

Appendix A: Report of progress for the Council’s Biodiversity Strategy against Defra recommendations as to how public authorities can show regard for biodiversity.

PCC Biodiversity Strategy Ref.	Update on Progress/Action underway	Barrier to Progress	Future Action
Promoting biodiversity in planning and development			
1	<p>The Natural & Historic Environment Team continue to provide specific advice to both Development Management officers with regard to specific development proposals and to Planning Policy colleagues in relation to the Local Plan including policies and site allocation documents.</p> <p>A Peterborough Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy has been produced requires update. Previously this had been envisaged as a updated of the existing text. With Biodiversity Net Gain, the new Green Infrastructure Framework and other developments it now makes sense to create a new cohesive document rather than redrafting an old one. With the current Local Plan Review it is hoped that the current Open Space Strategy will be updated to also include Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>The Highway and Drainage Control Team are influencing developers throughout the city to implement Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) which encourages biodiversity through the use of above ground drainage components, such as swales, attenuation basins and rain gardens.</p> <p>A new Wildlife Officer has been appointed to help account for the increased work loads expected due to Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain. The Officer has been in post since October 2023 and has already been an asset in improving Peterborough City Council Biodiversity.</p> <p>With the implementation of the Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Objective on the 12th of February the interim Biodiversity Net Gain guidance is out of date and will no longer be used.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Workloads are increasing due to the new statutory requirements of BNG.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue current efforts.</p> <p>Start the document creation process.</p> <p>Continue collaboration with the SUDS Team.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Apply the lessons learnt from the BNG interim Guidance to help smooth the process into statutory BNG.</p>

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	<p>We have updated the Peterborough City Council GIS systems to accommodate the new data required to monitor BNG creation. This will be required to comply with new Statutory Biodiversity Monitoring Requirements put in place by the Environment Act 2021.</p> <p>Biodiversity Checklists are forms that help inform planning agents to understand if they are likely to need biodiversity assessment within their applications. The checklist has been updated and condensed into one checklist to be used for all applications. The checklist has been modified to include modern Biodiversity principles and the requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>The loss of Priority Habitats, trees, hedges and shrubs continues to be resisted, though the planning process, unless there are sound reasons to indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Every effort will be made to ensure that appropriate landscaping schemes are submitted as part of relevant planning applications. These landscaping schemes should prioritise the use of Native Species where appropriate.</p> <p>Monitor and promote Priority Habitats to a greater extent. Advertising the strategic significance of these habitats to large scale developers.</p> <p>All qualifying native rural hedges are protected via the hedgerow regulations 1997. This is an often-overlooked piece of legislation which we are making sure we enforce in all planning applications. Hedgerows are the preferred boundary treatment on all developments.</p> <p>Regular training is held with the planning officers to further explain the</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue supporting the developer with relevant ecology expertise.</p> <p>Ensure the updated checklists are embedded in the Planning Application Process.</p> <p>No Further action necessary</p> <p>Provide informative in all applications informing developers that native species are preferred.</p> <p>Ensure that Priority Habitats in Peterborough are given strategic significance within the BNG system.</p> <p>Continue existing practice.</p> <p>Continue to disseminate information as it is provided by</p>

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2	<p>huge changes in how biodiversity will be protected introduced within the Environment Act 2021.</p> <p>The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is being developed by Cambridgeshire Combined Authority in conjunction with Peterborough City Council as a stake holder. The LNRS will provide direction to nature recovery around Peterborough and will be required to be “regarded” within the planning system. It is also likely to be referenced within the new Local Plan.</p> <p>The Wildlife Team has contributed to the Local Plan through providing consultation to the Local Plan SHELAA Stage 1.</p> <p>A large aspect of the new Biodiversity Net Gain Objective is the creation of a Biodiversity Net Gain Unit market place. Where off site providers of Biodiversity Units can meet up with developers in need of them to purchase. We have been facilitating the creation of this market place through providing BNG training to landowners.</p> <p>Further supported the successful implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain through providing training for Planning Agents during the Developers forum in Peterborough.</p> <p>The Natural & Historic Environment Team and Planning Policy have continued to support the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) which has provided data for a number of Peterborough City Council projects and reports including those associated with the Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report and Single Data List (SDL) 160.</p> <p>The Council receives an annually updated species data disc from the Records Centre to assist in identifying protected sites and species associated with each application. This ‘front-loading’ of data assists with identifying ecological issues at the outset of development and ultimately may</p>	<p>Collaboration requirements with CCA</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Lack of clarity over the potential size of a biodiversity unit marketplace.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Natural England. Continue helping with development and disseminating information to internal stakeholders.</p> <p>None completed work.</p> <p>Further work encouraging the provision of off site units.</p> <p>Provide further training after official adoption of BNG.</p> <p>Continue to provide awareness and data to CPERC to support relationship.</p> <p>Continue consulting the records when required to support planning conclusions.</p>

