



**Wigan Local Development Framework  
Wildlife Habitats and Species  
Evidence Review**

**June 2009**

**Wigan Council  
Environmental Services**

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Planning for Water Sports, Planning Bulletin 9	Open Space, Play, Sport and Recreation
Wigan Greenheart Regional Park Project Proposal	Open Space, Play, Sport and Recreation
Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment	Open Space, Play, Sport and Recreation
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	National & Regional Planning Policy
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Securing the Future: The UK Sustainable Development Strategy	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
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Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Local Agenda 21	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Water for life and livelihoods – A framework for river basin planning in England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2006)	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Waterways for Tomorrow	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Making Space for Water	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
River Douglas Catchment Flood Management Plan Scoping Report	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Mersey Estuary Catchment Flood Management Plan	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
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Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems: promoting good practice	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
The SUDS Manual	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Planning Policy Statement 25 Appendix F: Managing Surface Water	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
North West Green Infrastructure Guide	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution

Title	Evidence Review Paper
Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Regenerating the English Coalfields: Interim evaluation of the Coalfields regeneration programmes	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Guidance for the Safe Development of Housing on Land Affected by Contamination	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Wigan Derelict Land Survey 05/06	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
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ODPM Circular 05/2005	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Air Quality Strategy for England Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland, 2000 and 2003 Addendum	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Development Control: Planning for Air Quality	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution
Greater Manchester LTP2 Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution

<b>Table A1</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Directive 2006/7/EC of the European parliament and of the council of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC. This Directive shall apply to any element of surface water where the competent authority expects a large number of people to bathe and has not imposed a permanent bathing prohibition, or issued permanent advice against bathing (hereinafter bathing water). It shall not apply to:</p> <p>(a) swimming pools and spa pools;</p> <p>(b) confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes;</p> <p>(c) artificially created confined waters separated from surface water and groundwater.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Directive lays down provisions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality;</li> <li>• the management of bathing water quality; and the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health through improvements to quality of surface water.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Refer to previous sections	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<p>To have a regard to areas of surface water that are used frequently by people and the potential impacts on biodiversity and human health.</p> <p>The Supplementary Planning Document should also have regard to potential outcomes of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.</p>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
Human health, well being and the quality of areas of surface water and surrounding environments are key objectives of sustainability	
<b>Cross references</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk</li> <li>• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Environment, natural resources and pollution</p> <p>Landscape, townscape and buildings</p>

<b>Table A2</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC)</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	<b>European Council</b>
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The aim of the Birds Directive is to provide for the protection, management and control of naturally occurring wild birds and their nests, eggs and habitats within the European Union. It serves to ensure that all wild birds receive basic protection from trapping and killing; that sufficient habitat is protected to assure the survival of threatened and migratory species; that large-scale or non-selective means of taking birds are prohibited; and that the exploitation, sale or commercialisation of most species is prevented. Certain exceptions are made for legitimate sporting and hunting practices, and to allow governments to take action when birds pose serious risks for human health and safety, crops, livestock, fisheries, forests, water, or other flora and fauna. In particular it seeks to protect all wild birds and the habitats of listed species through the designation of Specially Protected Areas, which are incorporated in the Natura 2000 network established by the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>To provide for the protection, management and control of naturally occurring wild birds and their nests, eggs and habitats within the European Union</p> <p><b>Article 1</b></p> <p>1. Conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the territory of the member states to which the treaty applies. It covers the protection management and control of these species and lays down rules for their exploitation. It shall apply to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats.</p> <p><b>Article 2</b></p> <p>2. Take measures to maintain the population of the species referred to in article 1 at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological , scientific and cultural requirements , while taking account of economic and recreational requirements , or to adapt the population of these species to that level</p> <p><b>Article 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Preservation , Maintenance And Re-Establishment Of Biotopes And Habitats Shall Include Primarily The Following Measures : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Creation Of Protected Areas ;</li> <li>4. Upkeep And Management In Accordance With The Ecological Needs Of Habitats Inside And Outside The Protected Zones ;</li> <li>5. Re-Establishment Of Destroyed Biotopes ;</li> <li>6. Creation Of Biotopes</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><b>Article 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species mentioned in annex I of the Directive shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. In this connection , account shall be taken of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• species in danger of extinction ;</li> <li>• species vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat ;</li> <li>• species considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution ;</li> <li>• other species requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of their habitat.</li> <li>• Trends and variations in population levels shall be taken into account as a background for evaluations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To protected wild birds and habitats.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Wild Bird species and habitats continually under threat from human activity and climate change.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
To have specific regard to bird species through the protection and enhancement of their stocks and habitats.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
The protection and enhancement of species and their habitats are key elements of sustainability and should be fully incorporated the Sustainability Appraisal framework.	

