

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 and certain sections are now considered to require review to add references to Biodiversity Net Gain. This review will be in partnership with a number of local conservation organisations with the intension of the document being part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.</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>In order to account for the increased workload that will be created with the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain, an additional Senior Wildlife Officer position has been created as part of the Planning Services Review. We are currently actively hiring to fill this position.</p> <p>The principle of No Net Loss has now been improved upon with the adoption of the interim Biodiversity Net Gain Approach. This will allow the smooth adoption of the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain principle in Peterborough in preparation for the full roll out in end of 2023.</p> <p>We are currently in progress of updating the Peterborough Planning Systems in order to account for the new data and survey requirements in</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Awaiting the governments guidance's on implementation of BNG to be published</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>High demand for suitable candidates</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue current efforts.</p> <p>Updated Document to be drafted and undergo consultation as part of Local Plan process.</p> <p>To introduce SuDS into the biodiversity policies to increase continuity and consistency.</p> <p>Continue recruitment exercise.</p> <p>Continue improving the knowledge and understanding of BNG with consultants in the Peterborough City Council area.</p> <p>Continue supporting the developer with relevant</p>

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	<p>relation to Biodiversity Net Gain.</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 current checklists do not represent modern thinking in determining the likely presence of Protected Species. These checklists are currently being updated.</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 huge changes in how biodiversity will be protected introduced within the Environment Act 2021.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Not enough time to provide full training</p>	<p>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 Natural England.</p>

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2	<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 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</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</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>Continue to provide awareness and data to CPERC to support relationship.</p> <p>Continue consulting the records when required to support planning conclusions.</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>

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	Crested Newt DLL ponds created within the PCC district. This data further informs planning application Ecological Receptor Survey Requirements.		
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>An exercise is being undertaken internally to reanalyse the Parks and Open Spaces of Peterborough and assess if there are any which qualify for Local Nature Reserve Status. Any nominations by councillors or general public will also be considered. This is part of an ambitious scheme to ensure at least 3 ha of Local Nature reserve per 1000 population, in line with the new Green Infrastructure Framework.</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.</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</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Lack of funds for management, communication with</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue this role.</p> <p>Increase awareness of the initiative to identify “low hanging fruit” sites for identification.</p> <p>Monitor/amend the implementation of the management plan.</p> <p>Complete another monitoring visit in 2023.</p> <p>Monitor the success of these sites across 2023.</p>

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4	<p>mixes resistant to the cutting regimes has begun. Two trial plots have been identified and seeded.</p> <p>Fletton Cemetery has also been working with PECT to encourage bees and other pollinators on site. Wildflower seed was sown along the hedges bordering the Green Burial section at Fletton Cemetery.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in Peterborough by all contracted 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.</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 coherence of habitat networks.</p>	N/A	Continue to introduce wildflower seed where possible
5	<p>Sites such as Cherry Orton Road Pond, Basil Green Pond, Botolph Green Pond are all under active management by the Peterborough Conservation Volunteers. Priority habitats outside of the Peterborough City area are also being identified and prioritised for expansion through the Biodiversity Net Gain payments.</p> <p>Continued support for monitoring and habitat management for the rare Four-spotted Moth in Peterborough. The population has</p>	N/A	Open discussions with relevant organisations.
			Monitor in 2023.
			Continue to get relevant training in non-native species identification.
			Continue to support the Peterborough Conservation Volunteers by helping to increase membership.
			Continue to support the

