



Newtownabbey Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Phase 1 - Broad Habitat Action Plans

September 2006

Newtownabbey Urban and Managed Open Space Action Plan

This plan includes all urban and managed open space including parks, golf courses, gardens, cemeteries and church grounds and businesses.

This plan is largely led by Newtownabbey Borough Council as many of the actions are most relevant to Council managed sites. This provides the ideal way to promote the value of managing sites for Biodiversity, through example. Promotion of these management techniques will then be extended to privately owned urban and managed open spaces to allow other organisations to use the experience of the Council to enhance the biodiversity of their sites.

These actions will include all urban and managed open space habitats as well as priority habitats and species (e.g. starling, house sparrow, song thrush, spotted flycatcher, bullfinch and bats) and local priorities (e.g. swift and swallows).

Plan name	Target	Activity type
Newtownabbey Urban and Managed Open Space Habitat Action Plan	T1 - Collate urban and managed open space database for the borough by 2007.	Research
Newtownabbey Urban and Managed Open Space Habitat Action Plan	T2 - Ensure that all urban and managed open spaces have at least one area managed for biodiversity by 2011.	Restoration
Newtownabbey Urban and Managed Open Space Habitat Action Plan	T3 - Raise awareness borough wide as to the importance of urban and managed open space for biodiversity, health and well being and recreation.	Promotion
Actions		
	Partners	Target
A1 - Hold events in urban and managed open spaces to promote biodiversity each year.	NBC, NGOs, Groundwork NI, CVNI, BHP	2,3
A2 - Involve three schools in events to promote the importance of biodiversity each year.	NBC, NGOs, Groundwork NI, CVNI	2,3
A3 - Supply bird/bat boxes to local interest group in one local urban and managed open space per year as appropriate.	NBC, NGOs	2,3
A4 - Establish one Urban and Managed Open Space Local Nature Reserve in the borough by 2011.	NBC, EHS, Groundwork NI, CVNI	2
A5 - Publish one press release per year on the importance of Urban and Managed Open Spaces for Biodiversity, Health and Wellbeing and Recreation.	NBC, CVNI	3

A6 - Produce management plans to increase biodiversity for all council owned urban and managed open spaces by 2009.	Parks and Cemeteries Staff, NBC	1,2,3
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Newtownabbey Woodland Habitat Action Plan

This plan will co-ordinate actions from several bodies including Newtownabbey Borough Council, Government, Non-Government and Voluntary. Through the development of the actions agreed, woodland in the borough should become better managed and less fragmented. Awareness will also be raised as to the importance of woodland for biodiversity, health, wellbeing and recreation.

These actions will include broad woodland habitats as well as priority habitat (Mixed Ashwoods and Parkland) and species (Bullfinch, spotted flycatcher, song thrush, starling, bats, juniper).

Plan name	Target	Activity type
Newtownabbey Woodland Habitat Action Plan	T1 - Identify and map all areas of woodland in the borough.	Research
Newtownabbey Woodland Habitat Action Plan	T2 - Promote the value of woodlands to people and visitors of the borough.	Promotion
Newtownabbey Woodland Habitat Action Plan	T3 - Create 2 new woodland sites by 2011.	Expansion
Newtownabbey Woodland Habitat Action Plan	T4 - Ensure management of all woodlands and trees to enhance biodiversity.	Restoration
Actions	Partners	Target
A1 - Establish one woodland Local Nature Reserve in the borough by 2011.	NBC, EHS, Groundwork NI, WT, CVNI	2,4
A2 - Publish at least one press release per year on tree planting events and conservation value of all woodland.	NBC, WT, CVNI	2
A3 - Produce woodland management plans including invasive species control, ground flora and woodland structure for all areas of woodland in the borough by 2011.	NBC, WT, Ecoseeds, CVNI	4
A4 - Survey, map and monitor areas of ancient woodland by 2008.	NBC, WT	1
A5 - Compile priority and other important woodland site database including condition for borough using existing survey data by 2008.	NBC, EHS, NGOs, DARD, WT, BHP	1
A6 - Protect appropriate sites or individual trees with use of tree protection orders as required.	NBC, Planning Service, EHS, WT	1,2
A7 - Ensure that all areas of woodland not designated as SLNCIs are identified and considered in development plans and other strategic plans by 2008.	EHS, Planning Service, FS, NBC	1,2
A8 - Ensure that any development activities and infrastructure maintenance work is sensitive of woodland and individual veteran trees.	EHS, Roads Service, Rivers Agency, Water Service, Planning Service, NBC	1,2

