



Durham
Biodiversity
Partnership

Delivery Plan 2009-2012

Durham Biodiversity Partnership
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Durham Biodiversity Partnership Delivery Plan 2009-2012

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1. Introduction

This plan is concerned with the delivery of projects and activities associated with the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP) from January 2009 to 2012. It sets out broad tasks and activities that are required to be achieved over this period to ensure the successful long term delivery of the objectives of the DBAP. This plan overarches the more specific species and habitat action plans and is the means to deliver the strategic requirements set out in the Natural England Memorandum of Agreement

The initial focus of the plan is on activities planned for 2009, but it will identify actions required over the following two years. The action plan element of the delivery plan will be reviewed every year to ensure that it remains relevant and is updated to take account of any changes in priority. The process will be undertaken by the Implementation Officer in conjunction with the Steering Group.

2. Purpose of Plan

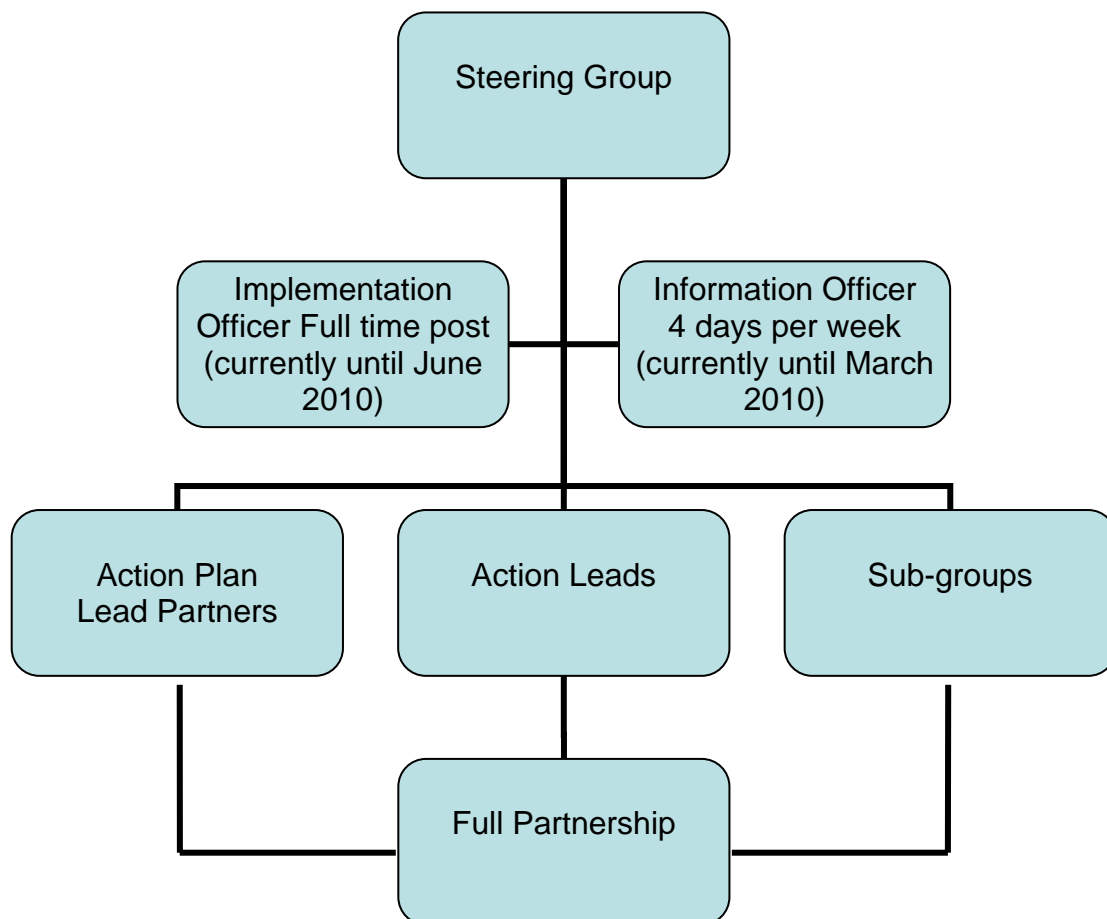
The purpose of the plan is to:

