



Action for Biodiversity

Meeting the cost

A funding strategy for the London Biodiversity Action Plan

MAYOR OF LONDON



Action for Biodiversity

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July 2003**

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Abstract

The document begins by introducing the London Biodiversity Action Plan in the context of national, regional and local biodiversity planning. It describes the process of developing a Biodiversity Action Plan for the capital and highlights the emphasis which is placed upon promoting opportunities for Londoners to enjoy contact with the natural world. It sets out the vision of the London Biodiversity Partnership for conserving nature in London and explains how the Partnership is organised to deliver a dynamic and coordinated programme of action. The report then examines the scope of this funding strategy and its relationship with the Partnership's Business Plan: the present document aims to reach out to a range of funding bodies, seeking support for a wide variety of habitat and species action plans, whereas the Business Plan focuses on developing a long term direction for the partnership and securing core funding for staff and administration. Part One concludes with a discussion of future funding needs, priorities for funding, and arrangements for handling income.

Part Two provides further detail of the individual habitat and species action plans which are actively seeking financial support. Two large spreadsheets in the appendix provide a summary of all these projects.

It is hoped that the document will be of interest to fund managers and potential sponsors, and that the format enables easy access to the most important information. Your comments and queries are welcome.

Jan Hewlett July 2003

Acknowledgements

The support and guidance of the London Biodiversity Partnership's Funding Strategy Group in the production of this report is gratefully acknowledged. The Partnership would also like to thank the many photographers who have supplied pictures free of charge. Their names are listed on page 44.

Message from the Chair of the Partnership

The London Biodiversity Partnership has achieved remarkable progress since its launch seven years ago. Action for nature conservation in the capital is now reaching out into a whole variety of new areas. Many of the projects bring people closer to wildlife, such as the heron watching days in the parks and the house sparrow survey in 2002. London's conservationists are in active dialogue with the business community on a wide variety of topics, including work with developers on high-rise office blocks to investigate how rooftops can be designed to provide nesting habitat for the black redstart and other birds. There is also a huge range of potential projects to improve management and accessibility of London's wildlife habitats. These include our ancient woodlands, flower-rich chalk grasslands of the North Downs, as well as London's canals, which penetrate into some of the most forgotten corners of the capital.

However, the extent to which good ideas can be turned into practical action depends crucially on resources. The Partnership is now actively seeking support for its work across London. This document sets out the targets in the Key Action Plans for which funding is urgently needed. It sits alongside the Partnership's Business Plan, which deals with the core activities of the Partnership.

I welcome this Funding Strategy and would urge you to give it your full support.



Professor David Goode, Chair London Biodiversity Partnership

Some views from the younger generation — children at one of London's Wildlife Watch clubs "Why we should look after London's wildlife?"



"It makes you feel good if you are helping wildlife."

"We should look after wild creatures because they are the same as us."

"If we had no plants and animals we would be quite alone with nothing to talk to, nothing to feed."

"If you don't look after wildlife there's nothing left. I like to have nice soil and plants to get ladybirds and other animals."

"It makes you feel happy. It is incredible to see foxes."

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Part One

Introduction

*'Human society's interaction with biodiversity shows whether
our economic and social development is sustainable'*

(Sustaining the Variety of Life - Five years of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 2001)

What is the London Biodiversity Action Plan?

London Biodiversity Action Plan (London BAP) is an ambitious programme of practical action to conserve nature in London. It is part of a programme of conservation action which extends across the whole of the UK, and indeed internationally, to protect important wildlife habitats and curtail the loss of species of wild plants and animals. The programme stems from the UK Government's endorsement of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, a commitment which was renewed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. However, one of the most distinctive features of the London BAP is the importance it places on the value of wildlife for Londoners.



The biodiversity planning process

Biodiversity planning in the UK works at several levels, each inter-linked with the others. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan identifies the most vulnerable or threatened habitats and species, and those for which this country has a special responsibility, as priorities for action at a national level. But the national working group recognised from an early stage that to conserve the whole spectrum of the country's natural heritage would require much wider action. It would need the commitment of people and organisations throughout the country to work together, taking stock of the characteristic natural habitats and wild plants and animals of their own localities, to bring about action at a local level.

The London BAP takes this approach forward at a regional level. It seeks to protect nationally scarce habitats and priority species where these survive within the capital and it also identifies habitats and species that are declining or vulnerable on a regional scale. However, at the heart of the programme is the aim to enhance the enjoyment of nature by Londoners. As well as rarities, the action plan therefore features some quite widespread habitats and species, especially those that are characteristic of London, which provide good opportunities for people to experience 'hands on' contact with the natural world. Enabling access to nature is seen as a vital contribution to the health and quality of life of Londoners and a key issue in sustainable development.

Many of the London boroughs are also undertaking Local Biodiversity Action Plans for their own localities. These can respond to the characteristic habitats and species of particular districts, such as the chalk downland in south London, the ancient oak/hornbeam woodland in north London, the old docks in east London and garden squares in the city centre. They have the important benefit of contact with local communities, in touch with local aspirations and concerns.

Several major companies in London have embarked upon biodiversity action plans for their own land-holdings and begun to introduce biodiversity into corporate policy.



Heathland is a priority habitat in the UK BAP, which occurs in just a few places in London, for example, Wimbledon Common and Hounslow Heath. This action plan will improve the management of our remaining heathland and restore some former heathland sites.



The black redstart has been associated with London since it colonised bombsites after the Second World War. It now occurs mainly on industrial sites. This action plan has inspired developers to incorporate wildlife habitat in urban regeneration.

Developing a Biodiversity Action Plan for London

The London BAP is a carefully thought out mix of projects to protect and enhance the capital's wildlife and natural habitats and to improve opportunities for Londoners to enjoy the natural world. Developing the Action Plan involved three stages: —

- Auditing of habitats and species, to guide the selection of priorities for action
- Setting up working groups to establish objectives and targets for each habitat and species action plan, including consultation with a wide range of partners
- Implementation and monitoring of the actions

So far, 10 Habitat Action Plans and 12 Species Action Plans have been published and are now in the process of implementation. There is also a suite of wider 'generic actions' and a series of brief 'statements' on priority habitats and species for which key issues are identified but action is not anticipated in the immediate future. Full details of all the action plans can be found in the London Biodiversity Action Plan, Volume 2, 2002 and on the London Biodiversity Partnership's website (www.lbp.org.uk). As current projects get underway, others will be added to address the requirements for further habitats and species.

Published action plans in the London Biodiversity Action Plan

Habitat Action Plans (HAPs)

Woodland
Chalk grassland
Heathland
Wasteland
Acid grassland
Tidal Thames
Canals
Churchyards and cemeteries
Private gardens
Parks, squares and amenity grassland

Statements

House martin
Humble bumble
London's exotic flora

Species Action Plans (SAPs)

Bats
Water vole
Grey heron
Peregrine
Sand martin
Black redstart
House sparrow
Stag beetle
Tower mustard
Mistletoe
Reptiles
Black poplar

Selecting priority habitats and species for action

Habitats

The selection of priority habitats for action includes the following issues (in no rank order). Many of the selected habitats meet several of these criteria, although few would score highly under all five.

- Provides a good opportunity for Londoners to enjoy contact with nature (e.g. Parks, Amenity Grassland and City Squares; Churchyards and Cemeteries)
- Example of a UK priority habitat within London (e.g. Heathland and Acid Grassland)
- Supports a diversity of flora and fauna, including uncommon species (e.g. Woodland)
- Exists under some degree of threat in London (e.g. Heathland)
- Presents opportunities for habitat restoration and enhancement (e.g. Chalk Grassland)



Churchyards and cemeteries offer islands of calm with the urban environment. This action plan encourages their characteristic communities of birds, ferns and lichens and seeks to help Londoners enjoy these special places.



Chalk grassland once occurred as extensive flower-rich downland. The remaining fragments are often threatened by invading scrub. This action plan will open up access and bring back wildflowers like these pyramidal orchids.

Species

For species, the selection tends to be a little more complex; not least there is a much larger number of potential candidates. However, the best way to conserve most species that were identified as priorities in the audit is through the protection and management of their main habitats. Hence Species Action Plans have been prepared largely for species whose main habitats are not already the subject of Habitat Action Plans. The following criteria were used – again in no rank order.

- Culturally valued and appealing, offering an opportunity to raise awareness for biodiversity (e.g. grey heron, mistletoe)
- Characteristic of London (e.g. black redstart)
- Priority species in the UK BAP with a significant population within London (e.g. tower mustard, black poplar, bats, water vole and stag beetle)
- Substantial decline in recent years (e.g. house sparrow)
- Restricted distribution in London (e.g. native black poplar)
- Easy to monitor (e.g. sand martin)



The water vole is an UK priority species, which survives along a few watercourses within London. It has strong cultural links and considerable public appeal.



House sparrows have declined sharply in the UK over the past 10 years, and notably in London. This Action Plan invited Londoners to contribute to a survey to help understand the problem.

The London Biodiversity Partnership

Organisation & structure

The London Biodiversity Partnership was set up in 1996 to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the capital, and it is this body that is now responsible for overseeing its ongoing development and implementation. The overall aim of the Partnership is:

‘to conserve and enhance the capital’s wildlife and natural places for future generations to benefit from and enjoy ‘

Its full Mission Statement is shown overleaf. The organisation brings together representatives from a wide range of organisations, including statutory agencies, regional and local government, business and the voluntary sector. Thus it is able to draw on a wide range of experience and expertise, working together in a way that was not possible before. The working relationship between the partners is currently formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding, which has now been signed by more than 30 partners (see appendix). The Partnership is currently in the process of developing a Business Plan, which identifies its future direction and development over the next few years. This document recommends that in the longer term the organisation should seek to become established as a Not-for-Profit Company Limited by Guarantee.

THE MAIN PARTNERS IN THE LONDON BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP		
Greater London Authority	London Boroughs	London Boroughs Biodiversity Partnership
BTCV	British Waterways	Association of London Government
English Nature	Environment Agency	Community Initiatives Partnership
London Wildlife Trust	London Underground Ltd	London Natural History Society
Royal Parks Agency	Thames Estuary Partnership	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Peabody Trust	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
London First		

The programme is overseen by a Project Board. Linked to this, a series of working groups has been set up to develop particular aspects of the work. These include Habitats Data and Species, which monitors the output of the Action Plans and identifies future priorities; Communications; and a Management Working Group. There is a separate working group for each of the Habitat and Species Action Plans, made up of representatives of the partner organisations. The Partnership as a whole is currently chaired by a representative of the Mayor. At present, a Project Officer co-ordinates the work programme of the whole Partnership, and liaises with the Local Biodiversity Action Plans in individual boroughs. This post is currently funded by the Esmeé Fairbairn Foundation and hosted by the London Wildlife Trust.

The Partnership is committed to Equality of Opportunities in all areas of its work. It seeks to ensure that any public events attract people from all sectors of the community and do not discriminate against members of minority groups.