A9 - Encourage appropriate access as well as interpretative and educational provisions on woodland sites to increase enjoyment and public awareness of biodiversity value.	EHS, DARD, NBC, Groundwork NI, WT, Local Interest Groups, CVNI, BHP, NGOs	2
A10 - Identify one area with major invasive species problems and implement appropriate management techniques by 2008.	NBC, WT	4
A11 - Promote the value of dead wood for biodiversity.	NBC, WT, CVNI, DARD	2,4
A12 - Establish new woodlands yearly through the involvement of local schools and community groups in planting of native trees and ensure appropriate maintenance.	NBC , Groundwork NI, WT, CVNI	2,3
A13 - Reduce fragmentation of woodlands in the borough through careful consideration of areas suitable for planting. Encourage appropriate landowners to make use of land in this manner where appropriate.	NBC, DARD, Groundwork NI, Local Interest Groups, WT, CVNI	2,3
A14 - As all biodiversity issues are Trans-boundary, liaise with bordering areas as appropriate.	NBC , Larne BC, Carrickfergus BC, Antrim BC, Belfast CC, BHP	1,2,3
A15 - Promote biodiversity and environment protection as positive impacts for sustainable tourism by providing biodiversity information and grant opportunities to local tourism initiatives.	NBC , Groundwork NI	2
A16 - Initiate general surveying and monitoring of species in woodlands by the general public with use of species recording cards by 2007.	NBC , WT, Local Interest Groups, CVNI	1,2
A17 - Identify PAWs sites for restoration, enhancement and protection.	NBC , WT, FS	1,2,3
A18 - Provide and distribute information, including funding opportunities, to encourage all landowner to manage their sites for the benefit of biodiversity.	EHS, NGOs, FS, DARD	2,4

Newtownabbey Rivers and Streams Action Plan

Rivers and streams provide an important habitat for a range of important species as well as an important transport corridor for species traveling between other habitats. Actions will be carried out by a range of organisations including government, non-government and voluntary. Awareness raising, protection and enhancement are important aspects for all involved.

These actions will include broad river habitats as well as priority habitats and species (bullfinch, song thrush, bats, juniper, reed bunting and otter).

Plan name	Target	Activity type
Newtownabbey Rivers and Streams Habitat Action Plan	T1 - Collate rivers and streams database by 2008	Research
Newtownabbey Rivers and Streams Habitat Action Plan	T2 - Maintain the existing biodiversity of the Borough's rivers and streams and safeguard areas of high biodiversity value.	Maintain condition
Newtownabbey Rivers and Streams Habitat Action Plan	T3 - Identify key areas requiring enhancement works and develop projects to achieve by 2011.	Achieve condition
Newtownabbey Rivers and Streams Habitat Action Plan	T4 - Raise awareness of the dynamic nature of rivers and the importance and vulnerability of our local rivers and streams.	Promotion

Actions	Partners	Target
A1 - Establish one section of river/stream corridor as a Local Nature Reserve by 2011.	NBC , EHS, Rivers Agency, Groundwork NI, FCB, CVNI, Local Interest Groups	3,4
A2 - Through consultation with local interest group carry out one project per year to increase the biodiversity value of a river or stream.	NBC , Local Interest Groups, Groundwork NI, FCB, CVNI	2,3,4
A3 - Produce one press release per year on the importance and vulnerability of our local rivers.	NBC , FCB, EHS, CVNI	4
A4 - Identify key sections of river/stream corridor requiring management plans to protect and enhance biodiversity by 2009.	NBC , NGOs, local interest groups, Rivers Agency, EHS, DARD, Water Service, FCB, CVNI	1, 2
A5 - Create management plans for all identified key river/stream corridor sections by 2011.	NBC , NGOs, Local Interest Groups, Rivers Agency, EHS, DARD, Water Service, FCB, Ecoseeds, CVNI	2,3,4
A6 - Identify one area close to urban centre where local schools can use river/stream for education purposes and promote anticipating 1 school visit each year by 2007.	NBC , Local Interest Groups, EHS, NGOs, CVNI	2,4