- Set out a local framework for biodiversity delivery
- Set out priorities for delivering within a three-year framework
- Focus delivery on priority actions
- Create a means of monitoring progress towards the overall delivery of the DBAP

- Creates a work programme for Durham Biodiversity Partnership that is 'Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant Time-framed'
- Encourage proactive involvement of partners
- Broaden the DBAP partnership

The delivery of the plan is not the responsibility of any one organisation or body. Durham Biodiversity Partnership is a partnership of organisations and individuals who are helping to achieve the objectives of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan. This delivery plan is the responsibility of the partnership as a whole and a range of individuals and organisations will be involved in its successful delivery.

3. Organisational Structure



Steering Group

The partnership and the work of the Implementation Officer and Information Officer is guided by a steering group comprising of individuals from the main

organisations involved in implementing and funding the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan. The group meets a minimum of three times per year to discuss the activities that have taken place and determine the future direction and focus of the Durham Biodiversity Partnership.

The members of the Steering Group are:

- Darlington Borough Council
- Durham County Council
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- Forestry Commission
- Gateshead Council
- Natural England
- North East Biodiversity Forum
- Northumbrian Water
- South Tyneside Council
- Sunderland City Council

Action Plan Lead Partners

Action plan lead partners are members of the partnership who lead on particular species and habitat action plans. This involves contributing to the development and ongoing review of a plan, as well as monitoring the actions contained within the plan.

Action Contact

Action Leads are partners who are leading on the reporting and delivery of a specific action in one of the species or habitat action plans.

Sub-groups

Several sub-groups have been developed to co-ordinate the delivery of the habitat and species action plans. These groups review existing plans, generate ideas for projects, help ensure that targets are being met and report activity onto the Biological Action Reporting System (BARS). The partnership has the following sub-groups dedicated to delivering actions plans:

- Woodland
- Wetland
- Upland
- Lowland
- Mammals
- Birds
- Reptiles

There is also a Data sub-group which guides the work of Durham Biodiversity Data Service, which collates, manages and disseminates biodiversity data for DBAP partners.

Full Partnership

The wider partnership is made up of organisations who are contributing towards delivering targets and actions in the BAP and those organisations and individuals who are not actively involved but want to keep informed of biodiversity conservation in the DBAP area. It is envisioned that this group will meet annually, to involve all members of the partnership in the work of the BAP.

Other partners include:

- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
- Butterfly Conservation
- Chester-le-Street District Council (until March 2009)
- Chester-le-Street Federation of Wildlife Groups
- City of Durham District Council (until March 2009)
- Derwentside District Council (until March 2009)
- Durham Badger Group
- Durham Bat Group
- Durham Bird Club
- Durham Police
- Durham Heritage Coast Project
- Durham Upland Bird Study Group
- Easington District Council (until March 2009)
- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Hedleyhope Community Association
- HM Prison Services
- Individuals
- Langdon Beck Youth Hostel
- National Trust
- North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Northumbria Mammal Group
- Northumbria Police
- RSPB
- Sedgefield District Council (until March 2009)
- Teesdale District Council (until March 2009)
- Wear Valley District Council (until March 2009)
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
- Woodland Trust

4. Core Services

The DBAP Steering Group have committed to delivering several core services as part of a Memorandum of Agreement with Natural England. These core services provide the framework for this delivery plan.