London Biodiversity Partnership Mission Statement

The mission of the London Biodiversity Partnership is to promote the various Biodiversity Action Plans that exist in London, assist the delivery of national biodiversity action and help implement local biodiversity action. The work will include the following:

- Act as a link between the London Biodiversity Action Plans and the National Biodiversity Action Plan
- Implement the London Biodiversity Action Plan
- Provide guidance to business, borough and other organisations' Biodiversity Action Plans to avoid duplication of effort and to maximise efficiency in the maintenance of biodiversity.
- Facilitate securing project funding to deliver biodiversity action.
- Maintain and publish an audit of London's priority species and habitats.
- Help to identify and if necessary develop new London Habitat and Species Action Plans.
- Communication to promote biodiversity to Londoners
- Recruit new organisations to the Partnership
- Serve as a focus for interaction with Biodiversity Action Plans in other capital cities particularly in Europe.



London Biodiversity Action Plan works to involve all ethnic communities in enjoyment of London's greenspace and access to nature.

Who is involved? Who will benefit?

At any given time it is likely that around 200 people are actively contributing to the work of the Partnership through participation in its various working groups. Many individual projects also involve teams of volunteers.

Most of the action plans include projects that reach out to the public. There are many innovative ideas for public interpretation, offering Londoners a range of experiences which would otherwise be beyond their reach. For example, over 1,000 people were able to enjoy the dramatic spectacle of Grey Herons caring for young in their nests as part of the Grey Heron Action Plan in the spring of 2002-3. Over 9,000 people contributed to a survey of House Sparrows in London in the summer of 2002, which is helping to build up a picture of the ecology of this popular little bird in the capital. Many thousands of people should benefit from enhanced enjoyment of London's wildlife and greenspaces as a result of the London BAP. Better habitat management should increase the opportunities for Londoners to enjoy wild flowers and improved accessibility and interpretation should encourage a wider cross-section of the community to take advantage of London's natural green spaces.



Watching grey herons at their nests,
Battersea Park 2002

The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy & London Biodiversity Action Plan

Some clarification of the relationship between the London BAP and the Mayor of London's Biodiversity Strategy may be helpful at this stage. The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, '*Connecting with London's Nature*' (published in 2002) is a statutory document, required by the GLA Act 1999. It sets out the Mayor's priorities for biodiversity in the capital and guides the work of the GLA in this field. The London BAP is a vital mechanism for delivering many of the policies in the Mayor's strategy.

The Mayor leads several of the action plans in the London BAP on behalf of the Partnership; these include House Sparrow, Woodland, Churchyards and Cemeteries, and Parks, Amenity Grassland and City Squares. Many of the other policies and proposals in the Mayor's Strategy will contribute to targets in the London BAP. Of particular note are the proposals for the identification of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, which include some 19% of the London area and which will be protected by policies in the draft London Plan. These sites include most of the priority wildlife habitat in London. There are also policies and proposals promoting good practice in habitat management and improved accessibility to London's greenspace.

Meeting the Costs

Scope of the Funding Strategy

This strategy focuses on the requirements of the London BAP's Habitat and Species Action Plans. It is not concerned with the core costs of maintaining the Partnership, such as staff costs, which are being progressed through the Business Plan. The present document thus sits alongside the Business Plan, complementing it through reaching out to a range of funding bodies, and seeking support for the wider programme of conservation action, beyond the central administration costs.

Part Two of this document gives information on each of the Habitat and Species Action Plans which are now in need of funding. The tables highlighted in green give details of projects for which we are seeking funding; the other tables provide background information, including a summary of work which is being undertaken through existing work programmes plus those for which funding has already been committed. Note that this section does not include details of action plans which can be completed entirely through existing work programmes (perhaps with some input from volunteers), or those which are fully resourced at present; for example, the Chalk Grassland Habitat Action Plan is currently carrying out work under a £50,000 grant for the 'Chalking up' project from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a larger scale bid for the Surrey Downlands is also in preparation. It should be emphasised that at this stage the costs are approximate only. Actual costs will depend upon many variables, including the choice of contractor or consultant, timing of work, inflation, and other unforeseen factors. Projects will be worked up in greater detail nearer to the time for submitting applications.

Two large spreadsheets in the appendix provide an overview of all the projects which are now in need of funding. In these tables, the actions are set out against the type of targets they are expected to meet, together with anticipated funding required. It is hoped that they will provide a short cut for funding agencies in identifying projects that may be suitable candidates for various funding streams.

Note also that the summary of actions given in this report reflects ongoing actions or actions at the present time. In a few cases some of the detailed actions have been revised a little since publication of the original action plans in Volume Two of the London BAP. This reflects both responses to changing circumstances, taking advantage of new opportunities, and natural progression from one project to another. The London Biodiversity Partnership undertakes a formal review of the

targets in each action plan every three years and any substantive changes are subject to a consensus of support from partners at this stage.

Contributions in kind and funding through management agreements

It will be appreciated that additional to projects which are supported by external funding, much of the work will continue, as in the past, as part of the ongoing work programmes of partner organisations, together with input from volunteers. There will also be opportunities for support through management agreements, such as Countryside Stewardship in some areas, and perhaps planning agreements.

Prioritising projects for funding

The Partnership plans to make contact with a range of funding bodies, and it is hoped that, by approaching a diversity of agencies, competition for resources between its different groups will be kept to a minimum. To a large extent, the targets in individual action plans are likely to match up with the strategic objectives of different funding agencies or different programmes within individual agencies.

We will aim to avoid a multiplicity of large bids to any one funding programme at the same time. In some cases actions from a number of action plans may be combined into one bid. However, at present the responsibility for preparing bids rests primarily with the lead for each action plan, in consultation with the members of their groups, the Partnership's project officer and appropriate working groups of the wider Partnership. Inevitably perhaps, this may lead to some tensions and we will welcome dialogue with grants officers on handling the issue. Arrangements will be kept under review in the light of discussion with funding bodies and the future development of the Partnership.

Financial arrangements

At present, when funds are required for particular projects, these are held by one of the partners on behalf of the Partnership. This partner makes the grant application and takes responsibility for ensuring that the funding agency's reporting needs are met. The procedure will be reviewed if the Partnership gains legal Company status.

London Biological Recording Centre

In parallel with this Funding Strategy, the London Biodiversity Partnership's Biodiversity Records Centre Development Plan Working Group is developing a proposal for a London Biodiversity Records Centre. This will eventually provide a centre holding computerised information on sites, habitats and species on a London-wide scale, linked to the National Biodiversity Network. A pilot scheme is currently underway, operating as the London Wildlife Trust's Biological Recording Project. The future Centre should become an enormously valuable tool for conservation action, bringing together in one place maps and biological records, which are currently scattered between a range of different bodies and indeed many individual naturalists. A development plan for the Centre is currently out for consultation; this looks at a range of options, which could operate within a range of budgetary limits. It is envisaged that much of the future revenue cost will be supported through a service level agreement. However, depending upon how the Centre is to be managed in the longer term, it is possible that some elements of the project may be incorporated in future editions of this strategy. Equally, some of the

figures in the present document may require minor adjustment to incorporate future costs of data management and interpretation by the Records Centre.

Part two

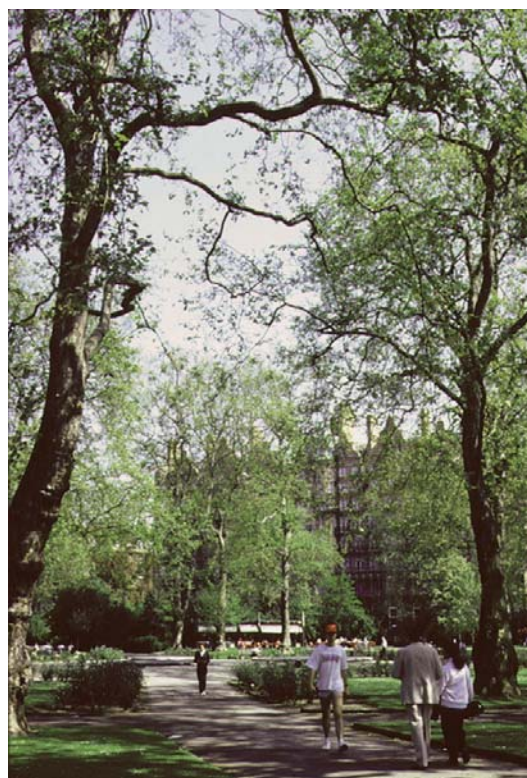
Habitat Action Plans

Parks, Amenity Grassland and City Squares

Parks and city squares are important to city dwellers in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and access to green landscapes close to home.

Alongside their value for recreation, play and social and cultural activities, they offer opportunities for contact with the natural world. As habitat for birds, such as song thrush, blackbird and robin, and other wildlife, they help to sustain the capital's biodiversity.

However, the quality of London's parks and squares varies greatly. London has some of the finest parks in the world, and many of these are also rich in wildlife. At the other end of the spectrum, the pressures of cost-cutting, plus vandalism and security problems, have led to some parks offering little but a few trees and grass with minimal wildlife.



This action plan aims to promote best practice for biodiversity and sustainability in London's parks and squares, alongside their wider functions, and to look for opportunities to enhance the wildlife interest especially in areas of need. A London Parks and Greenspaces Forum was established in 2002, which addresses a wide range of open space issues in London. Many of the actions in this action plan will be delivered through that Forum. The work will be approached initially through sharing of experience and training programmes to build up a picture of what works best in today's urban environment. The apparent conflict between people's feelings of security and the desirability of more naturalistic landscapes will be explored, to provide guidelines for management.

The Action Plan also encompasses garden squares. A characteristic feature of many of the inner boroughs, these provide oases of greenery within densely built up areas. Though cherished by local communities, their contribution to London's biodiversity is not widely appreciated. A systematic wildlife survey is proposed, leading to good practice guidelines for promoting wildlife within the context of a largely formal historic garden design. This work may also offer lessons for green space design in new housing developments.

