

April 2006



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

*Revised  
Derby Nature Conservation Strategy  
April 2006*



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## DERBY CITY COUNCIL REVISED NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY 2006

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## **Forward**

Conserving and enhancing our natural heritage for future generations and using this resource prudently, are both central goals of sustainable development. The key concept of sustainable development though is the integration of economic, social and environmental issues in decision making, therefore producing novel and more sustainable solutions. Within urban areas the sustainable development agenda is being taken forward in the Government's agenda for cleaner, greener, safer communities; the "Sustainable Communities" programme.

The City Council is committed to moving towards sustainable development and creating more sustainable communities in Derby and this strategy forms part of the guidance on how we will do this.

The Nature Conservation Strategy is a Revision of the 1995 Nature Conservation Strategy and covers the natural heritage (the biodiversity and geological heritage) for the City of Derby and sets out;

- a policy framework guiding decisions on development, which supplements the Revised City of Derby Local Plan 2006 (It is in part a Supplementary Planning Document; SPD. It covers Derby City's administrative area and covers the period up to 2011)
- how we as a City Council will manage open space to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- how we intend to help people access, understand and better enjoy Derby's green heritage and
- how we take forward key objectives in the Derby Community Strategy.
- how we will seek to take action in partnership with others to protect, and enhance biodiversity in the City

## Introduction

1. The City's natural heritage; our biodiversity and geological resources, are important, for the intrinsic value of habitats species and geological features themselves, but just as importantly, for the enjoyment and inspiration that experiences of nature can give to local people. The natural heritage is also an essential part of the City's character; its local distinctiveness, its attractiveness and often also a key element of the community identity of different parts of the City. Protection and enhancement of natural heritage is a key element in producing a better quality of life for people living, working in and visiting our city.

2. The City Council, with local partners, has a key role, in protecting and enhancing our natural heritage.

3. As Planning Policy Statement 9, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005) indicates, the Government's objectives for achieving its vision for conserving and enhancing biodiversity include:

**"To promote sustainable development** – by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of economic, social, and environmental development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land use integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.

**To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology-** by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support

**To contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by:** Enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used for wildlife and valued by people, recognising that economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment."

4. Further, as the Government states, in "Biodiversity the UK Action Plan" (1994)

“Biodiversity is ultimately lost or conserved at the local level. Local authorities provide the main framework within which environmental care is organised at the local level and public attitudes to the environment cultivated.”

5. In “Working with the Grain of Nature a Biodiversity Strategy for England” the Government explains the changing policy on nature conservation. At paragraph 3.1 it notes that in the past we concentrated on designating areas of conservation and preserving species. Now, it is “recognised that to halt and reverse biodiversity losses would require a combination of actions and policies that effect the environment as a whole.” It emphasises at 3.2 that “biodiversity is (to be) built into all policies and programmes in a positive way” So that “conservation is implemented across the board- for instance ensuring that special sites sit within a wider “wildlife friendly” landscape.” At paragraph 3.3 of the strategy also stresses “that healthy functioning ecosystems provide benefits for people”

6. All these themes are reflected and taken forward in this Strategy for Derby.

### **What the Nature Conservation Strategy is seeking to do**

7. The Strategy will seek to fulfil a number of different but interconnected roles; taking forward legislation and wider policy/strategies; providing a statement of the role of the City Council in this work; giving a context to a project action plan which also draws on the Local BAP and “Greenprint”; and giving one context for the City Council’s work in the public realm. Each of these matters is now briefly discussed.

#### *Taking forward legislation and wider policy/strategies*

8. The City Council has specific legal responsibilities in relation to nature conservation. (Summarised in the Appendix 1) This strategy takes forward these and also other obligations and responsibilities, including those from other policy documents, whether they are international ones, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (signed at Rio in 1992); the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs); local strategies such as the Derby City Partnership’s Community Strategy. These plans and strategies are also summarised in Appendix 1 and 2.



*Providing a statement of the role of the City Council*

9. The City Council produced its first Nature Conservation Strategy in 1989. This was subsequently reviewed in 1995. This current strategy builds on the foundations of earlier work and seeks to protect and enhance the City's natural heritage, provide additions to it and increase access to and the appreciation of nature. It continues to give a clear context to the work of the Council as:

-a planning authority (It is firstly a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to the City of Derby Local Plan See paragraph 38-9 for an expanded explanation of this point)

-a land manager of open space

-an interpreter, in promoting and explaining the importance of natural history

-a leader of community action in partnership working with others. We need to provide local leadership to engage, liaise and respond to local needs and develop a shared vision and strategy for delivering it together with local partners.

10. Successfully implementing this work may require extra resources and the strategy can assist in prioritising and justify bids for new resources, from whatever source they may come.

11. This partnership element is vital. Only through forming strong partnerships with others in the community outside the City Council, will the complex actions to protect and improve and maintain our semi natural green heritage be achieved. These partnerships must fully involve and seek to empower local people, businesses and the voluntary sector, all of whom have a stake in the life of the city.

*Giving a single context to a project action plan*

12. Based on the Strategy a project action plan to take its policies forward will be developed. This will take forward the National and Lowland

Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), within the city. It will also be informed by the “Greenprint for Derby City” (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust 2002). (See below paragraph 33):

*Giving one context for the City Council’s work in the public realm.*

13. From taking this wider view, one thing that is clear that work on the city’s biodiversity must be seen as a vital element in the protection and enhancement the quality of the city’s network of public green open space which is a vital element of the public realm of the city. In this context protecting and enhancing biodiversity can be seen as an integral element in the urban renaissance; by making urban living attractive and desirable.

14. About this, the ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) report “Living Places” says:  
“the quality of public spaces affects all of us where ever we live and work. Safe well maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the place where we live, which is in turn is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities” It also goes on to point out the vicious cycle that poor quality public space can play in declining communities, or the part that quality space can play in creating a vibrant community. These matters have all influenced this Strategy.

## **Derby – The Broad Picture**

### **General description**

15. Derby is a compact freestanding urban area located within the English East Midlands, and has a population of some 230,000 people. It has grown considerably over the last ten years some of this associated with the significant growth of the University. Much of this housing development has occurred on the northeast and south west edges of the City, but is now increasingly being developed on previously used land within the City’s built up area.

16. About 10% of its population are from ethnic minority backgrounds and in line with national trends the age structure of the City is changing so a greater proportion of the population is in older age groups.

17. Derby's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy April 2002 identifies that in 2001 Derby qualified for Neighbourhood Renewal funding and according to the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation 8 of Derby's Wards (as they were then) came into the top 10 % of most deprived in the country. It also identified that there were a number priority neighbourhoods, themselves mainly within priority Wards, which were suffering particular problems. These areas are in addition to Derwent New Deal Area where a detailed strategy for regeneration has already been developed. These are shown on maps 1 and 2.

18. These areas, or parts of them, suffer from a range of often, interconnected problems; including poor housing unemployment lower than average levels of training and educational achievement and poor health. These areas also suffer from a lack of access to green space in general and poorer than average quality of the public realm.

19. Considerable employment growth has also taken place notably on Pride Park and more is planned along the Derwent Valley north of Alvaston and on Sinfin Moor.

20. An increasing proportion of growth has and will, continue to be on previously developed, "brown field" sites. As far as possible care has been taken to protect the biodiversity that may have developed on these sites. The development of "The Sanctuary" bird and wildlife reserve on Pride Park has shown what can be done to protect and enhance biodiversity on the back of development.

## **Natural Resources**

21. Despite this growth, the City still contains a wide variety of important wildlife habitats and species. Approximately sixty five per cent of the City's land area is urban in nature, but the remaining thirty five per cent of the undeveloped land and provides the City with an important green resource, adding to those small areas remaining in its more built up areas. Because of the effects of intensive farming in the countryside, some of these urban sites are now much richer in wildlife than many sites in the open countryside. Indeed, as identified in many regional strategies, the East Midlands Region as a whole is seen as the most deficient in biodiversity in the Country.

22. The City contains four “Natural Areas” (as defined by English Nature ; See Appendix 3) It also contains nine habitat types identified in either National or the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as particularly important due to their international, national or local rarity or at risk of decline. BAPs are discussed further at paragraph 84. The habitats are identified in Appendix 4.

### **The SSSI, Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves and RIGS**

23. There is at present one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI,) in the City at Boulton Moor, which is a site of geological importance; (also see paragraph 50) and at present five Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); Chaddesden Wood in Oakwood (9 ha); West Park Meadow in Spondon (4ha); Allestree Park Woodlands (87ha); The former Chellaston Brick Works, in Chellaston (10ha) and Sunnydale Park, in Sunnyhill (13ha). They have a total area of 123ha against the English Nature suggested requirement of 230 ha for the City. (See Aim 4) In addition the Elvaston Castle LNR abuts the City’s boundary to the south west. More LNRs are proposed.

24. In addition there are sixty five formally identified “county wildlife sites” (or joint wildlife sites and Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites RIGS) within or partially within the City. Finally there are in addition, four sites which are protected solely as they are Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites- RIGS These sites are listed in Appendix 5 (See Appendix 6). Together they represent our, formally identified, sites of local biodiversity and geological interest.

### **Rare Species**

25. Some rare species found in Derby City are afforded full legal protection, such as badgers, great crested newts, white clawed crayfish and bats. Other species, which are unusual or uncommon, which have been recorded in the City, include common broomrape, otter, little ringed plover, toothwort, moonwort, glow-worm and hawfinch. Derby is home to at least one species found nowhere else in Derbyshire; the dark bush cricket. Records of all sorts are regularly being updated and new ones being made

in the City. The Biological Records Centre in the City Museum contains an invaluable and constantly updated record of species found in the City and surrounding County.

### **Woodland and Hedgerows**

26. A woodland audit, carried out in 1991, found that there were 99 woodlands covering just over one per cent of the City's area. Two areas of woodland are classified by English Nature as Ancient Woodland; Chaddesden Wood and Elm Wood. Ancient woodland is defined as land that has been continually wooded from at least 1600, usually resulting from natural regeneration. Because of their age, they are particularly important for wildlife. In addition they also have recreational and/ or visual value. The Local BAP explains their value within the national context. Woodland in general is considered an under-represented habitat in the City, and is recognised as making a valuable contribution to the City's environment. A survey of the important habitats provided by hedgerows was undertaken in 2003/4. Around 1300 hedgerows were identified and almost 43% of these were identified as being biologically species rich (using the English Nature definition), so particularly biologically important. Veteran trees are currently being surveyed. See Aim 3, BAP habitats.

### **Semi natural grassland**

27. Semi natural grassland (a priority BAP habitat) is also recognised as an important and under represented habitat in the City. An audit of its presence by the DWT, published in 2003, shows that there is less than 10ha of unimproved semi natural grassland left within our boundary.

### **Wetland**

28. The River Derwent, its tributary streams (like the Markeaton, Hell and Cuttle Brook) along with lakes and ponds of the City and their associated wetlands are particularly valuable habitats in the City. They support a variety of important species and are attractive features in themselves, and can be part of corridors which enable the movement of wildlife though the City. A survey, commissioned by the City Council in 2004/5 of 70 ponds in public areas and open land, showed half had significant biological value.

29. The River above the Silk Mill in the City centre is within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site and the site management plan has a biodiversity action plan of its own, to act as guidance for protection and enhancement work.

### **Green Wedges and wildlife corridors**

30. Derby has successfully retained a network of green wedges, (some of which also link to areas of Green Belt) and smaller wildlife corridors that link the countryside deep into the City, and in some cases go right through it (See Plan 1). Connectivity between green features and areas is recognised as important in the conservation of biodiversity and to assist in encouraging people to walk or cycle through urban areas by creating attractive, but safe, routes. Much of the network of green wedges and wildlife corridors is multifunctional. While it is used primarily for farming, parkland, educational grounds etc it also provides opportunities for Derby people to reach semi natural green space and areas of accessible countryside. This is assisted by the network of walking and cycle paths running through them. Within these wedges is a network of hedges, also important wildlife corridors and discussed in more detail at Paragraph. 97.

### **General Biodiversity**

31. In addition to the delineated sites and features noted above the City has a heritage of other small scale semi-natural features that benefit wildlife, (such as older hedgerows), which may occur anywhere in the City. These include mature trees (especially native species) and other woodlands, areas of native shrubs, other mature predominantly native species hedges, ponds and other wetland, and some geological and geomorphological features, street trees and gardens that are managed with wildlife in mind. Together they complement the designated biodiversity sites and features.

### **The Biodiversity Action Plans**

32. The main task of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 1994 was to identify priorities for restoring habitats and species and identified action targets to achieve these. The Lowland Derbyshire B.A.P (1997/2001) translates the national plan to the Derbyshire level. Drawing on this work

the “Greenprint for Derby” (DWT 2002) proposed action in the City that would seek to take forward the priorities in the Lowland Derbyshire and National BAPs. There are a number of species and nine habitats found in Derby which are seen as priorities for action in the BAPs. (See Appendix 4)

### **“Greenprint for Derby City”**

33. In 2002 the City Council commissioned Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to produce a document that translated the UK and Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan to the local level. This is the “Greenprint for Derby City” It sets out which habitats are of particular importance in Derby. As it notes that there are many species found in Derby which are priorities in the UK or local BAP. These are listed in Appendix 4. It provides a description of nine priority habitats and ten important species and provides suggestions for objectives, targets and actions to protect and enhance these. These ten species were chosen because they need more targeted action in addition to the protection and management of the habitats that support them. The “Greenprint” will be a key document in informing the detailed project action plan which will flow from this strategy.

### **Threats facing wildlife in the City**

#### **Development threats**

34. Planning for protection of the biodiversity and geological heritage is undertaken against a strong pressure for development; especially with the drive to intensify building densities and build on previously used “brownfield” land (which may contain habitats which can be valuable for wildlife). New development, controllable under the planning acts, is necessary to provide the new homes and jobs the City needs, but can sometimes directly or indirectly affect natural history features. This strategy gives supplementary guidance to the City of Derby Local Plan, to assist in making decisions that allow the demands for space in the City to be fulfilled, whilst suggesting ways of protecting biodiversity and geology and maximising the benefits for biodiversity and geology that can be derived from development.

35. The Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs’ (Defra’s) strategy “Working with the Grain of Nature” makes it quite clear, in

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the section on achieving the biodiversity strategy in town and city development, (para.7.9) that the Government expect to see:

“Planning policies and development decisions, which recognise the needs to conserve and enhance biodiversity;

the planning and implementation of large scale strategic and infrastructure projects that take account of the needs of protected areas and species and wider biodiversity;

Local authorities and developers to see the potential of biodiversity as an enhancement to developments;”

### **Other threats**

36. However it is recognised that development is not the only threat to the biodiversity and geological heritage. Greater pressure is being put on green space generally by the increasing size and density of the population who want to access this increasingly popular resource. Changes to land management, (such as more intensive land farming) neglect, mismanagement, and land drainage can all affect habitats. Other threats are the occurrence of non- native species such as mink (affecting water vole numbers), Indian balsam, Japanese knotweed and the American signal crayfish (affecting water vole numbers and, latterly, the Asian Harlequin Ladybird which poses a threat to native aphid predators and other insects. At the micro level, the loss of open private gardens to hard surfacing, decking, as well as to house extensions, has meant there is a loss of local greenery and has increased surface water run off direct to the drainage piped system. There is also increasing evidence that climate change is affecting biodiversity in a variety of ways. Many of these threats are considered in the Strategy and will be considered in the Project Action Plan which will arise from it.

### **The Aims and Policies of the Strategy**

37. This strategy then has two guiding strategic and inter related themes; the natural heritage of the city and the quality of life of communities in the City. It seeks to ensure that we can pass on to future generations a natural heritage that is richer, in quality as the one we have inherited and seeks to protect and improve the green public realm of the City so as to enhance



peoples' quality of life. We will seek to do this in such a way as to further the sustainable development agenda by integrating environmental, social and economic decisions.

38. This revised strategy then retains the central overarching objective of the 1995 Strategy with only minor changes.

This is:

**“To protect and significantly enhance, the wildlife and geological heritage of the City of Derby, to promote people’s access, enjoyment and understanding of it and thereby to further local, national and international obligations about the protection and enhancement of natural history”**

39. The Strategy sets out, in broad terms, how we intend to move towards this objective.

40. To make the Strategy easier to understand, it is divided into seven distinct, but interconnected, aims. These break down the different elements that the objective covers.

