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# **Executive Summary**

## Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan

### **January 2010**



**Haringey** Council



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© Top: Rollin Verlinde, Hon Member of Lee Valley Bats, courtesy of Lee Valley Bats

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## Foreword



Due to the effects of human activity there exists an unprecedented and ongoing worldwide loss of biodiversity, and in recognition of this and the importance the natural environment plays in maintaining human health the United Nations has declared 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYOB).

The significance of biodiversity upon our lives often goes unnoticed or is taken for granted, but without it we would not have the air we breathe or food we eat. And at a time when much of our focus is on climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions we would be greatly mistaken to forget the role that biodiversity plays in climate control.

As a UK partner organisation supporting 2010 IYOB we are proud to launch this executive summary of the Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan as part of our commitment toward tackling climate change, protecting the natural environment, and embedding environmental sustainability into everything that we do as a Council. We will achieve this by working with local people and other partners to ensure that we preserve, improve, and increase green spaces and their biodiversity through improved maintenance, accessibility and sustainable practices.

The borough has a long history of community participation in managing its open spaces for nature conservation through the work of active Friends of Parks Groups and Conservation Volunteers. This combined with the enthusiasm shown by groups and individuals in producing the Biodiversity Action Plan gives us confidence that the considerable challenges in its delivery can be met, and that there is a positive and sustainable future for biodiversity within the borough.

### **Cllr Dhiren Basu**

Cabinet Member for leisure,  
Culture & Lifelong Learning

### **John Bevan**

Cabinet Member for Housing,  
Environment & Conservation





## Introduction

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth – it is every living thing and the places where they live.

Biodiversity matters for many reasons, not least its role in tackling climate change or its ability to act as an indicator for the health of our environment. It also provides us with vital services that sustain life on Earth such as clean air and water, contributes to our health and well being, offers opportunities for exercise, education and relaxation, helps define our cultural heritage and identity, and provides us with raw materials for essential products such as food, medicine, fuel and clothing.

Despite the many benefits biodiversity provides to people, and its own intrinsic value, human activity is currently the cause for a huge ongoing loss of biodiversity.

In developing the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), Haringey Council is seeking to protect and enhance biodiversity value across the borough for the benefit of all those that live and work within it, and in doing so support regional, national and global efforts to halt the decline in biodiversity.

The plan recognises that to achieve this aim a wide range of partners from across the whole community will need to be involved in delivering actions and that integrating biodiversity into wider everyday thinking is necessary.



## Scope of the Biodiversity Action Plan

The following areas have been included within the scope of this plan;

- Integrating biodiversity into Council services and those of other public bodies.
- Biodiversity Infrastructure – Including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Areas of Nature Conservation Deficiency, Local Nature Reserves, Green Chains and Ecological Corridors.
- Species and Habitat Action Plans



## Consultation

This plan has been developed through internal and external consultation with a wide number of organisations and Council services.

The principal method for consultation is via the Project Working Group which is made up of representatives of several Council services but also both the Haringey and London Biodiversity Partnerships.

The Haringey Biodiversity Partnership (HBP) includes amongst its members local 'Friends Groups' with a special interest in particular sites within Haringey such as a Wood or park, organisations from the voluntary sector, and concerned individuals.

The London Biodiversity Partnership (LBP) is a regional body responsible for securing biodiversity objectives for

London as part of the wider United Kingdom BAP. It has over 60 partnership members from the voluntary, statutory and commercial sectors and sits as an external review body on the project working group.

## How the Plan was developed

A review of the 2004 Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan was carried out by the HBP together with guidance on regional and national BAP's from the LBP. This was used as a basis for the framework of the new plan. This review and guidance was used to help identify priority species and habitats within the plan.

Combined with this was the need to address new legislation such as the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the 'Biodiversity Duty' it places upon the LB Haringey;

This states "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."

The working group also looked at other Haringey strategies that cover the natural environment (including the Community, Greenest Borough and Open Spaces strategies) and aimed to provide measurable actions to help deliver these.



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## Integrating Biodiversity into Council Services

Guidance on meeting the biodiversity duty encourages local authorities to consider biodiversity as a cross cutting agenda to be integrated into the delivery of all services.