▪ ***Actions being implemented mainly through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date/ expected start
Establish working group of Parks Habitat Action Plan linked to the London Parks and Greenspaces Forum	2002
Establish links with award schemes such as Green Flag	2003

- ***Actions being implemented partly through ongoing work programmes for which funding or part-funding has been agreed***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions e.g. staff time	Funds agreed
Establish a series of seminars as part of the London Parks and Greenspaces Forum, on biodiversity and sustainable management	2003	GLA	£1,000 p.a. (GLA)
Preliminary literature study plus possible pilot visitor survey on security in relation to landscaping (MSc)	2003	GLA/UCL	Expenses for student (GLA)
Organise a conference on managing parks and greenspaces for wildlife and people	2004	GLA	£5,000 possible from GLA; £7,000 still needed

- ***Actions requiring external funding***

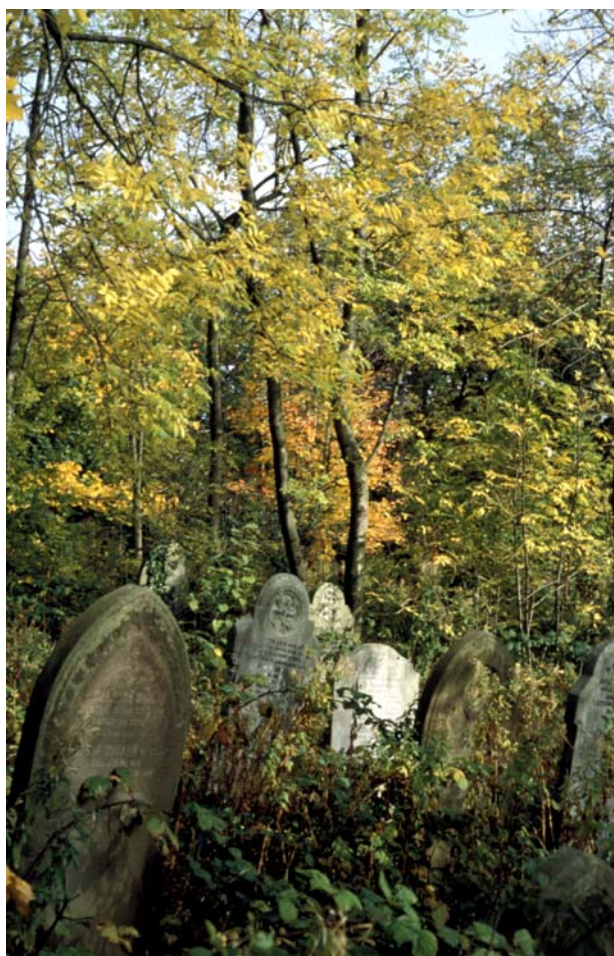
Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Undertake an audit of London parks and greenspace managers to identify recent biodiversity initiatives, lessons to be learned from existing projects, what works best locally, and parks with potential for improvement, plus capital and revenue costs of enhancements. The study will inform future priorities for this action plan, help to identify the best approach to achieving improvements and thereby guide future funding needs.	2003	£10, 000
If appropriate commission 'welcome survey' to extend student project (listed above) by in-depth study.	2004	£25, 000
Commission study of wildlife in London's garden squares; develop a best practice guide for garden square management and guidelines for future gardens.	2004	£18, 000
Facilitate training and exchange of information on contracts, through website news board or e-mail group.	2003	£1, 000
Develop handbook of management guidance for sustainability and biodiversity in parks management, featuring local case studies.	2006	£15, 000

n.b. The Parks HAP group are also investigating possibilities for a wider programme of funding to encourage biodiversity enhancements in parks and greenspaces. This concept will be developed further following the parks management audit, taking account of other current funding initiatives for London's parks.

Churchyards and Cemeteries

Churchyards and cemeteries are special places to a great many people who visit the graves of their loved ones and this Action Plan aims to respect totally the primary function of the 'habitat'. They may also be special to people with no such emotional ties; valued as peaceful, natural oases with fascinating records of local social history. As a teaching resource, the geology of gravestones is of interest, as well as the inscriptions and symbolic carvings.

The multiple values of this habitat are reflected by the eclectic membership of the working group, which - in addition to ecologists - also includes English Heritage, the War Graves Commission, Association of Burial Authorities and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation. A typical site may have wild flower-studded grassland with mature trees, providing habitat for attractive species such as woodpeckers, song thrush and bats. Gravestones and walls provide a unique 'stony habitat' for lichens and wall ferns.



Many such sites are known in London but many others have been overlooked. It is imperative that all such sites are recorded in advance of proposals to re-use scarce burial space in London, so that the sensitive parts of each site can be protected. The majority of modern cemeteries may have little obvious wildlife value due to intensive management. The Plan's intention is to include these sites too, as well as the grounds of crematoria, and encourage their managers to make adjustments for wildlife and to consider habitat creation schemes.

Cemeteries and churchyards are the only habitat likely to be visited by every single Londoner at some point in their lives. The Plan will therefore look at ways of using this as an opportunity to reach out to new groups who have not traditionally been interested in wildlife.

▪ ***Actions being implemented through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date/ expected start
Establish a Churchyards and Cemeteries Biodiversity Working Group	2002
Establish a forum for managers of churchyards and cemeteries of known wildlife value.	2003
Ensure that cemetery and churchyard elements are distinguished within the GLA rolling programme of survey	2002
Encourage the declaration of suitable sites as Local Nature Reserves	Ongoing
Monitor re-use and development proposals in relation to new and existing burial sites via the planning process	Ongoing
Review the biodiversity content of existing cemetery management training	2004
Organise links and joint initiatives with various faith groups.	2003
Encourage the inclusion of ecological criteria within the Memorial Awareness Board's 'Cemetery of the Year' award	2006
Produce a generic article promoting biodiversity enhancements for publication in professional journals and newsletters	2004

▪ ***Actions being implemented through ongoing work programmes with financial contributions anticipated from existing partners***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions, incl. staff time	Funds agreed
Produce and disseminate advice for biodiversity in burial ground management	Ongoing	English Heritage, English Nature	Figure not available

▪ ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Contribute to a web-based database of burial ground information in London, jointly with a range of partners	2003	To be determined
Develop & coordinate a popular survey for burial grounds	2005	£12,000
Organise series of training workshops for site managers	2005	£1,000
Appoint a part-time Sacred Land Project Officer for London jointly with the Alliance for Religions & Conservation and the Sacred Land Project to work on biodiversity and sustainability in burial grounds	2005	£20,000 p.a.
Produce an advisory leaflet on lichen and wall fern conservation in building and gravestone maintenance	2003	£3,000
Produce a promotional leaflet on accessible sites	2005	£3,000
Review and revise existing school educational packs	2003	£5,000
Organise a London-wide 'Action Day'	2006	£2,000

Gardens

London is a garden city, with an amazing network of well-developed gardens providing intricate urban habitat. These gardens and their associated trees, hedges, ponds, flower borders, overgrown patches, outbuildings, and other features have developed into a resource which is vital for city wildlife including hedgehogs, dragonflies, birds and butterflies.



Gardens are important as places for Londoners to engage with local wildlife, to watch seasonal changes, hear birds singing, and to find a sense of stewardship in caring for the wild. Conversely, most experienced plantspeople understand that it is impossible to manage a sustainable healthy garden without some assistance from bumblebees, frogs, blackbirds, ladybirds and other wildlife.

This action plan provides an opportunity for real people to get involved in biodiversity conservation. The working group includes the London Wildlife Trust, Pesticide Action Network, Froglife, RBG Kew, the Royal Horticultural Society and Gardening Which? It works around three main aims:

- To promote and encourage wildlife gardening practices to members of the public who may be interested in improving their garden, for example, by digging a wildlife pond, building bird boxes, planting butterfly food plants or installing a thorny country hedge.
- To gather information and publicise relevant issues widely to stop practices which are destructive to wildlife, including inappropriate pesticide use, peat use, bad pond design, and unseasonal clearance.
- To encourage planning guidelines which preserve the total resource of gardens in London against infill development.

Part of the pleasure in working with London's gardeners is celebrating the achievements of so many people. The Londoners' Wildlife Gardening Day in June 2003 was one such event, offering workshops, information stalls, talks and family activities, which proved to be an excellent opportunity to share ideas, information, good practice and achievements between a range of different organisations and individual gardeners.

▪ ***Actions being implemented through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date/ expected start
Establish London Gardening for Wildlife working group	2001
Planning advice on protection of London's garden resource (GLA)	2002
Promote Garden Birdwatch survey in London (BTO)	2003

- ***Actions being implemented through ongoing work programmes, or for which funding has already been provided or agreed***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions incl. staff time	Funds agreed
Produce and distribute wildlife gardening pack	2002	LWT	£6,000 (BHET)
Continue wildlife in gardens survey	2002	LWT	BHET plus in kind contributions from LWT
Liaison with garden centres: promote use of wildlife-friendly products; provide wildlife gardening information; survey of customers.	2002	LWT	£5,000 (BHET)
Organise conference for wildlife gardeners	2003	NHM/LWT	Venue and support costs from NHM; Admissions income from participants
Survey of home pesticide use and report on findings (ongoing)	2002	PAN	Costs being met by PAN

- ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Produce 'Where are London's wildlife gardens?' leaflet	2004	£3,000
Run informal gardening for wildlife action day with events at up to six sites across London	2004/5	£3,000/yr
Organise London-wide Frog Day to encourage more wildlife gardeners	2004	£3,000
Provide interpretation at selection of publicly accessible demonstration wildlife gardens	2004	£1,500/site
Provide one day wildlife gardening courses for the general public plus suitable publicity at range of local venues @£300 each for six one day events	2004-6	£2,000

Abbreviations

BHET Bridge House Estates Trust
 BTO British Trust for Ornithology
 LWT London Wildlife Trust
 PAN Pesticides Action Network
 NHM Natural History Museum

Woodland

London contains wonderful woodlands that spread from the Green Belt almost to the city centre. Many have public access, affording London's residents a leafy retreat from the urban environment. London's woods also have fascinating historical connections.

Woodland covers about 4.5% of London, and every borough except the City of London contains woodland. There are particular concentrations in the outer boroughs such as Bromley, Croydon, Hillingdon and Barnet, and many of these woods are rich in biodiversity.

Lack of appropriate management is a major factor affecting woodland today. Woods were neglected as markets for wood fell away, often leading to loss of flora and fauna, encouraging fly tipping and vandalism, and resulting in a less attractive place for people to enjoy. Providing managers with advice on how to look after woodland is one of the aims of this Action Plan, and a project to demonstrate good management is also being developed.

Some parts of London contain very little woodland, for example in much of London's Thames Gateway. Projects to establish new woodland here are in progress, and additional planting in this area of regeneration is planned.

Markets for woodland products promote management. Products form a link between people and woodlands, generating employment and strengthening local communities, as well as being a useful educational tool. Whilst markets have changed, there is still a demand for goods ranging from firewood to bespoke furniture and signposts, which can be produced to the benefit of local economies and biodiversity. Encouraging use of wood and establishing a new Timber Station, where wood can be aggregated and processed, would promote sustainable use of woodland.



- ***Actions for which funding is required***

Objectives and Actions	Start date	Major in kind contributions including staff time	External funding required
<p>Promote best practice in woodland management & increase the area of woodland which is managed appropriately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a working group to develop advice; maintain a database of relevant experience Offer management advice to owners and managers of London's most important woodlands. This may include guidance on appropriate management of key species. 	2004	GLA, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, London boroughs	<p>£5,000</p> <p>£65,000</p>
<p>Increase woodland cover in areas of woodland deficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a map of accessible woodland in London; identify areas of woodland deficiency Establish at least 25 ha of new woodland in areas of deficiency. 	On-going	GLA, Green Gateway, Trees for London, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust	<p>£5,000</p> <p>£375,000</p>
<p>Increase production, use & markets for sustainable timber & woodland products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local authorities & community groups to encourage the production & use of woodland produce Set up one new timber station in London 	2005	Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, local authorities	<p>£20,000</p> <p>£50,000</p>

The Capital Woodlands project

A project which combines many of the actions shown above is currently under development in consultation with a major funding agency. It will focus on a number of woods across London, where management to encourage biodiversity and people's enjoyment will be promoted, and local people will be encouraged to use the wood and trained to help in its care. This will be complemented by a wider programme to promote and use London's woodlands. The programme will include:

- work in selected woodlands to improve biodiversity value and access and increase local use and involvement
- outreach and promotion of London's woodlands more generally
- training for unemployed people in woodland management

Any further fund-raising for the woodland action plan will depend upon the outcome of these negotiations.