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	<p>enable developments to progress more smoothly than would otherwise be the case.</p> <p>Continued support for the long standing Peterborough Barn Owl Recovery Programme. This is now recognised as one of the most successful of these programmes in the UK. Monitoring in the last year has also included additional boxes erected in the previous reporting period which replace those lost or which had fallen into disrepair over the last 15 years. The data from this ongoing monitoring scheme has proved crucial in the provision of advice to the Planning Department with respect to a number of strategic planning applications for example for wind farm proposals and public inquiries and how they would relate to this key environmental feature of the surrounding area.</p> <p>A Service Level Agreement to provide SDL160 data continues to be agreed between Peterborough City Council and the Wildlife Trust. This provides vital capacity for the PCC Wildlife Officer to complete all planning application review duties.</p> <p>District Level Licencing for Great Crested Newts has been successfully introduced in Peterborough. A recent addition to the Biodiversity Data Sets is the Great Crested Newt District Level Licencing data, which includes estimate locations for Great Crested Newt populations and new Great Crested Newt DLL ponds created within the PCC district. This data further informs planning application Ecological Receptor Survey Requirements.</p> <p>The Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity website page has been updated with new information, mainly regarding Biodiversity Net Gain although all the information has been reviewed.</p>	<p>COVID resulted in a gap in the data provided, however the project is continuing.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue to support the programme.</p> <p>Compile and submit SDL160 data to DEFRA.</p> <p>Continue to work with the DLL team to provide further pond creation.</p> <p>Review in Summer of 2024 to ensure information remains up to date with BNG guidance.</p>

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Showing regard for biodiversity on public authority managed land and buildings			
3	<p>The Natural and Historic Environment (N&HE) Team has continued general liaison and advice to officers and departments from across the Council, including for example Highways officers and Aragon staff, to promote biodiversity being incorporated into all landscape management contracts.</p> <p>Works by the Environment Agency have been completed in the Werrington Brook Area. These works are accompanied by an ecological landscape management plan. We are currently investigating reviewing this plan to enable implementation.</p> <p>The edges of Central Park are currently being managed for biodiversity, A site visit was completed to look at exactly how much biodiversity was being gained through this management. An analysis showed an approximate 20% increase in biodiversity units while also reducing the cost of management for the area.</p> <p>There is a conflict between residents that enjoy cleanly cut road verges and the needs of pollinators dependant on the grasslands as a food source. An attempt to answer this by seeding wildflower mixes resistant to the cutting regimes has begun. Two trial plots have been identified and seeded. These plots will continued to be monitored into the 2024 growing season</p> <p>The use of pesticides in Peterborough by all contracted</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue this role.</p> <p>Monitor/amend the implementation of the management plan.</p> <p>Complete another monitoring visit in 2024.</p> <p>Monitor the success of these sites across 2024.</p> <p>Open discussions with relevant organisations.</p>

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4	<p>management companies working in public places is continued to be reviewed. This aims to identify alternatives.</p> <p>Further areas are being identified for trialling new approaches to landscape management. These include un-mown wildflower verges in Barnack village centre, the Crematorium Wildflower area, Dogsthorpe and Olive Road allotment Initiatives, Bug life creating wildflower areas in Holywell Fishponds CWS & wildflower planting on earth bunds in Orton Malborne. . In addition it is proposed, during 2024, to develop a method for Cllrs to suggest their suggestions for reduced mowing regimes across this city. It is hoped that a GIS form will be created to capture these ideas, along with a drop in session for Cllrs to share these ideas with officers.</p> <p>High Field Road Protected Road Verge is currently being damaged through vehicles being parked on top of it. It has been decided that initially increasing the awareness of the verge's protected status is necessary. A plan has been put together to install signage and bollards. If the damage continues, we will investigate other forms of protection.</p> <p>New management plans have been created for a selection the Peterborough City Council owned and managed green spaces with the highest potential for biodiversity gain. It is hoped that though 2024 we can get these plans implemented.</p> <p>Tackling Non-native Species: The Council & Aragon continue to employ best practice procedures to deal with invasive non-native species on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the Council's control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Funding for installation</p> <p>Funding for habitat management</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Monitor in 2024.</p> <p>Continue to monitor the situation after the bollards are installed.</p> <p>Enable the works through finding funding.</p> <p>Continue to get relevant training in non-native species identification.</p>

