

Further Information

Doncaster Local Biodiversity Action Plan
January 2007



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2. Acronyms & Abbreviations

ASH	Ancient and Species Rich Hedgerows
AWI	Ancient Woodland Inventory
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AFM	Arable Field Margins
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BARS	Biodiversity Action Reporting System
BRC	Biological Records Centre
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
BW	British Waterways
CPRE	Council for the Protection of Rural England
CCT	Crags, Caves and Tunnels
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DBAP	Doncaster Biodiversity Action Partnership
DGBG	Don Gorge Bat Group
DGSP	Don Gorge Strategic Partnership
DMBC	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
DNS	Doncaster Naturalists' Society
DSP	Doncaster Strategic Partnership
EH	English Heritage
EN	English Nature, now Natural England
EA	Environment Agency
ESS	Environmental Stewardship Scheme
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
FC	Forestry Commission
GM	Genetically Modified
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOYH	Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
GW	Greenways
Ha	Hectares (a unit of measurement)
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HA	Highways Agency
IDB	Internal Drainage Board

LG	Limestone Grassland
LW	Limestone Woodland
LEAF	Linking Environment And Farming
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
HAG	Lowland Heathland / Acid Grassland Mosaic
LHW	Lowland Heathy Oak Woodland
LRM	Lowland Raised Mire
MLD	Marshes and Swamps, Lakes and Ponds, Ditches and Drains
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
NE	Natural England, (successor to English Nature)
NWG	Neutral and Wet Grassland
PWV	Parkland, Wood Pasture and Veteran Trees
PCT	Ponds Conservation Trust
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PIB	Post Industrial and Brownfield Land
RA	Ramblers Association
RB	Reedbeds
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Site
RCF	Rivers, Canals, Oxbows, Major Streams and Subsidence Flashes
RDS	Rural Development Service - Part of Department of Environment, food and rural affairs
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SAP	Species Action Plan
SFM	Minor Streams, Springs, Fens, Flushes, Mires and Fenny Fields
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SSI	Site of Scientific Interest
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPD/ SPG	Supplementary Planning Document – formerly Supplementary Planning Guidance
SPA	Special Protection Area

Spp	Species
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
THMCF	Thorne and Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UK BAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UG	Urban Greenspace
WW	Wet Woodland
WIGS	Woodland Improvement Grant Scheme
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme
YHA	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
YHBF	Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum
YNU	Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
YW	Yorkshire Water
YWT	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

3. Summary list of designations relevant to Biodiversity

International Sites

- Ramsar Sites (Ramsar Convention 1972)
- Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO 1970)
- Biogenetic Reserves (Ben Convention 1979)
- Word Heritage sites (UNESCO 1972)
- European sites (EC Habitats Directive 1992 and UK Habitats Regulations (1994)
 - Special areas of conservation SAC
 - Special protection areas SPA (Also EC Birds directive 1979)
 - Sites of community importance SCI
- Candidate /potential European sites
 - Candidate SACs
 - Potential SPAs

Nationally Designated Sites

- Sites of special scientific interest SSSI (Wild life and Countryside Act 1981/85)
- Nature Conservation Order (Wild life and Countryside Act 1981/85)
- Special Nature Conservation Order (Habitats Regulations 1994)
- Nature Conservation Review Sites NCR
- National Nature Reserves NNR (National Parks and Access to the countryside Act 1949 and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981/85)
- Marine Nature Reserves MNR (Wild life and Countryside Act 1981/85)
- Areas of Special Protection for Birds ASP (Wild life and Countryside Act 1981/85)
- Bird Sanctuaries (Protection of Birds Act 1954)
- National Parks (National Parks and Access to the countryside Act 1949 as amended)
 - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Parks and Access to the country side Act 1949 as amended)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Agriculture Act 1986 as amended)
- Natural Heritage Areas (Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act1991)

Locally Designated Sites

- Local Nature Reserves LNR (National Parks and Access to the countryside Act 1949)
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, known locally as Sites of Scientific Interest (SSIs)

4. Summary list of legislation relevant to Biodiversity

- Ground Game Act 1880
- The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- The Allotment Act 1952
- The Control of Weeds Act 1959
- The Forestry Act 1967 (amended)
- The Countryside Act 1968
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (Schedule 5 – relates to protected animals, Schedule 8 to plants).
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- The Planning and Compensation Act 1991.
- The Land Drainage Act 1994 (chapter 24).
- The Environment Act 1995
- The British Waterways Act 1995
- The Local Government Act 2000
- The countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Ragwort Control Act 2004
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (referred to as the Habitat Regulations). These are Regulations that put the Habitats Directive into UK law.
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of care) Regulations 1995.
- The Hedgerow regulations 1997.
- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999.
- Plans to bring uncultivated and semi-natural land into intensive agricultural use, require assessment for significant environmental impact Assessment (EIA) (Uncultivated Land) Regulations (2003)
- Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

Policy guidance

- The UK biodiversity Action plan 1994
- Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report 1995.
- National Planning Policy Guidance & specifically PPS9 – Biodiversity & Geological Conservation.
- Regional and Local Development Plan Policy
- Preparing Community Strategies: Government Guidance to Local Authorities (2000).

5. Doncaster Unitary Development Plan Policies

Doncaster's Local Development Framework (LDF) will, in the near future replace the Borough's current Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The environmental policies within the UDP are scheduled for review in 2007 as part of the new LDF process. A selection of the most relevant current policies is included below.

UDP Policy ENV 18

The Borough Council will promote the conservation and enhancement of the borough's landscape and seek to maintain local variations in the landscape. Wherever possible, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and other habitats of landscape importance together with valuable existing landscape features such as hedgerows and trees, copses, ponds, watercourses historical sites, estate features, enclosure landscapes, stone walls and other built heritage features will be protected and enhanced.