Acid Grassland

Acid grasslands are associated with low-nutrient acidic soils, usually over free-draining sand or gravel sub-soils, although this action plan also includes acid grassland on less well-drained soils. Acidic soils are fairly common in the Thames basin, particularly over the Terrace Gravels. However, acid grassland habitat is uncommon as a result of extensive development, conversion into farmland or amenity grassland and quarrying for aggregates.

Acid grassland typically consists of a variety of fine-leaved grasses such as common bent, red and sheep's fescue with tussocks of purple moor grass in less well drained areas. Characteristic wildflowers include harebell, heath bedstraw, cat's ear, sheep's sorrel, tormentil, common stork's-bill, heath milkwort, buck's-horn plantain and the diminutive bird's foot. Nationally scarce plants found in London's acid grassland include clustered clover, upright chickweed and autumn squill.



The acid grasslands of Greater London, south Essex and north-west Kent appear to be the natural home of a distinctive assemblage of insects and spiders (the 'Thames Terrace invertebrate fauna'). These include many species with a restricted UK distribution, including hole-nesting bees and wasps (such as many rare mining bees) and ants. More familiar insects frequently found in acid grasslands include the small heath and small copper butterflies and meadow ants, which create distinctive ant-hills. The abundance of invertebrates attracts birds such as the meadow pipit, skylark and the green woodpecker.

Lowland acid grassland is a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. London's estimated 1300 hectares contributes about 4% of the national resource. Extensive areas occur, for example in Richmond Park, on Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Wanstead Flats. Only six boroughs have no acid grassland but much of it is widely scattered, often overlooked fragments on the margins of amenity grassland, golf courses, scrub, road and rail verges, or wasteland sites. Much of our remaining acid grassland has suffered in quality. Ideally it would be maintained by stock grazing and occur alongside stands of heather and gorse, patches of bare ground and lichens, together with scrub and peat-filled bogs. However, over-intensity of use, or neglect and consequent invasion by coarse grasses, bracken and developing woodland are all too common.

▪ ***Actions being implemented through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date or expected start
Richmond Park: bracken control (c. 9ha) for acid grassland restoration.	Ongoing
Mitcham and Wimbledon Commons: ongoing management and restoration of acid grassland (estimated annual cost >£10,000)	Ongoing

▪ ***Actions for which funding or part-funding has been secured, or which is currently the subject of negotiation***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions incl. staff time	Funds agreed or subject of negotiation
Barking & Dagenham: Management of area of 8.5ha acid grassland by hay-cutting plus hedgerow planting.	2003	LB Barking & Dagenham	Bid to Countryside Stewardship scheme pending
Introduction of conservation grazing by cattle and sheep at various localities in LB Hounslow.	2003	LB Hounslow & Partners	Consortium of West London partners, LB Hounslow plus pending bid to Aggregates Fund
Restoration of 0.3ha of car park to acid grassland in Richmond Park, with a package of public interpretation and habitat monitoring	2003	RPA	RPA plus pending 50% matched funding bid for English Nature S35 grant.
Beddington Farmlands restoration – 30ha of acid grassland and heathland will be created on landscaped hills.	Over next 10yr		Thames Waste (linked to Beddington Sewage Farm planning permission)

▪ ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Targeted invertebrate surveys of sites for which there are poor data (to encompass a good geographical spread and a variety of site types).	2004	35 days @ 150 per day = £5,250
Production of interim guidance leaflet for site managers on managing acid grassland for Thames Terrace invertebrates (includes 2 days consultant entomologist, illustrations or photographs of key species, low budget leaflet)	2003	£2,000
Following trial use of interim leaflet, revise and produce as high quality 8-12 page full colour booklet on acid grassland management.	2005	£5,000

Heathland

Lowland heathland is a scarce and declining habitat in Europe and is of international importance. The UK has approximately 20% of the global resource of this habitat, of which the largest proportion (55%) is found in England. Heathlands provide a clear link between history, culture and nature. Although natural in appearance and possessing the 'wilderness' quality, heathlands are an ancient landscape, which is the product of human activity, such as burning and grazing, over hundreds, if not thousands of years.

Heathland was once a key part of the landscape on large areas of common land around London, where local people grazed animals and drovers stationed their stock on the way to market. Such grazing helped to keep scrub and trees from invading the open landscape. Heathlands also played a vital role in the local economy, as gorse and peat yielded a valued source of fuel.



Heathlands are still valued by local communities as quiet refuges for fresh air and exercise, and they are increasingly recognised as an important resource for nature conservation and archaeology. Larger heathland blocks, such as Wimbledon Common and Stanmore Common, are the nearest thing to 'wilderness' in a crowded urban environment. Many people benefit from walking, riding, or bird watching in heathland especially when the heather and gorse are in bloom.

Only small fragments of heathland remain in London — about 80 hectares in total. The resource has been much reduced in distribution and is of variable quality. However, it is still a significant habitat type, and important as the last refuge of a distinctive group of plants and animals. These include heather, dwarf gorse, the linnet, the green hairstreak butterfly and the adder, which is now a very rare and threatened species within the capital. Before it disappears altogether, we must act quickly to save the remnants of this special habitat, restore degraded areas and where appropriate consider the creation of new heathlands. The Heathland Working Group's over-arching aims are:

- To develop a strategic approach to the protection, management, creation and restoration of heathland within London through a heathland restoration strategy.
- To promote the value of heathland and secure the involvement of Londoners in its conservation.

▪ ***Actions being implemented through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date/ expected start
Heathland management and limited restoration works are being undertaken on sites around London (please refer to the Heathland Restoration Strategy).	Ongoing
Establish a working group to develop advice and maintain database of relevant information.	Ongoing

▪ ***Actions for which funding or part-funding has been secured***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions incl staff time	Funds agreed
Undertake a programme of training in management, monitoring, interpretation and communication for site managers	Ongoing	Working group	1,000 p.a (English Nature)

▪ ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Produce best practice habitat management guidelines report and distribute to heathland managers.	2003	£6,000 (total cost c. £10,000; E.N. offering £4,000)
Implement the heathland restoration strategy, a targeted and costed programme of action to create new areas of heathland habitat, reflecting historical distribution and suitable geological conditions, and to restore areas of recoverable but degraded habitat Aim to complete 0.25 ha in each of 4-6 sites per year, hence 15 ha over next ten years. Cost will be lower on land which is close to existing heathland habitat, higher where habitat creation is starting from scratch.	2004	£1,320 to £20,000/ha depending upon treatment required.
Produce a leaflet on London's heathland resource to help raise awareness of its value and educational potential within local communities.	2004	£3,000

Tidal Thames (London, Kent and Essex)

The Thames is London's most important wildlife corridor, stretching from the leafy suburbs of west London through the city centre to the open estuary and the southern North Sea. It encompasses a wide variety of habitats, from freshwater, through brackish to marine conditions. This action plan focuses on the habitats in the estuary itself, from open water to foreshore, together with some of the associated terrestrial habitats. However, it recognises that some of the adjoining habitats, such as reedbed, grazing marsh and wasteland play a significant part in the life cycle of some species in the Thames itself. The Action Plan has three main aims:

- To conserve and enhance the habitats, species and local distinctiveness of the Tidal Thames;
- A strategic approach for biodiversity conservation along the Thames;
- To promote public awareness and appreciation of the river.



To deliver the action plan, the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) has integrated the biodiversity objectives for the Thames in London (previously published as the Tidal Thames HAP in the London Biodiversity Action Plan) with those for Kent and Essex, to produce a single strategic plan (TTHAP) for the whole estuary. It is hoped that various Thames-side local authorities will adopt this document and incorporate appropriate concepts into development frameworks and Local Plans. This should allow the Thames to be dealt with in a consistent manner throughout its tidal range.

The programme as a whole is extremely wide-ranging and only some of the main actions are shown here. Note that the Thames Estuary Partnership has gained funding from the Government's Environmental Action Fund to support a project officer to lead the work, and some projects are supported by Essex County Council through an InterReg IIb programme, SAIL II.

▪ ***Actions being implemented mainly through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date/ expected start
Establish a Biodiversity Action Group to provide guidance on biodiversity issues on the Tidal Thames	Ongoing
Seek to ensure that biodiversity objectives are fully included in the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Annexe in The London Plan	2002-2003
Construction of Environmental Information Exchange System	Trial system in place

▪ ***Actions for which funding or part-funding has been secured***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions, including staff time	Funds agreed
Development of a Tidal Thames HAP for the estuary as a whole as extension to the Tidal Thames HAP in London	Completed March 2003	TEP and members of BAG	EAF (funds the project officer)
Identify areas for habitat enhancement schemes	April 03	TEP and members of BAG	EAF (funds the project officer)
Identify gaps in existing habitat management guidance and produce documents to address any deficiencies	April 03	TEP and members of BAG	EAF (funds the project officer)
Launch of TTHAP	March 03	TEP	£500 EAF
Tidal Thames Habitat and Species Audit	March 03	SAIL II and members of BAG	EAF (funds the project officer); £38,000 SAIL II
Sustainable approach to maintenance dredging	2003	TEP	PLA
Business Conservation Forum	May 03	TEP	£800 EAF

▪ ***Actions which still require external funding***

Action	Projected start date	Funding required
Construct web-based Research Audit of the Tidal Thames (to be known as the TERF Observatory); this will make available to the public information about past, current and ongoing research relating to the estuary.	Sept 03	£1,750 p.a.
Install Tidal Thames Habitat and Species Audit map and species information onto Thames WEB site	Sept 03	£1,000
Provide student bursaries for research studies to be developed through the Thames Estuary Research Forum.	2004	£500 per student
Feasibility study - examine options for wider GIS Tidal Thames Information System to be displayed on ThamesWEB site.	Jan 04	£5,000

Abbreviations

EAF Environmental Action Fund

BAG Biodiversity Action Group

PLA Port of London Authority

TEP Thames Estuary Partnership

TERF Thames Estuary Research Forum

Canals

Canals and Waterways in London provide an important refuge for water birds, bats, fish and many other species of aquatic life. They act as linear habitats, stretching through 15 London Boroughs, linking many wildlife sites together. Their character varies greatly from one stretch to another, but all are important to the local communities who live on either side, through offering a quiet space in the busy urban environment, with opportunities for recreation such as boating, angling and bird watching.

