and the Habitat Biodiversity Audit partnerships. The WCC Ecology Unit is the project leader for this objective as the Wildlife Sites Partnership steering group's representative.

Case Study 6: Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Partnership

This partnership of 59 organisations and individuals within the sub-region was formed in 2001 to develop the Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). Warwickshire Wildlife Trust manages the partnership which is housed by WCC.

The LBAP outlines how landowners, land-managers and policy makers will protect the characteristic wildlife and landscapes of our sub-region. The plan contains 26 Species Action Plans for our threatened plants and animals. There are 24 Habitat Action Plans covering farmland, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, urban areas and post-industrial land.

Local Wildlife Sites

- 5.7 The Council plays a vital role in identifying and designating Local Wildlife Sites of county importance within the Wildlife Sites Partnership. In Warwickshire these are assessed by a panel against approved criteria. The Council attends the Warwickshire SINC Panel meetings with Natural England, an independent ecologist, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and, where available, a District/Borough Authority representative.

Environmental Crime Partnership

- 5.8 The Ecology Unit and Country Parks work closely with the Police, Natural England and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on tackling and preventing wildlife crime. This partnership approach has helped prevent duplication of effort and has increased efficiency and effectiveness through sharing knowledge and resources.





Other Partnership Involvement

5.9 The Council is an active committee member of a number of organisations that influence biodiversity within the county, including the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). It has links with national natural history recorder groups and natural conservation initiatives, regularly contributing to key publications promoting best practice and ecological information exchange. It also is a member of many Local Nature Reserve groups, the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty forum and Local Strategic Partnership Groups.



Outcomes

- **Biodiversity integrated into all relevant WCC Strategic and Policy documents.**
- **Biodiversity considerations included in all relevant partnership arrangements.**
- **Formal support for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership and its outcomes.**
- **Formation of a Wildlife Crime Partnership between all Local Authorities within Warwickshire.**
- **Biodiversity related health and wellbeing initiatives and partnerships in relevant Business Plans.**
- **Avoidance of damage to biodiversity within service delivery.**
- **Maximise benefits to biodiversity within service delivery.**



6 Reporting and Review

Objective – To act as an exemplar of best practice, by considering biodiversity issues when developing relevant strategies and during partnership working.

Context

6.1 There are a variety of biodiversity indicators within Local Authority functions from Minerals and Waste Planning to Local Action Plan reporting procedures. With the implementation of the NERC act these are being reviewed. At the time of writing there are two major documents on monitoring biodiversity across a county and within local authority functions:

- National Indicator 197 “Improve Local Biodiversity – Management of Local Sites”
- Audit Commission: Consultation of Resources Assessment 2008/2009

6.2 The council also contributes to other reporting mechanisms, including Annual Monitoring Reports (e.g. Minerals and Waste, planning function) and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Biodiversity Action Recording Scheme).

NI197 – Improved Local Biodiversity

6.3 This is defined thus: “The indicator is to measure the performance of local authorities for biodiversity by assessing implementation of active management of Local Sites.

Active conservation management is assessed through one or more of the following:

- Site management plan
- Management schemes – agri-environment or conservation management agreement or scheme
- Relevant Biodiversity Action Plan (including habitat action plan, species action plan or local biodiversity action plan). Where a site is designated primarily for its geological features, the recommended management activity may be defined within a Geodiversity action plan
- Management guidance and advice” (source: HM Govt March 08)

Audit Commission: Consultation of Resources Assessment 2008/2009

6.4 In Dec 2007 the Audit Commission produced a consultation document relating to “The Use of Resources”, whereby a local authority is graded according to how it makes effective use of natural resources. Increasing biodiversity is included in the following Levels:

- Level 2: Performing Adequately – The organisation is developing a strategic approach to reducing the organisation’s impact on the environment
- Level 3: Performing Well - The organisation is implementing its plans to deliver its strategic approach. It is embedding arrangements to reduce its environmental impact and working effectively with partners in developing, implementing and monitoring plans.
- Level 4: Performing Strongly - Demonstrating innovation and best practice.

Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Reporting (M&WAMR)

6.5 The County Council's planning function reports annually on minerals and waste sites and their impact on the environment. These include their impact on nationally and locally important sites, habitats and species. This is achieved by using data from Natural England, the Wildlife Sites Partnership, the Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership and the Warwickshire Biological Record Centre.

Case Study 7: Biodiversity Action Reporting Scheme (BARS)

The Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) is a web-based information system that supports the planning, monitoring and reporting requirements of national and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). From 2005, BARS became the system used for UK BAP reporting and will be used for subsequent reporting rounds.

BARS enables everyone involved in BAP implementation, including LBAP partnerships and Lead Partner organisations, to enter action plans and record progress towards targets and actions. BARS uses drop-down lists and quantitative fields to provide a standardised structure so that BAP information can be integrated across users. This information can be searched by members of the public to learn about BAP activities underway. A range of sophisticated reports is available to BAP users enabling them to generate summaries from their data and to set their work in the wider context.

Biodiversity Action Reporting Scheme (BARS)

6.6 BARS is a national voluntary scheme to measure action within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) process. Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP report into this scheme and are able to benchmark progress with other contributing counties. The scheme enables local reporting on Warwickshire's important biodiversity that feeds into the Local Area Agreement reporting.

Outcomes

- **Robust and reliable process for reporting and reviewing progress against National Indicator 197**
- **To establish internal mechanisms to report and monitor the WCC Biodiversity Strategy.**
- **Achieve Level 4 Performing Strongly with respect to increasing biodiversity within the Audit Commission "Use of Resources".**



A Day in the Life of the County Family

7:15 William and Clare County wake up to the morning bird chorus issuing from their neighbourhood park. William opens the curtains to let in the morning sun.

7:45 The County family descend into the kitchen of their terraced house, but before they sit down Clare asks for volunteers to collect some red currants from their organic patio pots. Both Lucy and Andy eagerly race out of the back door, William gets the colander ready.

8:30 After breakfast, as they leave the front door, the annoyed blackbird lets them know that she has a nest in their holly tree. At the end of the road William says goodbye at the park gates. Clare walks the children to the primary school before catching the bus.

8:50 William strolls through the park, his thoughts about work distracted by the formal displays of lavender and rose beds and the frantic buzzing of the bees. His stress dissipates as he breathes in the fresh unpolluted air. Clare kisses the children at the school gate – they are excited by today's science outing to an "ancient woodland".



9:00 No sooner does William sit down at his desk but the phone rings and work begins. However, he is not the only one busy, as the great tit is still feeding his young in a bird box erected as part of the biodiversity management plan for the new office building.

12:30 William switches off his computer and heads to the market square to meet Clare. They buy their sandwiches from the local farmer's market and go to the enclosed walled garden behind the church. Both enjoy watching the butterflies and wind-down for half an hour. Today they return to work via the museum natural history displays ready for the many questions Lucy and Andy will have after their science trip.

15:30 It's William's turn to collect the children from their "Natural" after-school club. On his way along the canal he registers a shot of brilliant blue as a kingfisher passes by, followed later by a grass snake swimming towards the allotments opposite.



16:45 William is early, he can see Lucy and Andy pond dipping in the school nature area. He knows that they still have to pack up, record their results and send them to the International Globe project and the local record centre.

18:00 Lucy and Andy help William cook dinner for their Mum, which includes home grown organic potatoes and vegetables from the allotment. They decide to eat on the patio while Lucy and Andy recount their day at school. After counting the tadpoles in the pond, William puts the children to bed and making his way back to the garden he picks up the home laptop, a bottle of homemade elderflower wine and two glasses.