A7 - Assist in the establishment of the Sixmile Catchment Area Protection Group to deal with pollution and other issues.	EHS, NBC, Local interest groups, Rivers Agency, Antrim BC, FCB, Water Service	2,3,4
A8 - Encourage the uptake of ungrazed grass margins/buffer zones to landowners of riparian areas.	NBC, DARD, Local Interest Groups	2,4
A9 - Promote Good Farming Practice Guidelines (DARD) to reduce pollution of rivers from farm waste.	NBC, DARD	2,4
A10 - Encourage DARD to target Sixmile Catchment area for uptake of buffer zones.	NBC, Local interest groups, DARD	2,3,4
A11 - Identify areas of rivers and streams used by otters and ensure these are appropriately considered in development and other management plans by 2008.	NBC, Local interest groups, EHS, NGOS	2,3
A12 - Use attractive river species to raise awareness of the importance of rivers and streams with one press release per year highlighting the importance and vulnerability of these species.	NBC , CVNI, NGOs, Local Interest Groups	4
A13 - Establish database for key stream/river sections and associated priority habitats and species.	NBC , EHS, Rivers Agency, DARD, Local Interest Groups	1
A14 - Provide members of the public with information of what to do and who to contact in the case of a pollution incident by 2007.	NBC	4
A15 - Lobby to ensure free phone numbers from all phones (inc mobile) for quick and efficient reporting of pollution incidents.	NBC , Local Interest Groups	4
A16 - As all biodiversity issues are Trans-boundary, liaise with bordering areas as appropriate.	NBC, Larne BC, Carrickfergus BC, Antrim BC, Belfast CC, BHP	1,2,3,4
A17 - Promote biodiversity and environment protection as positive impacts for sustainable tourism by providing biodiversity information and grant opportunities to local tourism initiatives.	NBC, Groundwork NI, CVNI	4
A18 - Identify industrial and agricultural pollution problems and hotspots and continue through river committees and other partnerships to address these problems.	NBC, Local Interest Groups, EHS, Water Service, FCB, DARD	2,3
A19 - Initiate general surveying and monitoring of species in rivers and stream corridors by the general public with use of species recording cards by 2007.	NBC , Local Interest Groups, NGOs, CVNI	1,4

Newtownabbey Agricultural Action Plan

This action will be lead largely by the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development through agri-environment schemes. Support will be provided from other organisations where possible to raise the profile of the importance of agricultural habitats for biodiversity.

These actions will include broad agricultural habitats as well as priority habitats (species rich hedgerows, lowland meadows) and priority species (Irish Hare, Barn Owl, Curlew, House sparrow, Lapwing, Linnet, Reed Bunting, Skylark, Song Thrush and Bats)

Plan name	Target	Activity type
Newtownabbey Habitat Agricultural Action Plan	T1 - Establish extent and condition of agricultural land in the borough by 2008.	Research
Newtownabbey Agricultural Habitat Action Plan	T2 - Continue to support and promote agri-environment schemes to landowners.	Maintain Extent, Achieve Condition
Newtownabbey Agricultural Habitat Action Plan	T3 - Promote the importance and vulnerability of key agricultural habitats and species to people and visitors of the area.	Promotion

