

CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2024

I. Creating an Accurate Picture

Outcome: A comprehensive record of the presence and location of important habitats and species within the District has been established and maintained

<i>Action Details</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Delivery/Progress</i>	<i>Partners involved</i>
<i>Increase ecological data across the District</i>			
Continue to support the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) in its role as a repository for all species and habitat data in the District through our Service Level Agreement	Annually		SxBRC
Ensure that all ecological surveys submitted as part of the Development Management process are forwarded to the Records Centre every quarter	Quarterly		SxBRC
Maintain CDC's Ecological Network Maps (for Water Voles, Bats, Dormice, Barn Owls, Chalkhill Blue Butterflies, Northern Lapwings)	On going		
Share CDC's Ecological Network Maps with partner organisations	On going		
Support the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre in the Local Wildlife Sites Initiative. Environment Team will sit on the 'expert panel' to assess and designate LWS's in Chichester District and West Sussex	On going		SxBRC

II. Protecting, Maintaining, Restoring and Creating

Outcome: Chichester District's Ecological Networks are comprehensive and resilient through the protection, management and enhancement of important wildlife sites and habitats, the components that connect them and the species that use them

<i>Action Details</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Delivery/Progress</i>	<i>Partners involved</i>
<i>Protection of the Harbours</i>			
Reduce the recreational pressures on Chichester Harbour through supporting Bird Aware Solent, policies in the local plan, and the Bird Aware Solent Strategy	Ongoing		Bird Aware Solent partnership (14 local authorities)
Continue to support the Pagham Harbour Mitigation Scheme to	Ongoing		Arun DC, RSPB

reduce recreation pressure on Pagham Harbour.			Pagham
Support Regional Initiatives			
Wildlife Corridors Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Heritage Lottery Funding for development and delivery phase of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Phase proposed start 1st Aug 2020 Delivery Phase proposed start 1st Nov 2022 – 31st October 2025 	2025		SDNPA, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, SWT, MWHG
Support Local Initiatives			
Brandy Hole Copse (BHC) Local Nature Reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to manage the Copse through direct maintenance and supporting the volunteer groups working at BHC by leading 'Green Gym' Conservation Volunteers every Tuesday Provide administrative and organisational support to projects Continue to implement the coppicing rotation at the site through a 'Wood for Work' scheme. This will benefit the biodiversity that relies on rotation coppice to thrive Continue to represent the Council at the BHC Management Board meeting Update, develop and deliver the BHC Management Plan Provide PR updates about work and events to engage Chichester residents 	On going		
Ecological Network Mapping – using the maps to identify sites for enhancements within the District	By 2023		
Graylingwell – working in partnership with the Community Development Trust to continue to promote biodiversity at the site	2020		MWHG, CCDT
Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands (FLOW) Project - improving and enhancing the Manhood Peninsula wetlands habitat. Support the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group's (MWHG) ditch condition and wetland habitat on the whole of Manhood Peninsula and ensuring the project has a strong legacy	2020/1		MWHG, RSPB, CHC, MPP, NE, SWT, WSCC and Parish Councils
Naturalising Chichester's Green Spaces - areas to be identified set-aside and 'wilded' to create biodiversity rich spaces within Chichester's parks. Support Green Spaces team by surveying these sites in the initial growing year, this will determine management regime for each site. Identify tree planting	Ongoing		CDC

opportunities. This will feed into WSCC Pollinator Action Plan			
Installation of bat and bird boxes along New Park Road on mature trees as requested by local residents	2020		
Three owl boxes will be installed in the Summerdale area			
Chichester Tree Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attending the summit and supporting subsequent works (e.g. Conservation and educational sessions in local schools). 	Ongoing		Chichester City Council, WSCC, Local Residents Associations
<i>Monitoring CDC Sites managed for Biodiversity</i>			
Audit sites being managed by Local Groups for biodiversity (East Beach Pond, South Pond...)	Ongoing		

III. Advice and Funding

Outcome: Projects and initiatives that halt the decline of important species and habitats are supported through advice and signposting

<i>Action Details</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Delivery/Progress</i>	<i>Partners involved</i>
Encourage applications to and provide advice on CDC's Grants and Concessions Scheme for projects that will enhance the District's biodiversity.	On going		
Advise CDC departments of their obligations under the Biodiversity Duty (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) and updates further to the Environment Bill, conduct walkover biodiversity surveys of CDC owned sites subject to development or change of use and identify protected species surveys required.	On going		

IV. Planning

Outcome: Protection and improvement of the natural environment is a core objective of the planning system in Chichester District

<i>Action Details</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Delivery/Progress</i>	<i>Partners involved</i>
Support the development of the biodiversity polices within the Local	2021		

Plan Review and Neighbourhood Plans			
Ensure that biodiversity is fully considered in the master planning of the Strategic Development Sites	Ongoing		
Ensure that biodiversity is fully considered in the Development Management process by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responding to planning consultations on ecological matters • ensuring enhancement measures are incorporated into new development • carrying out habitats regulations assessments where required • Implementing the Net Biodiversity Gain assessments, when this is introduced nationally 	On going		Arun DC, SDNPA

V. Awareness and Promotion

Outcome: Residents of Chichester District are well informed on the wealth of biodiversity within the District, particularly CDC's Parks and Gardens

<i>Action Details</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Delivery/Progress</i>	<i>Partners involved</i>
Promote biodiversity projects and achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular biodiversity news in 'Initiatives' magazine • Regularly update the LBAP pages of the CDC website • Promote Brandy Hole Copse as an accessible local nature reserve through the CDC website • Through capitalising on joint opportunities to protect biodiversity and reduce the use of SUPs (as detailed with within SUPs action plan) 	On going		

<p>Encourage biodiversity in CDC Parks and Gardens and Estates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop wildlife areas within CDC parks and Gardens • Advise relevant CDC departments on biodiversity and planting for wildlife, climate change and the threat of drought and identify opportunities for enhancements within the Council's Estate • Provide the public with information on biodiversity in CDC reserves, parks and gardens • Support Green Spaces team in updating the mowing contracts to ensure our parks are not 'green deserts'. 	On going		
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VI. Updating and Reporting

Outcome: Timely internal progress reports and updates are produced

<i>Action Details</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Delivery/Progress</i>	<i>Partners involved</i>
Produce annual progress reports for OSC. Reports will also be required for Cabinet if additional funding is required	Annually		
Environment team to update LBAP actions every quarter	Quarterly		

Appendix 1

List of CDC's project partners

**West Sussex County Council
South Downs National Park Authority
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Solent Forum
Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group
Sussex Wildlife Trust
Bird Aware Solent
Transition Chichester
RSPB
Manhood Peninsula Partnership
Natural England
Chichester Community Development Trust
Graylingwell and Rousillon Park
Eco Chi
West Sussex Tree Wardens Network**