21:00 Sitting in the arbour they watch pipistrelle bats emerge from a dedicated bat area in their roof space, created after a recent planning application to convert their loft. They count 120 and proudly email the results to the Warwickshire Biological Record Centre. That done and fully relaxed they head off to bed.

7 Implementing the Strategy

- 7.1 The Strategy will be reviewed and updated regularly. Government and European policy, guidance and monitoring in this area continue to develop and this will be reflected in the review process.
- 7.2 The Outcomes at the end of each strand within this strategy provide a framework for the priorities the County Council will aim to address.
- 7.3 The County Council is developing an Implementation Plan for biodiversity which will be cross-referenced to these Outcomes. The actions within the Implementation Plan will link to actions within individual Directorates' Service and Business Plans.
- 7.4 The Implementation Plan will modified and refined to take account of developing national and local guidance and best practice.
- 7.5 The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis with reports on progress presented to the Environmental Sustainability Board and other bodies as appropriate.



The West Midlands BIODIVERSITY PLEDGE

We acknowledge:

- that biodiversity and the natural environment have a vital role to play in enhancing wellbeing and quality of life
- that biodiversity is under threat from climate change and other human-induced pressures
- our duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in carrying out our functions.

We welcome the:

- Social, health, environmental and economic benefits which come from biodiversity
- Opportunity for local government to lead the drive to conserve and enhance biodiversity at a local level.

We commit our Council to:

- Ensure the conservation of biodiversity is incorporated into all relevant corporate strategies, plans and programmes.
- Champion the benefits of biodiversity within local partnerships including Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.
- Consider the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and review policies and actions to assist wildlife to adapt.
- Participate actively in Local Biodiversity Partnerships and assist with the delivery of Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the planning system and deliver the key principles for biodiversity set out in national planning guidance.
- Seek to ensure that up-to-date biodiversity data is available and used appropriately and support the maintenance and development of Local Record Centres.
- Work in partnership with others to identify, protect and enhance Local Sites of Importance for Biodiversity, taking them into account within the planning and land management systems.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the local authority estate.
- Promote the social benefits of biodiversity in the delivery of public services and support access to nature and understanding of the natural world within formal and informal education and community engagement.
- Raise awareness of all staff, elected members, contractors and the general public with regard to biodiversity issues.

Signature

Name in type (Local Authority) _____
Chief Executive

Date _____

Keith Austin
WMLGA
Lead Member for Environment



Annex B

Corporate Policy for Environmental Sustainability

The Principles

Warwickshire County Council will move towards a more sustainable way of operation by taking a positive, solutions orientated approach. The Council accepts that natural resources are the basis of life itself and together with the environment created by humans are the sources of our social and economic opportunities, health and prosperity.

We accept the need to work pro-actively to the challenges of climate change, to reduce our use of resources, prevent pollution resulting there from, minimise damage to natural habitats and wildlife and to protect the human environment from which we derive a sense of well-being.

The Council will comply with all environmental legislation and regulations, to set indicators and targets, to communicate this policy to all staff and to review and seek continual improvement.

This policy recognises that for good governance and good corporate management that:

- social, economic and environmental issues must be integrated and delivered in a joined up way
- activities must be planned for the long term
- negative impacts on adjacent areas, local and global, must be

Our Objectives

Warwickshire County Council recognises the importance of natural resources and well-being gained from the environment we have created, and seeks to play a leadership role with others by integrating this policy into each area of activity - setting an example though its staff, transport and other operations, in the management of our property and other areas under its control.

This is to ensure that these environments and the well-being associated with them are recognised and supported, commensurate with the changing values, aspirations and needs of the current and future generations.

**For any further information regarding
this document please telephone:
01926 418060
or email davidlowe@warwickshire.gov.uk**

**If this information is difficult to understand, we can
provide it in another format for example in large
print, on audio tape, in another language or through
discussion. Please contact Environment and Economy
Library & Information Service on 01926 418633 (Tel);
01926 418631 (Fax); E-mail: format@warwickshire.gov.uk**