41. Under each aim, the policies of the City of Derby Local Plan that the aim takes forward are set out. There are also a number of broad areas for action, to take forward the objective. These will be further detailed in a separate project action plan document which will be prepared. This will set out details of discrete projects related to resources available that will take forward the Strategy’s objectives.

42. Aims 1-3 are largely about protecting existing resources and so will be mainly implemented through actions associated with land use planning. It is intended that the advice in the text can be used as necessary, to justify and explain the implementation of CDLP policy when dealing with planning applications and Appeals against the refusal of planning permission and in drafting Section 106 Agreements.

43. To assist quick reference the main parts of the guidance dealing with operational development control matters are underlined.

44. A small number of actions in the first three aims and much of the remaining part of the strategy are largely about enhancement of the natural history resource and working with people. As such they will only partially be implemented through actions associated with land use planning. Therefore the sections shown in *italics* should be read as being essentially outside the formal Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) element of the strategy. However, there may still be opportunities to enhance biodiversity when implementing planning applications. These opportunities should be grasped where available and the advice in this part of the strategy will guide this work.

The seven aims are:

AIM 1 - To protect from damage, the most important natural heritage sites, features and species in the City.

AIM 2 - To retain a healthy biological network in the City which links the wildlife sites and biodiversity features across the City and into the wider countryside.

AIM 3 - To maintain, at least at its present level, the stock of natural heritage features which do not qualify as the most important, but which make an important contribution to environmental quality.

AIM 4 - To increase the quantity and quality of wildlife features, sites and corridors in the City through creation of new habitat and amending land management regimes.

AIM 5 - To seek to provide all reasonable access, to all natural heritage sites and features by everyone.

AIM 6 - To raise the general awareness of people and increase information about nature conservation, and in particular of the City's resources and their value.

AIM 7 - To ensure that progress towards achieving the aims of the strategy, and changes to the City's natural history resources are suitably monitored and reported on.

It is important to note that these aims are entirely interdependent and failure to achieve one can weaken the likelihood of others being achieved.

**AIM 1 - To protect from damage, the most important natural heritage sites, features and species in the City.**

**What the aim covers in general and why it is important.**

45. The City's natural heritage is an invaluable resource for present and future generations; making the City a more pleasant and attractive place to live and work.

46. The "most important" natural history features are virtually impossible to recreate and once gone, remain lost forever. They form the City's "critical natural capital" that we should seek to pass onto future generations in at least a good a state as we have now.

47. As "Working with the Grain of Nature" explains at 3.12 "Selected for their nature conservation value, Local Wildlife Sites provide important wildlife refuges and stepping stones in the site network linking different habitats and helping to maintain biodiversity"

**Local Plan policies that will take forward the aim**

(Numbers in brackets refer to those in the Local Plan)

(Ex2) Development will not be permitted if it may destroy or adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, sites of national importance for nature conservation, including the Boulton Moor SSSI.

Development will not be permitted which does not take proper account of the need to protect from adverse impact, Wildlife Sites, including Local Nature Reserves and sites identified in the appendix, taking into account their relative significance.

The City Council will require planning applications likely to affect any of the above sites to be accompanied by an analysis of the likely effects of the proposal on their nature conservation value, how these have been minimised. The City Council will seek to negotiate appropriate mitigating

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measures such as compensation, enhancement or long term management, for any damage likely to occur.

(E9) Development that would materially affect sites supporting wildlife species protected by law will only be permitted where:

Proposals are made to minimise disturbance to, and to facilitate the survival of the affected species on the site; or,

an offer of the creation of alternative habitats is made, supported by a planning obligation, which would sustain the current levels of the species population.

### **What the aim covers**

### **The Site of Special Scientific Interest; the SSSI**

48. The “most important sites and natural history features” and protected by CDLP Policy Ex 2 are identified in Appendix 5. They include the Site of Special Scientific Interest, (the SSSI,) at Boulton Moor. This is a geological feature and consists of the gravel levels in which were found remains of mammals, typical of the last interglacial period (including hippopotamus, rhinoceros, brown bear and hyena) associated with which are mollusc rich horizons. The Hippopotamus remains which were found here are now in the city museum.

### **Wildlife Sites**

49. The City’s sites identified as being importance for nature conservation (and so covered by Ex 2) are made up of The Wildlife Sites (WS), Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS). Some of these may also be Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) The sites are listed in Appendix 5 of this Strategy and also shown in the CDLP. Within these designated sites there are habitats, species or geological features that are either locally unusual, even nationally rare. See Appendix 5 and 6 for details of classification criteria and how the wildlife sites and the RIGS were identified.

## **The special protection to be given to Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)**

50. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are designated by the City council following discussion with English Nature, primarily designated as a natural resource for local communities. LNRs are often Wildlife Sites or RIGS, but don't need to be. Once designated, the area covered by the LNR designation will be treated for CDLP policy purposes as if it was a site classified as being of the "most important wildlife site" in terms of protection from harmful developments (even if the site is yet not quite at that biological standard). This is because of the importance such sites offer for public access to high quality semi- natural open space.

### **Buffer zones and indirect harm to sites**

51. Damage to sites could occur directly as a result of conflicting land use or other activities on a particular site, or indirectly, as a result of changes in the surrounding area. In order to reduce the indirect damage to important sites, in some cases it will also be necessary to protect the buffer zone around the sites, (for at least 25 meters and in some cases such as for sites which include wetlands, sometimes up to 500m) or the biological corridors and green wedges to which many of these sites are located within or attached. Thus, the effects of development proposals on these areas and other areas close to the sites will also be carefully looked at in determining a planning application.

### **A changing resource**

52. It should be noted that biodiversity is not a static resource. Site qualities deteriorate or become more important and other sites of importance are found. Thus, the aim (and policy Ex2 in the Local Plan) is one that covers all sites, which at any one time; meet the criteria for inclusion in the DWT Register of Wildlife Sites; which represent the most important sites for nature conservation. It therefore covers those that are listed in the Appendix 5 List A to this strategy, but may in the future include a small number of other sites.

## How we want to meet the aim

### Planning applications

53. When development, controllable under the Planning Acts is proposed, that may adversely affect one of these sites, and is located either on, or in the vicinity of the site (within the identified buffer zone around the site) , under the terms of Policy Ex2 they will be given protection in relation to their relative value. SSSIs as a nationally designated site will be given the highest level of protection when threatened by damage from a development requiring planning permission. As PPS 9 points out in paragraph 8, as a nationally designated site “where a proposed development on land within or outside an SSSI is likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI, planning permission should not normally be granted.” This approach is also a requirement of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended). It may be noted that in some circumstances “development” which gave opportunities to access the geological interest could be beneficial to the SSSI, but could not be seen as a reason for over riding other planning policies about protecting this site.

54. Wildlife Sites will also give a very high level of protection, when adversely threatened by a development needing planning permission under this policy. We will be seeking, as per PPS9’s key principles, “to prevent harm to biodiversity and conservation interests” and certainly minimising, mitigating and compensating for any unavoidable harm on these sites. As noted under Aim 4, in line with PPS9 we will also be seeking overall gains for biodiversity from developments as well as the avoidance of harm. Planning Conditions and legal obligations will be used to ensure unavoidable harmful impacts are minimised and compensated for, benefits for biodiversity and geology are gained and any monitoring of actions, post development, are undertaken.

55. How we will seek to implement this policy is amplified below.

56. To assist the process of making a proper decision on planning applications affecting any of the sites covered by Policy Ex2 , applicants will normally be expected to provide a study detailing the ecological impact of the proposal (either separately, or as part of an Environmental Impact

Assessment; EIA). It is important that such studies are submitted with the planning application and as far as possible, the surveys undertaken at the correct season, e.g. when the relevant species are flowering or active. This may mean that work may have to be undertaken up to 12 months before a planning application is submitted. Failure to do so may involve refusal of applications or delays in dealing with the application or conditions requiring further work prior to development. The study would include the following details, as appropriate to the nature and scale of the development:

<b><i>A checklist for the generic content of an ecological study</i></b>
<u>an accurate survey map of habitats and key landscape features of the site, preferably, according to Phase 1 methodology, undertaken at appropriate times of year (which must be noted) so that the survey finds all the significant species present on site. It should include a survey into the presence of invasive species (Japanese Knot Weed and Indian Balsam) The size and quality of any Local BAP or national BAP habitats should also be quantified. The methodology of any surveys must be clearly described;</u>
<u>a brief description of any surrounding ecological network, identifying key habitats or landscape features likely to be affected indirectly by the proposed development;</u>
<u>an identification of key species (particularly those protected in law) which are likely to be affected, either directly or indirectly, by the development. This should include a review of existing records and targeted surveys where necessary. It would be advisable as part of this work to contact the Biological Records Centre and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for their existing records;</u>
<u>a brief, objective, evaluation of these habitats and species according to their status within the LBAP, UKBAP, national and local Red Data Books and relevant legislation, clearly stating the criteria by which this evaluation is made;</u>
<u>a description of the nature, scale, duration and significance of potential direct and indirect effects on habitats and species arising from the proposed development, stating criteria used, taking into account all</u>

<u>aspects of the proposed development, including construction, changes in levels, drainage and services;</u>
<u>details of proposals for measures designed to protect biodiversity features and the mitigation strategy, showing; how harm to biodiversity features will be avoided; unavoidable damage will be minimised; compensation provided for habitats/species unavoidably damaged or lost; biodiversity additions and enhancement proposals for the site, over and above any proposed compensation; how invasive species will be dealt with ; how any necessary monitoring of the impacts of the development and success of the mitigation and compensation could take place.</u>

57. Before planning applications are determined expert advice will be gained, including advice from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and where appropriate, English Nature (shortly to become Natural England) At present a Service Level Agreement between the City Council and the Trust is used to facilitate this. They will also advise on the adequacy of any survey.

58. A view will then be taken as to whether a particular development will be harmful to a designated site, taking account of the survey and the expert and community views expressed about the proposals. In determining the application a precautionary approach will be taken so that conditions etc may be applied if there is a risk of harm even if this cannot be scientifically proven. These conditions may include a requirement to monitor sites after development takes place to ensure measures put in place to protect and enhance biodiversity are working as hoped.

### **Exceptions to the protection policy**

59. Despite the importance of all these sites and features, it is acknowledged that there may be very rare circumstances where, as government advice in PPS9 suggests, “the contribution of the development at this site, clearly outweighs the impacts that it is likely to have...”. In such cases the City Council would always seek to minimise impacts and ensure compensating features are provided on site or elsewhere. Measures to minimise impacts and provide compensation could include site fencing to



protect habitats or species, or their translocation/ creation of new off site habitat, or the restriction of operations to a particular time of year, such as outside the bird-nesting season. One notable site that may require this exceptions policy to be evoked is the former Friargate Station site, where Common Broomrape and Kidney Vetch, which are very rare in Derbyshire, grow. In addition a series of diverse habitats support an extraordinary high butterfly population. The site is a key city development site and so, in line with CDLP policy R2, a thorough survey will be required along with a clear mitigation strategy, to show the most suitable way to ensure the survival of these important habitats and species either on and if necessary, also off site.

### **Minimising damage not controlled by the planning acts**

*60. It is also recognised that there are a number of operations not associated with land development and so not controllable under the Planning Acts, which could harm these sites and features(although in some cases control may be gained through the EIA or Hedgerow Regulations or by declaring TPOs) Examples include agricultural improvements, such as site drainage, other changes in or lack of site management, the removal of shrubs, hedgerows and trees and other engineering works undertaken by statutory undertakers. Ways of minimising the chance of such operations damaging the sites will be sought. Measures could include providing relevant information on the optimum management of sites to owners or considering formal site management agreements and monitoring change. The City Council is the owner of a number of these most important sites and is fully committed to protecting sites within its ownership from harm of this sort.*

### **Habitat management**

61. In contrast to most of the geological sites, many of the wildlife sites are semi-natural habitats and have been formed as a result of human activity in the past. For this reason the correct habitat management is vital to protect and maintain their quality. Expert advice on the best way of managing these areas will be sought and implemented by the City Council, through such measures as the preparation of management plans management agreements, by providing information and advice to the land owner or occupier or through partnerships with local community groups and volunteers. The City Council recognises the importance of management in

the protection of wildlife. It is also discussed more under Aim 4 as a means of adding to the resource

## **Declaration of Local Nature Reserves**

62. The declaration of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) is seen as one way of ensuring the long-term management and so protection of important wildlife areas in public ownership. Local Nature Reserves have management plans to guide the delivery of management objectives. Management plans will be created with the help of relevant interested parties and be up-dated at regular intervals according to the needs of the natural history interests on the site.

63. Where required, on sites in City Council Control, other than on LNRs, such as for areas of semi natural woodland, the City Council will consider adopting management plans where it would be beneficial for the site to bring it into more active management.

64. Where sites are managed under such a plan, it will require monitoring to enable the review of management methods and to ensure that its wildlife value is maintained. The most suitable approach to this monitoring would need to be selected at the earliest opportunity.

65. Management groups are set up for LNRs consisting of partnerships of local people and other interested parties, such as local organisations and professional bodies, to help perform the management and development of sites and wildlife features. The City Council will support and oversee the management of these areas but will actively seek to assist these groups to become independent "friends" groups, to help achieve fully community based actions. It is the City's intention to have a rolling programme of LNR designations. (See para..170 for details of a project which seeks to involve more people in Local Nature Reserves)

## **Species protected by legislation**

66. A large number of species of animals and plants are given specific protection under national legislation and international conventions and directives. This guidance in this Strategy does not take away the need to meet these legal obligations. Indeed in some cases, for instance for European Protected species, (like great crested newts), it will be necessary

to seek to obtain a Defra licence to undertake a development, in addition to obtaining planning permission. This strategy seeks to strengthen these obligations, at the local level by clarifying the steps are to be taken when determining planning applications affecting legally protected species. The presence of any of these species will be a material consideration in determining planning applications if the development may harm the species and planning conditions or legal agreements will be sought, where these are necessary to ensure the species are properly protected.

67. In the case of species protected by European legislation,( in Derby this largely means bats, otters and great crested newts) the Authority also has a legal duty (under the Habitat Regulations)to consider the impact on the species when it deals with a planning application which may harm it, or its breeding or resting place.

### **The need for surveys**

68. In order for the Authority to make the necessary judgement on the affects of the development on the protected species, where it is known or, where there is a reasonable likelihood of the species being present and affected by the development, then a suitable survey will be required from the developer. Normally this will need to be carried out before the application is made and only where this has not reasonably been possible, before the application is determined. This survey should be similar in nature to the general procedure set out above in relation to Wildlife sites (Para 56 ). In general they need to show; the species population on the site, how the proposal may affect the species details of how avoidance of harm or mitigation / compensation measures are to be put in place and any Defra Licensing requirements.

### **When a survey may be required**

69. Surveys are most likely to be required and sought in Derby on developments affecting protected species on;

-sites, known to contain protected species, such as the River Derwent and Markeaton Brook,

And on other sites where (in accordance with Para 99 of Circular 06/2005) “there is a reasonable likelihood of a protected species being present and affected by the development” on

-the other wetland areas, including other streams, ditches and ponds, including open land around them (where water voles, white clawed crayfish and perhaps otters, bats or nesting birds may be disturbed)

-the fabric of (especially the roof spaces of) Listed and other pre 1918 buildings (where bats or sometimes nesting birds may be disturbed),

underground sites, such as tunnels and culverts (where bats and perhaps nesting birds may be disturbed),

-structures such as bridges (again where birds or bats or if wetted areas are affected voles, crayfish or otters may be affected),

-or, in some cases, areas of woodland, and large and mature trees especially those that are ivy covered or have hollow cavities (where bats or nesting birds may be affected.)

70. This is only an indicative list for the City and other locations or protected species may also be present which generate the need for survey work, such as areas of derelict land, work to roof spaces of more modern properties . The Biological Records Centre in the Museum has records of reports of protected species and can be usefully consulted in addition to the DWT.

### **Determining applications**

71. In determining applications the City Council will having regard to PPS 9, seek both to;

-ensure no material harm is caused to the species and any unavoidable harm or disturbance is minimised ; and as far as possible the development delivered an overall gain for biodiversity

-ensure its habitat is either protected or if this is not possible, a suitable alternative habitat and other mitigation is provided, so that the current level of species population is sustained.