<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="236 129 687 159">• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li><li data-bbox="236 159 671 188">• Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li></ul>	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table A3</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>EU Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC)</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The Directive establishes a European ecological network known as "Natura 2000". The network comprises "special areas of conservation" designated by Member States in accordance with the provisions of the Directive, and special protection areas classified pursuant to <a href="#">Directive 79/409/EEC</a> on the conservation of wild birds. These sites are part of a range of measures aimed at conserving important or threatened habitats and species.</p> <p>In the UK the Directive has been transposed into national laws by means of the <a href="#">Conservation (Natural Habitats, and c.) Regulations 1994</a> (as amended),</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To promote the maintenance of biodiversity by taking measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status. The directive introduces robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance, taking account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage the management of features of the landscape which are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species;</li> <li>• establish systems of strict protection for those animal and plant species which are particularly threatened (Annex IV) and study the desirability of reintroducing those species in their territory;</li> <li>• prohibit the use of non-selective methods of taking, capturing or killing certain animal and plant species (Annex V).</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Ensuring that protection of Habitats and wild flora and fauna are key objectives of the Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
Protection of Habitats and wild flora and fauna are key elements of sustainability. The Sustainability Appraisal framework will need to provide pro active measures to ensure that there is greater understanding of such issues.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
Biodiversity will be a sustainability objective. The framework should ensure the key messages from the Directive are considered.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li> </ul>	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

Table A4	
Title	<b>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Bureau 1971)</b>
Proponent body	Ramsar
Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)	
Date produced	1971
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats (The Ramsar Convention) is an intergovernmental treaty that aims to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future.</p> <p>The Convention was signed on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian town of Ramsar. It came into force in December 1975, and was ratified by the UK in 1976. Further information can be found on the internet at <a href="http://www.ramsar.org">http://www.ramsar.org</a>. The Convention now has 124 Contracting Parties around the World. Approximately 1073 wetlands have been designated for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, covering over 81.7 million hectares. A full list of UK Ramsar sites can be found on the JNCC website under protected sites at <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk">www.jncc.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>The official name of the treaty, <i>The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat</i>, reflects the original emphasis upon the conservation and wise use of wetlands primarily as habitat for waterbirds. Over the years, however, the Convention has broadened its scope of implementation to cover <b>all aspects</b> of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation and for the well-being of human communities, thus fulfilling the full scope of the Convention text. For this reason, the increasingly common use of the short form of the treaty's title, the "Convention on Wetlands", is entirely appropriate.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>When countries join the Convention, they are enlisting in an international effort to ensure the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The treaty includes four main commitments that the Contracting Parties have agreed to by joining.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Listed sites (Article 2 of the Convention)</b>The first obligation under the Convention is for a Party to designate at least one wetland at the time of accession for inclusion in the <b>List of Wetlands of International Importance</b> (the "Ramsar List") and to promote its conservation, and in addition to continue to "designate suitable wetlands within its territory" for the List (Article 2.1). Selection for the Ramsar List should be based on the wetland's significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology, or hydrology. The Contracting Parties have developed specific criteria and guidelines for identifying sites that qualify for inclusion in the Ramsar List. In Article 3.2, each Party has committed itself "to arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay" to the Ramsar Secretariat.</li> <li><b>Wise use (Article 3 of the Convention)</b>Under the Convention there is a general obligation for the Contracting Parties to include wetland conservation considerations in their national land-use planning. They have committed themselves to formulate and implement this planning so as to promote, as far as possible, "<b>the wise use of wetlands in their territory</b>" (Article 3.1). The Conference of the Contracting Parties has approved guidelines on how to achieve "wise use", which has been interpreted as being synonymous with "sustainable use". The COP has also adopted detailed guidance on the development of National Wetland Policies and on management planning for individual wetland sites.</li> <li><b>Reserves and training (Article 4 of the Convention)</b> Contracting Parties have also undertaken to establish nature reserves in wetlands, whether or not they are included in the Ramsar List, and they are expected to promote training in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening.</li> <li><b>International cooperation (Article 5 of the Convention)</b> Contracting Parties have also agreed to consult with other Contracting Parties about implementation of the Convention, especially in regard to transboundary wetlands, shared water systems, and shared species.</li> </ol>	

<b>Opportunities</b>	
To protect and improve wetland areas.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
The Ramsar Convention is not a regulatory regime and has no punitive sanctions for violations of or defaulting upon treaty commitments – nevertheless, its terms do constitute a solemn treaty and are binding in international law in that sense. The whole structure is based upon an expectation of common and equitably shared transparent accountability. Failure to live up to that expectation could lead to political and diplomatic discomfort in high-profile international fora or the media, and would prevent any Party concerned from getting the most, more generally, out of what would otherwise be a robust and coherent system of checks and balances and mutual support frameworks. Failure to meet the treaty's commitments may also impact upon success in other ways, for example, in efforts to secure international funding for wetland conservation. In addition, some national jurisdictions now embody international Ramsar obligations in national law and/or policy with direct effect in their own court systems.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have full regard to the requirements of Ramsar and ensure identified wetlands are appropriately protected.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity will be a sustainability objective. The framework should ensure the key messages from the convention are considered.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross Reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The England Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Landscape, townscape and buildings</li> </ul>