Establishing and maintaining a broad partnership

- As far as possible, ensure that all relevant sectors are engaged in the local biodiversity partnership

Delivering BAP locally

- Ensure that local biodiversity objectives include spatially-explicit SMART targets for the delivery of habitats and species, taking into account national and regional targets
- The partnership to agree a range of projects to deliver the local biodiversity objectives
- Partners to implement an agreed suite of projects

Fundraising for BAP delivery

- Develop and implement a funding strategy to obtain national and local sources of external funding in support of BAP projects and to obtain funding for the local biodiversity service in the long-term
- Work with the regional biodiversity partnership in the development of funding for collaborative projects

Reporting and monitoring progress

- Use BARS to report on the implementation and delivery of actions initiated locally

Integrating BAP into local policies

- Proactively support local authorities, so that they are better able to develop innovative ways of delivering biodiversity locally
- Actively promote the inclusion of biodiversity objectives into Community Strategies and other local plans
- Promote best practice in the planning system, providing support and advice to LPAs to avoid loss of features through development, and to make the most of opportunities from planning gain

Promoting BAP locally

- Develop and implement a communications plan to raise awareness in support of the BAP, working with partners and any established public awareness working group
- Increase the engagement of local businesses, other sectors and communities in the BAP process

Representation

- Ensure the LBAP partnership is represented on the regional biodiversity forum and other relevant regional and national meetings
- Respond to consultation from partners at regional and national levels of the BAP process

Biodiversity data handling

- The LBAP partnership provides active participation and support for efforts to develop a regional biological records facility in the North East.

5. Links with other plans and strategies

UK BAP

The UKBAP established the framework and criteria for identifying species and habitat types of conservation concern. From this list, action plans for 391 species and 45 habitats were produced. Over the past two years a review of the UKBAP was carried out. The new UKBAP list contains 1149 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action.

England Biodiversity Strategy – Working with the grain of nature

This Strategy seeks to ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all main sectors of public policy and set out a programme to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them. A full report on the progress in delivering the strategy was published in 2007.

Biodiversity Audit of the North East/Biodiversity Indicators and Targets for the North East

These were produced by the North East Biodiversity Forum to provide a baseline on the biological resources in the region and then set out targets for the protection and enhancement of the North East's biodiversity, and indicators that can be used to measure progress.

North East Integrated Regional Framework

This provides a regional sustainable development framework, designed to embed the principles of sustainable development within other strategies, policies, plans and programmes. Biodiversity is included as a key aspect of both protecting and enhancing the region's environmental infrastructure and adapting and mitigating against climate change.

North East Regional Spatial Strategy

Several policies make reference to biodiversity and the importance of conserving specific areas (e.g. AONB, designated sites), BAP habitats and species and important landscape features. These include:

Policy 3 CLIMATE CHANGE
Policy 6 LOCATIONAL STRATEGY
Policy 8 PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT
Policy 20 KEY EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS
Policy 24 DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
Policy 40 PLANNING FOR RENEWABLES

Policy 33 BIODIVERSITY & GEODIVERSITY is specifically concerned with ensuring that the Region's ecological and geological resources are protected and enhanced to return key biodiversity resources to viable levels

North East Strategy for the Environment

Produced by the North East Environment Forum it provides a regionally agreed framework for long-term actions to deliver a clean, healthy and diverse environment that is valued by people and businesses. Its main purpose is to shape and influence future policy making in the region, such as the Single Integrated Regional Strategy.

Local Development Frameworks

These are being produced by each of the local authorities in the DBAP area and contain a range of development planning documents. Biodiversity should be integrated into the Core Strategy, as well as other supplementary planning documents and planning obligations strategies. Each local authority is at a different stage of production, with development of the LDF for Durham affected by local government re-organisation.

Local Area Agreements

A three-year agreement between each Local Authority, its partners and the Government setting out what are the most important locally defined priorities for improvement in each area. They include clear performance measures and targets. None of the LAAs in the DBAP area included the biodiversity performance measure as a target.

Sustainable Community Strategies

Prepared by Local Strategic Partnerships, these set out how partners are going to improve the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of a local area. It includes targets and actions for both local authorities and public, private and voluntary organisations. Each of the sustainable community strategies include references to biodiversity and the natural environment, however only the strategies for Durham and South Tyneside contain specific targets or objectives concerning biodiversity.

