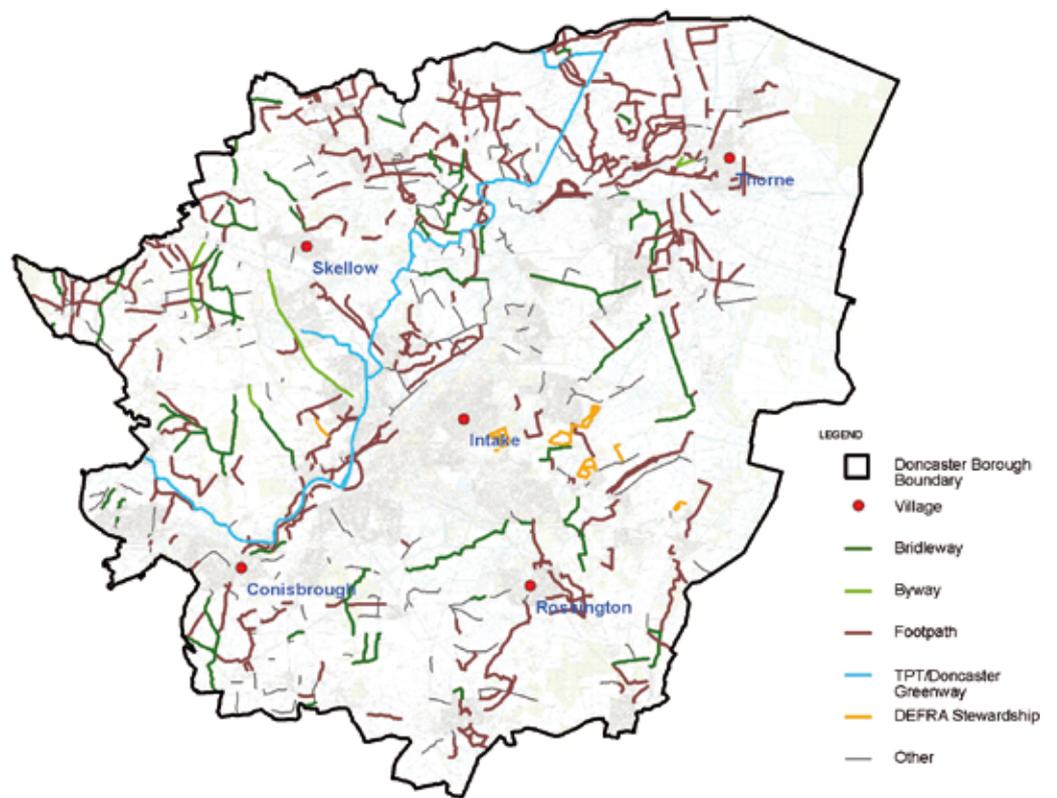


Greenways

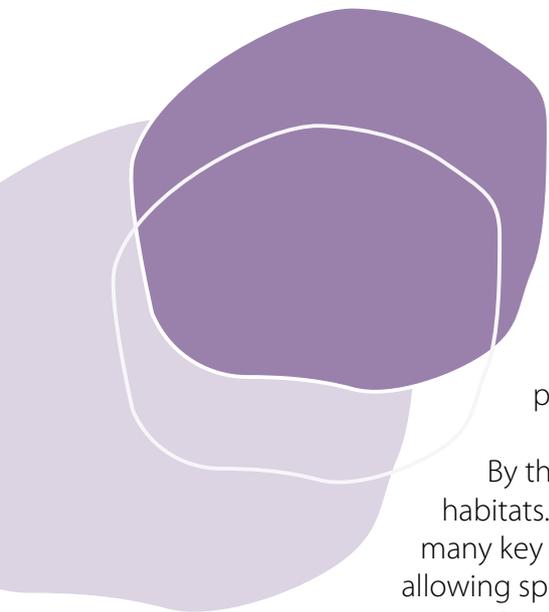
Summary Habitat Action Plan

Doncaster Local Biodiversity Action Plan
January 2007



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1 Habitat description

Greenways are essentially pedestrian, cycle, horse or in some cases vehicle routes away from the surfaced highway, connecting people to amenities, services and open spaces in and around towns, cities and the countryside. They are used for commuting, leisure and access to agricultural land and buildings and in some cases a historic right for vehicle access is in place, i.e. a byway, but greenways are rarely managed for this purpose as such uses have in many cases ceased.