<b>Table A5</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>European Biodiversity Strategy</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	<b>European Commission</b>
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>On 4 February 1998, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a European Biodiversity Strategy. This strategy aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source. This will help both to reverse present trends in biodiversity decline and to place species and ecosystems, including agro-ecosystems, at a satisfactory conservation status, both within and beyond the territory of the European Union. With this strategy, the European Union reinforces its leading role world-wide in the efforts to find solutions for biodiversity within the framework of the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The Strategy is organised around four strategic themes and eight policy areas. There are also four thematic Action Plans developed for each of the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Economic Cooperation</li> </ul>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage sustainable regional development with the Operational programmes as well as transitional co-operation programmes including measures to conserve and make sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Requires development and implementation of climate change strategies with a view to minimising negative impacts on biodiversity.</li> <li>• To minimise the impact on biodiversity of the development of infrastructures for energy from conventional and renewable sources.</li> <li>• To assess the best options for biodiversity when deciding which energy sources are used to match demands at regional level.</li> <li>• To minimise the impacts on biodiversity of transport infrastructure by optimising the capacity and efficiency of the existing infrastructure and, for new infrastructure, giving full consideration to environmental concerns.</li> <li>• Ensure implementation of habitats Directive and Birds Directive</li> <li>• Promotes the development of management plans for selected threatened species.</li> <li>• To use the Water Framework Directive as a tool for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>• To enhance the ecological function of land cover, including riparian and alluvial vegetation, to combat erosion and maintain the water cycle supporting ecosystems and habitats important for biodiversity.</li> <li>• To protect wetlands and restore the ecological character of degraded wetlands.</li> <li>• Promotes better coordination between different initiatives in the field of climate change and ozone depletion.</li> <li>• Encourage ecological function of rural areas.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes the policy options identified in the spatial planning initiatives which can assist in conserving and enhancing biodiversity. Particular attentions paid to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological corridors and buffer zones</li> <li>• Rural area in order to ensure better synergy between the objectives of economic development and conservation of biodiversity needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To promote sustainable development based on an integrated spatial planning approach.</li> <li>• To promote farming methods enhanced biodiversity, by taking agricultural support to environmental conditions where appropriate.</li> <li>• Promotes good agricultural practice standards with a view to reducing the risk of pollution and further damage to biodiversity.</li> <li>• To promote a net increase in forest extension as a means of maximising carbon sink function to combat climate change.</li> <li>• To encourage the assessment of tourism carrying capacity of different ecosystems and habitats.</li> </ul>	

- To promote the development of international guidelines for sustainable tourism.
- To mainstream biodiversity objectives into Community development and economic cooperation strategies and policy dialogue with developing countries and economies in transition. Biodiversity objectives should be integrated in development projects across different sectors of the economy
- To further integrate Environmental Impact Assessment practices into development and economic co-operation

**Constraints Issues /**

Biodiversity is increasingly threatened by human activities and climate change.

**How could the Local Development Framework respond**

Incorporate the spatial planning approach to help protect and enhance Biodiversity such as Ecological Corridors and buffer zones to help integrate urban and rural areas.

Provide strong links to wider issues such as climate change, sustainable tourism and role of Environmental Impact Assessment etc.

To have a strong synergy with regional and sub regional levels of the planning system.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

A spatial planning approach to development and biodiversity are key to sustainability and therefore will need to be incorporated in the Sustainability Appraisal framework

**Cross references (General)**

- The England Biodiversity Strategy
- Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Title B1</b>	<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	1981
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. It does not extend to Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. This legislation is the means by which the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention') and the European Union Directives on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/FFC) are implemented in Great Britain. Similar legislation is enacted to fulfil these obligations elsewhere in the United Kingdom. The Wildlife and Countryside Act is divided into four parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part I is concerned with the protection of wildlife,</li> <li>• Part II relates to the countryside and national parks (and the designation of protected areas),</li> <li>• Part III covers public rights of way,</li> <li>• Part IV deals with miscellaneous provisions of the Act</li> </ul>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p><b>Wildlife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Act makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests. Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young. The Secretary of State may also designate Areas of Special Protection (subject to exceptions) to provide further protection to birds. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking birds, restricts the sale and possession of captive bred birds, and sets standards for keeping birds in captivity.</li> <li>• The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in <u>Schedule 5</u>, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals.</li> <li>• The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to pick, uproot, trade in, or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plant listed in <u>Schedule 8</u>, and prohibits the unauthorised intentional uprooting of such plants.</li> <li>• The Act contains measures for preventing the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9. It also provides a mechanism making any of the above offences legal through the granting of licences by the appropriate authorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nature Conservation, Countryside and National Parks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Act provides for the notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest – areas of special scientific interest by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features – by the country agencies. A notification must be served to the relevant local planning authority, all land owners and occupiers, and the Secretary of State, specifying the time period within which representations and objections may be made. The country agencies must consider these responses and may withdraw or confirm the notification, with or without amendment. The Act also contains measures for the protection and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The Act provides for the making of Limestone Pavement Orders, which prohibit the disturbance and removal of limestone from such designated areas, and the designation of Marine Nature Reserves, for which byelaws must be made to protect them.</li> <li>• The Act prohibits the undertaking of agricultural or forestry operations on land within National Parks which has been either moor or heath for 20 years, without consent from the relevant planning authority. Planning authorities are also required to make available to the public up to date maps of moor and heath land within National Parks, which are important for the conservation of natural beauty.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To protect Wildlife and Countryside through a range of conservation initiatives such as designation of nature conservation areas and national parks ,and protection of countryside.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Increasing development pressures can result in pressures on such designation both directly and indirectly.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	

To make specific reference to the legal implications of intentionally creating negative impacts on wildlife and countryside areas

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

To ensure the SA objectives are in accordance with the legal requirements of the Act.