“Biodiversity should not be viewed solely as an environmental issue, but a core component of sustainable development. It can contribute to a range of quality-of-life indicators across several local authority service areas. This cross-cutting approach should be manifest in the Borough’s own Biodiversity Action Plan, which itself should be part of the Borough’s Sustainable Communities Strategy.” (Greater London Authority, London Biodiversity Partnership and Natural England, 2008)

### Actions

- The Council will continue to include biodiversity within key strategies. This should be achieved through external consultation with nature conservation organisations and partners such as the London and Haringey Biodiversity Partnerships and Natural England.
- In order to achieve this integrated approach to biodiversity each Council Service will identify actions for meeting the biodiversity duty within their annual business plan.
- Each service will identify a lead officer to sit on a biodiversity project group to oversee the delivery of the identified actions and to participate in an annual review.

- The Council will support and encourage other public bodies such as utility companies and NHS Haringey to meet their biodiversity duty by offering advice and partnership working wherever possible.

## Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation & National Indicator 197

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) are areas protected through the planning process having been designated for their high biodiversity value. Haringey has a total of 60 areas designated as SINC's including woodlands and parks. Not all SINC's are Council owned and managed. They include private golf courses, operational railway lines and reservoirs.

National Indicator 197 (NI197): Improved Local Biodiversity – 'active management of local sites' is one of a new list of national indicators by which Local Government performance is to be measured.

In this instance active management means maintaining, restoring or enhancing biodiversity, and performance is calculated as a proportion of all sites where active conservation management has taken place over the last 5 years.

### Action

- LB Haringey will seek to improve on the 2009 NI197 baseline figure of 17% by 5% each year from 2010 to 2015. This will be achieved through the writing and delivery of ecological management plans for Council owned sites.

- Implementation of the Allotments Habitat Action Plan. Nearly a quarter of Haringey's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are allotments and as such delivery of the Habitat Action Plan will work toward improved NI197 figures from 2010 to 2015.
- LB Haringey and the Haringey Biodiversity Partnership will also encourage and support other managers of sites of importance for nature conservation to actively manage their land for biodiversity and provide the partnership with documented evidence to this effect.

## Areas of Nature Conservation Deficiency

Despite a large network of SINC's there are some areas of the Borough where access to natural green space is not readily available. These areas are predominantly but not exclusively in the east of the Borough.

In order to reduce these areas of deficiency it is necessary to increase access to Borough Grade II SINC's or sites with a higher designation. This can be achieved in three ways;

- Remove barriers to access e.g. by creating new entrances/gateways to existing sites closer to peoples homes.
- Improve the biodiversity of existing sites to increase their designation to Borough Grade e.g. by creating meadows and ponds in parks designated as Local SINC's.
- By creating new sites e.g. plant new woodlands in areas of deficiency.

## Action

- Increase the SINC designation of Lordship Recreation Ground to Borough Importance by 2014. This is to be achieved through major works such as de-culverting the River Moselle, creating large areas of meadow grassland and reed beds, etc. The location of the park will help to reduce a major area of deficiency.
- Explore the possibility of creating public access to Stroud Green Railway Embankment SINC with Network Rail and Homes for Haringey.
- Pursue planning gain from new developments for the creation of new sites in areas of deficiency; particularly in areas where there is a deficiency in all types of open space e.g. Northumberland Park.



## Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. LNR's are a statutory designation made under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. There are currently 3 Local Nature Reserves in Haringey; The Parkland Walk, Railway Fields and Queen's Wood.

## Action

- LB Haringey will work with Natural England to designate Coldfall Wood and The Paddock as new LNR's by 2014.

- LB Haringey will work with Natural England, The Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to explore the potential for declaring Alexandra Palace Nature Reserve and Tottenham Marshes as LNR's by 2014.



## Green Chains and Ecological Corridors

Ecological Corridors are relatively continuous areas of green space running through built up areas that allow the movement of plants and animals to other areas and habitats. In Haringey they largely follow the railways and rivers but they also link to larger open spaces such as Finsbury Park and Highgate Wood.

Whereas the majority of Ecological Corridors in Haringey are inaccessible to the public, Green Chains are used for informal recreation providing walking and/or cycling routes through open spaces. Green Chains can also be Ecological Corridors such as the Parkland Walk Local Nature Reserve.