Before a license can be granted by Defra for work affecting a European Protected Species, three tests must be satisfied. Government guidance is that these must be also applied to the planning application in order to avoid the granting of permission for which license is later refused. The tests are:

(i) That the development is 'in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment';

(ii) That there is no satisfactory alternative;

(iii) That the granting of a license will not be 'detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species concerned at a favorable status in their natural range'.

72. In order to come to a proper view on whether harm unacceptable is likely to occur to a species, or how a suitable alternative habitat is to be provided, expert advice will be needed from appropriate bodies depending on the species and circumstances, including English Nature, DWT or specialist groups, like the local bat group.

73. It should be noted that the nests, eggs and young of all wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. To ensure this is complied with, if possible, work involving loss of trees and shrubs including hedges during the bird breeding season, generally March to September inclusive, should be avoided. Conditions requiring either that work is to be outside this season, or requiring appropriate surveys to be made prior to work confirming the absence of nesting birds, will be added to planning permissions where ever relevant.

74. In some probably rare cases and with the advice of English Nature, it may be that the affect on a protected species is not acceptable and can not be suitably mitigated and an application will be refused.

## **The need for positive action to protect species and habitats**

*75. Positive action will also need to be taken to help maintain the presence in the local area of protected species. Much of this advice is contained in the Local BAP. One important action to take forward the aim is to ensure that the City Council employees have access to up to date, information on these resources and how they need to be conserved. This may include the production and distribution of alert maps in electronic and other forms of this resource and other natural features of importance in the City. These matters are discussed under Aim 4.*

## **Summary of broad actions, not implemented in the main through the Planning Acts that will be taken to further Aim 1**

*Ac1 -The City Council will seek to implement a range of measures, which attempt to protect the most important natural heritage sites, features and species from damage from factors other than land use development controlled by the Planning Acts*

*Ac 2 - The City Council will seek to ensure the most important natural heritage sites, including areas of semi natural woodland are in active management to ensure they retain their intrinsic quality.*

*Ac 3 - The City Council will seek to maintain a rolling programme of declarations of Local Nature Reserves on suitable sites in order to ensure the long-term management of these sites and will seek to set up and support management/friends of groups for these and other appropriate green areas, where appropriate.*

**Aim 2 - To retain a healthy biological network in the City which links the wildlife sites and biodiversity features across the City and into the wider countryside.**

## **What the aim covers**

76. The biological network is made up of all the sites and features, which connect larger areas of biological importance. It includes larger green areas, such as the City's Green Wedges and public open space but also areas of trees, hedgerows, larger roadside verges, pasture, wetland, water features, railway embankments, areas of amenity planting and even private gardens. Their essential feature is that they are linked, or could be in the future, linked to other wildlife sites and features and where possible the wider countryside surrounding the City. As the elements which join larger biodiversity features they are an integral part of the City's green infrastructure.

77. The network may be seen in the form of a number of components;

*the "strategic" network;*

made up of areas of open countryside (including areas of Green Belt) and Green Wedges, (such as the Derwent corridor) connecting the open countryside into the city; the larger areas of open land, including parks; larger road verges; river and stream courses, which do not have a significant break and are linked to the open countryside.

*the "secondary" wildlife corridors;*

which are smaller continuous features or groups of features, including streams, minor open space, hedges, which though being detached from each other or the open countryside do provide some form of corridor effect.

*the "tertiary network";*

made up from small areas, such as house gardens, small landscaped areas and even lines of street trees which provide for short distances some form of continuity of green area.

This strategy concentrates on the "Strategic" network (principally as these are the part of the network covered by the Local Plan policies) but recognises the overall importance of other parts of the network.

### **Local Plan policies that will take forward the aim**

(Numbers in brackets are those in the Local Plan)

(E2) - Part; discussing conditions under which certain land uses may be granted planning permission in Green Wedges) ...Planning permission for categories 1-6 will be granted provided that:

The scale, siting, design materials and landscape treatment maintain, and do not endanger, the open and undeveloped character of the character of the wedge, its links with open countryside and its natural history value...

(E8) - (Covering the “Strategic Corridors” also as shown in the CDLP) Planning Permission will not be granted for development, which will sever wildlife corridors, or otherwise undermine their value as wildlife routes. Proposals, which reduce the size of any of these routes, would only be allowed if they include suitable compensatory features for those, which would be lost.

(E19) - Planning permission will only be granted for development near to Green Belt, Green Wedges and wildlife corridors if adequate landscaping is provided to ensure that the visual amenities and special character of these open spaces is not adversely affected.

### **Why the aim is important**

78. As PPS9 9 notes, at Para 12, “Networks of natural habitats provide a valuable resource. They can link sites of biodiversity importance and provide routes or stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species in the wider environment. Local authorities should aim to maintain networks by avoiding or repairing the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through policies in plans. Such networks should be protected from development, and, where possible, strengthened by or integrated within it. This may be done as part of a wider strategy for the protection and extension of open space and access routes such as canals and rivers, including those within urban areas”. This advice takes forward the requirements of Regulation 37 of the Habitats Regulations.

79. The green network often has a protective function by providing a natural barrier or buffer zone to wildlife sites and also prevents isolation of these sites. Isolation of a site can reduce the quality of both the natural assets and the critical value of biodiversity features if it is not reconnected to the wider green system. The inability of various species to move in or out of a particular site can potentially reduce genetic vigor and lead to ecological imbalance.



80. The areas within the green network may also have a certain degree of biological importance in their own right. More importantly having such a network increases the possibility of City residents having very local access to semi- natural green spaces or wildlife features. This in turn improves the quality of local living space and encourages inward investment and job retention for the City as a whole.

### **What we want to achieve**

81. Two things are important to achieve if the network is to continue its function properly that:

a. The corridors which form the strategic network (and defined on plan in this Strategy's and in a more detailed plan in the Revised CDLP) are not severed or in another way have their purpose as a wildlife route severely undermined (for instance if all the semi natural habitats in a large area of the corridor were removed) and

b Positive action is taken to increase the quantity and improve and the natural qualities and connectivity of the non strategic networks. .

### **How we will achieve its protection**

#### **The “Strategic Network” of wildlife corridors**

82. The protection of the “strategic network” will largely be undertaken through the planning system. Although development in these “strategic corridors” would be seen as the exception rather than the rule, it would not be completely ruled out. Any development though, would need to avoid severance of the corridor. Further, it should not undermine the strategic route’s purpose by removing extensive parts of its semi natural character so that there can not be movement of species along it. If any of a corridor was developed there should be suitable compensation, in natural history terms, would have to be provided for any loss. This could be appropriate landscaping or other work that improved the quality of the remaining area by providing new appropriate habitats. The line of the former canal provides one of the most important long distance corridors in the City and should proposed restoration come forward, an important consideration will be the protection of its wildlife corridor function, by suitable design and planting. Similarly, proposals for the City centre adjacent within the Derwent corridor

being promoted by “Derby Cityscape” must respect and seek to enhance, the important strategic wildlife corridor role of the river corridor.

83. The special character and biodiversity function of the strategic green network is also to be protected from development close to network elements. So development near to them should have adequate landscaping between itself and the corridor to act as a screen and a biological buffer between the two. The landscaping design should also seek to reflect the habitat of the adjacent green wedge and complement and enhance it.

### **Secondary and tertiary wildlife corridors**

84. In looking at proposals that would affect areas that act as “secondary” and “tertiary” wildlife corridors, we will seek to retain their quality and continuous nature where reasonably possible when affected by development. However, most action to retain and enhance these areas will be in positive action unconnected with planning applications. This is discussed under Aim 4 and involves improving their natural qualities and enhancing their connectivity.

### **Additional broad action, not implemented through the a Local Plan policy, that will be taken to further the Aim**

*Ac4 -The City Council will take action to seek to retain a healthy secondary and tertiary network of wildlife corridors across the City, by such actions as seeking compensation for sections of network lost by seeking changes to management regimes; on public land; in use by businesses; education establishment or; private gardens etc in order to create linear features which add to the network.*

**Aim 3 -To maintain, at least at its present level, the stock of natural heritage features which do not qualify as the most important, but which make an important contribution to environmental quality.**

### **What the aim covers in general**

85. This stock of natural heritage features, (which for these purposes include geological features), represents the City's "constant natural assets". The features are in addition to and complement those, in the "most important" category discussed under Aim 1 and those contained in the green network discussed under Aim 2.

86. These "natural heritage features" can be classified into three groups, although there may be some over-lap between the groups. These are;

- Specific sites which are known to support semi-natural features, which benefit wildlife, or geological heritage, called "local city sites" (See Appendix 5)
- Any other specific sites which support National or local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and the habitats supporting BAP Priority Species (such as water voles) excluding those given specific legal protection and covered in Aim 1.
- Any other semi-natural features that benefit wildlife, (such as older hedgerows), which may occur anywhere in the City outside the sites noted above in "a" or b above. These include mature trees (especially native species) and other woodlands, areas of native shrubs, other mature predominantly native species hedges, ponds and other wetland, and some geological and geomorphological features.

87. These three categories are amplified below under "What the aim covers".

### **Local Plan policies that will take forward the aim**

(Numbers in brackets are those in the Local Plan)

(ST10) - Development should protect, and where possible enhance, the City's environment, its natural resources and its built heritage. Full regard will be paid to the need to protect and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness and community identity. Existing landscape features such as woodland areas, trees, hedgerows, ponds and buildings of interest should be retained where possible and incorporated into the overall design.

(Ex3) - Planning permission will only be granted for development provided that regard is had to the need to protect from harmful development features of nature conservation interest in the City. These will include mature trees, established hedgerows and shrub areas, water features and geological resources, and other priority habitats and those supporting priority species.

(E11) - Planning permission will not be granted for development which would seriously damage, destroy or compromise the long term retention of individual trees, groups of trees or areas of woodland which contribute to the amenity of an area. Conditions will be imposed on outline and full planning permissions to secure the protection of trees before and during development. The City Council will also declare new Tree Preservation Orders on appropriate trees and groups of trees.

### **Why the Aim is important.**

88. The general importance of biodiversity is discussed at the beginning of this Strategy (Paras.1-5); at length in Defra's "Working with the Grain of Nature"; and the particular value to people at paragraphs 148-154 of this Strategy. These features can also be important elements in maintaining an area's local visual character; the local distinctiveness of the City. They also improve the visual quality of the City as a whole, making it a better place to live and work in and so bringing with it the advantages of inward investment/ job retention and attracting tourists. For City dwellers much of their contact with nature comes as part of their everyday lives in the City; in the garden, in the street or in local parks. These features could also assist us to lessen the effects of climate change by storing water run off, storing flood water and cooling buildings. So protecting this overall stock of smaller, local natural features is vitally important. Policy E 11 in the CDLP specifically seeks to protect trees and woodland with high visual amenity. Guidance in this strategy seeks to give additional protection to trees and woodlands with biological value.

89. Some of these "biodiversity features" occur on areas of open space (both public and private). PPS9 recognises that open spaces that particularly benefit wildlife and biodiversity are valued by people "recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better

quality of life and a sense of well being” (This is discussed further under Aim 5).

90. English Nature takes this further and suggests that the ability to provide “natural green” space for every householder is an essential test of the quality of life of an area. They propose standards for accessible green space (“A Space for Nature”. E.N.1996). These are discussed under Aim 5.

91. These features are also an integral part of the “green infrastructure” that all areas need to properly function. They consist of interconnected and often multifunctional green spaces and features within and running through a neighborhood and are of great benefit to the people living and working there.

## **What the Aim Covers**

### **Protecting Features on known particular sites (“Local City Sites”)**

92. As noted above, features of natural history importance can occur in a wide variety of places across the City. However some of these features are known to occur on sites listed in Appendix 5 List B. They support priority habitats and species identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan or significant geological heritage features, but do not meet the criteria for designation as Wildlife Sites or RIGS. These we term Local City Sites to differentiate them from the Wildlife Sites. As with Wildlife Sites, the resource on any given site is liable to change and the site list may slightly alter over the years. They include sites proposed as “Wildlife Site” (candidate sites) but on which there is not yet a decision from the Sites Panel.

### **Protecting BAP Priority Habitats**

93. In addition to the habitats and features on the sites discussed above in Para 92, the City also has nine habitat types (such as wildflower- rich grassland) seen by the “Greenprint” and the BAPs as being Priority Habitats for protection and enhancement in Derby (although some of the sites discussed in the previous paragraph, may also contain some of these priority habitats). These are recognised as being important both locally and beyond the City because of their comparative rarity in this part of Derbyshire and sometimes nationally. The Lowland Derbyshire BAP and the “Greenprint” further explain their value. There are also a number of

species (like the glow-worm) identified in the BAPs as being priority species for protection. (See Appendix 4). Many of the nine Priority Habitats are listed for their value as habitats of the priority species. The “Greenprint” Priority Habitats are;

Wildflower rich grassland; rivers and streams; broadleaved woodland; veteran trees; roadside verges; ancient or species rich hedges; urban habitats; ponds and lakes; wet grassland.

94. Information about them is set out in “Greenprint” and they are set out for ease of reference in context in Appendix 4 to this strategy.

95. Information on the location of sites which support these habitats and species is incomplete and so they are covered by the CDLP policy Ex3 where ever they occur.

96. Four of these habitats of particular importance in the City are discussed in greater detail below.

### **Protecting Ancient or Species Rich Hedges**

97. Hedgerows are often a particularly valuable biological resource in themselves, as well as important parts of wildlife corridors. Most valuable are those containing a number of different native shrub and tree species. In a survey of the City’s hedgerows in 2003 around 1300 hedgerows were identified and almost 43% of these were identified as being biologically species rich (using the English Nature definition), so are particularly important. Details of the survey can be seen on the City Council’s web site under “Environment” and “WildDerby”

98. *The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) normally require land owners to notify the Council if they intend to remove all or parts of a hedgerow (unless it is around a domestic property). We then have to judge against statutory criteria (such as the presence of specific species in the hedge) if the hedgerow is “important” and should not be removed. This legislative requirement is in addition to the considerations discussed in this Strategy.*

### **Protecting “Wetland”; rivers, streams, ponds and lakes**

99. The importance of wetland whether the River Derwent, its tributary streams (like the Markeaton, Hell and Cuttle Brooks) and their banks, along with lakes and ponds of the City and their associated wetlands are discussed earlier in the review of the state of the City's natural resource. Because of the valuable habitat and wildlife corridor value of these areas, both their quantity and the quality of the water, need to be protected and new wetland habitat created where ever there is the opportunity to do so, whether they are a recognised Wildlife site or not. Northwards from the Silk Mill, the Derwent is within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site which itself has a Biodiversity Action Plan of its own to act as guidance for protection and enhancement work along the riverside here.

100. Some streams and all of the River Derwent and its corridor are part of the flood defence regime for the City. These areas contain important habitats in their own right, which should, as far as possible, be protected when flood defence works are undertaken. Opportunities to enhance the green resource should also be sought when such works take place. Conversely when habitat creation works are undertaken care needs to be taken not to undermine flood defence regimes.

### **Protecting Woodland, Veteran Trees and wildflower rich (or unimproved) grassland areas**

101. Woodland especially broad- leafed woodland and wildflower rich grassland (sometimes called unimproved grassland) are two further habitats identified in the Lowland Derbyshire BAP and "Greenprint for Derby" as Priority Habitats, because of their importance and rarity that are especially under-represented in the City. They are recognised as important resources for both their biological and landscape value and the general contribution they make to the quality of the City's environment. Some of these areas of woodland and grassland are themselves identified as important wildlife areas and protected under policies in Aim 1. Others are not, although most are of some biodiversity value worthy of appropriate protection under CDLP policy EX3.

102. A key action in "Working with Grain of Nature" in relation to woodland is to "take measures to prevent loss or damage to ancient woodland or trees, and their uniquely rich biodiversity from development and mineral extraction" The importance and location of Ancient Woodland is discussed at paragraph 26.

103. The particular importance of Veteran Trees is highlighted here because of the unique habitat they form for many species simply because of their age. Veteran Trees are defined as trees over the age of about 200 years and this is usually determined by their girth. A survey started in 2005 is seeking to map the trees in the City. It is recognised that because of their age sometimes all or parts of them can be dying back. However because of their habitat and historic value they should be retained wherever it is possible and safe to do so.

### **Domestic and community gardens**

104. Domestic gardens and other semi private spaces such as allotments can contain habitats valuable to wildlife and if gardening is carried out with wildlife in mind. We will seek to assist owners in maximising the value for natural history of these areas. This is discussed further under Aim 4.