**Cross references (General)**

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora ("The Habitats and Species Directive") (92/43/EEC)
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("The Birds Directive") (79/409/EEC)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
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<b>Table B2</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	2000
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p><a href="#">The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act 2000)</a>, which applies to England and Wales only, received Royal Assent on 30 November 2000, with the provisions it contains being brought into force in incremental steps over subsequent years. Containing five Parts and 16 Schedules, the Act provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Act is compliant with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, requiring consultation where the rights of the individual may be affected by these measures</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To provide a new right of public access on foot to areas of open land comprising mountain, moor, heath, down, and registered common land, and provisions for extending the right to coastal land	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p><b>Access to the Countryside</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act provides a new right of public access on foot to areas of open land comprising mountain, moor, heath, down, and registered common land, and contains provisions for extending the right to coastal land. The Act also provides safeguards which take into account the needs of landowners and occupiers, and of other interests, including wildlife.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Rights of Way and Road Traffic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act improves the rights of way legislation by encouraging the creation of new routes and clarifying uncertainties about existing rights. Of particular relevance to nature conservation, the Act introduces powers enabling the diversion of rights of way to protect Sites of Special Scientific Interest.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nature Conservation and Wildlife Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act places a duty on Government Departments and the National Assembly for Wales to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> <li>Schedule 9 of the Act changes the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, amending Sites of Special Scientific Interest notification procedures and providing increased powers for the protection and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The provisions extend powers for entering into management agreements, place a duty on public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and increase penalties on conviction where the provision are breached, with a new offence whereby third parties can be convicted for damaging Sites of Special Scientific Interest. To ensure compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998, appeal processes are introduced with regards to the notification, management and protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.</li> <li>Schedule 12 of the Act amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, strengthening the legal protection for threatened species. The provisions make certain offences 'arrestable', create a new offence of reckless disturbance, confer greater powers to police and wildlife inspectors for entering premises and obtaining wildlife tissue samples for DNA analysis, and enable heavier penalties on conviction of wildlife offences</li> </ul>	

**Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

- The Act clarifies the procedure and purpose of designating Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and consolidates the provisions of previous legislation. It requires local authorities to produce management plans for each Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and enables the creation of Conservation Boards in order to assume responsibility for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, particularly where the land designated crosses several local authority jurisdictions. The Act also requires all relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty when performing their functions

**Issues / Constraints**

Public Rights of Way can be useful mechanisms for improving/ protecting permeability through rural and urban areas. Equally Public Rights of Way can also become a constraint on development.

**How could the Local Development Framework respond**

The framework should address the issue of public right of way access in designated areas and the obligations of developers with proposal in areas that are affected by the Act.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

For the Sustainability Appraisal framework to be in accordance with the requirements of the Act

**Cross references (general)**

- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora ("The Habitats and Species Directive") (92/43/EEC)
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("The Birds Directive") (79/409/EEC)
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table B3</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	2006
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act received Royal Assent on 30 March 2006. The Act was first introduced as the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill in the House of Commons on 19 May and to the House of Lords on 12 October 2006.</p> <p>The Act will, among other measures, create a new integrated agency - <u>Natural England</u> - to act as a powerful champion for the natural environment, and formally establish a <u>Commission for Rural Communities</u> which will be a strong national rural adviser, advocate and watchdog charged with ensuring that Government policies are making a real difference on the ground in tackling rural disadvantage.</p> <p>The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act is designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy. The Act implements key elements of the Government's <u>Rural Strategy</u> published in July 2004, and establishes flexible new structures with a strong customer focus.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of <u>Natural England</u> will, for the first time ever, unite in a single organisation the responsibility for enhancing biodiversity and landscape – in rural, urban and coastal areas - with promoting access and recreation. It is about conserving and enhancing places and nature and helping people to enjoy them – taking a wider view, pursuing environmental management which encompasses access and recreation, and aiming where possible to achieve economic and social outcomes alongside conservation goals. People throughout the country will benefit from the more integrated approach offered by Natural England.</li> <li>• Formal establishment of the new <u>Commission for Rural Communities</u> to act as an independent advocate, adviser and watchdog for rural people, designed to ensure that the Government's policies make a real and tangible difference to people in rural areas, especially in tackling social and economic exclusion and disadvantage. It will be a powerful new rural advocate unhampered by delivery functions.</li> <li>• The Act delivers a commitment to curtail the inappropriate use of byways by motor vehicles by putting an end to claims for motor vehicle access on the basis of historical use by horse-drawn vehicles. Some of the worst damage is happening in our national parks, which is why we have given National Park Authorities the power to make traffic regulation orders</li> <li>• Powers for the Secretary of State to directly fund activities within Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs remit, as a tidying up measure following the creation of Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and to provide maximum flexibility.</li> <li>• Powers to allow both the Secretary of State, and designated bodies, to delegate Environment, Food and Rural Affairs functions to one another by mutual consent, to provide simple and more effective access to customers. These powers are limited so that regulatory and enforcement functions cannot be delegated to private bodies.</li> <li>• Powers to take forward the findings of a current <u>review of levy bodies</u>, due to report later this year.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
The Act will result in a number of changes to other legislation and organisations.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	

To ensure the framework has regard to the establishment of Natural England and the approaches it will bring to enhancing biodiversity and landscape – in rural and urban areas.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

For the Sustainability Appraisal framework to be in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