Parish Plans

These are developed by individual parishes and cover social, economic and environmental issues of relevance to residents in the parish. They help guide development and projects in the parish and can identify potential biodiversity issues/projects.

6. Cross cutting themes

Communications Strategy

A Communications Strategy has been produced to sit alongside this delivery plan. As well as detailing specific communications actions, this outlines key messages that will be communicated by the partnership and identifies audiences that the partnership wishes to engage with. The strategy is intended to guide the communications activities of the DBAP Implementation Officer and Information Officer as well as Steering Group members and wider partners.

Climate Change Action Plan

A Climate Change action plan was produced during the 2007 DBAP Review. This sets out the actions the partnership is going to take to assist biodiversity in adapting to climate change. The main focus of this action plan is on developing habitat networks maps which can then be used by local authorities, Natural England and other conservation organisations to target resources.

7. Delivery Plan

1. Establishing and maintaining a broad partnership								
Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communi-cation	Time-frame	Progress
Steering Group Meetings	Directs the work of the DBAP through regular meetings and engagement with wider partners	NE Memorandum of Agreement, DBAP Terms of Reference	Minimum of three meetings held per year	Implementation Officer and Chair of SG	Staff time	Minutes of the meetings produced and shared with partners	Meetings held April, Sept, Dec	
	Review structure and membership of steering group	DBAP Terms of Reference	Ensure that steering group functions effectively	Implementation Officer and Chair of SG	Staff time		Annually	
Sub-group meetings	These groups contribute towards revising action plans, developing project ideas, delivering projects and recording activities		Minimum of two meetings of each sub-group held per year	Implementation Officer, Information Officer, Sub-group chairs	Staff time	Minutes of meetings produced and shared with partners	Meetings held every six months	
Full partnership event	A conference will be held to focus on the partnership's 10-year anniversary	NE Memorandum of Agreement Communication Strategy	1 full partnership event held	Implementation Officer, Information Officer, SG	Room hire, buffet, materials, speakers. Budget for 10-year event £5K	Public festival held. Newsletter produced to highlight achievements and distributed at event. Displays	August 2009	

						produced of DBAP projects		
	Annual partnership event will be held each year to communicate with the wider partnership		1 full partnership event per year	Implementation Officer, Information Officer	Room hire, buffet, materials approx £200	conference notes and presentations available to attendees and on DBAP website	June 2010, 2011	
Widen partnership	Review membership and invite representation from wider organisations to cover any gaps identified	Communication Strategy NE Memorandum of Agreement	Review membership of partnership every 3 years	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Details of members of steering group, sub-groups and wider partnership are available on the DBAP website and on BARS	2011	
	Create full partnership mailing list and circulate updates	Communication Strategy	Continual adjustment to full partnership mailing list	Implementation Officer	Staff time		Ongoing	
Increase cross-sector participation	Proactively develop connections with businesses/industry Identify and recruit new partnership members	NE Memorandum of Agreement Communication Strategy	Increase representation on partnership from the private sector	Implementation Officer and SG	Staff time	Promotion of role of wider partners in DBAP. Links to annual forum event	Ongoing	
Partnership roles and responsibilities	Produce summary guidance on Lead Partner and Action Contact role		Guidance produced and disseminated with the result	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Guidance provided to all lead partners and action	March 2009	

			of securing lead partners for every action plan			contacts		
	Ensure each sub-group has agreed terms of reference		Sub-group terms of reference agreed	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Terms of reference shared between partners	End 2009	