The quality of the canal environment varies greatly and is often under considerable pressure. Vandalism, rubbish, pollution, historic contamination, inappropriate development and the pressures of recreation may all cause problems. Balancing demands such as cycling, walking and boating, whilst also maintaining biodiversity, requires sensitive and careful management.



This action plan is a demanding programme to improve both the biodiversity interest and the wider aspects of the canal environment. It aims to engage the communities and schools along the corridor in environmental education. Much funding has already been achieved and considerable progress has already been made in implementation some of the actions, but further resources are needed. This action plan links well with a number of other plans, for example “Wasteland” which occurs alongside many stretches of canal, as well as the Black Redstart and Water Vole Species Action Plans. Partnerships are being forged and practical progress achieved for several plans simultaneously.

▪ ***Actions being implemented through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date or expected start
Collate wildlife information from BW national records, data from partners such as LRT, and London Water Vole project officer.	Ongoing process.
Undertake environmental appraisal of all projects and where possible influence development along the canal through EIA and planning control.	Ongoing process.
Identify best practice for control of invasive species drawing information from the EA, BW and the centre for aquatic plant management.	Ongoing process.

▪ ***Actions for which funding or part-funding has been secured***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contribution inc. staff time	Funds agreed
Develop partnership with the Zoological Society of London to enhance canal near London Zoo, linking local and global conservation	Started 2002	BW & ZSL	Funds partially secured.
Complete habitat improvements in accordance with British Waterways BAP. Identify the biodiversity value of three waterways; establish targets for action.	Lee / Stort 2004; London's canals 2005; Docklands 2006.	BW officer time and resources.	Some in-house funding; £5,000 needed for each plan.
Undertake canal corridor studies to explore wider environmental issues (e.g. landscape, safety, vandalism); identify possible improvements. Complete Enfield study; develop Park Royal study.	2003-4	BW and partners, staff and resources.	Some in-house funding; £5,000 per study needed.
Establish the biodiversity focus of events linked to waterway festivals, through interpretive materials and activities.	2003	BW Education and recreation officers	£4- 5,000 p.a. agreed. £5,000 more would help.
Support National Science week, through environmental education for schools. Grant sought to expand this work.	2003	BW Education officer plus resources.	A further £1,000 would help.
Produce a directory of canal related organisations in London, e.g. NGOs, community stakeholder groups, etc.	2004	Staff time	A further £2,000 needed

▪ ***Actions requiring funding***

Action	Projected start date	Ext. Funding required
Further collation of information on habitats, species and management history to build up baseline of data, linked to London Biological Records Centre.	2003	£2,000
From this develop a survey programme for key habitats and species (including fish and invertebrates). Based on £150/ day contract surveyor.	2003	£10,000 p.a. for 3 yrs
Undertake audit of problem species e.g. Japanese knotweed; develop strategic approach to management	2003	£10,000
Produce Japanese Knotweed guidance note e.g. for developers and engineers	2003	£1,000
Arrange a conference on biodiversity and canals.	2004	£5,000
Develop educational materials for floating classroom.	2003	£1,000
Create "reef areas" on sections of the canal, with opportunities for education e.g. pond dipping.	2003-4	£5,000 p.a.
Encourage development of "adopt a canal" groups, through small grants for local projects.	2003-5	£2,000 p.a. per group

Wastelands

London's wastelands can be stunning, offering a mosaic of species and communities at different stages of natural succession. They can also provide a valuable place for people living and working in areas that are short of accessible open space. They have potential for being made into safer, more accessible greenspace through positive management. Concentrations of wasteland survive particularly in the Thames Gateway, but Government policy targets such sites for development. Many have already been lost.



The image of industrial decline and anti-social activity creates a negative public image of wasteland. This extends into the conservation sector and consequently, research and evaluation has lagged behind that of other habitats. It is therefore a major challenge to raise awareness of this habitat's value among decision-makers and the public and to promote management for biodiversity and safe, enjoyable access.

In 2002 London Wildlife Trust produced a report highlighting the value of brownfield land for people and wildlife and English Nature will be publishing an advisory note on brownfield biodiversity in 2003. Recent workshops on brownfield invertebrates and rubble roofs also highlight the issues to targeted audiences. At the Creekside Centre, opened in Deptford in 2002, new landscaping is dominated by crushed brick and concrete to encourage natural colonisation by local plants and animals and thereby reflect the distinctive character of the Deptford landscape.

▪ ***Actions requiring funding***

Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
Advice to landowners and managers on the management of temporarily vacant land for wasteland wildlife, if possible with access for people: produce, promote and distribute on-line and hard copy pack with advice on practical management to maintain wildlife value.	2003	£3,500
Produce good practice guide for evaluating brownfield wildlife, and promote to environmental consultants. Cost includes research and collating existing information, design and distribution as '1-stop' web-based package.	2003	£4,000
Identify key wasteland sites that support species of regional and national conservation importance. Disseminate to London Brownfields Forum and other relevant parties. Costs include fieldwork plus desktop study.	2004	£6,000

Species Action Plans

Grey Heron

Grey herons (*Ardea cinerea*) are easily recognised and appreciated by most Londoners. However, they are often mistakenly known as 'stork' or 'crane'. They are at the top of the freshwater food chain and their presence can indicate a healthy habitat. Increases in fish stocks following improvements in the Thames and its tributaries have led to a plentiful food supply, allowing herons to increase and spread. The recent run of mild winters has also helped, as numbers can decline sharply in severe winters. London is a hotspot for herons. Back in 1985 a British Trust for Ornithology Census found three heronries in London, totalling 114 nests. But by 2000, this had increased to 16 heronries with 302 nests.



Despite the species' clear adaptation to the urban environment, heronries, day roosts and foraging habitat remain vulnerable to disturbance. The most vulnerable period is while birds are sitting on eggs, which may be as early as February. Discarded fishing line is also a threat. This action plan aims to maintain the current number of heronries, to develop and implement an ongoing research and monitoring programme and to generate an awareness of grey herons and their needs by the general public.

▪ ***Actions being implemented mainly through existing work programmes***

Action	Start / expected start
Develop programme to monitor breeding success at selected heronries	2001, ongoing
Monitor population through monthly Wetland Bird Survey data	2001, ongoing
Protect trees in all current heronries through Tree Preservation Orders, where they may be threatened.	2003
Pilot grey heron action day where public can view young in nest	2002

▪ ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
Hold public grey heron day at five or more London sites.	2004	£2,000 p.a.
Produce habitat management booklet for heronries	2004	£2,000
Research viability of artificial nest platforms. If found to be successful promote platforms at suitable sites	2004	£500 per platform
Identify important day roosts focussing along the Thames	2003	£1,000

Peregrine

Peregrines are iconic birds - large powerful falcons that evoke the 'wildness' of the uplands and rocky coastlines. They have only recently begun breeding in London, utilising the facades of large buildings which mimic their more typical cliff-ledge nest-sites. Their presence epitomises the wilder side of London and demonstrates that nature is not excluded from urban areas.



Despite their ability to establish a foothold in London, it will require a considerable amount of awareness-raising and practical conservation measures (of nest-sites in particular) to ensure that peregrines maintain a presence here.

This action plan aims to provide practical help and advice to owners and managers of buildings and structures where the species nests or roosts. It also aims to raise awareness of the presence of peregrines in the skies over London as proof of the relevance of nature conservation even in the heart of the city.

▪ *Actions being implemented through existing work programmes*

Action	Start/ expected start
Contact proprietors of buildings where peregrines display or nest of their own accord within 1 month of discovery.	Ongoing
Contact proprietors of other suitable buildings in appropriate locations and encourage them to install nest boxes	Ongoing
Monitor known breeding pairs	Ongoing

▪ *Actions requiring external funding*

Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
Install nest-boxes at suitable sites	When sites become available	£1,000 per box (including erection)
Establish a web-cam to view nest boxes	When secure nest is established	£2,000 (incl. web-site link)
Establish a viewing point where people can watch peregrines at a nest (including temporary or permanent interpretation material)	When suitable pair is established	£1,000-£3,000 (dependent on location)

Reptiles

Reptiles, associated in most people's minds with warmer climes, are reasonably widespread in London. No doubt the 'heat island' effect of the city combined with a still significant number of 'wasteland' sites make parts of the capital a relatively reptile-friendly environment. Grass snakes are locally common in many outer boroughs though populations are declining due to habitat fragmentation and loss. Adders (London's only other native snake) are now rare, confined to a few sites. Common lizards and slow-worms are widespread in outer London, with isolated populations further in, especially on allotments, railway embankments and 'brownfield' sites.



Development pressure and the increasing isolation of core populations pose threats to reptiles. This action plan aims to update our knowledge of reptile distribution in London; to promote reptile conservation to landowners, land managers and the public and to maintain a viable adder population in London.

▪ *Actions being implemented through existing work programmes*

Action	Expected start
Include reptile tick-box (or similar) in public surveys of garden biodiversity	Ongoing
Produce and distribute advice note on reptile conservation in relation to planning issues for planners and developers	2001

▪ *Actions for which funding or part-funding has been secured*

Action	Start date	Main in kind contributions	Funds agreed
Collate existing adder records; survey likely sites, including the 5-10 sites where adders have been recorded. Survey other likely sites. Investigate habitat management work to encourage adders.	2003 ->	EN	£5,000 (EN). £10,000 needed.

▪ *Actions requiring external funding*

Action	Projected start date	Funding required
Update existing reptile leaflets for the public	2003	£3,000
Publish Herpetofauna Atlas for Greater London – text to be drafted in house; cost is mainly printing.	2004/5	£10,000

Water Vole

The water vole is a priority for protection in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Where it survives, it is one of the few British wild mammals that can be easily seen and enjoyed by the public, since it is often active in the daytime. It has strong cultural associations through 'Ratty' in *'Wind in the Willows'*. The population has declined sharply across much of the UK since the 1930s, and particularly since the 1980s, as a result of habitat degradation and loss and predation by mink. The species has been lost from many London boroughs, but localised populations survive in about 13 outer boroughs.



A project officer, funded by the Environment Agency, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, British Waterways, London Development Agency and London Wildlife Trust has been developing a programme of conservation since 2001. Initial work included collating existing records and identifying key populations and sites where survey should be focused. Advice on conservation and habitat management has been given to local authorities and developers. Work has also taken place with pest controllers, raising awareness of problems associated with rats and water voles and advising on rat control in riverside habitats. Opportunities for re-introduction are also being investigated. A small population has become established at the WWT Barnes Wetland Centre, which is already providing an opportunity for visitors to enjoy this likeable mammal. Funding is now sought to extend this work.