**Cross references (General)**

- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (“The Habitats and Species Directive”) (92/43/EEC)
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (“The Birds Directive”) (79/409/EEC)
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table B4</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>The England Biodiversity Strategy</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	<b>Department of Communities and Local Government</b>
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	<b>Statutory</b>
<b>Date produced</b>	<b>October 2002</b>
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p><i>Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England</i> was launched on 24 October 2002 at the London Wetland Centre, Barnes by the RT Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Strategy seeks to ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all main sectors of public policy and sets out a programme for the next five years to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them.</p> <p>The Strategy is a Government strategy, but it has been prepared with the active partnership of a broad range of stakeholders in the public, voluntary and private sectors.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p><b>Aims and objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the recovery of declining species and habitats</li> <li>• Protecting the best wildlife sites</li> <li>• Embedding biodiversity in all sectors of policy and decision-making</li> <li>• Enthusing people and developing the evidence base.</li> <li>• 2010 target to "halt biodiversity loss".</li> <li>• Healthy, thriving and diverse ecosystems are essential to everybody's quality of life and well-being.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>The Strategy sets out a series of actions that will be taken by the Government and its partners to make biodiversity a fundamental consideration in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agriculture:</b> encouraging the management of farming and agricultural land so as to conserve and enhance biodiversity as part of the Government's Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy.</li> <li>• <b>Water:</b> aiming for a whole catchment approach to the wise, sustainable use of water and wetlands.</li> <li>• <b>Woodland:</b> managing and extending woodland so as to promote enhanced biodiversity and quality of life.</li> <li>• <b>Marine and coastal management:</b> so as to achieve the sustainable use and management of our coasts and seas using natural processes and the ecosystem-based approach.</li> <li>• <b>Urban areas:</b> where biodiversity needs to become a part of the development of policy on sustainable communities and urban green space and the built environment</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historically, the conservation of nature has been held as separate from, and often in conflict with, economic and social development</li> <li>• The outcomes of future Government spending reviews and the financial limitations of the pillar 2 of the CAP will govern the resources that will be available</li> <li>• Because this area is so substantially influenced by international agriculture, environment and trade policy, the success of the policies set out in this strategy will depend on the UK's negotiating success.</li> <li>• continuing poor returns from farming will affect farmers' own ability to contribute financially to preserving and enhancing biodiversity</li> <li>• Uncertainties about the impact of future technological change (including the introduction of novel crops and biotechnology) and the effects on agriculture of climate change (e.g. the response to increased flood risk, water demand and shifting patterns of land use) will have impacts on biodiversity as yet unknown.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
Provide recognition of the main public sector policy areas that go beyond traditional planning related sectors and how they can help achieve protection of wildlife and their habitats.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
A holistic approach to planning is fundamental to achieving sustainability. The Sustainability Appraisal framework must have regard to all policy areas that effect social, economic and environmental conditions.	

Cross references (General)	Cross reference (Topic Reviews)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (“The Habitats and Species Directive”) (92/43/EEC)</li> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (“The Birds Directive”) (79/409/EEC)</li> <li>• The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</li> <li>• The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)</li> <li>• UK Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>• North West Biodiversity Audit</li> <li>• Biodiversity Targets for the North West Region</li> <li>• English Nature’s Natural Area Profiles (Mersey Urban Basin, South Pennines)</li> <li>• Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>• Cheshire Countdown Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>• North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>• Peak District Action for Biodiversity</li> </ul>	<p>Environment, natural resources and pollution</p> <p>Built environment and Landscape</p>

<b>Table B5</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan was published in January 1994 in response to Article 6 of the Biodiversity Convention, to develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. It was preceded by a consultation exercise, culminating in a two day seminar.</p> <p>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan included contributions from Government, statutory conservation agencies, the academic world and the voluntary sector. It committed the then Government and its agencies to 59 programmes or tasks: to conserve species and habitats; to develop public awareness and understanding; and to contribute to biodiversity work in the European and global context.</p> <p>Following the publication of UK Biodiversity Action Plan, a Biodiversity Steering Group was established to advise the Government on implementation. The Steering Group had a wide-ranging membership including central and local Government, statutory nature conservation agencies, industry, the main collections, scientific and academic institutions, farming and land management, and the nature conservation NGOs.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain and enhance biological diversity within the UK and thus contribute to the conservation and enhancement of global diversity</li> <li>• To maintain and enhance biological diversity within the UK, paying particular regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and ranges of wildlife habitats and ecosystems.</li> <li>• Internationally important and threatened species, habitats and ecosystems.</li> <li>• Species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems characteristic of local areas.</li> <li>• Biodiversity of natural and semi natural habitats where they have been diminished over recent past decades.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity.</li> <li>• To increase public appreciation and enjoyment of biodiversity and recognition of its value wherever it occurs.</li> <li>• To integrate biodiversity fully into policies and programmes as part of sustainable development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
Refer to previous section	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air pollution which gives rise to acid rain and nutrient enrichment and recommends research to increase understanding of how future emissions are likely to affect biodiversity.</li> <li>• Climate change represents threats for some species but opportunities for others. The distribution of plants and animals may change and some rare flora and fauna on the edge of their range may eventually be lost from the UK.</li> <li>• Further research on the effects of climate change is required to better determine the effects of climate change.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
To have regard to specific localities and natural and semi natural habitats particularly those that have diminished in quality over recent decades or could be subject to future pressures.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
To ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal framework has regard to broad and site specific scales of natural and semi natural habitat in the borough and how this can contribute	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora ("The Habitats and Species Directive") (92/43/EEC)</li> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("The Birds Directive") (79/409/EEC)</li> </ul>	Environment, Natural Resources and Pollution