2. Delivering BAP Locally

Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communi-cation	Time-frame	Progress
Ancient Woodland Inventory	Re-inventory of ancient woodland and PAWS sites including sites under 2ha	Woodland and Scrub HAP	Secure funding and produce Ancient Woodland Inventory	Implementation Officer and Woodland sub-group		Communication with landowners of identified AW/PAWS to encourage entry into EWGS	2012	
Biodiversity in your village	Raise awareness amongst parish councils and the public about the importance of road verges, village greens, allotments, ponds etc for biodiversity and appropriate management	Ponds, Lakes & Reservoirs, Transport Corridors and Urban Greenspace HAPs	Produce publication and distribute to parish councils	Implementation Officer and partners		Publication and guidelines available on the DBAP website	2010	
Farmland	Provide information	Farmland	Produce and	Implementation		Distributed	2009	

mammals and birds	for small land-holders highlighting actions for priority species	mammals and birds SAP	distribute information pack	Officer and Birds sub-group		through the Hedgerow partnership and grant scheme		
Invertebrates of the Magnesian Limestone	Conduct a survey to establish invertebrates supported by magnesian limestone grassland and scrub	Magnesian Limestone Grassland HAP	Design a project and secure funding for an invertebrate survey	Implementation Officer and lowland sub-group			2011	
Lowland Fen	Restore and create lowland fen habitats and encourage landowners to positively manage known fen habitats	Lowland Fen HAP	Develop lowland fen project to provide advice and guidance on management and bring identified sites into favourable management. Utilising lowland fen inventory (pg.16) identify opportunities for fen creation and carry out project to deliver new habitat	Implementation Officer and wetland sub-group			2010	
Lowland Heath	Raise community	Lowland Heath	Secure funding	Implementation		Publication	2010	

	awareness of heathland biodiversity	HAP	for a publication on lowland heathland wildlife, develop interpretation at selected sites and highlight dangers to lowland heathland from accidental fire and other effects of irresponsible recreational use.	Officer and lowland sub-group		made available to site owners, site manager, councillors, schools, parish and community groups and members of the general public		
	Use habitat opportunity maps to identify lowland heath creation opportunities			Develop project to create 20ha of lowland heath by 2015	Implementation Officer and lowland sub-group			2012
Otters	Consolidate the range expansion of otters, and provide "flood-proofing" along the river for otters and other wildlife	Rivers and Streams Action Plan	Secure funding for a project to provide wetlands and artificial holts in areas along the Rivers Derwent, Team, Tyne and Don	Implementation Officer and mammals sub-group		Project will involve some public participation	2009	
Reptiles	Monitor and protect	Lowland Heath	Establish reptile	Implementation			2011	

	reptiles on heathland sites	HAP and Reptile SAP	populations on heathland sites, then secure funding for habitat conservation work	Officer and reptiles sub-group				
Road verges	Encourage good management of road verges and promote the biodiversity resource contained in road verges	Transport Corridors HAP	Provide management advice to local authorities and develop interpretation at selected road verges.	Implementation Officer, upland and lowland sub-groups		Interpretation developed in partnership with NPAONB and promoted through their mechanisms	2010	
Small pearl-bordered fritillary habitat project	Carry out landscape scale habitat management for the small pearl-bordered fritillary in central Durham	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Dark Green Fritillary and White-letter Hairstreak SAPs	Secure funding for habitat recreation, conservation and management across several areas in central Durham that supports a range of DBAP butterfly species	Small pearl-bordered fritillary action group		Project will involve communication with landowners and promotion of project to general public	2009	
Upland dry heath	Determine location and extent of upland dry heath	Upland Dry Heath and Acid Grassland HAP	Develop project brief and investigate potential of	Implementation Officer and Upland Sub-group	Staff time		2010	

			student placement					
Urban and Garden Wildlife	Promote wildlife friendly gardening	Urban and garden wildlife SAP	Provide guidelines on wildlife friendly gardening including the detrimental effects of slug pellets	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Guidelines will be produced on DBAP website	2009	
Veteran Trees project	Promote the identification and recording of veteran trees in the DBAP area	Veteran Trees, Parkland and Wood Pasture HAP	Secure funding for a two-year veteran tree project	Implementation Officer, DWT and Woodland sub-group		Project will involve production of recording guidelines, management information and a book on veteran trees in Durham	2009	
Data management	Ensure that there is ongoing management of biological data	DBDS	Complete detailed data management plan	Information Officer	Staff time	Management plan circulated to partners	2010	
	Maintain and update datasets		Gather and input data updates from partners	Information Officer, volunteers	Staff time		Ongoing	
	Identify gaps in data available		Gaps identified and surveys commissioned where funding	Implementation Officer and Information Officer	Staff time		Ongoing	