## Action

- Explore the option of opening the New River (Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature conservation) as a Green Chain walking route with Thames Water as proposed in the 2006 Unitary Development Plan.



## Habitat and Species Action Plans (HAPs & SAPs)

Haringey contributes to the regional and UKBAP by identifying priority habitats and species that are important to the borough. Each has its own action plan that sets out ways to improve its condition. In addition to the habitats with specific action plans three additional habitats found in Haringey have been identified for special habitat statements due to their significance within the borough. These are Wastelands, Rivers and Streams, and Railway Land.



## Allotments Habitat Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To increase the value of Haringey's allotment sites for the benefit of biodiversity.
- To increase public and allotment plot holders awareness of the benefits of biodiversity to allotments, and the benefit of allotments for biodiversity.

### Targets

- To protect and enhance existing habitats beneficial to wildlife on LB Haringey Allotment Sites by 2015
- Establish 10 new communally managed ponds on allotment sites by 2015
- Promote best practice in allotment management



## Gardens Habitat Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To highlight and protect the overall resource for wildlife provided by gardens (public and private) and housing estate land.
- To improve individual gardens and housing estate land as habitat for a range of local wildlife.

### Target

- Identify and protect the garden resource within Haringey by 2015
- Support and encourage the recording of biodiversity in gardens, compiling baseline information on wildlife in Haringey's gardens and housing estates by 2011
- Raise public awareness of, and encourage wildlife gardening by increasing interest in events and resources offered by partner organisations by 2015
- Improve biodiversity value of housing estate land by 2015



## Parks and Green Spaces Habitat Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To encourage good conservation practice in parks and green spaces across LB Haringey, respecting their varied functions and the aspirations of local communities.

- To improve access to nature in Haringey's parks and green spaces, particularly in areas of deficiency in access to natural green space.
- To raise awareness of the importance of parks, squares and green spaces in the conservation of Haringey's biodiversity.

### Targets

- Raise awareness of how parks management can be improved to enhance access to nature for Haringey residents and visitors.
- Undertake biodiversity improvement work in a minimum of 10 LB Haringey parks and green spaces by 2015
- Increase the number of volunteers recording wildlife in Haringey's parks and green spaces.



## Woodland Habitat Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To conserve and enhance Haringey's woodland for the benefit of biodiversity and for current and future generations.
- To increase the area woodland in Haringey, particularly in areas where there is little accessible woodland.

### Targets

- To increase the extent of woodland habitat in Haringey by 0.5 hectares by 2015
- To increase public benefit, understanding and community involvement in Haringey's Woodlands by 2012
- Promote knowledge of best practice in woodland management and increase the area of woodland that is managed appropriately by the end of 2015
- To protect and conserve Haringey's veteran trees



## Standing Water Habitat Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To restore standing water habitats
- To increase the number of standing water habitats
- To increase knowledge and awareness of the importance of standing water habitats

### Targets

- To carry out improvements to existing standing water habitats and to create new exemplar sites



## Built Structures Habitat Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To improve the overall value of built structures in Haringey for the benefit of biodiversity.
- To increase awareness of the value and potential of built structures amongst planners, architects, developers and the general public.

### Targets

- To conserve and enhance existing built structures of biodiversity value
- To promote the construction of biodiversity features within new developments



## Bats (all species) Species Action Plan

### Vision Statement

- To help reverse the current population decline in bats.
- To redress public misconceptions about bats and secure their status as culturally valued animals.

### Targets

- Raise and maintain awareness of bat conservation issues within key sectors (specifically planners, land

managers and tree and building contractors), by advancing a targeted programme of relevant best practice advice dissemination by 2011

- Increase knowledge of bat distribution and species in Haringey by 2015
- Create/improve 3 artificial roosting sites by 2015
- Increase public awareness of and involvement in bat conservation by 2015

### Implementing the Plan

A comprehensive set of actions has been developed to implement the strategy setting out what will happen, when and by whom. Habitat and Species action plans will be recorded on the national Biological Action Reporting System (BARS).

Actions will be reviewed and updated annually by the BAP Working Group who will report on progress to the Greenest Borough Programme Board.

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**For information on 2010 International Year of  
Biodiversity please visit  
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