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</li><li>• The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)</li><li>• UK Biodiversity Action Plan</li><li>• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li><li>• North West Biodiversity Audit</li><li>• Biodiversity Targets for the North West Region</li><li>• English Nature's Natural Area Profiles (Mersey Urban Basin, South Pennines)</li><li>• Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan</li><li>• Cheshire Countdown Biodiversity Action Plan</li><li>• North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan</li><li>• Peak District Action for Biodiversity</li></ul> |  |
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<b>Table B6</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Biodiversity by Design: A guide for Sustainable Communities</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Town and Country Planning Association, URBED, Royal Society for the protection of Birds
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2004
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>This document represents the first of the Town and Country Planning Association's "By Design" series. It sets out practical, design led solutions which can be implemented now. No focus can be found here on the meaning or definition of sustainable development, instead the purpose of this Guide is on the delivery that is urgently needed.</p> <p>The document contains a number of UK case studies that have been paired with international examples, which provide useful lessons for future approaches. They demonstrate how we cannot think solely about protection of the environment but must also explore our relationship with nature's biodiversity. It is often overlooked that our nation's back gardens support a wide variety of wildlife, whilst on many arable fields wildlife is threatened by intensive farming methods. There is, therefore, evidence that development can, if it treads lightly on the land, deliver positive outcomes for wildlife on both brownfield and greenfield sites.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
Practical, design-led solutions are key to sustainable communities.	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p><b>Ecologic benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carbon sink</b> – Trees have a significant capacity to absorb carbon dioxide.</li> <li>• <b>Pollution control</b> – Vegetation has a significant capacity to attenuate noise and filter air pollution from motor vehicles.</li> <li>• <b>Air conditioning</b> – In urban areas the heat island effect can increase temperatures relative to open countryside by up to 5oc Vegetation provides natural air conditioning.</li> <li>• <b>Microclimate control</b> – Vegetation can improve local microclimate conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Flood prevention</b> – Vegetation can reduce excessive run- off and increase rainfall capture.</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality of Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health and wellbeing</b> - . Accessible green space creates opportunities for recreation and exercise, and studies have shown that it increases children's creative play, social skills and concentration span2. Natural greenspaces reduce stress and encourage relaxation, providing a sense of freedom and exhilaration22.</li> <li>• <b>Social cohesion</b> - Natural greenspaces can encourage greater social interaction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Property values</b> – Street trees and views of natural landscapes and waterways can increase property values by between 6% and 18%.</li> <li>• <b>Management costs</b> – Traditionally our greenspaces have been intensively managed, requiring significant and costly inputs of nutrients, herbicides and pesticides.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity is the heritage of millions of years of evolution. Human society has had a dramatic impact on this ecological heritage. In the last 200 years more species have become extinct than at a time in the last 65 million years.</li> <li>• Development has resulted in natural greenspaces becoming detached from the urban/ built environment with limited connectivity.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
The SPD should have specific regard to how design led biodiversity initiatives can contribute to sustainable communities.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
To ensure that high quality design is a key objective within the Sustainability Appraisal framework	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Built environment and Landscape</li> </ul>

<b>Table B7</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within The Planning System</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2005
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>This Circular provides administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. It complements the expression of national planning policy in <a href="#">Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9)</a> and the accompanying <a href="#">Guide to Good Practice</a>. Although this Circular outlines how statutory obligations impact within the planning system, in some cases the legislation will have an equal bearing on other regimes eg Transport and Works Act 1992.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p><b>Part I deals with conservation of internationally designated sites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This section of the circular sets out the background and terms of internationally designated sites.</li> <li>• It explains how planning authorities should proceed with development proposals that will affect these sites. And how local Authorities should apply tests and assessments before making a decision.</li> <li>• Local Planning Authorities should also consider all extant planning permissions that may affect a European site (including Ramsar sites).</li> <li>• A European court case following a recent European Court ruling found that the UK government had not fully implemented the European Union's 1992 Habitat's Directive. Therefore the circular will be amended to reflect the fact that Development Plans should take sufficient assessment of any proposal in a development plan likely to significantly affect a European site</li> </ul> <p><b>Part II deals with nationally designated sites and the consultation and notification process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Local Planning Authority has a general duty to conserve and enhance Sites of Special Scientific Interest and in doing so may need to consult English Nature.</li> </ul> <p><b>Part III deals with planning for nature conservation outside of designated sites and areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats or species listed as priorities in Biodiversity Action Plan, Local Biodiversity Partnerships together with policies in the England Biodiversity Strategy need to be taken into consideration when preparing Local Development Documents and making planning decisions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
For geological and biodiversity conservation	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Geological and Biodiversity conservation is under increasing threat through human activity	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
That the Supplementary Planning Document is in accordance with the Circular, particularly with regard to the guidelines for developers dealing with designated sites.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework contains objectives that promote and develop understanding of the role of designated and non designated sites with biodiversity credentials.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora ("The Habitats and Species Directive") (92/43/EEC)</li> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("The Birds Directive") (79/409/EEC)</li> <li>• Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Bureau 1971)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Landscape, townscape and buildings</li> </ul>

<b>Table B8</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b><u>Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice</u></b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2006
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>This document provides good practice guidance on the ways in which regional planning bodies and local planning authorities can help deliver the national policies in <a href="#">Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9)</a> and comply with legal requirements set out in <a href="#">Government Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System</a>.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>Chapter 2 deals with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for an information and evidence base,</li> <li>• provides guidance on the key elements of an evidence base,</li> <li>• suggests sources of information</li> <li>• makes recommendations for using and managing information effectively.</li> </ul> <p>Chapters 3 and 4 deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delivering biodiversity and geological conservation through the Regional Spatial Strategy</li> <li>• delivering biodiversity and geological conservation through the Local Development Framework.</li> </ul> <p>Chapter 5 deals with Development Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sets out how the development control process should consider biodiversity and geological conservation throughout the process.</li> <li>• This covers pre-application, checklists, surveys, EIA, consultations, use of conditions and obligations, avoidance, mitigation and compensation for harm, and the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological conservation features within the design of a development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
For geological and biodiversity conservation	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Geological and Biodiversity conservation is under increasing threat through human activity	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
That the Supplementary Planning Document is in accordance with the guidance, particularly with regard to the guidelines for developers dealing with designated sites.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework contains objectives that promote and develop understanding of the role of designated and non designated sites with biodiversity credentials.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</li> <li>• Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their impact within the planning system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Landscape, townscape and buildings</li> </ul>