Actions	Partners	Target
A1 - Ensure that Council owned hedgerows are appropriately managed for biodiversity and native hedgerows are planted.	NBC, Groundwork NI	2,3
A2 - Ensure that important agricultural habitats, where not already identified eg as SLNCs, are recognised and, where appropriate, site protection polices are included in Development Plans and other local strategic plans.	NBC, DARD, Planning Service, DARD	2,3
A3 - Promote and implement the management and restoration of areas of priority and important agricultural habitats.	Planning Service, EHS, DARD, NBC, Groundwork NI, Ecoseds, BHP	2,3
A4 - Encourage landowners to make use of funding available (agri-environment schemes) to bring areas of priority agricultural habitats into favourable condition.	EHS, DARD, NBC, Groundwork NI, BHP	2,3
A5 - Encourage appropriate access as well as interpretative and educational provisions on key agricultural sites to increase enjoyment and public awareness of the importance of agricultural land for biodiversity, heath and wellbeing and recreation.	EHS, DARD, NBC	3
A6 - Develop codes of practice to ensure development activities, regulated activities and infrastructure maintenance work (including timing) is sensitive to the requirements of species-rich hedgerows.	EHS, DARD, NBC, Water Service	2,3
A7 - Continue to encourage farmers and landowners to under take appropriate management to enhance priority species' habitats.	NBC, DARD, EHS, NGOs, BHP	2,3
A8 - Direct farmers and landowners to appropriate bodies with regard to management of priority habitat and priority species' habitats.	NBC, DARD, EHS, BHP, NGOs	2,3

A9 - Publish at least one press release a year to highlight the importance of appropriate management of Agricultural habitats for biodiversity and the special importance of priority species.	NBC, DARD, EHS	3
A10 - Demonstrate the importance of the conservation of priority species by creating conservation cereal pockets on appropriate council owned sites.	NBC, DARD, RSPB, Groundwork NI	2,3
A11 - Establish baseline figure of cereals in the borough by 2008.	NBC, DARD	1
A12 - Create database detailing extent and condition of all key agricultural habitats by 2008 using existing data.	NBC, DARD, EHS	1
A13 - Promote biodiversity and environment protection as positive impacts for sustainable tourism by providing biodiversity information and grant opportunities to local tourism initiatives.	NBC, CVNI, Groundwork NI	3
A14 - As all biodiversity issues are Trans-boundary, liaise with bordering areas as appropriate.	NBC , Larne BC, Carrickfergus BC, Antrim BC, Belfast CC, BHP	1,2,3
A15 - Initiate general surveying and monitoring of species in agricultural habitats by the general public with use of species recording cards by 2007.	NBC , Local Interest Groups, CVNI, DARD, RSPB, NGOs	1,3
A16 - Produce leaflet outlining the effects of invasive, alien and non-native species and appropriate management by 2009.	NBC, DARD, EHS	
A17 - Protect appropriate sites or individual trees with use of tree protection orders as required.	NBC, Planning Service, EHS, DARD	1,2,3

Newtownabbey Coastal Action Plan

Much of our coast is protected by Environment Heritage Service (EHS) as many areas are designated. Actions listed will aim to support the work carried out by EHS while highlighting the vulnerability of these habitats.

These actions will include broad coastal habitats as well as priority habitats (coastal saltmarsh, mudflats and saline lagoons) and priority species (Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Herring Gull, Lapwing, Redshank, Short-eared owl and Bats)

Plan name	Target	Activity type
Newtownabbey Coastal Habitat Action Plan	T1 - Establish the extent and condition of coastal habitats in the area by 2008.	Research
Newtownabbey Coastal Habitat Action Plan	T2 - Promote the importance and vulnerability of all coastal habitats to people and visitors of the area.	Promotion
Newtownabbey Coastal Habitat Action Plan	T3 - Maintain extent and condition of priority coastal species and habitats.	Maintain extent