			allows					
Habitat mapping	Map all BAP habitats		Continue mapping of BAP habitats as data is made available	Information Officer	Staff time	GIS data made available to partners	Ongoing	
	Habitat opportunity maps	Climate Change action plan	Create habitat opportunity maps to identify potential for habitat creation/restoration and connectivity	Information Officer, Implementation Officer and partners		Maps made available to partners	2010	
	Blanket bog & wet upland heath	Blanket bog & wet upland heath HAP	Undertake a mapped inventory of blanket bog and wet upland heath outside designated sites	Information Officer, Implementation Officer and partners	Staff time	Maps made available to partners	2010	
	Lowland Fen	Lowland Fen HAP	Undertake a mapped inventory of fen habitats over 0.1ha and identify opportunities for restoration or creation	Information Officer, Implementation Officer and partners	Staff time	Maps made available to partners	2009	
Species	Provide information		Create DBAP	Information	Staff time	Maps published	Ongoing	

mapping	to partners on species distribution		species distribution maps	Officer		on website		
	Identify barn owl habitat creation opportunities	Barn Owl SAP	Identify opportunities for tree planting adjacent to major roads	Implementation Officer, Information Officer and Durham Bird Club	Staff time	Communicate to local authorities to influence planning decisions	2010	
	Identify bat habitat creation opportunities	Bat SAP	Map all known bat roosts	Implementation Officer, Information Officer and Durham Bat Group	Staff time	Sharing of GIS layer with local authorities	2009	
	Define target areas for harvest mouse expansion	Harvest Mouse SAP	Create a GIS layer of potential harvest mouse habitat	Information Officer, Implementation officer and Mammals sub-group	Staff time	Sharing of GIS layer with local authorities	2009	

3. Fundraising for BAP delivery

Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communication	Time-frame	Progress
Core Funding	Secure continued funding from Steering Group members		Core funding for staff positions secured	Implementation Officer and chair of SG	Staff time		New contract for Info Officer agreed by Jan 2009. New contracts for all partnership	

							staff agreed by Jan 2010.	
	Establish whether there is interest from other organisations to support DBAP financially		Approach other potential funders to discuss the purpose of DBAP	Implementation Officer and chair of SG	Staff time		2011	
DBAP Project funding	Consider whether DBAP could provide small amounts of seed funding to projects subject to budgetary allowances		Develop process for Steering Group to follow when considering providing funding	Implementation Officer	Staff time		2009	
DBDS Survey funding	Develop system for Steering Group to agree use of DBDS survey funding		Develop DBDS funding proforma	Implementation Officer	Staff time		2009	

4. Reporting and monitoring progress

Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communication	Time-frame	Progress
Reports to Steering Group	Produce work plan, and progress and financial reports for SG		One progress report and one financial report produced for every meeting	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Reports presented to SG	Meetings held April, Sept, Dec	
BARS	Ensure all objectives, actions		All plans are complete on	Information Officer	Staff time	Partners are able to access	March 2009	

	and targets are inputted into BARS		BARS			actions and targets on BARS		
	Provide training on BARS for those partners who are unable to use it.		Run training sessions as required	Information Officer	Staff time	Highlight to partners that training is available through mailing list and sub-groups	Ongoing	
Reporting	Work with partners to ensure that reporting against actions on BARS takes place		50% of all actions reported against	Implementation Officer, Information Officer, Lead Partners and Action Leads	Staff time	Provide process reports to sub-groups	By end 2009	
	Report against NE agreed core services	NE Memorandum of Agreement	Six-monthly reports submitted to NE	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Reports shared with steering group	March/ Sept 09,10,11	