<b>Table B9</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<a href="#">Working with the grain of nature: Taking it forward – Volume 1 (Report on progress 2002-2006)</a>
<b>Proponent body</b>	DEFRA
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Progress report
<b>Date produced</b>	2006
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>Provides a four year progress report on the England Biodiversity Strategy for the period 2002-2006.</p> <p>It set out a new vision, an overview of the progress made, a review of the headline indicators, progress reports for each workstream of the strategy, and forward work programmes to 2010. A companion volume, updating the indicators first published in Measuring progress: baseline assessment</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements &amp; objectives</b>	
<p><b>A revised Vision:</b> <i>Our vision is for a country – its landscapes and water bodies, coasts and seas, towns and cities – where living things and their habitats are part of healthy, functioning ecosystems; where we value our natural environment, where biodiversity is embedded in policies and decisions, and where more people enjoy, understand and act to improve the natural world about them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote development that has minimal impact on wildlife habitats and contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Develop policies in all sectors which seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity, to maximise opportunities to accommodate rapid changes in biodiversity, to maintain the supply of ecosystem goods and services, and to minimise emissions of greenhouse gases.</li> <li>• Tackling diffuse pollution remains the single biggest task to ensure that water and wetlands Sites of Special Scientific Interest achieve favourable or recovering condition by 2010.</li> <li>• The numbers of houses proposed in response to the Barker Review is likely to place a considerable strain on the environmental infrastructure. It is, therefore, important to ensure that the functional benefits of biodiversity form a key consideration in future development proposals and that the nature conservation value of brownfield sites, where appropriate, is recognised.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of biodiversity within business, through better integration of biodiversity into environmental benchmarking and reporting mechanisms</li> <li>• A holistic approach to water management and land management is needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change adaptation workstream established to provide better guidance on the impacts of climate change, identify research needs and promote adaptation of policies and programmes within the strategy.</li> <li>• Environmental Liability Directive was adopted by the European Commission in 2004. The directive provides another means of protection for Special Areas for Conservation and Special Protection Areas, and is based on the “polluter pays” principle.</li> <li>• Monitoring Indicator updates and further development will continue and, by 2010, a time series for the indicators will be available to help assess England’s contribution to the global and European targets for biodiversity.</li> <li>• The developing ‘Wetland Vision for England’ will help planners and practitioners contribute to a holistic approach of land and water management.</li> <li>• Nationally the biological quality of rivers has improved.</li> <li>• Nationally the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest has improved. (<i>Target of 95% in favourable condition yet to be met</i>).</li> </ul>	
<b>Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of some trend data and inadequate indicators. For example “<i>delivery of local biodiversity targets in England</i>” and “<i>public attitudes to biodiversity</i>”.</li> <li>• After 20 years of progressive decline, populations of woodland and farmland birds appear to have stabilised. But at a much lower level than 1970s baseline.</li> <li>• Progressive decline of butterfly species (A good indicator of overall biodiversity because they respond rapidly to changes in climate, environment and management).</li> </ul>	

**How could the Local Development Framework respond?**

Provide recognition of the main public sector policy areas that go beyond traditional planning related sectors and how they can help achieve protection of wildlife and their habitats.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

- The appraisal framework should promote a proactive and holistic approach to biodiversity protection and enhancement.
- There are a number of targets and indicators set out in the progress report and accompanying documents that are relevant at a local level. We need to establish what data we are collecting at the moment and fill any gaps.

**Cross references (General)****Cross references (Topic reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table B10</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<u>Consultation - Ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of wildlife - towards a Wildlife Management Strategy for England</u>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Consultation paper
<b>Date produced</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>This document seeks views on the development of a Wildlife Management Strategy for England that will clarify the protection of all species in England.</p> <p>Government's intention is to develop such a strategy for reviewing current and developing future policies on managing wildlife. The consultation proposes a decision tree which will provide a mechanism for Policy review and development.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements and objectives</b>	
<p>A Wildlife Management Strategy will reflect a more integrated approach to Biodiversity bringing together previous legislation and various strategies.</p> <p>The aim of the Strategy is to provide a consistent, transparent and sustainable approach to managing interactions between wildlife and people.</p> <p>All new wildlife management policies will be developed in accordance with the Wildlife Management Strategy.</p>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>A Strategy should complement measures such as the biodiversity duty placed on Local Authorities. It will help realise the Government's vision to 'secure a diverse, healthy and resilient natural environment, which provides the basis for everyone's well-being, health and prosperity now and in the future; and where the value of services provided by the natural environment are reflected in decision making'. (reflected in Governments Public Service Agreement).</p> <p>An 'ecosystems approach' is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a more strategic approach to policy making and delivery on the natural environment,</li> <li>• an integrated , holistic approach based on whole ecosystems; and</li> <li>• it ensures that ecosystem services are fully reflected in policy and decision making.</li> </ul> <p>Once developed, the Strategy will offer the following advantages to managing wildlife: it will –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide clarity and simplicity enabling streamlined decision-making;</li> <li>• be underpinned by a logical, evidence-based framework for decision-making;</li> <li>• provide a framework within which timely decisions can be made when required;</li> <li>• ensure consistency of purpose across all wildlife legislation and guidance;</li> <li>• target resources to achieve Departmental strategic objectives;</li> <li>• consider and balance socio-economic factors with the conservation and welfare of species;</li> <li>• evaluate any animal welfare issues associated with intervention;</li> <li>• explore the rationale for cost sharing with stakeholders and/or beneficiaries;</li> <li>• retain sufficient flexibility to enable emerging or evolving issues and changes to be taken into account;</li> <li>• facilitate the continued contribution made by wildlife to mitigating the effects of climate Change;</li> <li>• provide a potential mechanism by which policies can be developed to assist in the resistance or adaptation of biodiversity to climate change (and the measures taken in response to climate change);</li> <li>• take into account the Government's <i>Better Regulation</i> initiative; and</li> <li>• recognise that intervention should only be carried out where it is essential and is likely to have a beneficial outcome.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues and constraints</b>	
<p>The strategy must be in place before policies can be considered for review.</p> <p>It must be flexible enough to apply equally to any species – specific issues. Defining any particular species to be covered by the strategy is inappropriate.</p> <p>Perceived risks are mainly associated with managing expectations and/or retaining realistic levels of commitment from all key players.</p>	