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6	<p>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>The Friends of Holywell are being supported by PCC to create a community area within the site while also helping manage the habitats at Holywell Fish Ponds for biodiversity. The Holywell site has quite complex management requirements, it is hoped that while a small area of the site is given over to community planting, the majority of the site will benefit from directed biodiversity management.</p> <p>Peterborough Conservation Volunteers continue to be supported by PCC in their by allowing them to promote biodiversity in Peterborough. The support is provided through promotion of efforts and helping new members join.</p>	N/A	<p>monitoring project.</p> <p>Currently in the process of reviewing the revised management plan.</p> <p>Continue to support and help plan their efforts.</p>
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>	N/A	<p>Continue to support and help plan their efforts.</p>
8	<p>Biodiversity Walk and Talks have been held in Ginton, Maxey, Bainton and Ashton and Helpston over the last year. These were generally well attended within 5-10 members of the public joining. The aim was to increase awareness of the value of the surrounding habitats.</p>	Overall public interest/advertisement	<p>Continue to discuss with local Parish councils to complete biodiversity talks.</p>

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9	<p>New signs have been placed around Central Park to help inform the public why areas that may be considered “untidy” have been created. These new areas not only save the council in terms of cost they also help improve biodiversity.</p> <p>Constant work with PECT and Langdyke Trust in order to enable potential volunteer work on wildlife positive projects.</p> <p>Updated the website with Peterborough Conservation Volunteers and Friends of Groups contact information.</p> <p>The first JCC Farm Cluster meeting about Biodiversity Net Gain was held. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the concept of BNG to those who would use land to create Biodiversity Net Gain Credits to be sold to developers in the Peterborough City Council area. It was moderately successful and hopefully we will start to see BNG projects start in the local area soon.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Introduce the same concept elsewhere in Peterborough with the maintenance savings funding the signs.</p> <p>Continue the work.</p> <p>Contact other friends of groups to ask if they want their address being shared.</p> <p>Hold more meetings to spread information about Biodiversity Net Gain.</p>
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>Approval for additional resources to manage the site currently being sought.</p> <p>Identification of sites is difficult due to surveys required.</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>

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11	<p>Orton Pit is the only Council owned SSSI and 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>	N/A	Work with future close by developments to provide further enhancements.
	<p>The Hills and Holes replacement habitat at Sissions close in Barnack has had its management re-evaluated and redesigned. 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.</p>	N/A	Continue monitoring into the future.
	<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 2023.
	<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 (21/22) Peterborough achieved a figure of 78.4% (87 out of 112 sites) in positive management.</p>	Collaboration with private land owners can be difficult.	Work with landowners to put more sites into positive management.
<p>All County Wildlife Site (CWS) Protected Verges and extensions thereof within the Unitary Authority area continue to be managed</p>	N/A	Meetings to kick the new management regime off are	

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12	<p>according to best practice guidelines by Aragon to assist in providing wildlife corridors involving a cut in Sept and removal of cuttings. Areas of verge in the John Clare Countryside area are having management plan revisions to increase the number of cuts 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.</p> <p>Holywell Fish Ponds CWS: Existing management has been maintained by the Friends of Holywell, extensive community improvements have been made to the site and 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: Management of grass cutting is currently being reviewed to ensure areas of species-rich grassland are allowed to flower and set seed before being cut in Sept. Previously these areas have been found to be declining over time. All management will be balanced against the need to open up the cemetery to improve surveillance due to anti-social behaviour issues. Additionally there has historically been a collaboration with a local resident to encourage bees on 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</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Conflicting site requirements between historic and ecological value</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>planned in.</p> <p>Hold an annual meeting to review the management of the site.</p> <p>Continue to work with the group and complete a monitoring visit at the end of 2023.</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged to discuss the ongoing management.</p> <p>A survey needs to be completed in 2023.</p>

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	<p>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. It is now time to review the management prescribed to assess how well it is being completed.</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>	N/A	Continue to support.
Green infrastructure			
13	<p>The Green Infrastructure Framework was published by Natural England earlier this year. This document covers voluntary guidance on the amount type and placement of green infrastructure in all new developments. This framework will be used to guide Peterborough consultations going forward and will hopefully be used to inform future planning policy.</p>	Limited time available to dedicate to the revision of the Green Infrastructure and biodiversity supplementary planning document.	The framework needs to be reviewed and then incorporated into planning recommendations going forward.