Actions	Partners	Target
A1 - Identify any coastal areas for possible Local Nature Reserve designation by 2008.	NBC , EHS	1
A2 - Ensure that coastal site protection policies are included in development plans and local strategic plans.	NBC, EHS, Planning Service, DARD	1,2
A3 - Ensure that any development and management proposals are fully considered with regard to impact on both coastal habitats and water quality.	NBC, EHS, Planning Service, Local Interest Groups	2,3
A4 - Make use of partnerships formed through action plan for positive management and protection of all coastal habitats.	NBC, Groundwork NI, EHS, Local Interest Groups	2,3
A5 - Ensure that any priority species feeding and breeding sites are considered carefully with regard to management plans and local strategies.	NBC, EHS, Planning Service	2,3
A6 - Provide information to landowners on the importance of the protection of vulnerable coastal habitats and species.	NBC	2,3
A7 - One press release per year to promote awareness of the vulnerability and importance of coastal habitats.	NBC, EHS	2
A8 - Encourage appropriate access, as well as interpretative and educational provisions on saltmarshes, to increase enjoyment and public awareness of this habitat.	NBC, EHS	2
A9 - Create database of extent and condition of all coastal habitats by 2008.	NBC , EHS	1

A10 - Promote biodiversity and environment protection as positive impacts for sustainable tourism by providing biodiversity information and grant opportunities to local tourism initiatives.	NBC , Groundwork NI, NGOs	2
A11 - As all biodiversity issues are Trans-boundary, liaise with bordering councils as appropriate.	NBC , Larne BC, Carrickfergus BC, Antrim BC, Belfast CC	1,2,3
A12 - Initiate general surveying and monitoring of species in coastal areas by the general public with use of species recording cards by 2007.	NBC , Local Interest Groups, NGOs, RSPB, DARD	1,2

Partner Commitment to Actions

Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP)	Belfast Hills Partnership will continue to support the LBAP steering group and to the preparation, implementation and delivery of actions in the Habitat and Species Action Plans with specific emphasis on raising awareness through events, newsletters and volunteer activities.
British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)	BASC is working in liason with its members (who are delivering actions through habitat management) to feed information on habitats and species into the LBAP targets system as part of the BASC Green Shoots programme.
Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland (CVNI)	CVNI will provide advice, education and assistance on the practical delivery of action as highlighted where supported through appropriate funding.
Department of Agricultural and Rural Development (DARD)	DARD will continue to support the LBAP steering group and the implementation of Habitat and Species Action Plans through delivery of agri-environment schemes and through the provision of technical advice and data as required.
Department of Cultural, Leisure and Arts (DCAL)	As per National Habitat and Species Action Plans
Ecoseeds	Ecoseeds have voiced interest in various actions. Involvement may include action on the ground, training and advice.
Environment and Heritage Service (EHS)	EHS will be called upon to provide advice to gain progress on any actions attributed to.
Fishery Conservancy Board (FCB)	FCB have agreed to provide advice on the management and enhancement of riparian habitats.
Forest Service	As per National Habitat and Species Action Plans
Groundwork NI	Any action Groundwork NI is attributed to shows that the organisation feels it will be able to assist the council in achieving this action. It should be ensured that Groundwork NI are contacted to carryout works, provide advice or funding possibilities to take forward these actions.
Local Interest Groups	This includes any group with conservation or other interest in the particular habitat.
Newtownabbey Borough Council (NBC)	Newtownabbey Borough Council will lead and co-ordinate any actions as highlighted while providing support and action as necessary/appropriate for other actions.

Non Government Organisations (NGOs)	Reference made to NGOs in this action plan means that Newtownabbey Borough Council will work in partnership with any relevant NGOs to achieve the action.
Planning Service	As per National Habitat and Species Action Plans
Quarry Products Association NI (QPANI)	Quarry Products Association NI "Our Nature with Aggregates" Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan for the Quarry Products Industry is willing to undertake joint projects with Newtownabbey Borough Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan where our interests overlap in order to conserve, protect and enhance the biodiversity for current and future generations.
Rivers Agency	As per National Habitat and Species Action Plans
Roads Service	As per National Habitat and Species Action Plans
Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)	While resources allow, RSPB Northern Ireland pledge their continued support to Newtownabbey Local Biodiversity Action Plan steering group and to the preparation, implementation and delivery of actions in the Habitat and Species Action Plans.
Water Service	As per National Habitat and Species Action Plans
Woodland Trust (WT)	The Woodland Trust will provide advice and instigate or assist in the practical delivery of actions as highlighted above.