



# Birmingham & The Black Country *Biodiversity Action Plan*

July 2000

Prepared by the Birmingham & The Black Country  
Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group



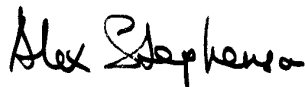
## FOREWORD

I am pleased to support the Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan in its aim to protect and enhance the greater variety of wildlife found in the urban heartland of the West Midlands Region.

Despite a long history of industrial development and a high degree of urbanisation, both Birmingham and the Black Country areas support a wide range of habitats and species. This gives the opportunity for many people to experience the natural environment and contributes to their quality of life. Biodiversity is found all around us, in areas of traditional countryside encapsulated within the urban areas, on sites reclaimed from past industrial and extractive uses, in parks and other open public spaces, along canals and water courses and not least in thousands of private gardens.

Advantage West Midlands recognises that a pleasant and natural environment plays a crucial part in stimulating economic development and regeneration. In this respect, the West Midlands Economic Strategy - Creating Advantage identifies the need to promote economic and social activities that will also help to afford appropriate protection to the environment and natural resources.

It can also be noted that the Sustainability Strategy for the West Midlands, Quality of Life: The Future Starts Here, stresses the importance of protecting habitats, species and landscapes, not just for their own sake, but for people to enjoy. Ensuring people have access to pockets of wildlife on their doorsteps is especially important in dense urban areas such as Birmingham and the Black Country and one of the target set by Quality of Life is to have Biodiversity Action Plans in place and operating by 2010. Birmingham and the Black Country have taken a major step in this direction and I commend the work of the Biodiversity Steering Group as they now take this Action Plan forward.



**Alex Stephenson**  
Chairman for Advantage West Midlands

July 2000

## PREFACE

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 the UK Government committed itself to the conservation of biodiversity. Conservation of biodiversity at the national level requires the implementation of effective actions at a local level throughout the UK. This is being achieved through the preparation of local Biodiversity Action Plans which combine national and local conservation priorities and are being compiled by a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations involved in nature conservation across the country. In Birmingham and the Black Country a Steering Group has been assembled to oversee the process comprising representatives of:

- EcoRecord.
- English Nature.
- Environment Agency.
- Local authorities:  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council:  
Birmingham City Council.
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
- University of Wolverhampton.
- Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

A wide range of other organisations and individuals have taken part in the Biodiversity Action Plan process. These efforts are acknowledged later in this preface. These lists are believed to be comprehensive but the Steering Group apologises to anyone who has accidentally been left out.

The Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan is made up of a Framework for Action which provides an introduction to the Biodiversity Action Plan followed by the individual Issues, Species and Habitat Action Plans which propose actions with target dates for the conservation of local biodiversity. The Biodiversity Action Plan is intended to inform policy and action by a range of organisations. Carrying out all the actions proposed within the Issues, Species and Habitat Action Plans is, however, beyond the resources of the organisations involved and therefore an important part of the Biodiversity Action Plan process is to establish priorities for action and to secure resources.

Publishing a Biodiversity Action Plan is only a start, to result in real change the proposals must be implemented. The Steering Group will continue to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan in partnership with everyone currently involved in the process and those who will become involved in the future.

## Contents:

1. Framework for Action
2. Issues Action Plans
  - Site and species protection
  - Species and habitat management
  - Maintaining biological records
  - Environmental education
3. Habitat/ land use Action Plans
  - Arable fields
  - Arable field margins and beetle banks
  - Buildings and the built environment
  - Canals
  - Deadwood
  - Eutrophic urban pools
  - Gardens, allotments parks and open space
  - Garden ponds
  - Hedgerows
  - Lowland dry acid grassland
  - Lowland neutral and base-rich grassland
  - Lowland wet grassland
  - Lowland heathland
  - Rivers and streams
  - Urban 'wasteland'
  - Woodland
4. 4. Species Action Plans
  - Amphibians (frog, toad and smooth newt)
  - Badgers
  - Bats
  - Black redstart
  - Bluebell
  - Brown hare
  - Dingy skipper
  - Floating water plantain
  - Great crested newt
  - Green hairstreak
  - Grey partridge
  - Kestrel
  - Little ringed plover
  - Orchids
  - Skylark
  - Snipe
  - Song thrush
  - Tree sparrow
  - Vaccinium* species
  - Wall brown
  - Water vole
  - White-clawed crayfish



**ACADEMIC SECTOR**

Birmingham Association for Environmental Education, Birmingham University; Higher Education Shop and University of Wolverhampton.

**BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRES**

EcoRecord.

**BUSINESS SECTOR**

Business in the Environment, Midland Environmental Business Club Ltd.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS/ LOCAL AGENDA 21 COMMITTEES**

Sandwell Environment Forum, SRB Brownhills, Walsall Local Agenda 21.

**COUNTY WILDLIFE TRUSTS**

Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country and Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire Wildlife Trusts.

**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

British Waterways, Countryside Agency, English Nature, Environment Agency, Forestry Authority.

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC, Wolverhampton MBC, Birmingham CC, Coventry CC and Solihull MBC.

**LOCALLY BASED PROJECTS**

Forest of Mercia, Groundwork Birmingham, Groundwork Black Country, Neighbourhood Nature, Staffordshire Heathlands Partnership.

**NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS**

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, National Urban Forestry Unit, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

**WILDLIFE GROUPS AND SOCIETIES**

Association of Birmingham Conservation Groups, Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group, Birmingham Natural History Society, Black Country Geological Society, Bumblehole Conservation Society, Butterfly Conservation West Midlands Branch, Friends of Deers Leap Wood, Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir, Friends of Manor Farm Park, Friends of Mousesweet Brook, Halesowen Wildlife Group, Moseley Bog Conservation Group, National Federation of Anglers, Northcote Farm Wildlife Group, Pensnett Wildlife Group, River Cole and Chinn Brook Conservation Group, River Rea Conservation Group Sandwell Valley Naturalists Club, Staffordshire Badger Conservation Group, Sutton Coldfield Natural History Society, Tividale Birding Group, Valley Park Bird Group, Walsall Conservation Volunteers, Warwickshire Badger Group, West Midlands Bird Club, Wolverhampton Fox Rescue, Woodgate Valley Conservation Group, Woodlands Camp, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, South Birmingham Group, Yardley Conservation Society

**OTHERS**

Dudley Zoological Society, Urban Nature Magazine, West Midlands Environment Network.

**ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE PROVIDED FUNDING  
FOR THE BIRMINGHAM AND BLACK COUNTRY BIODIVERSITY  
PLAN PROCESS**

**ACTION**

**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.**

English Nature, Environment Agency.

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES.**

Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC, Wolverhampton MBC, Birmingham CC.

**NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.**

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

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## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE BIRMINGHAM AND BLACK COUNTRY BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

AC

Angling clubs

ASNW

Ancient semi-natural woodland.

BAP

Biodiversity Action Plan.

B&BC

Birmingham and Black Country.

B&BCBBS

Birmingham and Black Country Breeding Bird Survey.

BatG

Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group.

BC

Butterfly Conservation.

BCT

Bat Conservation Trust

BCEN

Black Country Environment Network.

BTCV

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

BTCVE

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Enterprise.

BTO

British Trust for Ornithology

BW

British Waterways

CBC

Common Bird Census

CCW

Countryside Council for Wales.

CEE

Council for Environmental Education.

CO

Countryside Officer(s) or equivalent.

CPRE

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

CSS

Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

CSV

Community Service Volunteers.

DAFOR

A system for measuring abundance. (Dominant/ Abundant/ Frequent/ Occasional/ Rare).

DfEE

Department for Education and Employment.

EA

Environment Agency

EC

Environmental consultant.

EN

English Nature.

[ER](#)  
EcoRecord the ecological database for the Black Country and Birmingham.

[ETN](#)  
Environment Trainer's Network.

[FA](#)  
Forestry Authority.

[FC](#)  
Forestry Commission.

[FOM](#)  
Forest of Mercia.

[FoE](#)  
Friends of the Earth.

[FRCA](#)  
Farming and Rural Conservation Agency.

[FWAG](#)  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

[GCT](#)  
Game Conservancy Trust.

[GIS](#)  
Geographical Information System.

[GW](#)  
Groundwork.

[HAP](#)  
Habitat Action Plan.

[HP](#)  
Heathlands Partnership.

[HC](#)  
Herp Conservation.

[IAP](#)  
Issues Action Plan.

[ITE](#)  
Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

[IUCN](#)  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

[JNCC](#)  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

[LA](#)  
Local Authority.

[LA21](#)  
Local Agenda 21.

[LCG](#)  
Local Conservation Group.

[LEA](#)  
Local Education Authority.

[LEAP](#)  
Local Environment Agency Plan.

[LNR](#)  
Local Nature Reserve.

[LO](#)  
Land owner.

[LPA](#)  
Local Planning Authority.

[LRC](#)  
Local Records Centre.

[MAFF](#)  
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

[MBC](#)  
Metropolitan Borough Council.

[MEBC](#)  
Midland Environmental Business Club.

[NAEE](#)  
National Association for Environmental Education.

[NBN](#)  
National Biodiversity Network.

[NCC](#)  
Nature Conservancy Council (now English Nature in England).

[NCP](#)  
Natural Curriculum Project.

[NNP](#)  
Neighbourhood Nature Project.

[NNR](#)  
National Nature Reserve.

[NT](#)  
National Trust.

[NUFU](#)  
National Urban Forestry Unit.

[NVC](#)  
National Vegetation Classification.

[PDSA](#)  
Peoples' Dispensary for Sick Animals.

[PPG](#)  
Planning Policy Guidance.

[POS](#)  
Public Open Space.

[PTA](#)  
Parent Teacher Association.

[PWG](#)  
Pensnett Wildlife Trust.

[QCA](#)  
Qualification and Curriculum Authority.

[RE](#)  
River Ecosystem.

[RES](#)  
Royal Entomological Society.

[RHS](#)  
Royal Horticultural Society.

[RSPB](#)  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

[RSPCA](#)  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

[SAC](#)  
Special Area for Conservation.

[SAP](#)  
Species Action Plan.

[SINC](#)  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

[SLINC](#)  
Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.



SRB

Single Regeneration Budget.

SSSI

Site of Special Scientific Interest.

STW

Severn Trent Water.

TPO

Tree Preservation Order.

UDP

Unitary Development Plan.

UK

United Kingdom.

W&CA

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

WCA

Wildlife Conservation Area.

WdT

Woodland Trust.

WMBC

West Midlands Bird Club.

WMEN

West Midlands Environment Network.

WT

Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

For further information or to become involved in the Birmingham & Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan please contact:

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[www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/urbanwt/ecorecord/bap](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/urbanwt/ecorecord/bap)

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