▪ **Actions requiring funding**

Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Undertake systematic survey of selected rivers in London, including contribution to river conservation strategies for this species.	2003	£2,000 approx for each river
Create interpretation material e.g. signs or leaflets for nature reserves and country parks where the species occurs.	2003	Signs - £500/site Leaflets - £500
Develop an education pack, linked to Wildlife Watch, for schools and environmental education centres, incl. posters & activities.		£1,000 (design and printing)
Undertake riverbank improvements for water voles, including planting of appropriate vegetation, scrub clearance and creation of refuge sites. Costs will vary from site to site.	2004	£2,000 – £10,000 per site

Bats

Bats are highly adapted flying mammals –the only mammals to have evolved powered flight. At least eight species are known to breed in Greater London. They are generally only seen at dusk and their nocturnal habits have resulted in various popular misconceptions and misplaced fear. Horror films and the media quoting fiction as fact have not helped this tainted image. British bats eat only insects. They consume a huge number and variety – a single pipistrelle can eat 3,000 midges in a night.



With the historic loss of their natural roost sites in woodland, bats became adapted to living in buildings, and some Londoner's are surprised to discover unexpected lodgers in the roof during the breeding season. Much conservation effort focuses on encouraging people's tolerance and goodwill.

Bats are an excellent indicator of the quality of our environment, as they are highly sensitive to environmental changes. Their decline should thus be of major concern to us all. Although they are among the most protected of species of British wildlife legally, disturbance of bats and destruction of roosts still goes on. Less direct threats come from changes in land use, leading to loss of feeding habitat, and disruption to flight-paths by development and floodlighting. Recent repeat census work found that there has been a significant decline in London's bats since the mid 1980s, especially affecting the rarer species.

The place of bats in London is promoted by the London Bat Group, London Wildlife Trust, English Nature and local authorities. Guided bat walks, illustrated talks and training are on offer to an enthusiastic public. Leaflets and other publications are also widely available.

▪ *Actions being implemented through existing work programmes plus volunteers*

Action	Expected start
Collate current and historical records	Ongoing
Write a Bat Advice Note for planners	2001
Maintain co-ordinated Guided Bat Walks programme	Ongoing
Ensure that suitable roost sites are in optimal condition to receive bats.	Ongoing
Identify potential sites for roost creation opportunities	Ongoing
Establish long-term pipistrelle monitoring project, as part of National Monitoring Project by Bat Conservation Trust	2003
Run training courses in bat detection – led mainly by volunteers, but supported by staff and admin facilities of BCT	2003
Run training courses for potential Guided Bat Walk leaders – led mainly by volunteers but supported by staff and admin facilities of BCT	2003

▪ ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
'Bat box' bat detectors for survey work 5 x £200	2003	£1,000
Create new roost opportunities on (40-x) identified sites. Roost structures vary from a collection of simple bat boxes through grilles or tunnel conversions to elaborate hibernacula. The cost thus varies from c £50.00 to several thousand ££ per site, depending upon the target species, site potential and what is considered appropriate.	2003	£45,000
Set up programme of training for bat box inspection and roost visitor licences. £350 per session to allow for two trainers working together.	2003	£350 per session
Commission and complete new research, including field studies, into link between urban bat ecology and artificial light (PhD project)	2005	£30,000
Produce and distribute Bat Advice Note for planners	2003	£2,000

Sand Martin

The sand martin is the smallest of Britain's swallow family. A common summer visitor to England, it starts arriving from its winter retreat in sub-Saharan Africa from mid to late March. The UK's breeding population is recovering from several major population crashes following droughts in the Sahel area of Africa in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Sand martins catch their insect prey in flight, usually over water. They breed colonially in tunnels dug into steep riverbanks and cliffs. However, they are remarkably adaptable and can be found nesting in gravel pits, canal banks and even drainpipes set in walls. In the 1998 London Bird Report, seven colonies were identified in Greater London. Their breeding sites beside urban waterways provide excellent opportunities for Londoners to view this fascinating bird.



This Action Plan aims to protect and enhance London's sand martin population. One of the key actions is to create three new artificial breeding sites per year for five years. This should help to ensure an increasing number of sand martins breeding in London and a better opportunity for local people to experience these long-distant migrants at a variety of new locations.

▪ ***Actions to be implemented through existing work programme plus volunteers***

Action	Start date/ expected start
Continue monitoring of sand martins in London through Breeding Bird and Waterways Bird Surveys	Ongoing
Collate existing information on known breeding sites	Ongoing
Coordinate targeted breeding sand martin survey, particularly on canals and Thames	Ongoing
Produce and disseminate a best practice advice note on managing sand martin breeding sites (EA)	Completed and distributed 2002

▪ ***Actions requiring funding***

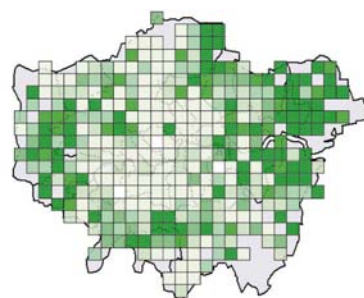
Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
Create 3 artificial breeding sites per year for 5 years. Cost varies depending on site and facilities.	2003 onwards	£1,000- 20,000 per site

House Sparrow

Until about 15 years ago the house sparrow was one of the commonest birds in London and a regular visitor to garden bird tables. However, in recent years the population has declined dramatically. In 2002, as numbers across the UK fell below 50% of their level 25 years ago, the species was placed on the UK 'Red List'. The decline has been particularly severe in London.



To improve our understanding of house sparrows in London, a public participation survey was organised in the summer of 2002. More than 9,000 Londoners took part. From these results it has become clear that the status of house sparrows varies greatly from one part of London to another. Analysis is now being undertaken to look for possible correlations with air quality, housing and other environmental factors.



Average number of sparrows recorded per home; the darker the colour the more birds were recorded.

Concern about sparrows has moved on from being seen largely as a local issue to one of national concern. The British Trust for Ornithology and the RSPB have embarked upon major research. One of the RSPB's proposals is to set up a large number of nestboxes, through which to track the breeding success of individual pairs. The London house sparrow group will now focus its efforts on support for elements of the national initiatives that are based in the capital, through providing local knowledge and practical support, as well as contributing to fund-raising.

▪ ***Actions being implemented through existing work programmes***

Action	Start date
Collate existing information on house sparrow decline.	2001
Establish links with research projects	2001

▪ ***Action which has been funded and completed already***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions	Funds provided
Carry out public participation survey of house sparrows in London	2002	RSPB, GLA, LWT, LNHS	Awards for All £4,517; LNHS £250

▪ ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Start date	Funding required
Contribute to fund-raising for London-based research projects	2004	£15, 000

Black Redstart

The black redstart is a rare breeding bird, which is predominantly found in our cities. London is one its most important strongholds in the UK. This species has become a flagship for brownfield ecology as it tends to breed on wastelands and post-industrial sites, which are often the target for new development. However, development and conservation are not necessarily opposed, if the goodwill is there and opportunities are taken to consider new approaches. This species has now become an icon for encouraging green roofs in London.



This action plan has been cited as an example of good practice in the England Biodiversity Strategy and in 'Sustainable Development – the UK Government's Approach'. Our website www.blackredstarts.org.uk is generating much interest both in London and beyond.

▪ *Actions being implemented through existing work programmes*

Action	Start date or expected start
Co-ordinate black redstart survey in London	2001
Collate black redstart data in London and map in GIS form	2001

▪ *Actions for which funding or part-funding has been secured*

Action	Start date	Main in kind contributions (staff or vols)	Funds agreed
Research into value of green roves for black redstarts and brownfield invertebrates – PhD project based at Royal Holloway College.	April 2003	D. Gedge	£2,000 p.a. BW; £3,500 p.a. CWML; Other companies are considering
Survey to investigate rooftop use by nesting birds in the City & Isle of Dogs	2004	D. Gedge	CWML £500; Corp. of Lond. £500 £1,000 needed

▪ *Actions requiring funding*

Action	Start date	Ext. funding required
Part time project officer to coordinate this action plan	ASAP	£15,000 p.a.
Produce examples of green roofs for black redstarts on existing buildings (retro fitting)	ASAP	£60,000
Extend field survey of black redstarts in London	2003/04	£10,000

Tower Mustard

Tower mustard (*Arabis glabra*) is a biennial plant of disturbed habitats on free-draining, sandy soils. It has smooth, grey-green leaves and very pale yellow flowers. It is nationally scarce and declining, and known from only about 30 sites in England. Its rarity and undistinguished appearance mean this species does not often touch the public consciousness. There is one large population in London, at Stain Hill Reservoir near Hampton. This is one of the largest populations in the UK, surpassed only by a couple of East Anglian sites. This site is in secure ownership and management, which this plan seeks to maintain. Other historical records have been traced, but none appear suitable for population restoration. The plan will therefore look to other ways to contribute to research and targets for population creation.



▪ **Actions requiring funding**

Action	Start date	External funding required
Ensure the protection and management of Stain Hill Reservoir population, e.g. through scrub control, grassland management, scarification of ground and grazing.	Ongoing	£1,000 p.a. for five years (estimate only)
Ensure population data is collected annually from Stain Hill for BSBI Threatened Plants Database. Costs include site visit by consultant, surveys and data entry by volunteers, plus representation by Plantlife at UK Tower Mustard SAP group	Ongoing	£1,000 p.a. for five years
Ensure that seed from Stain Hill is stored in the Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place. Costs include travel and staff time.	Ongoing	£300 p.a. for five years
Conduct feasibility study into establishment of a population at Kew Gardens, to serve as a demonstration plot and seed source. Costs include establishment of plot, public interpretation, management and survey.	Ongoing	Plot establishment plus interpretation £2,500 Ongoing management, monitoring and data input £1,000 p.a.
Establish a public demonstration plot and wild population at WWT Wetland Centre, plus suitable interpretation and monitoring.	Ongoing	Establishment + interpretation £2,500 Management + monitoring £1,000 p.a.
Establish further plots / populations at Crossness or Kempton Park Nature Reserve.	Ongoing	As above example at WWT.

Black Poplar

Until recently the native black poplar (*Populus nigra* ssp. *betulifolia*) was largely a forgotten tree. Where it occurred it was just assumed to be one of the several types of hybrid poplars that can be found in many open spaces in London. The true native black poplar is a very scarce species, and usually found in wet areas, typically along side streams and rivers. It is characterised by its large and ungainly appearance with massively arching, down-curved branches and heavily burred, often leaning trunk.

An action plan is needed for this species because of its rarity, generally elderly age profile and likely inability to reproduce sexually due to genetic pollution from hybrid poplars. It will probably be reliant for some time on the planting of cuttings.