### **What we are trying to achieve**

105. This aim is centrally about achieving sustainable solutions which meet the needs of both development and the natural environment. As PPS 12 states, (itself quoting from “Working with the Grain of Nature”) the Governments states that the first of its objectives for planning is; “To promote sustainable development – by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of economic, social, and environmental development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land use integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.” Achieving this coming together of objectives is not only the responsibility of the local authority, but also requires the involvement of everyone to share in that responsibility. The importance of raising awareness of the value of biodiversity, which is a key element in delivering this aim, is discussed under Aim 6.

106. All these biodiversity features are habitats or features whose natural value can, to some extent, be recreated, if individual areas or features are lost. The Aim is that the stock of all features, taken together across the City, overall, should not be allowed to fall below its existing level (and preferably be increased). The “level” here involves both quality and quantity measures and so some loss of quantity could be compensated for by increased quality of habitat. However it is recognised that some established



habitats are not always easy to satisfactorily recreate. In all cases, sympathetic and on-going management of features is seen as the best way to retain these resources.

107. The criteria for “protection” that may be given to these biodiversity features is in addition to any visual value that the feature may have and which may be protected by mechanisms such as Tree Preservation Orders, which largely imposed to protect public visual amenity.

## **How we are going to achieve it**

### **Planning applications**

108. Development is seen as the main reason for the loss of these biological features, but it can also be a significant way in which habitats can be extended or new habitats created. Under CDLP policy Ex3 the presence of at least one of the natural features or habitats noted in paragraph 86 or the fact that an application affects a habitat on or around a site listed in Appendix 5 B will mean it should be a material consideration in determining planning applications. The Council will seek to incorporate these features into a development layout where this is reasonable to do so, or if they are to be lost, to seek appropriate compensation in biodiversity terms, if this is possible, for the feature removed. The enlargement of existing and the planting of new areas of habitat beneficial to wildlife in schemes, however small in scale, are important elements in adding to these important habitats and landscape features. (Additions to habitats are discussed further under Aim 4) The emphasis in the development process here is to seek to give an appropriate level of protection to individual biodiversity sites or features, over and above those named as being on “Wildlife Sites”, in the CDLP, as part of seeking to achieve a quality development.

109. Thus, when development controlled by the planning acts takes place on any site, a number of steps may be required so that the CDLP policy is complied with and the natural history value of these biodiversity features can be taken into account. What these steps are will be dependant on the scale of the development and the importance or quantity of the natural feature present on site. While the CDLP policy seeks proper consideration being given to the retention of all of these natural features for operational purposes minimum “trigger” levels where the policy should be used in

determining planning applications are set out below. They should not stop other features being considered and retained where this is possible.

110. The first step is to consider if the development is;

on, or affects, by being close to, one of the sites in Appendix 5 B;

-whether it affects a hedgerow (especially if it is species rich);  
a pond or an area of other wetland like a stream or marshy ground;

-areas of broadleaved woodland over 0.25 ha, especially where they are  
mature ;

-affects more than 2 mature broadleaved trees (regardless of their visual  
amenity) or any veteran trees.

-an area shown to be one of the remnants of wildflower rich grassland (that  
occur in some non agricultural settings like some areas of derelict land) or

-an area shown to be one of the remnants of wet grassland (occurring long  
the banks of the River Derwent and its tributaries like Markeaton Brook,  
which periodically flood);

### **Survey studies**

111. Where these features occur they need to be accurately surveyed  
along with other areas of natural features, and the results submitted as part  
of the application material. The survey should be along the general lines of  
that discussed in Aim 1 Paragraph 56 They should also show such things  
as; details of proposed changes in soil levels; existing and proposed site  
drainage and other services and detailed proposals for landscaping the  
site, including how material to be retained is to be protected during  
construction. The study may need to include the protection of neighbouring  
features off the development site, where they are of importance.

### **Incorporating biodiversity features into developments**

112. Once the resource has been suitably surveyed consideration needs to  
be given as to whether it can be incorporated into the development

proposed. So, for instance, older hedges should be protected in layout designs and brought into management as part of development. As far as possible, hedgerows should be retained as features connected together, designed into layouts so as to facilitate their long term retention and brought back into management, for instance by laying them as part of the development process.

113. Suitable compensation for the biodiversity features that are lost will normally be sought, although it is recognised that it is not always possible to completely compensate for some losses. Opportunities for site enhancement, in natural history terms, will also be taken, particularly on larger developments. Thus sensitive landscaping schemes maximising the use of native species and taking opportunities for incorporating existing features and adding to them will be sought and discussed further under Aim 4. The Council will seek to maximise the value for natural history, developments undertaken in the City and seek a net gain for biodiversity from developments; i.e. there needs to be more habitat valuable to natural history created than lost, especially on larger developments(over 0.5ha). We are seeking an approach to achieve quality developments which have the intention of “designing with nature” rather than simply trying to “tame” it.

114. Further advice on how developers can incorporate natural history features on a site and so maximise the value of a development site for natural history is given in the City’s Design Guides “Nature Conservation on Development Sites” and “Trees and Shrubs which Benefit Wildlife”.

115. To assist in the achievement of this aim, expert advice will be sought by the City Council, particularly from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

### **The particular protection for woodland**

116. The City Council will also seek to ensure that all biologically important areas of woodlands (especially ancient woodland whether classified as Wildlife Sites or not) are actively managed to ensure the continuation of woodland cover of appropriate species. It is recognised though that woodland usually needs to perform a variety of, sometimes conflicting, roles including the following;

-visual amenity

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- nature conservation
- education
- public access and informal recreation
- forestry

117. For the two areas of Ancient Woodland in the City (Elm and Chaddesden Woods) conservation and enhancement must take precedence over other roles.

Other ways of achieving the aim

*118. As in Aim 1, it is recognised that development controlled by the planning acts, is not the only reason why these particular features are being lost and steps, similar to those listed at Paragraph 60 such as improved land management and public education, will be looked at to protect this resource.*

### **The need for more information**

*119. Appendix 5 contains a certain amount of information about where these biodiversity features occur in the City. However, whilst there is considerable amount of information about this natural resource, more work is needed either as part of or an addition to the audit of green space required by PPG 17. An audit of significant areas containing biodiversity features, giving site location, size, present and past quality, site use or value (to local people, the green network, education, amenity etc) and clearly illustrated on an alert map would provide the framework for future appraisal. Undertaking such an integrated study will be considered in order to further understanding of these features as part of the open land resource of the City. In addition further particular studies of different important species or habitat type in the City is required. These are in addition to the hedgerow, ponds and veteran tree surveys previously referred to. These will add to our information and guide what further action is required to protect and enhance that species or habitat. These studies will also have to be kept up to date given the ever-changing nature of the resource.*

***Summary of broad actions, not implemented in the main through the Planning Acts, that will be taken to further the Aim***

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*Ac5 -The City Council will seek to implement a range of measures, which protect important, habitats, species and geological features from damage from factors other than land use development controlled by the Planning Acts*

*Ac6 -The City Council will seek to bring into active management land containing features of biodiversity importance including BAP priority habitats, so as to maintain their intrinsic health.*

*Ac7 -The City Council will seek appropriate mechanisms to make people aware of the locations of features of biodiversity importance and priority habitats, where this will not be harmful to the resource.*

*Ac8 -The City Council will continue to survey the City to gain knowledge of the locations quality and quantity of biodiversity habitats within its area and seek to keep this information up to date.*

**AIM 4 - To increase the quantity and quality of Wildlife Sites, biodiversity features, and wildlife corridors in the City through creation of new habitats and amending land management regimes.**

### **What the Aim covers**

120. The aim here is seen as complementary to Aims 1-3, which seeks to protect the City's natural green heritage. Here we cover the vital need to go beyond this minimum "protection" requirement. This takes forward a key part of the overarching objective of this Strategy and Government policy in PPS9, that of significantly enhancing the resource, by adding to features, sites and links to them. Additions are desirable to both the quantity and quality of the resource. These additions can come from habitat creation schemes (including assisting natural habitat regeneration or spread); the adoption of management plans that can result in the improvement in the habitat quality, the creation of new geological exposures, or from other changes in management regimes to land, that improve its biological quality.

**The Local Plan Policy that will partially take forward this aim**  
(Number in brackets is that in the Local Plan)

(E10) - The City Council will prepare, implement and encourage schemes to enhance the natural history value of open land, including public open space, natural history sites, and educational land. Schemes will include the creation of Local Nature Reserves.

### **Why the Aim is important**

121. The maintenance and enhancement of the quality, (in terms of biodiversity) and quantity, of wildlife sites, other semi-natural habitats and features, including geological features, remains an essential part of moving towards sustainable development and the long-term survival of the biodiversity resource in the City. It takes forward policies in the City's Environment Strategy and the DCP Community Strategy. The importance of this work is discussed at the beginning of this Strategy and in Defra's "Working with the Grain of Nature" Adding to the resource is also an important element in economic and social regeneration of areas and can be themselves ways of reducing poverty levels.(This is discussed at greater length under Aim 5) As well as the creation of new habitat areas themselves, particular attention also needs to be given to adding to the networks of local green wildlife corridors linking the wildlife habitats. As noted under Aim 2 these allow movement of wildlife between areas and just as importantly allow people very local contact with natural history in their own street or local open space.

### **How we are going to achieve it**

122. Creative thinking is required to seek new ways of finding ways development can contribute to green resources. It can be about taking opportunities developments bring. Especially on larger development schemes we will be seeking a "net gain for biodiversity" for the City, on the back of developments i.e. there needs to be more habitat valuable to natural history created than lost. Two examples of how this has already been achieved are; the extensive wetland natural area being created on land adjacent to the river by Severn Trent as part of the redevelopment of the sewerage works and the nature reserve "The Sanctuary" bird and wildlife reserve, created on 10ha of land also used as a waste repository on Pride Park.

123. *Opportunities sometimes flow from new financial resources that become available. (Such as one off Government grant regimes) These will be kept under review and bids made for these as appropriate.*

124. The main transport corridors of the City, including the main road verges and railway cuttings can be valuable habitats in their own right as well as wildlife corridors. Opportunities will be sought to enhance these linear habitats, for example by having grass cutting regimes of the verges which encourage a diversity of plant species.

125. General advice on how developers can maximise the value of a development site for natural history is given in the City's design guides "Nature Conservation on Development Sites" and "Trees and Shrubs which benefit Wildlife. DWT's "Habitat Creation Guide for Lowland Derbyshire" which is a very valuable source of information on appropriate planting mixes. These advice sources may also be valuable to others seeking to enhance the value of land for wildlife. Planting schemes should also respect the landscape character of the area they are in, as set out in the County Council's County Landscape Assessment Guide.

### **Using native species**

126. All planting schemes should seek to maximise use of species native to this region. Such species have greater value in terms of the wildlife communities they support and the ability to sustain long-term healthy populations. The City Council is committed to using native species or other plants of wildlife value where possible and appropriate. It also recognises that non-native plants can have significant wildlife value and that the choice of species will be balanced against the physical constraints of the site and amenity requirements.

127. The Council will endeavor to continue to plant, in their non-formal planting schemes, a proportion of native species wherever possible. Planting in appropriate groups, rather than planting as individual species, and including under storey planting are seen as ways of gaining greater benefit to wildlife by creating new small habitats. These principles should also be followed in private landscaping schemes delivered as part of planning permissions and in other situations where the City Council can influence planting schemes. Thus, in granting planning permissions for any significant developments, we will specify that a significant proportion of the

planting mix, be native species or other plants of wildlife value and we will seek to maximise the amount of stock derived from the local area (having local provenance) consistent with site constraints and the purpose of the scheme and which respect the landscape character of the area.

128. It is recognised that ground conditions and the location and purpose of the landscaping scheme will also determine the planting style. There will always be the need for formal planting schemes (where it may not be possible to use native species) but in less formal areas planting which benefit wildlife will be sought and even in formal schemes plants beneficial to wildlife can be used. In addition, the establishment of a suitable management regime, for new and existing woodlands and other areas, particularly to remove invasive non native species, is important, to maximise the value of these areas for biodiversity.

### **Other habitat creation opportunities**

129. In addition to using planting beneficial to wildlife there are numerous other ways in which the City's natural heritage can be enhanced and added to (on the back of development or in other ways) and in this work the BAPs are key guidance documents. This is amplified in Par 144. To be of maximum value such newly created habitat should be well linked to surrounding habitat networks and full provision made for future management and monitoring of effectiveness of the development of this new biodiversity resource.

130. Three specific habitat enhancements/ additions, appropriate to the City, are discussed below, but should not be taken as the only BAP priorities which can be taken forward. These other enhancements could be in the form of the creation of larger habitat areas or even micro habitats, such as putting up bird boxes or feeding stations or appropriately planted green roofs. All schemes, if carefully designed can be important in adding to the City's natural heritage.

### **Increasing/ improving hedgerows**

131. As noted previously hedgerows can be extremely valuable habitats as well as important landscape/ townscape and habitat linking features. We will seek opportunities to either increase the number of new biologically rich



hedgerows in the city and to have existing hedgerows better managed to increase their value to biodiversity and the landscape. So, as far as possible, hedgerows should be retained in developments and where necessary new planting put in so that they are reconnected together with other hedgerows and designed into layouts so as to facilitate their long term retention. They should also be brought back into management, for instance by laying them as part of the development process.

### **Increasing/improving wetland**

132. The creation of new wetland habitat is also an important priority in terms of additions and enhancement of the resource in the City. Opportunities to create wetland habitats such as ponds, reed beds or other habitats for water voles or otter along the river and brook corridors, would increase habitat connectivity through the City and contribute to important BAP targets. Some of these may be achieved as part of development (perhaps as part of a SuDs scheme or balancing pond), including schemes promoted by “Cityscape” in the City centre or others on the back of flood defence schemes.

### **Increasing/ improving woodland**

133. Two key actions proposed in “Working with the Grain of Nature” at paragraph 6.9 are; encouraging woodland management to conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of native woodland and the creation of new native woodlands.

134. Woodland planting can be particularly valuable for wildlife and its multi use value will be sought on appropriate open areas of land. It could be carried out or promoted by the City Council, within the City’s Green Wedges, including areas on the edges of built-up areas along main roads and railways and as part of the landscaping of suitable new or extended areas of public open space put forward within the City of Derby Local Plan. Care needs to be taken though, not to destroy other important habitats such as open grassland, when undertaking such schemes. The planting of small woodlands and the extension of existing woodlands will be promoted, again where appropriate, as part of the landscaping schemes for sites of housing and business development. We will also encourage and support changes of marginal farmland to sustainable woodland use especially

where it improves the wildlife value of the area. We will also support the replacement of non native and coniferous species in woodland with broad leaved woodland which contribute to BAP targets.

135. Therefore where new woodland planting is proposed it should, as far as possible, be designed to:

- relate to the topography
- enhance the landscape
- maximise value for wildlife and not harm existing valuable wildlife habitats
- add to the green network of the City
- complement the role and value of existing woodland.

### **Enhancing Public open space and other public land**

*136. It is recognised that the greatest opportunities we have to directly influence change, will be on land already in public ownership. Derby is a relatively compact urban area and the City Council are owners and managers of a large proportion of our open space. When Derby's major parks were designed and laid out, the countryside was close at hand and provided a home for a wide range of wildlife. In the last few decades, the boundaries of Derby have extended considerably and modern agriculture has destroyed innumerable wildlife habitats. Well-mown grass and formal gardens are still needed and are much valued by local people, but there is scope to continue to enhance the wildlife value of public open space by the creation of dense shrub planting, mini-woodlands, ponds, wetland habitats and flower meadows, as has been done for instance in Sunnydale Park and Darley Abbey Park and in the major regeneration of the Arboretum. In areas of public open space there will always be competing demands as to how the land is used (e.g. between formal planting, sports facilities and informal semi natural habitats). Schemes that allow for the multiple use of the same area will often be possible and will be sought where possible. Similar opportunities may also arise on land surrounding schools and other educational facilities.*

*137. Defra's "Working with the Grain of Nature" sees one way of taking forward the agenda as having "urban parks and green spaces managed with biodiversity as a core principle" It contains a priority policy to ensure that biodiversity as an integral part of parks, playing fields and other urban*

*green spaces. It also recognises the multi- functional role green space plays in moving towards the urban renaissance.*

*138. We will therefore continue, as part of maintaining high quality open spaces, to review the use of land in public parks and similar publicly controlled land, in order to change management regimes and look for opportunities for new innovative habitat creation schemes in ways that are appropriate to that space. Similarly when engineering schemes controlled by the City Council, such as flood defence works, are undertaken, there will be opportunities for designing works to maximise the benefits for nature conservation and enhancement.*

### **Changing established views**

*139. In parallel with such changes of habitat and landscaping in public areas, there will also be the need to explain to people why landscaped areas have changed in character. Significant numbers of people have expectations of public open space as having close mown grass and ornamental trees, which contrasts with the way some areas managed for wildlife, look. While such formally landscaped areas are valuable, to gain the support of the public, education will be necessary on the value of and reasons for, changing management regimes. This will be needed to gain wider public support for the creation of semi natural green areas within public spaces.*

### **Enhancing private land**

140. Similar opportunities for habitat creation will occur on private land, in addition to those arising as a result of development. Opportunities for such new habitat creation will be sought. Guidance in site development briefs and master plans can be one important way of ensuring maximum value for natural history can be gained from site development. Appropriate advice about the protection and enhancement of wildlife features will continue to be placed in these briefs and plans when the City Council produces them or can input to them.