By their very nature greenways provide wildlife corridors and linear habitats. Habitat fragmentation is a major factor causing the decline of many key biodiversity species; wildlife corridors are a way of linking habitats, allowing species to move between otherwise isolated areas and colonise new sites. Such corridors can also provide shelter, food and breeding sites.

Hedgerows are often linked with greenways and are important for mammals such as bats (Whiskered, Natterer's, Brown long eared, Noctule, Brandt's, Daubenton's, Pipistrelle, and Leisler's), voles and mice; insects and for nesting, foraging or hunting birds such as kestrels and barn owls.

Whilst similar to hedgerows, greenways can provide a different variety of habitat types, including tall grassland, short grassland, bare ground, scrub, tree lines, ditch lines and wet mud, rubble or gravel substrates. Such variety provides niches for more specialist species and creates a diverse assemblage of species as a whole.

2 Characteristic Species

Flamingo moss
Field garlic
Stinking chamomile
Good king henry
Common lizard
Grass snake

Roe deer
White letter hairstreak
Green-veined white
Scarce vapourer
Song thrush
Grey partridge

Cuckoo
Mistle thrush
Dunnock
Great crested newt
Common frog
Common Toad

3 Current factors causing loss or decline

- Wildlife corridors at risk from road widening/realignment.
- Rights Of Way improvements.
- 4x4 Off-Roading and illegal motorcycling.
- Neglect or inappropriate management.
- Development causing the loss of greenways or disconnecting them from the wider network.
- Development close up to greenway boundaries and boundary encroachment.
- Mineral extraction on old railway embankments.
- Damage to sensitive verges with unnecessary widening and hard surfacing of paths and tracks.
- Path surfacing with inappropriate materials for the location.

4 Objectives, targets & proposed actions

Objective	Target	Ref	Action	Lead & Partners
2) To restore degraded greenways sites and ensure appropriate management of existing greenways.	New biodiversity initiatives on 5 routeways by 2010.	2.1	Investigate historic routeways for opportunities to manage and enhance for higher biological diversity.	Doncaster Naturalists' Society (DNS), DMBC
	1 km of replacement species rich hedgerow on greenways by 2008.	2.2	Restoration of species rich hedgerows along greenways where hedgerows have been lost.	Natural England (NE), Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), DMBC
3) To create 6.5 km of new/restored greenways. New greenways should be linked to existing greenways or other sites of nature conservation importance.	5 new 'linkage' greenways by 2010.	3.4	Encourage the development of new greenways to connect to restoration sites with recreational routeways and other wildlife sites.	DMBC
	Linear SSIs increased by 0.5km by 2010.	3.7	Identify Linear SSI's and investigate the potential for linking sites by further greenway development.	DMBC
4) Raise public awareness of the importance and special characteristics of greenways.	New wildlife interpretation boards at 2 sites by 2009.	4.3	Provide interpretation on wildlife value of greenways on selected routes.	DMBC



5 This habitat in Doncaster

The following describes where in the Doncaster Borough good examples of this habitat can be found. For further information about this habitat and where it can be found in Doncaster see the 'Greenways Habitat Action Plan'.

The majority of Greenways are designated as public rights of way, and as such are recorded on the 'definitive maps' of each administrative borough or district. Doncaster has over 450 kilometres of Public Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways on 560 separate routes, ranging in length from a few metres to long distance routes, with the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) tracking over 30 kilometres within the Borough and much more beyond. These routes change completely in character from those more formal urban routes to the entirely rural and significantly vegetated towpaths. Some are on historic trackways; some on disused railway lines and others are part of new developments. A large, well-maintained rights of way network provides access to the countryside through a variety of different habitats and often provides a link or "corridor" to key habitats. Good examples of Greenways with valuable wildlife habitat are the Trans Pennine Trail and the Doncastrian Way. The green lanes around the northern villages, primarily Fishlake and Sykehouse are well known examples of historic routes with important biodiversity features.

6 How to take part

'Backyard Biodiversity – Nature in your Neighbourhood'

This is a new initiative launched by Doncaster Council to enable local people to learn about, protect and enjoy nature where they live. Community Groups and Organisations can loan activity packs and equipment to enable them to take part in activities such as bird watching, pond-dipping, building bird and bat boxes and bug hunting. The service is available FREE of charge from selected Customer Service Centres in Doncaster. A pack of Wildlife Gardening fact sheets has also been produced, which provides advice and information on how you can help the wildlife in your own garden.



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