▪ *Actions being implemented through existing work programmes*

Action	Start date/ expected start
Safeguard existing trees by ensuring TPO protection where possible.	2004
Increase knowledge of the species' distribution, management and history in London	2002
Explore past and possible uses of black poplar wood	2003
Disseminate information on location, cultural history and management to landowners and managers	2003
Set up a suitable record system for planted trees	2003
Plant new trees from local stock in existing and new locations	2010
Establish a longer term planting scheme to ensure a balanced age structure	2010

- ***Actions being implemented through ongoing work programmes with financial contributions anticipated from existing partners***

Action	Start date	Major in kind contributions inc. staff time	Funds agreed
Survey London black poplars and establish their sex. Phase one: boroughs in NE London	Ongoing	LTOA, FC, GLA LNHS, LAs, LWT	£800 (FE)
Map results of this and future surveys in GIS	2003	LWT	None yet agreed
Increase numbers of black poplars by establishing a nursery for London-sourced black poplars	2003	LVRPA, LWT, LA	None yet agreed

- ***Actions requiring external funding***

Action	Projected start date	External funding required
Survey London black poplars and establish their sex. Phase two: NW, SW and SE London. 15 days consultant	Ongoing	£3,000
Increase numbers of black poplars in London through laboratory research involving DNA sequencing of chloroplasts, leading to attempts to increase the number of clones. Also examine genotype of other poplar species and hybrids. 14 days laboratory work at NHM plus costs.	2003	£3,440
Establish a Clone Bank in Lea Valley Regional Park (costs include site clearance, fencing, posts etc)	2004	£3,000
Establish a long term planting scheme including cuttings from local stock and/or new clones through community tree planting days (£250 per day x 8).	2008	£2,000

Mistletoe

Mistletoe is well known for its festive use. It occurs naturally as a parasite of deciduous trees; for example, cultivated apples, hybrid limes, hawthorn and willows. Its status in London is fairly well-known, thanks to a survey by Plantlife and the Botanical Society of the British Isles in the 1990s. It occurs in 20 of the London boroughs, though for many there are only a few records. The most central are a single plant each in Lambeth and Westminster. The main strongholds seem to be around Bushy Park and Hampton Court in the south-west and Myddelton House and Forty Hall in Enfield.



This Action Plan aims to increase the mistletoe population in London, through a careful programme of berry harvesting and introduction that reflects the current distribution. Work has begun at Enfield Lock and Chelsea Physic Garden. Future possible high profile locations include the Wetland Centre, Osterley Park and Buckingham Palace Gardens. The promotion of mistletoe to landowners, and the involvement of the public is seen as a key activity. We are also investigating the status of mistletoe-dependant insects in London.

▪ *Actions being implemented through existing work programmes*

Action	Expected start
Determine past and present distribution in London; collate existing data, validate as needed and input into local databases.	Ongoing
Review knowledge of mistletoe in other UK and European cities	Ongoing
Select sites for introducing mistletoe; establish at 'first round' of sites.	2001/3
Establish status of mistletoe related insect species in London.	2003/4
Publicise mistletoe to highlight wider biodiversity issues in London.	Ongoing

▪ *Actions requiring external funding*

Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
Establish monitoring system in London: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ detailed monitoring (by dedicated volunteers), ▪ and/or wider monitoring by the general public. The latter will require leaflets & web-site publicity.	2003/4; 2004/5 public survey	£3,000 approx.
Produce and distribute leaflet with information about mistletoe conservation for landowners.	2003/4	£3,000

Stag Beetle

The stag beetle is the country's largest ground-living beetle and a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Its common name comes from the male's distinctive large antler-shaped jaws. Dead and rotting wood is important for its life cycle. Eggs are laid next to rotting logs, tree stumps or timber and the larvae spend up to seven years in the wood, slowly growing in size.



The London region is nationally important for the UK stag beetle population. The species is rarely found in the city centre due to a lack of suitable habitat. 'Hotspots' are in the west, south and east. Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common and Epping Forest are designated candidate Special Areas for Conservation (European significant wildlife sites), with stag beetles as a recognised feature of the designation.

Previous public surveys in 1997-2000, carried out by the London Wildlife Trust with a range of partners, led to a substantial database and an indication of the species' distribution in London. The survey received good media coverage, and hopefully stimulated public awareness and increased understanding of the species. A repeat public survey, particularly targeting areas with gaps in the data, would improve the database for conservation as well providing a publicity opportunity. An advice note produced by London Wildlife Trust, in consultation with the People's Trust for Endangered Species, and part funded by English Nature, has been distributed to relevant London borough councils (e.g. planning, arboriculture, and parks officers). An updated note including information on artificial nestboxes and monitoring is now required that targets other land managers and landscape designers.

▪ ***Actions requiring funding***

Action	Projected start date	Ext. funding required
Undertake public-led survey targeted at gaps in the current distribution database. (Project officer for 4 months; promotion, data entry and reporting).	2005	£7,000
Information pack for arboriculturalists & landscape designers on conservation of stag beetles and installation and monitoring of nestboxes & loggeries	2003	£4,500
Establish monitoring baseline of successful nestboxes and loggeries (researcher's time)	Ongoing	£1,000
Continued monitoring of selected nestboxes and loggeries to increase understanding of beetle's ecology and lifecycle (researcher's time)		£5,000

Abbreviations used in this report

BAG	Biodiversity Action Group for the tidal Thames
BHET	Bridge House Estates Trust
BM	British Museum
BSBI	Botanical Society of the British Isles
BW	British Waterways
CG	Common Ground
CWML	Canary Wharf Management Limited
EA	Environment Agency
EAF	Environmental Action Fund
LA	Local Authorities
LWT	London Wildlife Trust
LVRPA	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
LNHS	London Natural History Society
LTOA	London Tree Officers Association
NHM	Natural History Museum
PAN	Pesticides Action Network
PLA	Port of London Authority
RBGK	Royal Botanical Gardens Kew
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
TEP	Thames Estuary Partnership
TFL	Trees for London
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

Photo credits

Cover	R Thames, Vauxhall City Farm, Swan, I Yarham; Water vole, Peregrine, A Fisher
Page ii	Children at West Reservoir Centre, Hackney, S Bain
1	Pond at Vauxhall City Farm, I Yarham
2	Cross-leaved heath, M Waite; Black redstart, C Churchill
4	St John's Wood Church Grounds, J Hewlett; Chalk grassland, M Waite; Water Vole, A Fisher; House sparrow, M Senior
6	Children at Keyworth School, S Bain
7	Grey Heron Day at Battersea Park, V Selby
12	Russell Square, M Waite
14	Cemetery, M Frith
16	Garden flowers, S Bain
18	Monken Hadley Woods, J Hewlett
20	Mouse-eared hawkweed, N Reeve
22	Cross-leaved heath, M Waite
24	River Thames foreshore, I Yarham
26	Grand Union Canal, British Waterways
28	Wasteland, P Harvey
30	Heron by canal, British Waterways
31	Peregrine, A Fisher
32	Adder, LWT
33	Water vole, A Fisher
34	Pipistrelle bat, H Clark, Bat Conservation Trust
36	Sand martin, N Holmes
37	House sparrow, M Senior
38	Black redstart, C Churchill
39	Tower mustard, R Bullock
40	Black poplar catkins, J Farrell
42	Mistletoe, T Drakeford
43	Stag beetle, T Drakeford

Appendix

London Biodiversity Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Relating to the establishment and functioning of the London Biodiversity Partnership – and the development and implementation of the London Biodiversity Action Plan

Signatories

The Mayor of London	London Wildlife Trust
Association of London Government	London Wildcare
BTCV	Natural History Museum
British Waterways	Peabody Trust
CIP	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Countryside Agency	Royal Parks
English Nature	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Environment Agency	Thames Estuary Partnership
Forestry Commission	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Lee Valley Park Authority	University College London
London Boroughs and the City	West London Alliance, and
London First	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
London Natural History Society	Zoological Society of London
London Underground Ltd	

The Partnership was established to co-ordinate the conservation of the capital's wildlife and natural places for future generations to benefit from and enjoy. However, despite considerable success to date, the London Biodiversity Partnership needs to operate more effectively if the full potential of biodiversity action planning is to be realised.

This Memorandum aims to make the delivery of biodiversity conservation in London more effective. It acknowledges the importance to the quality of life of Londoners, of working together through the London Biodiversity Partnership towards the implementation of the London Biodiversity Action Plan. It also recognises the importance of a network of Borough and Corporate Biodiversity Action Plans for the local delivery of biodiversity action.

The London Biodiversity Partnership was established in 1996 with the launch of the introductory document *Capital Assets*. The employment of a Project Officer from 1999 enabled significant progress to be made. Volume 1 of the London Biodiversity Action Plan, '*The London Biodiversity Audit*', was published with the prospectus '*Our Green Capital*' in 2000 – and Volume 2, '*The Action*' was published in 2001. The Partnership is funded via a grant from the Bridge House Estates Trust Fund until January 2002.

Through the London Biodiversity Action Plan process, the parties will work together to deliver targeted action for London's priority habitats, species and key generic issues. The parties will work towards the Aim and Terms of Reference of the Partnership as laid out in the Annex. For work related to the Action Plan, the parties will promote the Partnership in addition to their own achievements for biodiversity.

The Partnership recognises that the employment of dedicated staff is essential to making the Partnership work more effectively, and to build and develop the Partnership by attracting a more

representative cross-section of members. The Partnership will endeavour to have independent dedicated staff and to broaden its representation.

There will be a budget of £35,000 in 2001-2002 and the Partnership will endeavour to at least maintain the value of the budget in subsequent years.

The Project Board and dedicated Partnership staff will be the main co-ordinating forces of the Partnership, though decisions will be focused at the working group level. Representation from the London boroughs will be provided at all levels through the London Borough Biodiversity Forum and the Association of London Government. There will be biannual open meetings for the wider Partnership and places will be available to observers at every Partnership meeting, by agreement of the chair. The Partnership will maintain a chair to act as a figurehead, spokesperson and lead. The Structure and function of the Partnership is described in the Annex.

This agreement may be varied by agreement between the parties.

Annex

Structure and function of the London Biodiversity Partnership

The Partnership will meet as a whole at least twice annually, convened by the Chair. Decisions are made by the various Working Groups, co-ordinated by a Project Board chaired by a representative of The Mayor of London. The Board contains representatives from the London Boroughs via the London Borough Biodiversity Forum, The Association of London Government, BTCV, British Waterways Ltd, English Nature, London Underground Ltd, London Wildlife Trust, Royal Parks, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Thames Water Utilities Ltd, and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

The London Biodiversity Project Officer co-ordinates events involving the whole Partnership. Individual Working Group chairs and the Project Board chair are responsible for arranging and co-ordinating their respective meetings and reporting on the outcomes.

Aim and Terms of Reference

The UK was one of 150 countries that signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The UK's Biodiversity Action Plan, produced in 1994 in response to the Rio commitment, highlighted the importance of local action and set up the UK Biodiversity Steering Group. The UK Steering Group's report was published in 1995 and contained a number of targets and proposals for the conservation of biodiversity in the UK. It identified Local Biodiversity Action Plans as the best way forward for the conservation of biodiversity at all levels and the implementation of national targets.

Biodiversity Action Plans are a tool for setting targeted objectives and action for biodiversity. These actions are set and implemented through a consensus-led approach that aims to involve a cross-section of organisations and individuals that affect, or are affected by, nature conservation.

The central business of the Partnership is to work together for the benefit of priority habitats and species in London, whilst broadening the involvement of organisations and individuals in conservation.