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5	<p>coherence of habitat networks.</p> <p>Sites which support priority habitats such as Holywell Fish Ponds, Cherry Orton Road Pond, Basil Green Pond, Botolph Green Pond are all under active management by the Peterborough Conservation Volunteers. Priority habitats and species across Peterborough City Council are also being identified and prioritised for expansion through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>Continued support for monitoring and habitat management for the rare Four-spotted Moth in Peterborough. The population has recently been significantly reduced due to a temporary neighbouring rail development to the largest area of habitat. It has recently been reported that the population has survived and will hopefully recover in a now expanded County Wildlife Site.</p> <p>Continued support for Cambridgeshire Bat Group to monitor known significant Bat Roosts around Peterborough City Council. Stable populations of over wintering bats have been monitored through with CBG's help.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue to support the Peterborough Conservation Volunteers by helping to increase membership.</p> <p>Continue to support the monitoring project.</p> <p>Continue to support the monitoring project.</p> <p>Continue to support and help plan their efforts.</p>
6	<p>Peterborough Conservation Volunteers continue to be supported by PCC in their role improving natural habitats in PCC. The support for PCV is provided by promotion of efforts and helping new members join.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue to support and help</p>

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7	<p>The Council continues to provide support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate such as Broadway Cemetery and Cuckoos Hollow groups. The Probation Services also undertake works on semi-natural areas and Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Collaborated with Frog Life and the Nene Park Trust to try to identify leased out Peterborough City Council Land to use for the generation of Biodiversity Net Gain Units.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain information night was held with Ufford Parish Council and also meetings were held in Ginton. The aim was to increase awareness of the value of the surrounding habitats and the potential impact of Biodiversity Net Gain on the wider Peterborough City Council Countryside.</p>	<p>Lack of detail around how many credits will be required</p> <p>Overall public interest/advertisement</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>plan their efforts.</p> <p>Continued support as BNG becomes commonplace.</p> <p>Continue to discuss with local Parish councils to complete biodiversity talks.</p> <p>Introduce the same concept elsewhere in Peterborough with the maintenance savings funding the signs.</p>
8	<p>Peterborough City Council's Website has had a major update with all biodiversity information being updated. Include significant amounts of information regarding Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>Constant work with PECT and Langdyke Trust in order to enable potential volunteer work on wildlife positive projects.</p> <p>Attempted collaboration with local land owners to support the creation of</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Lack of clarity for land owners regarding the biodiversity Net Gain process.</p>	<p>Continue the work.</p> <p>Hold more meetings to spread information about Biodiversity Net Gain.</p>

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9	<p>an off site Biodiversity Net Gain unit market place. Technical advice on the procedure and potential planning support available from Peterborough City Council was given.</p> <p>Worked with Flag Fen to find funding sources for the naturally high levels of biodiversity found within the site. Several funding sources were found which we are currently pursuing.</p>	Being granted the funding	Continue to investigate funding opportunities.
Protected Sites & Areas			
10	<p>Continued to work with Natural England to highlight the disturbance pressures on Sites of Scientific Interest such as Barnack Hills and Holes, through new residential developments. Attempts will be made to secure funding through the Biodiversity Net Gain scheme to maintain protected sites.</p> <p>Work with Natural England to identify non-statutory sites which may qualify for statutory status.</p> <p>Orton Pit consists of part of the treebelt which runs along the southern edge of the Fletton Parkway. Funding was secured in 2014 from both the Trees & Woodland Strategy budget and via a mitigation package as part of the Fletton Parkway widening scheme to deliver a range of habitat enhancement works. These enhancements are ongoing but monitoring surveys suggest a large amount of wildlife returning to the area.</p>	<p>Approval for additional resources to manage the site currently being sought.</p> <p>Identification of sites is difficult due to surveys required.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue to meet with Natural England to discuss best practice of delivering funds to the site.</p> <p>Work with other organisations to help identify sites.</p> <p>Work with future close by developments to provide further enhancements.</p>