### **Private gardens allotments and communal open space**

*141. Smaller-scale opportunities also exist in private gardens and areas of communal space to increase their biodiversity value while still making them*

*attractive places for family or communal living. This could include allotments or community gardens, areas of incidental space around housing schemes or the grounds of other buildings including schools where the City Council has assisted the creation of numerous wildlife gardens. Through the continued giving of advice (such as the Floyds Guides to Wildlife Gardening series), grant making (e.g. Green Cash which has grant aided numerous school and community wildlife gardens) and other promotional work (such as the Derby in Bloom work and the annual Wild Derby countryside festival) individuals and groups will be encouraged and assisted to bring wildlife habitats into these areas. Grant making can be used to create wildlife areas or they can be created on the back of other grant making regimes where the primary purpose is not to enhance natural history. (E.g. through the regeneration funding regimes). Simply gardening with wildlife in mind can be an important way local habitats can be created. Numerous guides to this exist. English Nature has produced a useful CD-rom just on this subject. We will also work and train groups and individuals to enable them to undertake this work themselves with greater confidence. Cumulatively this would make significant differences to wildlife resources in the City.*

*142. Important links can and will wherever possible be made in this work to further other agendas including those on health improvement (through increasing exercise as the Green Gym projects have shown or healthy eating); training and employment creation and retention; regeneration; community empowerment and cohesion; life long learning etc. These are discussed further under Aim 5. In this way we can also further the Government's Sustainable Communities agenda.*

## **Priorities for action**

143. Priorities for Council action are likely to be influenced by two main factors, one biological and the other community needs based. The "biodiversity based" factors are discussed below. "Community needs based" factors are discussed briefly at the end of the section Para 147 but at greater length under Aim 5.

## **The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

144. The Biodiversity Action Plans are discussed in para 32. These identified the most threatened and so the most important biological habitats

and species. It is envisaged that the important species can largely be protected and their populations supported through the protection and management of their habitats, although it is recognised that some additional action may be required for particular species. Work to protect and enhance these key habitats and so the species that inhabit them, will be a key driver in the activities proposed in the action plan accompanying this strategy.

145. If there are choices on priorities about which habitat should be created (including in landscaping schemes promoted as part of planning applications) priorities should be given to the nine priority habitats and the targets for these in the local BAP (See Appendix 4); the types of habitat most valuable for wildlife or nationally threatened, in the City. It would be particularly important that opportunities are sought to link these into to the wider green network. Therefore we would particularly seek appropriate;

- new water features or other wetland,
- native species scrub and hedgerows,
- wildflower grassland
- and broadleaved trees and woodlands.

This would not rule out other habitats being created if that was the only one appropriate to that location. Provision also needs to be made for suitable future management of these areas and where possible monitoring of the habitat.

146. Also as noted above the additions to wildlife corridors in an area are also vitally important if the green infrastructure needed in an area is to be complete. Thus linear features from lines of street trees, preferably of native species, through small green areas along walkways and cycle routes to larger areas of linked habitat are all needed. The TCPA publication Biodiversity by Design 2004 ([www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)) gives valuable advice on this new green infrastructure can be achieved.

## **Community need factors**

147. Where there are choices as to which geographical parts of the City we should direct resources for natural history enhancement works, priority should be given to the areas most lacking in green resources; generally the inner city and other deprived wards and estates of the City discussed in the

general description of the City, and shown on Plan 2 and discussed further under Aim 5.

**Summary of broad actions, not primarily implemented in the main through the Planning Acts, that will be taken to further the Aim**

Ac 9 -When there are choices to be made between locations or types of habitats to be created or enhanced, whether as part of a development controlled by the planning acts or not, overall **priorities** for action will be;

In **geographical** terms:

-those areas of the City identified as having the greatest deficiency of biodiversity features largely those parts of the City suffering greatest deprivation

-features that strengthen the green infrastructure network of the City

And in terms of **types** of planting:

-those habitats which are nationally rare or of particular biological value in the City or support rare species, all as identified in the Lowland Derbyshire BAP and "Greenprint for Derby".

Ac 10 -The City Council will take opportunities (especially those presented as part of developments, including mineral developments or flood defence works) to undertake or assist in positive action programmes to add to and enhance the BAP priority habitats and habitats of species of biodiversity importance, seeking to achieve BAP habitat creation targets. This should be undertaken in a way sensitive to wider urban design issues. To assist in this work we will keep funding and similar opportunities constantly under review and seek to use creatively sources of new resources.

*Ac 11-The City Council will continue to review the management of its own landholdings to seek to increase the biodiversity value of open land, seeking to maximise the multiple use of parks and other land such as sections of road verge, consistent with their functional needs, including the need to provide adequate quality formal and informal recreation facilities for the City. Where possible we will involve members of the public in decisions about more formal planting areas are being managed in different ways and*

*will also seek to explain the reasons for these management changes to the public after they have occurred.*

*Ac 12-The City Council will seek to encourage and assist in a variety of ways, people and groups to maximise the value for natural history of private land. We will seek ways of undertaking such activities that seek to maximise other community benefits and improve people's quality of life including health improvement, employment, training, lifelong learning and regeneration. In these activities we will seek to support community led schemes that would benefit natural history.*

Ac 13 -In significant planting schemes in the control or which can be influenced of the City Council, it will seek, to maximise the value of new planting for wildlife, by:

-specifying that a significant proportion of the planting mix, be native species or other plants of wildlife value

-seeking to plant in appropriate groupings

-seeking to maximise the amount of stock derived from the local area (having local provenance)

-consistent with site constraints and the purpose of the scheme and which respect the landscape character of the area.

**AIM 5 -To seek to provide all reasonable access, to all natural heritage sites and features by everyone.**

### **What the aim covers and why it is important**

148. *Here the aim is about the need to improve the opportunities for people to access the network of semi-natural habitats and open space to meet their social, recreational and educational needs for play and healthy living.*

149. *These areas can allow people to relax away from everyday concerns, provide space for children to play in. For others they can be havens of peace and quiet, needed to improve their overall wellbeing. They can also there is a need for people to gain a reconnection with the natural world.*

150. *Semi-natural green areas can be places where people can improve their health, including their feelings of general well being, through simply walking, exercising pets or taking other exercise. This has been identified as being a vital role in improving health and reducing health inequalities including in English Nature research reports such as Report 533, which confirm the links between green space and mental well being. The East Midlands Public Health Strategy notes that one third of deaths in the region are from coronary heart disease and strokes, and exercise in quality green spaces can be one way to help reduce these diseases. Such work would also take forward similar objectives in the Southern Derbyshire Health Improvement Programme and the City's Health Strategy 2000.*

151. *People can also increase skills and confidence levels through undertaking site management work in these areas (again improving their life chances and employment prospects.) Through undertaking activities and training people can gain skills that are transferable to employment or simply increase confidence levels.*

152. *Work on these areas can be one important way for all sections of communities to come together and enhance community capacity and community cohesion, all in a way that is seen as non-threatening because it is undertaken on spaces common to all the community. This approach also gives a powerful opportunity for a community to celebrate positive aspects of the local area. Such activities can be particularly important as part of regeneration schemes.*

153. *Wildlife sites of all types and features, where ever they are, can be education resources in their own right and work in this area can further many areas of the National Curriculum. More work is needed to further these links.*

154. *It is important to provide more opportunities for people to reach quality green space how ever they travel, close to where people live and work. So people need the opportunity to visit them without using private cars; whether this is on foot or by cycle. This would be particularly important in deprived areas where there is less access to private transport. So in this work particular, priority should be given to work in the identified deprived Wards and estates of the City (See introduction and Plan1). This then would also take forward the City's work of improving social inclusion.*



## **How in general we are going to achieve it**

155. *Implementation of this aim, as with Aim 4, will primarily be through actions unconnected with the Planning Acts. However opportunities presented by development should seek to take forward the guidance in this section. It will be a matter of seizing opportunities as they occur. One important way in which we can further this aim is through actions proposed in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for the City. This is being prepared at present and will eventually form part of the Local Transport Plan. We will seek opportunities to further this aim as part of this work.*

## **Why people cannot fully access green space and how we are going to move forward in overcoming the constraint**

156. *There are a variety of reasons why people do not have full access to any form of open space, including semi natural space and features, or fail to take advantage of these various opportunities available and these are now discussed.*

### *Distance constraints*

157. *Physical distance, sometimes coupled with a lack of access to transport, can be a constraint to people accessing “semi natural green space” (that is land partially naturally or by deliberate actions colonised by plants and animals). As noted under Aim 3 English Nature (E.N.) proposes standards for accessible semi natural green space (“A Space for Nature”. E.N. 1996). This advocates that every home should be within 300m of accessible natural green space of at least 2ha in size plus at least one accessible;*

*-20ha site within 2km;*

*-100ha site within 5km; and*

*-500ha site within 10km.*

*In addition it seeks the provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 people.*

158. *English Nature recognised that these standards are sometimes difficult to achieve and so are redefining the standards putting greater emphasis on identifying local needs and improving accessibility and site quality.*

159. *Especially in a built up area such as Derby it would be particularly difficult to achieve these standards, but we will retain them as an aspiration for the City to achieve and they will assist in setting priorities for action.*

#### *Crime and fear of crime*

160. *There is also a strong interrelationship between crime and disorder, fear of crime, physical quality of space and the use of green spaces, of all sorts. This has been well established at national level (See discussions in Living Places ODPM 2002) It has also been confirmed by work we have done in Derby. (See below paragraph 147)*

161. *Thus in looking at increasing accessibility of sites we will also consider maintenance, management and other issues (e.g. crime and disorder, antisocial behaviour, litter etc.) which are stopping a space being welcoming and, which may be limiting the full use of that site or access to it. Again this would be one element in taking forward the Government's sustainable communities, cleaner, greener safer communities' programmes.*

#### *People's differing needs*

162. *It is recognised that different sections of the community (e.g. the young, the elderly, people with different disabilities, and people from differing cultural traditions) have differing wants and needs in relation to semi-natural areas. If semi-natural green space and information etc. is not designed to fulfil these needs it may be another limiting factor in different groups of people accessing it. Through discussions with different parts of local communities we will seek to move towards meeting their differing needs.*

#### *People's lack of information*

163. *Lack of information or differing cultural traditions which influence how they get or need information are also other important reasons for people*

*not accessing the natural environment. Responses to some of the constraints set out above in terms of increased information are discussed under Aim 6 on publicity.*

### *Physical mobility and other disability constraints*

*164. Certain members of the community do not have the physical mobility to reach wildlife sites or to gain access onto them through physical disability problems, or to fully appreciate them because of some other disability (such as sight impairment). The City Council recognises our responsibility to provide access-for-all on sites where possible. This is now underlined and enshrined in legislation in the Disabled Discrimination Act. Through discussions with different support organisations and individuals we will seek to move towards meeting their differing needs.*

### **The particular needs of those living in deprived areas**

*165. When standards of access to open space are applied to the City it can be seen that semi-natural space and wildlife sites are scarcest in the inner city and other deprived areas. Here residents are also least likely to have private transport to reach more distant green areas. They lack of any greenery and space also contributes to the poorer quality of life in these areas. Residents here have a poorer quality of local environment than others elsewhere in the City. Therefore improving their contact with the natural environment is part of the social inclusion work of the City Council and in providing such opportunities it can be part of the engine of regeneration of an area. Improving access to this semi-natural green space should form an integral part of the package of regeneration activities for these areas. "Working with the Grain of Nature" sees "ensuring biodiversity as an integral part of the urban renaissance" as a key policy issue.*

*166. In order to better understand the views of people in deprived communities in Derby towards the green environment and to look at ways they would wish to see it enhanced, the City Council in partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and BTCV ran two short term, but complementary, projects in the regeneration areas of Derwent and Normanton. These studies confirmed that, despite pressing day-to-day issues (unemployment, fear of crime etc.) the quality of all aspects of the local environment was seen as important to people. One important*

*opportunity for work in the green environment in these areas appeared to be work on private gardens. This will have to be pursued further.*

*167. The studies confirmed that many people wanted to enjoy the green space in their local area but were constrained from doing so by many factors including fear of crime, litter, lack of time, lack of knowledge or confidence. Despite this, a significant number of people wished to be actively involved in work to improve the green environment of their areas. In Derwent, people also saw the advantages of enhancement activity in these areas to address health issues. (For full details see final report of Going Wild in Derby April 2003 (Copy available from the City Council))*

### **City Council/BTCV joint projects which can serve as models for future action**

*168. In order to find ways of involving and empowering local people and helping them to better access semi natural green areas (and building on previous pilot projects) the City Council and BTCV in partnership, have set up two projects to complement other work in the City.*

*169. The first project is in Derwent New Deal for Communities area, aimed at increasing resident's appreciation of their green environment through undertaking activities to improve this. A vital part of this is to be to use the spaces, as "green gyms", so that environmental activities appropriate to that individual can be undertaken, which will also benefit their health. Other advantages also coming from this project, include; an improved environment, confidence building, training, and community empowerment through undertaking the activities. A separate Green Gym project has now been established in Osmaston which will follow a similar pattern of action.*

*170. Also with BTCV as the lead partner, the City Council is just completing a New Opportunities Fund/ English Nature project to assist and encourage people to be more involved with work on the City's Local Nature Reserves. This is "Derby Wildspace!" A particular emphasis is put on working with people from deprived areas and a variety of techniques will be used by the project to encourage involvement of people. These sorts of project which have multi faceted benefits are seen as an important model for other projects in the future. (See the City's website under "Environment" for more details of these projects) A similar project which the Council has been involved with run by CETA called Evergreen Normanton is also*

*providing valuable lessons on community involvement on wildlife themes in deprived areas.*

### **Forming partnerships with local stakeholders in projects**

*171. To take forward this aim, two things will be important; taking advice from those with specialist knowledge of the issues concerned and consultation and full involvement with local people, and local specialists, so that they can all become full stakeholders in their local environment. This will be an essential part of the process of identifying the needs and wishes of people and communities and the barriers to fulfilling these. Through such partnerships we wish to develop robust evidence of local needs and a shared vision of ways forward in an open honest and transparent way.*

*172. As the Deputy Prime minister says in the forward to “Living Places” (2002) “Improving the quality of our public spaces is not about creating a sanitised, sterile shrink wrapped world. It is about creating living, sustainable and inclusive communities –communities where people feel they have a stake in the future”*

*173. Thus we will continue to identify and, subject to resources being available, we will implement, partnership based projects to increase people’s contact, understanding and enjoyment of natural history. We will seek to do this in ways which maximise empowerment of local communities and other community benefits, including health improvements and regeneration.*

### **The need to limit access to some sites**

174. It is recognised that in a small number of cases, sites or parts of sites where habitats or species populations are particularly small or sensitive to disturbance, (e.g. where there are ground nesting birds) the biological interest will limit the nature and extent of the physical access that is possible. Measures, such as the provision of additional information outside the site, will be provided to make up for this limiting of access as has been done at “The Sanctuary” Bird and Wildlife Reserve, Pride Park.