Aim

The aim of the Partnership together is to conserve and enhance the capital's wildlife and natural places for future generations to benefit from and enjoy.

Terms of Reference

1. To establish an effective, participatory and representative partnership to produce and implement the London Biodiversity Action Plan. The Partnership will promote any action necessary to achieve this, including the securing of funds and the employment of staff.
2. To encourage and support borough and corporate Biodiversity Action Plans by providing guidance, advice and a strategic framework.

3. To maintain an audit of London's priority species and habitats, to inform priority setting at London-wide and local levels.
4. To ensure that a London Biodiversity Action Plan is published and implemented, covering all priority habitats and species and incorporating a mechanism for monitoring and review. The Action Plan will identify and guide action needed for London's priority habitats, species and generic issues, as well as those identified in the UK Action Plan.
5. To promote public awareness and interest in London's biodiversity through the Action Plan, in order to increase the involvement people's involvement in conservation.
6. To act as a forum for the sharing of expertise and information connected to biodiversity action planning.

Signatures

The parties accord with this Memorandum and agree with the London Biodiversity Partnership's Structure, Function, Aim and Terms of Reference as laid out in the Annex.

Signed by the Parties to this Agreement:

Name
Position
Organisation
Signature **Date**

Name Dr David Goode
Position Chair of the London Biodiversity Partnership



Date 14 December 2001

Working Together for Wildlife

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS: HABITAT ACTION PLANS										TYPE OF PROJECT									
	Target date	Enhancing green space in areas of need	Improving accessibility to London's greenspace	Outreach, events and interpretation	Survey involving the public	Contributes to urban regeneration	Sustainable development	Contributes to UK BAP priority	Improving habitat management	Habitat creation	Management advice or training	Survey - professional	Other research	Site protection and planning	Site acquisition	Other	EXTERNAL FUNDING REQUIRED		
Parks Amenity Grassland and City Squares																			
Organise conference on enhancing biodiversity value of parks	2004										✓						£7,000		
Audit of recent biodiversity projects & problems, to inform future action	2003/4	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓				£10,000		
If appropriate following this, establish funded programme of biodiversity enhancements	?	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓							to be determined		
Commission 'Welcome Survey' in parks & greenspaces, following student project	2004		✓										✓				£25, 000		
Wildlife survey of garden squares leading to best practise leaflet	2004								✓			✓					£18, 000		
Exchange of best practice on contract specifications via email or web link	2003										✓						£1,000		
Develop habitat management handbook, with London case studies	2006		✓								✓		✓				£15, 000		
Churchyards and Cemeteries																			
Develop web-based database on burial ground information	2003												✓			✓	to be determined		
Organise popular survey of burial grounds	2005				✓												£12,000		
Organise series of workshops for site managers	2005										✓						£1,000		
Appoint part-time project officer for sacred sites	2005	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓			✓		✓	£20,000		
Promotional leaflet: management for ferns and lichens	2003										✓						£3,000		
Promotional leaflet on accessible sites	2005		✓	✓													£3,000		
Review and update schools literature	2003			✓													£5,000		
Organise London-wide Action day	2006			✓	?												£2,000		
Gardens																			
Leaflet to promote accessible demonstration wildlife gardens	2004		✓	✓													£3,000		
Run informal wildlife gardens action day, with events at up to six sites	2004/5			✓													£3,000 /yr		
Organise popular London frog day	2004/5			✓													£3,000		
Interpretation at key wildlife gardens	2004			✓													£1,500/garden		
Provide up to six one day gardening for wildlife courses at range of venues	2004-6			✓							✓						£2,000		
Woodland																			
Improve London's woodlands through advice on management and accessibility	2004	✓	✓					✓	✓								£70,000		
Establish woodland planting programme in areas of woodland deficiency	ongoing	✓								✓					?		£380,000		
Promote woodland products; set up one new timber station in London	2005					✓	✓						✓		✓		£70,000		
Acid grassland																			
Carry out targetted invertebrate survey of selected sites	2004							✓				✓					£5,250		
Produce low-key interim guidance note on management for invertebrates	2003							✓	✓		✓						£2,000		
Following trial of the above, revise as high quality management guidance booklet	2005							✓	✓		✓						£5,000		
Heathland																			
Produce best practise heathland management guidelines for site managers	2003							✓	✓		✓						£6,000		
Implement heathland restoration strategy - targetted habitat restoration programme	2004->							✓	✓	✓	✓						£1,320-20,000/ha		
Produce promotional leaflet to raise awareness of the value of heathland	2004			✓				✓									£3,000		
Tidal Thames																			
Construct the Thames Observatory, a web-based information system for the public	2003			✓		✓	✓									✓	£1,750 p.a.		
Install habitat and species audit and species information ontoThamesWEB site	2003					✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	£1,000		
Feasibility study, options for wider Tidal Thames geo. info. system on Thames WEB site	2004/5					✓	✓						✓	✓		✓	£5,000		
Student bursaries for research studies	2004					✓	✓						✓				£500 per student		
Canals																			
Complete habitat improvements in accordance with BW Biodiversity Action Plan	2004-6	✓							✓								additional £15,000		
Complete series of wider environmental studies of canals	2003/4					✓	✓					✓					additional £10,000		
Support educational activities at waterways festivals and National Science Week	2003->			✓													additional £6,000		
Produce directory of canal-related organisations in London	2004			✓													£2,000		
Collate existing information on habitats, species and management history	2003->								✓				✓				£2,000		
Identify and implement survey programme where information is inadequate	2003->											✓					£10,000 p.a. /3 yrs		
Audit problem species; develop strategic approach to management	2003->					✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				£10,000		
Produce guidance note on Japanese knotweed	2003					✓	✓				✓						£1,000		
Arrange a conference on biodiversity in canals	2004					✓					✓						£5,000		
Develop educational materials for floating classroom 'Beauchamp'	2003			✓													£1,000		
Create 'reef' areas on apropriate stretches of canal e.g. for pond dipping	2003-4	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓							£5,000 p.a.		
Establish 'adopt a canal' scheme and 'Friends of' groups	2003-5			✓													£2,000/group		
Wasteland																			
Produce advice on management of temporarily vacant land for wasteland wildlife	2003/4					✓	✓		✓		✓						£3,500		
Produce good practice guide on evaluating wildlife of urban brownfields	2003/4					✓	✓					✓	✓			✓	£4,000		
Identify and promote key wasteland sites for species of conservation importance	2003					✓	✓	✓				✓					£6,000		

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS: SPECIES ACTION PLANS		TYPE OF PROJECT													EXTERNAL FUNDING REQUIRED
	Target date	Public outreach and interpretation	Survey involving the public	Contributes to urban regeneration	Contributes to sustainable development	Contributes to UK BAP priority	Habitat management	Habitat creation	Management advice or training	Professional or specialist survey	Research and data collation	Site protection and planning	Other		
Grey Heron															
Hold annual Heron Day where public can view young in nest	2004	✓												£2,000 p a	
Produce habitat management booklet for heronries	2004								✓					£2,000	
Research viability of artificial nest platforms, if appropriate construct platforms	2004										✓			£500 each	
Identify and assess importance of day roosts	2003									✓	✓			£1,000	
Peregrine															
Install nestboxes on appropriate buildings	when possible			✓				✓						£1,000 each	
Establish a web-cam to view nest box(es) on buildings		✓												£2,000	
Establish public viewing point of nest site with interpretation		✓												£1-3,000	
Reptiles															
Collate records of key sites for adders; survey known and likely adder sites.	2003->					✓				✓				£10,000	
Publish updated leaflet on reptiles for the public	2003	✓												£3,000	
Produce a herpetofauna atlas for London	2004/5	✓				✓				✓			✓	£10,000	
Water Vole															
Create interpretative signs or leaflets for sites where water voles occur	2003->	✓				✓								£500 each	
Create an education pack for schools with water vole activities	2003->	✓												£1,000	
Undertake systematic survey of selected rivers in London	2003->					✓				✓	✓			£2,000 per river	
Undertake riverbank improvements for water voles at range of London sites	2004->					✓	✓	✓						£2-10,000/site	
Bats															
Provide 5 additional 'bat box' detectors for survey work	2003									✓				£1,000	
Create new roost opportunities on up to 40 sites	2003->					✓		✓						£45,000	
Set up training programme for bat box inspection	2003					✓			✓	✓				£350/session	
Research effects of artificial lighting on bats	2005									✓	✓	✓		£30,000	
Produce and distribute bat advice note for planners	2003	✓										✓		£2,000	
Sand Martin															
Create and monitor three artificial nest sites a year for five years	2003->	✓						✓						£1,000-20,000/site	
House Sparrow															
Contribute towards costs of London-based research project on house sparrows	2004									✓	✓		✓	£15,000	
Black Redstart															
Appoint part-time black redstart project officer to coordinate this action plan	asap			✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	£15,000 p.a.	
Produce examples of green roofs designed for black redstarts on existing buildings	asap			✓	✓			✓						£60,000/site approx.	
Survey rooftop use by nesting birds in City and Isle of Dogs	2004									✓				additional £1,000	
Extend field survey in London (50 days fieldwork)	2003/4									✓				£10,000	
Tower Mustard															
Continue management of Tower Mustard population at Stain Hill	ongoing					✓	✓							£1,000 p.a. (5 years)	
Monitor and communicate data to BSBI Threatened Plants database	ongoing					✓				✓				£1,000 p.a. (5 years)	
Store seed from Stain Hill at Millenium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place	ongoing					✓							✓	£300 p.a. (5 years)	
Investigate feasibility of establishing a population at Kew Gardens	ongoing					✓		✓						£7,500 /over 5yr	
Establish public demonstration plot at the Wetland Centre Barnes	ongoing	✓				✓		✓						£7,500 /over 5yr	
Establish plot at Crossness or Kempton	ongoing	✓				✓		✓						£7,500 /over 5yr	
Native Black Poplar															
Phase 2 survey of black poplars in London, including sex of trees; map in gis	ongoing					✓				✓				£3,000	
Research to increase the number of clones in London using DNA sequencing	2003					✓					✓		✓	£3,440	
Establish a clone bank (nursery) from London stock	2004					✓		✓					✓	£3,000	
Establish planting scheme from local stock, with community tree planting days	2008	✓				✓	✓	✓					✓	£2,000	
Mistletoe															
Establish monitoring system for London with help of volunteers &/or the public	2003/4		✓			✓				✓				£3,000	
Produce leaflet with management advice on mistletoe for land owners	2003/4					✓			✓					£3,000	
Stag Beetle															
Undertake public survey targetting gaps in earliers surveys to confirm distribution	2005	✓	✓			✓								£7,000	
Produce & distribute information on stag beetle conservation, including loggeries	2003					✓	✓	✓	✓					£4,500	
Pilot loggery monitoring scheme	ongoing					✓				✓				£1,000	
Continue monitoring of selected loggeries to improve understanding of life history	ongoing					✓				✓	✓			£5,000	



MAYOR OF LONDON