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11	<p>Eye Green Nature Reserve has a small portion designated as a SSSI for geological interest reasons. Over the years this SSSI has become overgrown with scrubby trees which prevents the interesting features from being identified. Peterborough City Council secured some funding from Natural England to reduce the vegetation and expose the geological features, which will hopefully be delivered in 2024.</p>	N/A	Continue monitoring into the future.
	<p>The Hills and Holes replacement habitat at Sissions close in Barnack has had its management re-evaluated and redesigned and continues to be monitored into 2023. Now instead of returning to rank grassland it should better represent the species diversity at Hills and Holes SSSI, hopefully attracting a few glow worms at the same time. It is expected that this will take between 10-30 years before the community is fully established however. I am pleased to say that over 2023 its species mix has continued to develop and is closer in representation to the target habitat.</p>	N/A	Continue monitoring.
	<p>The re-surveying of all CWS has continued by the Wildlife Trust via a Service Level Agreement. This includes provision of advice to landowners and activities carried out on behalf of the Natural and Historic Environment Team.</p>	N/A	Hold a meeting to discuss sites surveyed in 2024.
	<p>The Council continues to report annually to Defra on the National Indicator Target for Biodiversity (SDL 160) regarding the percentage of Local Wildlife Sites in positive management across the Unitary Authority area. During the most recent reporting period (22/23) Peterborough achieved a figure of 77.5% (86 out of 112 sites) in</p>	Collaboration with private land owners can be difficult.	Work with landowners to put more sites into positive management.

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	<p>positive management.</p> <p>All County Wildlife Site (CWS) Protected Verges and extensions thereof within the Unitary Authority area continue to be managed, according to best practice guidelines by Aragon, to assist in providing wildlife corridors. Spring and summer cuts are being introduced, along with the existing cuts in Sept with the aim to increase biodiversity.</p> <p>Eye Green Gravel Pit LNR & CWS: The Wildlife Trust has ended its involvement at this nature reserve following termination of its lease in Sept 2016. The Council has however recently found a new partner in Froglife to manage the site for the benefit of the local community and the population of amphibians present on the site. Froglife have created a number of new ponds which has resulted in Great Crested Newts being found there for the first time in several years.</p> <p>Holywell Fish Ponds CWS: Peterborough City Council has been removing toxic plants from the site that have taken root there. After the plants removal Peterborough City Council will continue to implement improvements and ensure the biodiversity management of the site is improving overtime. The Cambs Bat Group also continues to monitor the site's bat population which is still present.</p> <p>Broadway Cemetery CWS: After the management of the site was reviewed in 2023. In 2024 it will be monitored to ensure that the Meadow Saxifrage populations are being maintained. All management will be balanced against the need to open the cemetery to improve surveillance due to anti-social behaviour issues. Additionally, there has</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Conflicting site requirements between historic and ecological value</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Meetings to kick the new management regime off are planned in.</p> <p>Hold an annual meeting to review the management of the site.</p> <p>Continue to improve the biodiversity of the site.</p> <p>Continuous Monitoring.</p>

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12	<p>historically been a collaboration with a local resident to encourage bees on site.</p> <p>Funding from Anglian Water is being sought to improve The Boardwalks CWS through maintenance of the paths, clearing of the waterbodies to allow fresh growth and funding for training the Frog Life members that frequently maintain the site.</p> <p>The Werrington Brook Improvement Programme has been completed and now the ecological management of the area is under review. This significant water improvement programme is expected to improve the biodiversity and habitats of several watercourses including Werrington Brook (including Cuckoos Hollow), Marholm Brook and upper Brook Drain. It will help to meet Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements for Peterborough's urban watercourses. The work load of 2023 prevent this site being surveyed and updated management recommendations being provided. We will aim to complete this survey work in 2024.</p> <p>The Langdyke Trust's efforts to create new nature reserves in the John Clare Countryside area, such as the Etton-Maxey Nature reserve have been further supported, through providing specific biodiversity advice.</p>	<p>Achieving the funding from Anglian Water</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Chase up the funding bid process.</p> <p>A survey needs to be completed in 2024.</p> <p>Continue to support.</p>
Green infrastructure			
13	<p>The Green Infrastructure Framework was published by Natural England last year. This document covers voluntary guidance on the amount type and placement of green infrastructure in all new developments. We are planning to incorporate this information within</p>	<p>Limited time available to dedicate to the revision of the Green Infrastructure and</p>	<p>The framework needs to be reviewed and then incorporated into planning recommendations going</p>

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	guidance documentation linked to the revision of the Local Plan. This documentation will hopefully be drafted over 2024.	biodiversity supplementary planning document.	forward.

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