**Summary of broad actions, not mainly primarily implemented through the Planning Acts, that will be taken to further the Aim**

A 14 -The City Council will seek the provision of a range of sites and areas containing biodiversity features that are, in distance terms, accessible to all people in all parts of the City. In this work we will seek to move towards English Nature's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards. We will achieve this by both the creation of new space and seeking access to or alerting the management regimes of existing space. The degree of access allowed or encouraged will be balanced against the need to protect the wildlife features and habitats. We will also seek opportunities to further this aim through work on the City Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and similar programmes.

A 15 -In improving access to sites containing features rich in biodiversity, the City Council will take full account of the additional needs of all sections of the community, including younger, older, disabled and disadvantaged groups. Where possible, priorities for work will be given to areas most deficient in semi- natural green space and to target groups traditionally excluded from access to a high quality semi-natural green environment.

*A 16 -In identifying and implementing projects to enhance access to green space the City Council will, as appropriate, work in close partnership with local people, businesses voluntary sector groups and national partners. We will bring them together in partnerships with those with expert knowledge. We will seek to work in ways which maximise local empowerment and other community benefits, such as health improvements, employment creation and regeneration.*

A 17-In seeking to improve accessibility to semi-natural green spaces other factors limiting its accessibility, including its maintenance, quality and crime and disorder issues, will be considered. Through discussions involving the local community, we will seek to develop shared visions and solutions to these limiting factors, that stop a space being welcoming, will be sought. It may also include, as appropriate, presenting information as to how green spaces can be accessed by means other than by private car.

**AIM 6 -To raise the general awareness of people and increase information about nature conservation, and in particular of the City's resources and their value.**

### **Why the aim is important**

175. *As noted above under Aim 5, increased levels of information and support will often be necessary if individuals and local communities are to be able to take forward the concepts of sustainable development, gain more awareness, understanding and involvement with the environment and the natural world around them. As "Working with the Grain of Nature" notes it is "important to create opportunities for the population as a whole to understand the value of biodiversity for their lives and well being"*

176. *Further, Appendix 1 of Part 1 s.25 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 encourages local authorities to bring nature conservation to the attention of the public and of schoolchildren.*

177. *This aim is linked to each of the other aims and is vital to achieving their success.*

### **Existing work**

178. *Within the City Council, the City Museum's Natural History Section, Education Department and the Environmental Sustainability Unit of Regeneration and Community Department especially the WildDerby project, already do much valuable work in this area in producing a range of guides and information and interpretive material in a variety of media from; leaflets to web based information; on site interpretation; events guided walks; and interactive museum displays. (See Appendix 7) These are in addition and seek to complement information and advice from other local sources such as the DWT, or from regional or national sources.*

### **What we want to achieve**

179. *Overall, new work needs to continue to raise people's awareness about the importance of nature conservation, increase support for its protection and enhancement, take forward the Local Biodiversity Action Plan priorities and to increase opportunities to enjoy and learn more. We would seek to operate in a way which involved and empowered people to*

*take a lead in protecting and improving their environment building on existing local knowledge and skills.*

### **How we will achieve it**

*180. Information and advice will be provided on specific and general topics in order to support all sections of the community including the general public, private business and schools. Where necessary, support will be gained from other partners such as the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, the BTCV and Ceta.*

*181. The information may take many forms and use a variety of methods of communication. By providing a variety of more targeted material and events we will be better able to communicate with different parts of the City's population taking into account their particular needs, discussed under Aim 5. For example, the use of community and public art may be one valuable way to increase communication and dialogue. Taking full advantage of ICT is also vital to add to the way information is presented and dialogue initiated. Greater use of the facility the Council web sites offers will be investigated. We will encourage the sharing of information about projects, resources, management and wildlife in Derby. It should also seek to provide information on related subjects such as gaining access to green areas by modes other than by private car and opportunities for gaining other community benefits such as increasing skills, community empowerment etc.*

*182. As "Working with the Grain of Nature" puts it in paragraph 3.30 "The challenge is to sustain, develop, integrate and interpret this tremendous resource of information so that it is readily accessible to those that need it."*

### **Walking for health**

*183. Organising walks on semi natural green areas, which raise awareness and appreciation of them and at the same time benefit participant's health, will be another way to further this aim. The City Council is running a very successful WildDerby activities, including the walks programme in the City run by local groups (Lets Go Wild in Derby) aimed at linking people to semi natural areas and improving their health. We will seek continue and expand this successful project work.*



## **Customer satisfaction feedback and dialogue**

184. *As part of all this work it will be essential to continue to establish two-way dialogue with local communities to discuss their satisfaction levels with our work. Any indicator used to test satisfaction levels should complement the data derived from the Government's indicator of Councils' performance BVPI 119 on satisfaction with cultural and recreational facilities.*

## **Summary of broad actions, not implemented in the main through the Planning Acts, that will be taken to further the Aim**

*A 18 -The City Council will provide and encourage the provision of, information and, advise of in a variety of formats and styles and seek other means of raising the awareness and understanding of the importance of natural history and its conservation in the City. This should also seek to promote other community benefits including transport modal change, away from private car use, and health improvements.*

*A 19 -The City Council will seek to encourage the participation of local people including groups, schools and colleges, in new projects which cover all aspects of nature conservation activities. We will seek to operate in ways which link and take further other public strategies to enhance people's quality of life, such as healthy eating work and "Getting Derby Active".*

**AIM 7 -To ensure that progress towards achieving the aims of the strategy, and changes to the City's natural history resources are suitably monitored and reported on.**

## **What we want to achieve and why it is important**

185. *As part of this strategy there must be improved methods developed to monitor and record the state of green natural resources of the City and the effects of actions that deliver changes to the quality and quantity of natural resources in Derby. This information will need to demonstrate the success of the Local Plan and this Strategy, provide information on the health of the resource (and so the environment of the City), input to the BAP monitoring*

*process (and so use or be consistent with the BARS programme) and can input to Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) processes. The changes detected will also provide the basis for the development of aims in the future and to ensure positive proposals continue to be provided to support the City's natural history resources. It will also be important to make this information as widely available as possible and centrally this will include its dissemination in electronic form. Any systems, including the monitoring system for this strategy, are likely to evolve over time as they are enhanced and more resources are identified to undertake the task. It will be important to work with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Projects Officer to ensure the work is consistent with other County wide and national systems. Appendix 8 sets out the indicator sets which will seek to collect to monitor the effect of this Strategy.*

### ***The role of the Biological Records Centre***

*186. A project to establish a Derbyshire and the Peak District Local Environmental Record Centre to complement the invaluable recording work of the existing Derby City Biological Record Centre, as well as pulling together information from a variety of other sources, is being developed. Any systems must complement the existing Biological Records Centre, now or in the future. Any systems must also be as resource efficient as possible and as such discussions will be undertaken with suitable partners to establish efficient systems to meet the purposes set out in previous paragraph.*

### ***Summary of broad action, not implemented in the main through the Planning Acts, that will be taken to further the Aim***

*A 20 -In addition to the monitoring regime in Appendix 8 of this Strategy, the City Council will continue to develop complementary and cost effective methodologies within the resources available, to monitor the natural history resources of the City and community involvement programmes which;*

*-can be used for future review of other Strategies and plans of the City Council, especially the CDLP*

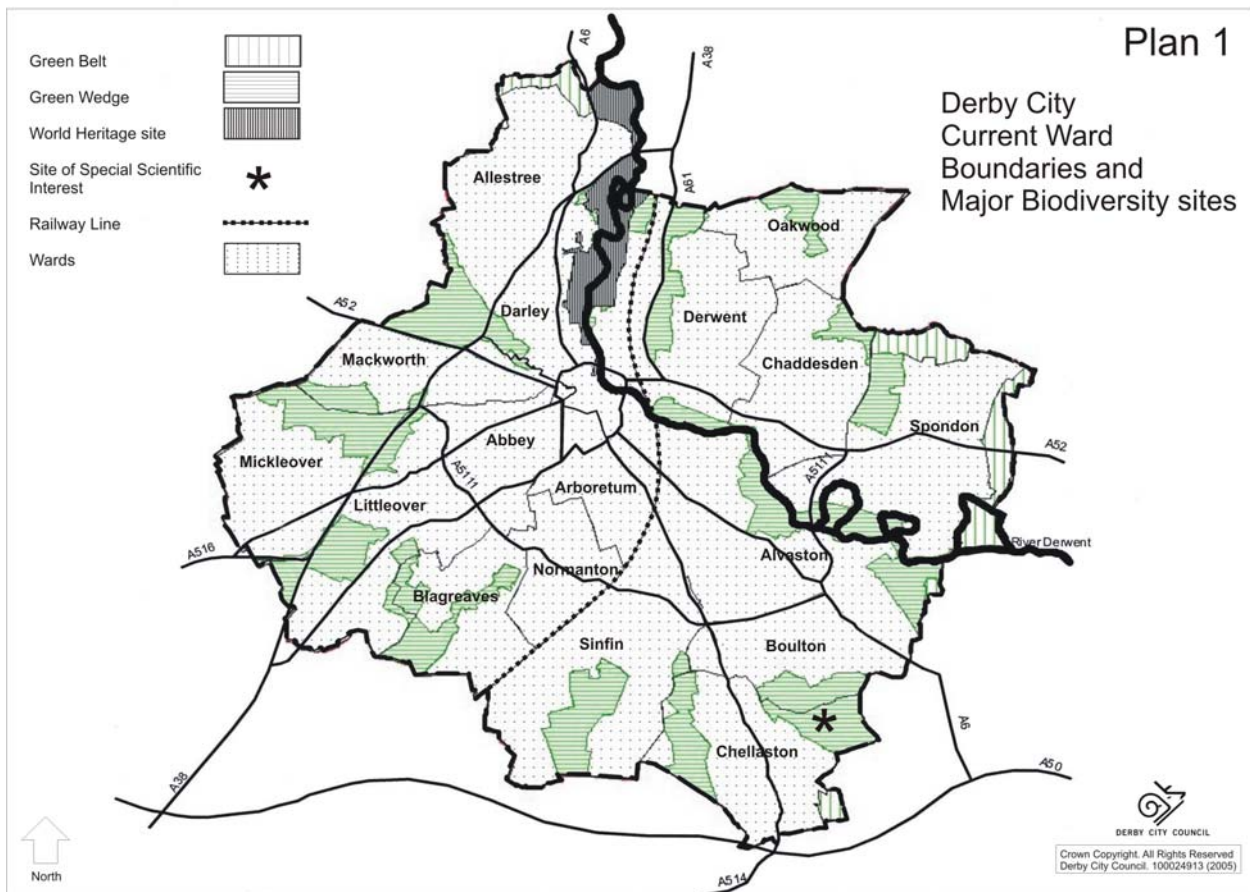
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-input to monitoring the wider health of the City's environment

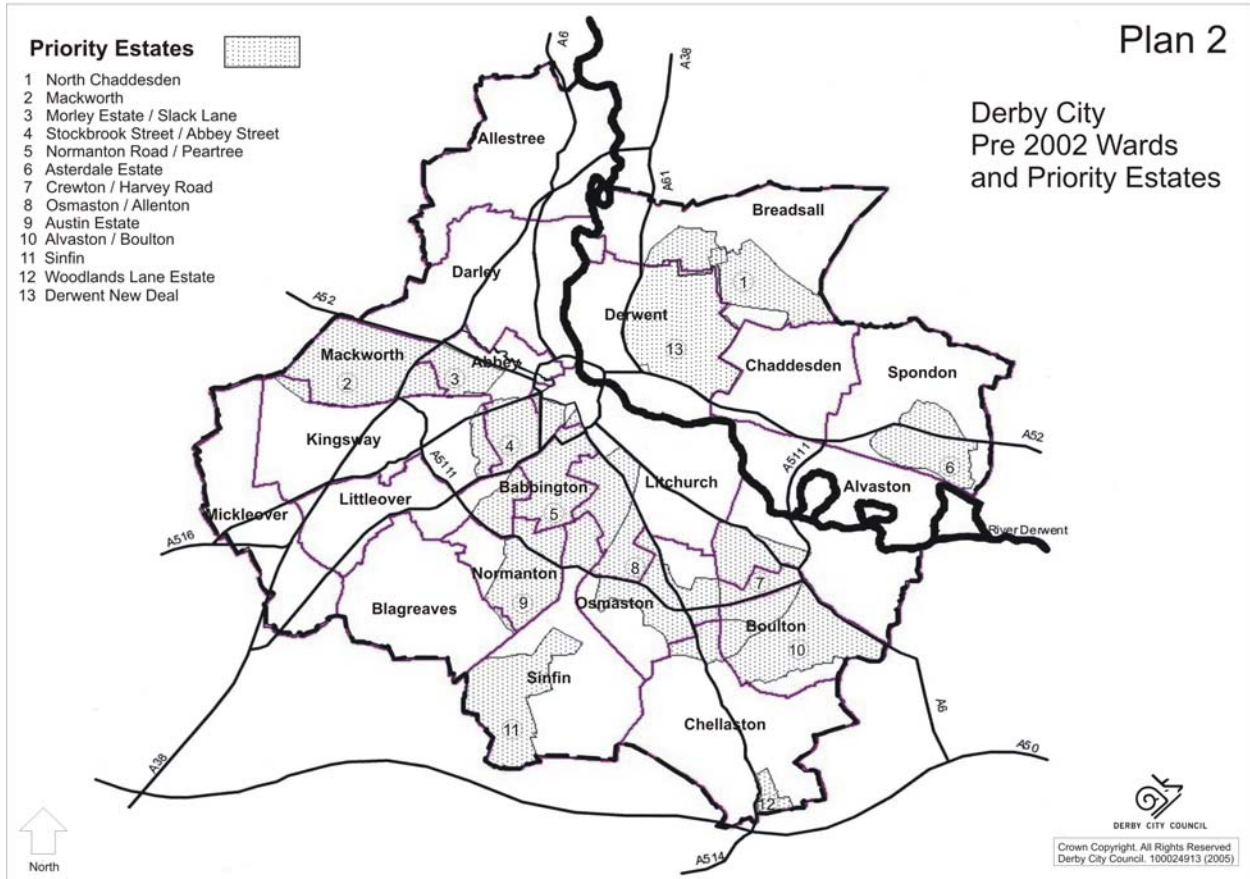
-monitor against BAP targets

-allow input to EIA and SEA/SA processes

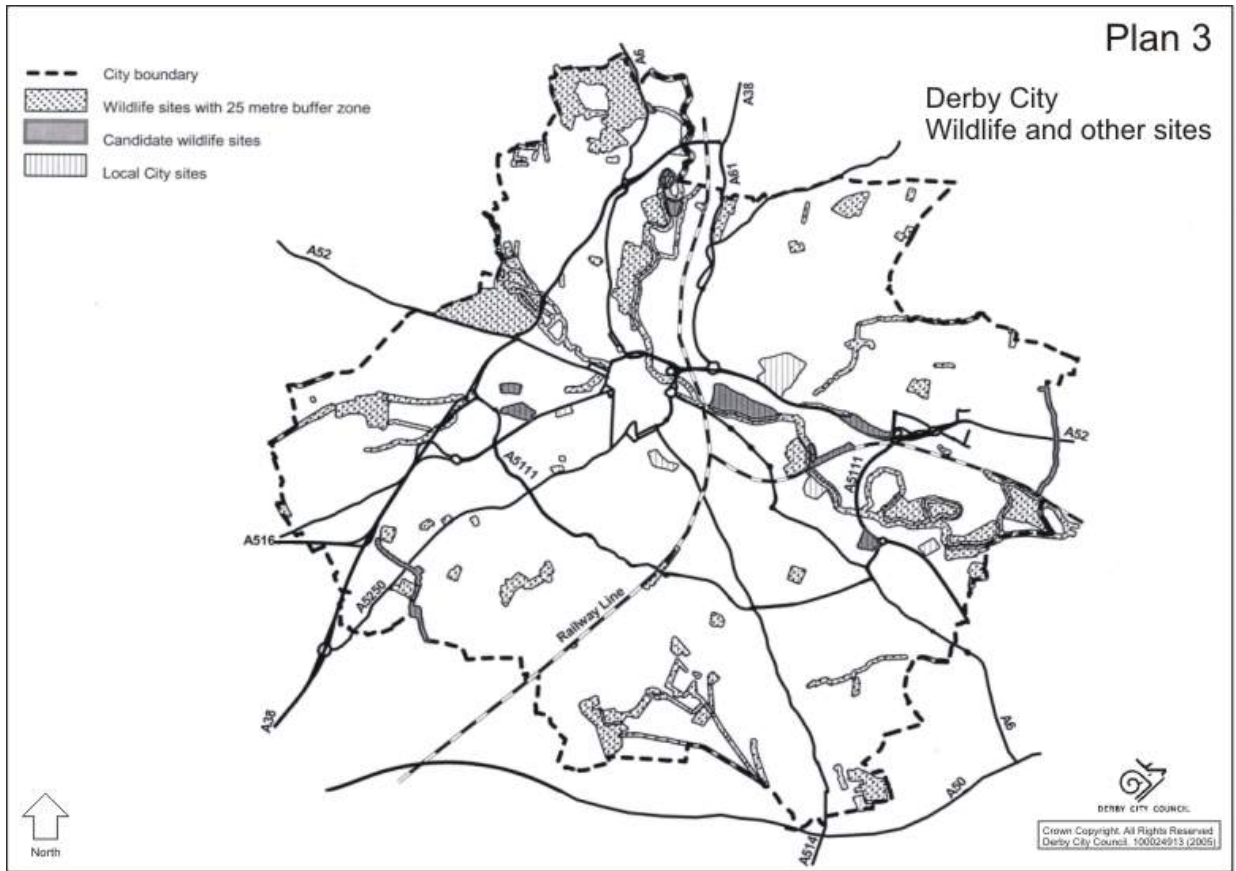
-evaluate the effectiveness of local community involvement and the quality of outcomes of initiatives.