5. Integrating BAP into local policies

Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communication	Time-frame	Progress
Local Authorities	Development of a planning and policies action plan	LDFs, NERC	Produce a document outlining how DBAP links to LA's wider aims, the biodiversity duty and local	Implementation Officer	Staff time		2009	

			biodiversity priorities					
	High level briefing events		Run joint events with DWT to promote DBAP and links to planning/NERC	Implementation Officer, DWT	Staff time		2009	
Local Development Frameworks	Ensure that biodiversity is sufficiently incorporated into LDF documents and policies, green infrastructure strategies and open space strategies	Regional Spatial Strategy	All LDF documents meet the requirements of PPS9 and make reference to DBAP	Implementation Officer and SG members	Staff time		Ongoing at unitary authorities Durham process tbc once a unitary.	
	Specific actions from HAPS and SAPS and incorporate into relevant SPDs	Regional Spatial Strategy	Produce summary of key actions in each LA area	Implementation Officer	Staff time		Ongoing at unitary authorities Durham process tbc once a unitary.	
	Ensure projects for biodiversity are included in Planning Obligations strategies	Regional Spatial Strategy	Planning Obligations Strategies reference DBAP and include biodiversity projects	Implementation Officer and SG members	Staff time		Ongoing at unitary authorities Durham process tbc once a unitary.	
NERC	Ensure that LA's		Produce	Implementation	Staff time	Guidance notes	2009	

	and other authorities are aware of their duties under NERC		summary guidance notes.	Officer and SG members		available to download from DBAP website		
	Ensure that parish and town councils are aware of their duties under NERC		Arrange briefing through County Durham Association of Local Councils	Implementation Officer	Staff time		2009	
LAA Biodiversity Indicator	Continue to feed into any review of the LAA	Sustainable Community Strategies	Promote the need for the inclusion NI197	Implementation Officer and SG members	Staff time		2011-2012	
Local Strategic Partnerships	Ensure biodiversity is incorporated in sustainable community strategies	LAA	Each LSP is to have a representative from the partnership attending relevant meetings	Implementation Officer and SG members	Staff time		Ongoing	
Growth Points	Feed into the development of growth point programmes and strategies	LDFs	Highlight potential biodiversity projects to be included within a programme of works	Implementation Officer and SG members	Staff time		Ongoing	
LEADER partnerships	Integrate biodiversity into the programmes of the Local Action Groups	RDPE	Ensure there is a DBAP representative on each Local Action Group	Implementation Officer and SG members	Staff time		March 2009	

6. Promoting BAP locally								
Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communication	Time-frame	Progress
See DBAP Communication Strategy 2009-2012								
7. Representation								
Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communication	Time-frame	Progress
Attendance at regional biodiversity meetings	LBAP coordinator meetings	NE BAP	Attend quarterly meetings	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Report back to Steering group and sub-groups where necessary	Quarterly	
Attendance at North East Biodiversity Forum meetings or sub-groups	Maintain partnership representation at regional meetings.	NE BAP	IO to attend Grasslands sub-group, Marine and Coastal sub-group and Targets and Data sub-group, members of SG to represent DBAP at NEBAP SG and Wetlands and Data management	Implementation Officer and SG Members	Staff time	Report back to Steering group and sub-groups where necessary	Quarterly	

			group					
Attendance at national biodiversity meetings	Represent partnership at UK BAP event	UKBAP	Attend national LBAP conferences	Implementation Officer	Staff time	Report back to Steering group and sub-groups where necessary	Annually	
Attendance at key local meetings	Represent partnership at key local groups and projects, integrating the DBAP into relevant plans		Implementation Officer and SG members to influence groups and partnerships such as LSPs, Hedgerow Partnership, SW Durham Heritage Corridors, Limestone Landscapes, LEADER partnerships	Implementation Officer, Info Officer and SG members	Staff time	Report back to Steering group and sub-groups where necessary	Ongoing	
Attendance at Limestone Landscapes task group meetings	Represent the partnership at the Limestone Landscapes meetings and ensure that this project builds upon the work on Magical Meadows		Targets for restoration and expansion of Magnesian Limestone Grassland are included within the Limestone Landscapes project	Implementation Officer and DWT	Staff time	Report back to Steering group and sub-groups where necessary	Ongoing	