UDP Policy ENV 21

The Borough Council will seek to protect and conserve existing trees and woodlands through the use of tree preservation orders, by steering development away from trees and woodlands, by agreements with private land owners and through the management of its own woodland estate for which it will produce and implement management plans for each of its woodland holdings designed to maximise and integrate their nature conservation, amenity, recreation and economic potential.

UDP Policy ENV 22

The Borough Council will promote and actively pursue the planting of new woodlands of predominantly indigenous species through:

- Major planting programmes on Council-owned land including derelict land sites.
- Active support for the initiatives of private landowners, amenity/conservation groups, parish/town councils and others, particularly in areas which in terms of landscape and agricultural land quality are most suited to extensive tree planting.
- Requirements for new woodland planting and subsequent management attached to planning permissions for significant developments including large housing sites, mixed use regeneration projects, golf courses and other developments involving large land takes.
- Restoration schemes involving woodland planting (where appropriate) on minerals, waste disposal and derelict land sites.

UDP Policy ENV 41

Development likely to have an adverse effect either directly or indirectly on the conservation value of a Site of Scientific Interest (SSI), Local Nature Reserve or non-statutory reserve will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site. The amenity value of such sites to the local community will be taken into account when considering development proposals affecting them.

UDP Policy ENV 43

Development proposals in respect of non-designated sites containing natural features and supporting wildlife will be expected to conserve and enhance existing features of nature conservation interest and to maximise opportunities for creating new semi-natural habitats where such requirements can reasonably be included as part of site layouts and landscaping works.

UDP Policy ENV 44

The Borough Council will seek to protect and enhance networks of wildlife corridors and where possible, reinstate/create new wildlife corridors; planning permission will not normally be granted for development which would have a significant adverse effect on the functioning of such a corridor. Acceptable development within or adjacent to identified corridors should contribute to their operation through appropriate design, siting and landscaping.

UDP Policy ENV 45

The Borough Council will seek to declare further local nature reserves and to manage and promote them for their natural history, recreational and educational value.

UDP Policy ENV 47

The Borough Council will where appropriate secure the provision of nature conservation resources through the restoration of mineral workings and waste disposal sites.

UDP Policy ENV 48

In considering the reclamation or management of derelict or neglected land the Borough Council will take into account any existing or potential nature conservation interest in determining after uses and the design and implementation of the scheme.

UDP Policy ENV 49

The Borough Council will encourage the sensitive management of existing wildlife habitats, and the creation of new habitats through for example, the planting of trees and hedgerows using predominantly indigenous species. Wherever possible it will manage sites in its ownership to enhance their wildlife value.

UDP Policy ENV 51

The Borough Council will develop a nature conservation strategy to provide a co-ordinated approach to conserving and promoting the wildlife resources of the Borough. (This policy refers to the Doncaster Biodiversity Action Plan)

UDP Policy ENV 59

In considering proposals for new development the Borough Council will attach considerable importance to the need to protect existing trees, hedgerows, wetland habitats, watercourses and other natural landscape features and will require that new developments do not cause unnecessary loss of trees, nor imperil trees by building works.

6. Regional Spatial Strategy Policies

The new Regional Spatial Strategy for the Yorkshire and Humber Region is currently progressing through the various consultation and redrafting stages. The policies below are from the December 2005 draft and are therefore subject to change before the final strategy is adopted. Proposed biodiversity policies are included below.

RSS Policy ENV6

The Region will safeguard, manage and enhance its existing tree and woodland resource in line with the Regional Forestry Strategy, and in particular increase woodland area by approximately 500 Ha p.a to 2021. All Development plans, strategies, programmes and decisions should:

- Identify, safeguard and enhance ancient woodlands, especially in South and West Yorkshire
- Provide for increased woodland planting, especially in East, South and West Yorkshire, and Hull, and in upland catchments and most parts of functional floodplains
- Increase planting in urban areas, especially on previously developed land and on land by motorways and railways
- Improve public accessibility to and within woodlands in or near towns and cities
- Avoid large-scale coniferous forestry projects on the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer.

It should be noted that this policy has a monitoring target of No loss of ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees outside of protected woodland areas.

RSS Policy ENV7

Development of any agricultural land for non-agricultural use should take place on poorer agricultural land, wherever possible. Development on agricultural land will facilitate one or more of the following:

- Provision of renewable energy, especially biomass for co-firing in power stations in the Selby area
- Tourism, especially in the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, Humberhead levels and the coast
- Creation of woodland, especially in East, South and West Yorkshire
- Positive land management for flood alleviation, and increased water storage capacity on farms, especially in remoter rural areas
- Wildlife habitat creation schemes, especially links between habitats
- Recreation projects, especially in areas of poor health in South and West Yorkshire
- Local produce for sale on site of main farm business
- Local waste management schemes, such as composting.

RSS Policy ENV8

The Region will safeguard and enhance biodiversity and geological heritage, and ensure that the natural environment functions as an integrated network of habitats. All development strategies, plans, programmes and decisions will maintain and enhance, restore or add to distinctive elements of the natural environment in line with national, regional, sub regional and local importance for biodiversity, to:

- Maintain and restore natural processes, especially sediment flow on the Holderness coast and in the Humber Estuary
- Protect geological features, especially cave systems, karst landscapes and dinosaur remains on the East Coast
- Support the recovery of priority species and restore and enhance priority habitats and functional networks of biodiversity in the floodplains, peat lands and saline lagoons of the Humber, calcareous grasslands, heaths and bogs, limestone pavements and meadows, especially in North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire and South Yorkshire
- Retain and incorporate biodiversity in development and encourage networks of urban greenspace and ecological corridors in line with the Region's habitat enhancement map.

A habitat enhancement map associated with this policy is included in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy.



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