See the CDLP for boundaries of sites.



See the CDLP for boundaries of Wildlife Sites.



<p><b>Key relevant Legal Duties and key government advice</b>  <b>(Also see the Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanying the Strategy)</b></p>
<p>In terms of its planning function, the Council's statutory duties to conserve wildlife are described in <i>Planning Policy Statement 9, Biodiversity and geological Conservation and its accompanying Circular</i>. Here the duty imposed by the Countryside Act 2000 regarding biodiversity protection is noted. This imposes a general duty from the UN Environmental Protection Convention on Biodiversity Diversity 1992, for Government Ministers to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, especially important habitats and species.</p>
<p>PPS 1 (Para 1) says about the planning system and sustainable development that it should be "Positive in promoting competitiveness while being protective towards the environment and amenity".</p>
<p>PPS 12 (Para 4.4) also requires that Development Plans should "take environmental considerations comprehensively and consistently into account"</p>
<p>The Local Government Act 2000 requires authorities to promote and improve the well being of their areas which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;</p>
<p>EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) requires States to take steps to maintain the populations of naturally occurring wild birds and requires special conservation measures to be taken to preserve the habitats of rare birds. (It lists these species)</p>
<p>EU Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna (92/43/EEC) requires States to take measures to protect and restore the habitats and species of special importance. (It lists these habitats and species)</p>
<p>These Directives are taken in UK legislation by the Conservation (Natural habitats etc) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations) and</p>

the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
All these are set out in more detail in the accompanying Circular to PPS 9.
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (as detailed in Circular 04/201) among other things, require all public bodies to take reasonable steps to protect and properly manage SSSIs

## Appendix 2

<p><b>Key relevant plans and policies the strategy takes forward. (Also see the Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanying the Strategy)</b></p>
<p><b>At the International and National level</b></p>
<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (signed at Rio in 1992)</p>
<p>UK Action Plan for Biodiversity (1994) and the action plans flowing from this.</p>
<p>Working with the Grain of Nature (2000) A Biodiversity Strategy for England</p>
<p>UK Sustainability Strategy; A Better Quality of Life (1999) and Securing the Future (2005)</p>
<p>PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</p>
<p><b>At the Regional and County Level</b></p>
<p>The East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) (the Regional Sustainable Development Framework)</p>
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy, especially Policy 8 policies (Appendix 2 ) especially Policy 28 seeking a “step change” increase to the region’s biodiversity including a network of semi natural green spaces in urban areas and the protection of Ancient Woodland.</p>

<p>Regional Environment Strategy. (See Appendix 2) This has 3 policies particularly relevant here; ENV 9 on geology and geomorphology; ENV 13 on protecting and managing semi-natural woodland and ENV 21 which seeks “To conserve and dramatically enhance biodiversity according to Regional Biodiversity Action Plan Priorities (Appendix 2)</p>
<p>The Derby and Derbyshire Structure Plan January 2001 Contains three particularly relevant policies; Environment Policies 14,15 and 16 on sites and features of Nature Conservation Importance, habitats and trees and woodlands (See Appendix 2)</p>
<p>The Lowland Derbyshire (previously titled the Mid Derbyshire) Biodiversity Action Plan (1997/8) (See Appendix 2)</p>
<p>Derbyshire Landscape Assessment, Derbyshire County Council 2003</p>
<p><b>At the City wide level</b></p>
<p>Derby City Partnership’s “Derby Community Strategy” 2003; notably the objective to “Protect and enhance the city’s natural heritage and make sure people have the opportunity to enjoy it”</p>
<p>Derby City’s Environmental Policy. This commits the City Council “to protecting and enhancing the environment, both locally and globally”, in particular to “Protect and enhance our natural environment... “(See Appendix 2)</p>



## **Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS 8) March 2005**

Policy 27 of RSS 8 says:

“sustainable development should ensure the protection, appropriate management and enhancement of the Region’s natural and cultural assets. In the development and implementation of strategies and programmes in the region, local authorities and other public bodies should apply the following principles:

- damage to natural and cultural assets should be avoided wherever and as far as possible, recognising that some assets are irreplaceable
- unavoidable damage must be clearly justified by a need for development which outweighs the damage that would result and should be reduced to a minimum through mitigation measures
- unavoidable damage should be compensated for preferably in a relevant context and wherever possible in ways which contribute towards social and economic objectives; and
- overall there should be no net loss of natural and cultural assets and opportunities should be sought to achieve a net gain across the region.

Policy 28 says:

“Local authorities, environmental agencies developers and businesses should work together to promote a major “step change” increase in the level in the Regions biodiversity. This should be done by:

- achievement of the East Midlands regional contribution towards the UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets as set out in Appendix 3 (Of the RSS)

- establishment of a large scale habitat creation projects in the priority areas of Lincolnshire the Region's Strategic River Corridors and Heathland areas
- establishment of a regional project to promote the re-creation of key wildlife habitats in each Natural Area in the East Midlands
- establishment of a network of semi- natural green spaces in urban areas; and
- development and implementation of mechanisms to ensure that development results in no net loss of BAP habitats and that net gain is achieved"

### **Regional Environment Strategy Part 1 objectives and policies.**

This has 3 policies particularly relevant here:

ENV 9 - To conserve and manage our natural heritage of on geology and geomorphological landforms and processes so that the best id protected during development affecting it.

ENV 13 - To protect and suitably mange all ancient and semi natural woodland and increase the extent of multi- purpose forests and wood that deliver environmental as well as social benefits

ENV 21 - To conserve and dramatically enhance biodiversity according to Regional Biodiversity Action Plan Priorities

### **Regional Biodiversity Strategy Priorities areas relevant to Derby**

This sets out a regional priorities and targets taking down the National BAP. It sets out priority habitats and where possible sets targets for habitat creation. These are set out in the appendix 1 of the Strategy.

The habitats are:

Veteran Trees; lowland wood, pasture and parkland; lowland hay meadows; cereal field margins; hedgerows; other farmland; reed beds; large rivers and urban and post industrial.

## **Derbyshire Structure Plan January 2001**

*(Para. numbers are those in the Structure Plan)*

### **Environment Policy 14: Sites and Features of Nature Conservation Importance**

8.26 Development will take full account of its likely impact on nature conservation value. Where proposed development may have adverse effects, the local planning authority will request a statement detailing the natural character and value of the site, the impact of proposed development on its conservation value and any mitigating measures which it is proposed to take. Where the need for the development overrides the need for protection, measures will be taken to minimise the impact and/or seek the provision of compensatory habitats by means of planning conditions and planning obligations.

8.27 In particular, development will not be permitted where it:

1. may have an adverse impact on an area designated or proposed for designation as being of international (Special Protection Area, RAMSAR Site, Special Areas of Conservation) or national (Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve) importance for nature conservation, unless there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative overriding reasons
2. would have an adverse impact on a site which supports a species protected by law or identified as being nationally rare, unless the levels of disturbance can be reduced to an acceptable minimum
3. does not have proper regard, taking account of their relative significance, of the need to protect from adverse impact a Local Nature Reserve, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation identified in a local plan, a site

supporting locally rare or endangered species (unless the levels of disturbance can be reduced to an acceptable minimum) habitats identified in local biodiversity plans or landscape features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

### **Environment Policy 15: Habitats**

- 8.28 Measures will be taken to enhance the range and quality of natural heritage sites and landscape features, especially in the environmental priority areas by: the establishment of local nature reserves, to include examples of a wide range of habitat types; in particular, sites under greatest threat, those having potential for environmental education or offering opportunities for the public appreciation of wildlife ensuring that the potential for creation, enhancement and management of new and existing sites and features is given consideration in the determination of applications for development, after uses on reclamation sites, and in the development of countryside and other leisure and recreational facilities, or by entering into management agreements with owners and developers where appropriate.

### **Environment Policy 16: Trees and Woodland**

- 8.29 Measures will be taken to protect important individual, groups or areas of trees, hedgerows and woodland, including the making of Tree Preservation Orders and to ensure that management and felling proposals take account of the landscape character, natural heritage, amenity and recreational significance of woodland and are compatible with conservation and recreational policies.
- 8.30 Provision will be made for the planting of trees and woodland through the use of tree planting schemes and conditions on planning permissions. In all cases, measures will be taken to ensure that planting takes account of landscape character, natural and built heritage considerations.

## **Derby City Council's Environmental Policy**

Three aims are particularly relevant;

### **Aim 4 Natural Environment**

The Council will protect and enhance our natural environment and protect our geological heritage. It will improve the extent, quality and variety of wildlife and seek to reflect these aims in strategies adopted, or relevant to the city. It will endeavour to improve existing green space and create new, quality accessible areas.

### *Aim 10 Health*

The Council will protect and improve the environment for the benefit of the mental and physical health of the people of Derby. It will provide opportunities and encourage people to enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle.

### **Aim 11 Environmental Education**

The Council will work in partnership with others to encourage local people organisations and community groups and its own councillors and employees to appreciate and protect and improve the environment. It will do this by providing relevant advice and information and by making the best environmental choices as attractive as possible.

Its policies are taken forward in annual action plans.

### **“Natural Areas”**

English Nature has divided the Country into large “*Natural Areas*” defined by their wildlife, natural features, land use and human history.

Much of the City is included in the Needwold and South Derbyshire Claylands which stretch away to the west of the City; a small part of the south of the City is within the Trent Valley and Rises area which follows the wide Trent valley ; part of the north of the City is within the Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent natural area which runs northward up the centre of the County; part of the north east of the City falls within the Coal Measures area, runs northward generally up the River Erewash and Rother valleys.

## **BAP Priority Habitats and Species**

The Lowland Derbyshire BAP defines 9 habitat types that occur in Derby for priority action to protect and enhance. These are discussed further in The Greenprint for Derby City. These habitats are;

*Wildflower rich grassland; rivers and streams; broadleaved woodland; veteran trees; roadside verges; ancient or species rich hedges; urban habitats; ponds and lakes; wet grassland.*

“Greenprint” also lists in its appendix UK or County BAP priority species found in Derby for protection and enhancement.

From these it identifies 10 species, which have specific needs for targeted action. It notes that some of these have also been identified because “they are popular with local people or particularly characteristic of Derby” More discussion about these species is contained in “Greenprint for Derby City”.

These species are;

*White clawed Crayfish; Glow-worm; Otter; Water Vole; Song thrush; Skylark; Grass Snake; Bats; Common Broom Rape; Bluebell.*

## Wildlife Sites of Natural History Value

The Derbyshire Wildlife Sites Panel who designate Wildlife Sites have revised the criteria used to identify Wildlife Sites in order to take into account national and local BAP priorities and to adopt guidelines that national consistency in the way that sites are designated. The selection criteria are based upon ecological values and are described in their published 2002 guidelines. The subsequent site designations have been recognised and used to identify the level of importance of sites in the context of the County and to the City of Derby. The system and criteria adopted are seen as useful where sites are monitored regularly and their wildlife value reviewed in relation to the local area.

Sites of natural history value in Derby include those sites designated according to their geological significance: RIGS (See Appendix 6) and are in addition to the SSSI on Boulton Moor, Alvaston .

The sites recognised as Wildlife Sites and RIGS are also listed in the City of Derby Local Plan.

The reference numbers of the Wildlife Sites correspond with those of the Derbyshire Wildlife Sites Register for Derby City produced by the DWT. This is to enable easy cross referencing between the two documents. In some cases, therefore, the numbers do not run consecutively as some sites have been deleted from the DWT Register.

Where Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) lie within the boundaries of Wildlife Sites, they have the same reference. However, there are three RIGS which do not lie within a Wildlife Site and therefore been given separate references, Ex2 RIGS 1-3'.



<b>A. Wildlife Site name</b>	<b>Site classification</b>
<b>Ex2 (1) Chaddesden Wood (LNR), Oakwood;</b>	LNR, WS, GW
<b>Ex2 (2) Acordis Lagoons, south of Spondon;</b>	GN
<b>Ex2 (3) Markeaton Brook System;</b>	WS, GN
<b>Ex2 (4) Mickleover Railway Cutting;</b>	WS, GW
<b>Ex2 (5) Nutwood and Darley Tip, Darley Abbey (Including the landslip feature);</b>	WS WHS
<b>Ex2 (6) Former Friar Gate Station;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (7) The River Derwent and its banks (including the double meander bend at Holme Nook);</b>	WS, GW, GN, PH, PS (RIGS) WHS
<b>Ex2 (8) Sewage Farm Lagoons, south of Spondon;</b>	WS, GN
<b>Ex2 (10) A38 Roundabout, Kingsway Hospital, Rowditch;</b>	WS, GW
<b>Ex2 (11) Allestree Park LNR and the sandstone outcrop RIGS in Big Wood;</b>	(RIGS), LNR, WS, GW
<b>Ex2 (12) Alvaston Stream, its margins and mature hedges;</b>	PH
<b>Ex2 (13) Boulton Moor Hedges;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (14) Bramble Brook and Margins, Mickleover;</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (15) The unimproved grassland and scrub habitats at Breadsall Railway Cutting (including the RIGS);</b>	RIGS, WS
<b>Ex2 (16) Bunkers Wood, Mickleover;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (17) The woodland, scrub and unmanaged grasslands at Chellaston Brickworks;</b>	LNR, WS
<b>Ex2 (20) The tall herb and scrub areas along part of the former Derby Canal;</b>	WS

<b>Ex2 (21) The grassland and hedgerows at Derby Moor Community School Meadow, Littleover;</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (22) The recolonised Gasworks Tip, north of Wilmorton;</b>	WS, GN
<b>Ex2 (23) The pond, wetland and unimproved grassland adjacent to the High View (south) Technology Centre, Chaddesden;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (24) Kedleston Road Hedge, Allestree;</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (25) Kedleston Road Marsh, Allestree;</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (26) Ladybank Wood (Mickleover Spinney)</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (27) Lees Brook and margins, Chaddesden (for both the natural history value of the stream and the geological interest of the stream and valley);</b>	RIGS/ WS, GW, GN
<b>Ex2 (28) Lime Lane Wood, Oakwood;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (30) The scrub, grassland and tall herbs and other recolonised areas at Melbourne Junction, Sinfyn;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (31) Mickleover Golf Course Meadows;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (32) The woodland at Moor Plantation, Sinfyn;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (33) Nooney's Pond and Wetlands at Alfreton Road;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (34a) Normanton Scrub and unmown grassland (Sunnydale Park)</b>	WS LNR
<b>Ex2 (34b) Normanton Pond with its margins, scrub and tree area (Sunnydale Park)</b>	WS LNR
<b>Ex2 (35) The unimproved meadows at the Convent of the Holy Name, Morley Road, Oakwood;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (36) Radbourne Lane Hedge, Mickleover;</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (37) 'Raleigh Depot' Emergency Water Tank, Sinfyn;</b>	WS