8. Biodiversity Data Handling								
Action Name	Activity	Linkage	Specific Target	Lead Partner	Budget	Communication	Time-frame	Progress
Develop a relationship with the EYE project	Share appropriate data with the EYE project	NE Memorandum of Agreement	Sign agreement with the EYE project for reciprocal data sharing	Implementation Officer, Information Officer	Staff Time	Agreement of which data sets with be needed from recorders	Jan 2009	
	Promote joint opportunities for publicity and community awareness of data collection	NE Memorandum of Agreement	Take part in regional record promotion.	Implementation Officer	Staff time, possibly small budget for promotional materials	Promotion through the DBAP website and press releases	2009, 2010	
	Encourage the public to record species on the EYE wikitoid site	NE Memorandum of Agreement	Produce posters on recording key species and liking to the Eye wikitoid site	Implementation Officer	Staff time, possibly small budget for promotional materials	Promotion through the DBAP website and press releases	March 2009	
Develop a relationship with ERIC	Participate in the development of a regional records centre	NE Memorandum of Agreement	Attend ERIC meetings	SG member	Staff time	Communicate progress concerning ERIC to SG and wider partnership through website, email updates	Ongoing	
Important	Update information		Keep an	Information	Staff time	Spreadsheet	Ongoing	

Species List	of EU and UK priority species found within the DBAP area		ongoing record of species in each LA area as information is received	Officer		made available to DBAP Steering Group members		
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8. Monitoring Action

Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)

One of the partnership's core services is to "use BARS to report on the implementation and delivery of actions initiated locally". This is not only tied into the national reporting rounds (2003, 2005 and 2008) but also to ensure that the partnership, national bodies and UK lead partners are aware of actions for biodiversity being undertaken at a local level. BARS is one of the methods by which the partnership is assessed on whether it is achieving its objectives.

Training sessions on BARS have been run by the Information Officer and for those not familiar with the BARS system a method of reporting via the Information Officer has also been set up. Although this is not the most time-efficient means of reporting, it has ensured that as many actions as possible have been captured.

However an issue remains that reporting is still at a low level. This is across all levels of the partnership and although it is now a requirement of funding from SITA and CDENT that actions are reported on BARS, this is not the case with other funds, such as Aggregates Levy and Natural England funding.

There needs to be continued promotion of BARS by DBAP staff and members of the Steering Group, and a cycle of regular reporting needs to be established. A BARS reporting summary will be a standing item on the agenda of each sub-group to ensure partners are continually aware of the importance of reporting on BARS and to highlight where further support or training is needed.

9. Funding

Core Funding for DBAP is currently provided by members of the steering group, including Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Environment Agency, Gateshead Council, Natural England, Northumbria Water, South Tyneside Council and Sunderland Council. This covers the staff costs of the Implementation Officer (5 days per week) and Information Officer (4 days per week), a management fee to the host organisation (Durham Wildlife Trust) and a budget for publicity and promotional work. This funding is secured on an annual basis so there remains uncertainty over the continuation of funding in the long-term.

The DBAP budget is also supplemented by some project funding, which supports staff time spent on these projects. However the amounts are limited as DBAP staff are often required to support projects through in-kind match funding, rather than receiving part of the grant allocation.

During 2007-2009 DBAP staff have also generated some income through data management work and the service provided by DBDS. This is tied into specific contracts that are separately agreed with DBAP partners. Although in 2008/9

this accounted for an extra £? Towards the DBAP budget, again the level of income is not guaranteed every year and is subject to the work required by partners.

As such the DBAP Steering Group has agreed to maintain a reserve of £35-40k to ensure that the partnership could continue to function for six months if all funding were to cease.

10. Review

Progress towards achieving the actions outlined in this delivery plan will be monitored by the Steering Group. The action plan will be subject to an annual review it remains relevant and is updated with any changes in priorities.

Helen Ryde
Implementation Officer
March 2009