<b>Ex2 (38) The woodland, mature trees, grassland and water areas at Derby Grammar School, Littleover (former Rykneld Hospital Grounds);</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (39) Wetland, grassland and scrub areas at the former Shardlow Sewage Works, south of Spondon;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (40) Sinfin Golf Course Pond with associated wetland;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (41) Rough grassland and wetland at Sinfin Moor Lane Meadows, Sinfin (to the rear of Redwood School);</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (42) Sinfin Moor Lane Stream and margins;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (43) Spondon Canal Pond;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (44) The unimproved grassland and wetland at the former Spondon Power Station Meadow</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (45) West Park Meadow LNR, Spondon (referred to as West Park School by DWT);</b>	WS LNR
<b>Ex2 (46) The terrace of the Derwent Floodway, Stoker Flat, Alvaston;</b>	RIGS/WS
<b>Ex2 (47) Watermeadows Ditch and its margins north-east of Darley Abbey;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (48) Wilmore Road Meadow, Sinfin;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (53) Alvaston Scrub;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (55) Beech Wood, Darley Abbey;</b>	GW
<b>Ex2 (57) Chaddesden Brook &amp; Mossey Yard Plantation;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (62) The grassland and hedges off Pastures Hill, Littleover (referred to as Crest Hotel Meadow by DWT);</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (63) Cuttle Brook and margins, Sinfin;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (64) The mature trees and bankside vegetation within Darley Park;</b>	WS, PH

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<b>Ex2 (67) Elm Wood, Moor Lane, Sinfin;</b>	WS (Candidate LNR)
<b>Ex2 (68) Part of Elvaston Castle LNR (including Elvaston Lane Wood and Greatorex Field);</b> (Rest of site extends out of the City)	WS LNR
<b>Ex2 (69) Ford Bridge Meadow, Allestree;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (74) Markeaton Park;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (75) The mature trees, scrub and grassland at Meadow Lane Bank, Chaddesden;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (76) Mickleover School pond and margins;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (84) The mature tree, shrub and grassland areas at Peartree Station;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (86) Rolls Royce Land</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (89) Herb rich grassland and trees in Sinfin Moor Park;</b>	WS, PH
<b>Ex2 (93) Woodlands School hedges and mature trees, Allestree;</b>	WS
<b>Ex2 (RIGS1) The shallow depression and underlying glacial deposits within the green wedges in the Sinfin Moor area;</b>	RIGS
<b>Ex2 (RIGS2) The Mercia Mudstone exposure, University of Derby Campus, Kedleston Road, Allestree;</b>	RIGS
<b>Ex2 (RIGS3) The Mercia Mudstone exposure and underlying deposits adjacent to Broadway, Allestree.</b>	RIGS

### **KEY and explanation of site classification details**

#### **Designations of national importance**

SSSI  
WHS

Site of Special Scientific Interest  
World Heritage Site

#### **Designations and terms of regional importance:**

RIGS	Regionally Important Geographic Sites
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
WS	Wildlife Site for Derbyshire
PH	BAP priority habitat
PS	BAP priority species

**Terms of local importance:**

GB	Green Belt
GW	Green Wedge
GN	Green network
CA	Conservation Area
RDB	Red Data Book species
POS	Public Open Space

**B. Undesignated Sites where features of biodiversity/ geological interest are known to exist.**

These are sites on the first list are referred to in Aim 3 as *Local City Sites*; ones on which significant natural history features where are known to exist, where the site does not qualify as a Wildlife Site. See also Plan 3.

Site name	Grid Ref	Description	Area
Ford Lane stream	SK35744038	Small stream and margins close to the river	3.4
A38 Scrub	SK35803985	Mosaic of scrub and grassland	2.96
St Edmunds Churchyard	SK34823971	Mature trees inc. Yew , wall flora and wild flowers in the grounds.	1.59
Nooney's Drain	SK36083933	Small stream forming part of a system of drains, ditches and ponds.	4.82
Haslam Lane stream	SK35753830	Small stream forming part of a system of drains, ditches and ponds near the river.	3.09
Broadway Stream	SK34093785	Small shallow stream with marginl vegetation.	1.25
Chaddesdon Brook extension	SK38543725	Small stream linking Brook Plantation to Chaddesdon Brook	1.9
Deer Park Wood Pond	SK40593710	Small pond with wetland flora.	0.36
Deer Park Wood	SK40633698	Woodland with broad-leaved and coniferous trees and some field layer. Woodland birds present.	2.39
Chaddesden Cemetery	SK37283641	Large area of green space with trees and some grassland interest.	29.48
King Street	SK34953681	Scrub and tall herb vegetation.	0.94
Old Cemetery	SK34143585	Mature trees including small-leaved lime, ash and plane. Some grassland herbs present.	3.17
Utoxeter Road Arboretum	SK35583509	Mature trees including many exotic species.	6.78

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Littleover Brook	SK34123511	Scrub, underscrub and grassland.	0.63
Rykneld Recreation Ground	SK34043494	Scattered mature broad-leaved trees with scrub and grassland present.	1.59
Alvaston Park	SK37853474	Large parkland site with trees, grassland, lake with some emergent vegetation.	12.34
Old Hall Wood	SK32863414	Mixed plantation woodland with mature trees, shrubs and some field layer herbs.	1.32
Hackwood Farm Pond	SK30513600	Small pond	0.5
Courtaulds Wood	SK39423377	Plantation woodland with Austrian pine and poplars.	4.52
Chellaston Churchyard	SK38173023	Mature trees, hedgerows and areas of species rich grassland. Fern grass present on walls.	3.17
Woodlands Lane Meadows	SK38502983	Grassland and hedgerows of local interest.	4.95
Wilmorton to Sinfin	SK374326	Mosaic of trees and shrubs, grassland, tall herb and ruderal vegetation.	7.57
Fordbridge Meadow	SK35864008	Tall herb vegetation with grassland and a ditch.	1.66

## Candidate Wildlife Sites

These sites below are referred to in Aim 3 as *Candidate Sites*; ones on which significant natural history features where are known to exist, where no decision has yet been made by the Derbyshire Wildlife Sites Panel as to whether they should be classified as a Wildlife Site. See also Plan 3. Contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for more details.

Name	Grid Ref	Size
A6 Bank	SK353405	1.56
Holme Nook Ponds	SK357389	8.56
land off Kingsway	SK333361	4.02
Rowditch Tip	SK334358	7.92
Hell Brook & Hell Brook Copse	SK319329	13.88
Eden Street Meadow	SK385338	5.69
Chaddesden Sidings	SK380351	8.04
Spondon Bourne	SK412354	10.75
Meadow Farm Marsh	SK384356	9.77
Chaddesdon Sidings	SK367360	30.11

## **Regionally Important Geological Sites RIGS**

The concept of Regionally Important sites of geologically/geomorphologically important sites (RIGS) came from a Nature Conservancy Council (Now English Nature Strategy) Earth Science Conservation in Great Britain 1990. This suggested the establishment of a register of sites worthy of protection for their earth science importance but not protected as SSSIs. These should be locally determined as being regionally or locally important and equivalent to the local biological sites.

They would generally:

- 1 act as an educational resource
- 2 maintain our geological heritage for study
- 3 maintain the historic value of a site in terms of important advance sin geological knowledge
- 4 maintain sites with a strong aesthetic appeal in order to promote public awareness of the need for geological conservation.

In 1991 a steering group was established in Derbyshire to prepare the list with the assistance of a project worker. They identified 107 sites in the County, 11 in Derby City notifying the Council of these sites in 1994. As the register was drawn up without reference to existing developments or permissions for developments the proposed designations were discussed with representatives of the RIGS steering group to establish how they can be dealt with in the Local Plan then being prepared. This led to the setting of the policies and boundaries in the Local Plan.

Each site has record containing a description of its geology/geomorphology, its main points of importance and maps.

## **Some Useful contacts**

### **Derby City Council**

WildDerby Projects Officer, Regeneration and Community, Roman House, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1XB (01332) 255021

Responsible for co-coordinating and developing the City's countryside management, nature conservation and implementing the LBAP. The project produces leaflets including guides to circular walks and nature reserves and give advice on works to enhance nature. They also give advice on grants and coordinate projects to enhance wildlife. All the leaflets are free and are available on the Council web site under "Living".Derby

City Parks, Commercial Services, 15 Stores Road, Derby, DE21 4 BD (01332) 715778 Responsible for managing the City's parks and open spaces, which include a number of important wildlife sites and three of the Local Nature Reserves.

The Natural History Department of Derby Museum and Art Gallery The Strand Derby DE1 1BS (01332) 716655 Plays an important role in nature conservation through providing information and education. The recently completed "Derbyshire Nature Gallery" portrays the geology of Derby and Derbyshire by presenting specimens of rocks, fossils, plants and animals in local environmental settings. The Department also includes the "Derbyshire Biological Records Centre", which holds over half a million wildlife records from across the City and County.

## **Some other organisations**

Derbyshire BTCV, Suite 22 Chester Court Alfreton Road Derby DE21 4AF  
01332 348591

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, East Mill, Bridge Foot, Belper DE56 1 XH  
01773 881188



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Derbyshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Address as per DWT above (01773 881081)

English Nature Peak District and Derbyshire Team, "Endcliffe", Deepdale Business Park, Ashford Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1GT 01629 816640 e mail [peak.derbys@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:peak.derbys@english-nature.org.uk)

## Monitoring the Strategy

Progress in the achieving the aims of the Strategy will be monitored to obtain evidence of success in moving towards its aims and overall objective. Evidence will be in the form of numeric data (along with commentary explaining its significance) and of “softer” evidence such as projects undertaken. Given the broad nature of the objectives change is unlikely to be significant in any one year, so although some of the evidence will be collected on an annual basis, any trends, on which to base decisions, are unlikely to be detected on anything less than a three yearly basis. Thus formal reporting, based on the evidence collected will normally be about every three years.

Evidence collecting and reporting will have to complement the other reporting needs noted under Aim 7, especially the need to monitor the BAP.

Systems to monitor progress on the BAP and other strategies (including the CDLP) are still being put in place and so the regimes proposed below for monitoring, will themselves be monitored, and may have to be amended, as other systems are developed and resources change to undertake the work.

The evidence that will be collected and reported on is arranged under the aim to which it most closely applies, but the monitoring will also consider the degree to which the overarching objective is being achieved. It will be undertaken to understand if any response is needed (such as a change in policy direction) to evidence on the degree to which the aims are being achieved in the City, or to significant external changes (e.g. new legislation). With this in mind we will also review contextual matters, such as socio economic changes in the City, which may influence the implementation of the document. This evidence will essentially be collected from the monitoring regime for the City of Derby Local Plan.

- Aim**            **Main areas of evidence to be collected**
- Aim 1            Number of planning permissions for development within Wildlife Sites or RIGS identified in Appendix 5A)
- Area of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) per 1,000 people in the City.
- Aim 2            Number of planning permissions for developments within strategic green wedges and wildlife corridors identified in the City of Derby Local Plan.
- Aim 3            Number of planning permissions for development within the “local city sites” identified in Appendix 5B) of this strategy.
- Aim 4            Amount of new biodiversity action plan priority habitats created through City Council action (whether directly, in partnership with others or through development controlled through the planning acts.)
- Aim 5            Report on projects to improve access to natural history features and sites.
- If resources are available, we will also collect data on the degree to which we are moving towards ANGST standards and this will also be reported on.
- Aim 6            Report on relevant projects to involve people with natural history and to provide further information on natural history including where possible numbers involved.
- Aim 7            Report on progress in setting up complementary monitoring systems

## **Brief glossary of main technical terms and titles used**

**Ancient Woodland** – Woodland classified as growing continuously since at least 1600

**Biodiversity** - The whole variety of life from the smallest organism to the largest tree or animal.

**Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** - Plans which identify key species and habitats of importance and set programmes of action to protect and add to their scale.

**National BAP** - Produced in 1995 and endorsed in 1996 by Government this is the BAP for the UK.

**Regional BAP** – Now being finalised it will complement the National BAP by identifying important species and habitats identified there and occurring in the Region.

**Local BAP** - For this area the BAP is the Lowland Derbyshire BAP covering Derbyshire outside the Peak District. It again translates National BAP priorities into local level action.

**BAP Priority species/habitats** - These are the species/ habitats considered by the National BAP to be of greatest need of action

**Biodiversity Feature** - A landscape feature like a tree, hedge or water feature considered important for its role as a habitat

**Biological Network** - The linear green network of landscape features and habitats and sites that link other habitats in the City together in some way.

**BTCV** - A voluntary sector organisation which opportunities to link voluntary action with the environment.

**CDLP** City of Derby Local Plan. References are to the revised version adopted February 2006. Also see “Local Plan”.

**Community Strategy** - Produced by partners at a City wide level, coordinated by Derby City Partnership (DCP) and sets out the strategic aspirations for the City and how they might be realised.

**Critical Natural Capital** - Those features of natural history which have a certain amount of value for wildlife as individual elements but whose greatest value is the stock as a whole.

**Derbyshire Wildlife Trust DWT** - Voluntary sector organisation operating in Derbyshire, but with a Country wide presence, whose aim is to protect and enhance natural biodiversity.

**Ecosystems** - The “web” which includes and connects natural organisms that are reliant on each other in some way.

**Environmental Impact Assessment EIA** - A statutory process which must be undertaken in relation to certain large developments to assess the impact on the environment of the proposal.

**English Nature** - Government Agency charged with advising on nature conservation and having statutory powers in relation to SSSIs, protected species and other important aspects of natural history. In 2007 it will become part of Natural England, along with parts of the Countryside Agency and the Rural Development Service.

**Fauna** - Members of the Animal Kingdom – from single celled protozoa to insects, mammals and birds

**Flora** – Plants.

**Geomorphological** – landscape feature that reflects a particular underlying geology or geological process.

**Green wedges** - Areas of open land protected from development by the CDLP primarily for their role in maintaining the separate character of different parts of the City.

**Habitat** – Natural home of a particular animal or plant which is needed by an animal or bird to lives, breed or feed.

**Local Plan** - A statutory document setting out how planning applications for development will be determined by the planning authority. In Derby it is the Revised City of Derby Local Plan (CDLP) Adopted 2006.

**Local City Sites-** Sites informally identified by the City Council as containing natural heritage of some importance but not of sufficient quality to be designated as Wildlife Sites or RIGS.

**Native Species** - (Non Native Species) Animals or plants naturally occurring in an area (either a country or region).

**Natural Area** - Areas defined by English Nature across the Country as having the same **general** physical landscape features, habits and wildlife coupled with cultural and land-use history.

**Planning Policy Statement PPS** - A series of Government advice notes on how different aspects of development should be dealt with by planning authorities.

**Red Data Book** - list prepared by English Nature of species at risk of extinction and the relative level of threat to that species.

**Regional Spatial Strategy RSS** The strategic guidance on land use planning issued by the Government in consultation with the East Midlands Regional Assembly Previously called Regional Planning Guidance RPG . RSS 8 covers the East Midlands.

**Regionally Important Geological Site RIGS** - See Appendix 6.

**SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment** - A statutory process for assessing the environmental effects of certain plans and policy guidance. Now usually undertaken as part of a Sustainability Appraisal SA.

**Site of Importance for Nature Conservation; SINC (Sometimes called sites of local biodiversity and geological importance)-** Area of land or water that because of its particular value to natural history has been identified by the Local Planning Authority (in Derby with the

help of DWT) as in need of particular protection from development. They are made up of Wildlife Sites and RIGS.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI** - Area of land identified by English Nature as having national importance for natural history and which is covered by specific pieces of legislation.

**Structure Plan** - Strategic guidance on land use planning prepared jointly by the City and County Council for Derby and Derbyshire.

**Tree Preservation Orders; TPOs** - Statutory Orders giving Local Planning Authorities control over works to trees of important visual amenity.

**Veteran Trees** - A mature or over mature tree identified as having because of its type and age particular biodiversity, landscape or historic value.

**Wildlife Corridors** - Also see biological network. The linear green network of landscape features linking wildlife sites together with the open country.

**Wildlife Sites** - Areas shown to have reached a certain level of importance for natural history at a "local" level. The Derbyshire Wildlife Sites Panel have systematically reviewed sites against set criteria across the County to produce a list of "Wildlife Sites", previously called County Wildlife Sites. The RIGS as explained in Appendix 6 were identified by the RIGS group.

**World Heritage Site WHS** - Area designated by UNESCO as being of international importance for cultural, historic or architectural reasons. In Derby it is the Derwent Valley starting from the Silk Mill northward.