<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond?</b>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
A Wildlife Management Strategy must provide a sustainable approach to managing interactions between wildlife and humans.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross Reference (Topic Reviews)</b>

<b>Table B11</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Green Roofs – an introduction and overview of benefits</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	CIRIA
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Non-statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	July 2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
There is renewed interest in green roof development – emerging across Greater Manchester.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>Green roofs have considerable potential to provide biodiversity benefits and specifically to support the delivery of national, regional and local biodiversity action plans.</p> <p>Green roofs can contribute to conserving biodiversity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing new habitat in areas of deficiency;</li> <li>• creating new links in an intermittent network of habitat, facilitating movement and dispersal of wildlife;</li> <li>• providing additional habitat for rare, protected or otherwise important species;</li> </ul> <p>In urban areas there is of particular interest in the use of green roofs as mitigation for the loss of brownfield sites, which often provide extremely valuable wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Green roofs are ideal components of sustainable drainage systems and can make a valuable contribution to mitigating adverse effects of development on rainfall runoff.</p> <p>Green roofs can contribute to source control objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• retention of rainwater in substrate, drainage layers and on plants</li> <li>• uptake of water and release by plants as vapour</li> <li>• uptake of water and biochemical incorporation by plants</li> <li>• evaporation from substrate and foliage.</li> </ul> <p>Green roofs can also contribute to pollution removal from stormwater run off.</p> <p>The use of green roofs has the potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation through: 1) thermal insulation, 2) reduction of daily temperature fluctuations and 3) mitigation of the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>Where a green roof is being implemented to enhance biodiversity and to meet specific habitat or species objectives, the roof design and system should be tailored for the site and surrounding habitat.</p>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<p>The use of Green roofs as mitigation for the loss of ground level habitat can present a number of challenges. Key considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• size of the roof area – this will effect the composition of plant, invertebrate and consequently bird species</li> <li>• the relationship of the roof to local terrestrial habitats (networks)</li> <li>• the inclusion of habitat mosaics (i.e. two or more habitat types) and specific elements (e.g. logs, boulders) that benefit particular species.</li> </ul> <p>The performance of a green roof will depend on the depth and type of substrate used and the particular rainfall patterns and season.</p> <p>Slope limitations and structural issues will limit the extent of green roof construction.</p>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
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<b>Table B12</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Green roof toolkit</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Environment Agency – Thames region
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Non-statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	September 2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Green Roofs can help meet the strategic objectives of the Core Strategy, in particular for flood mitigation and biodiversity.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>To promote the use of green roofs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a better and more sustainable London.</li> <li>• deliver better quality places to live and work.</li> <li>• create a low-carbon city.</li> <li>• adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.</li> </ul> <p>Although there is no explicit national policy that requires or encourages the use of green roofs, there are key national policies that support them. These include <i>Securing The Future</i> – the UK Government's sustainable development strategy 2005, and <i>Climate Change</i> – the UK Programme 2006. The use of green roofs would also be consistent with a range of policy guidance including PPS1, PPG2, PPS3, PPS9, PPG17, PPS25.</p>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>Green roofs can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help maintain pre-development of Greenfield run-off volumes and rates from development sites.</li> <li>• Improve biodiversity on all new development sites.</li> <li>• Help ensure that developments are designed to adapt to climate change.</li> <li>• Help improve the quality of water/run-off.</li> </ul> <p><b>Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs reduce the peak flow and the total volume discharged from a roof (they can intercept at least 5mm of rainfall).</li> <li>• Green roofs can improve the water quality of the run-off. Research in a number of countries has shown that both nitrogen and phosphorus in run-off can be reduced</li> </ul> <p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs provide a habitat for wildlife, especially if you include nest boxes, logs and water features, and plant native species</li> <li>• Research in London and Basel has shown that well-designed extensive green roofs can provide an important refuge for rare invertebrates associated with brownfield sites and other dry, well-drained, low-nutrient habitats</li> <li>• They are an important habitat for rare bird species, especially the Black Redstart in the London area</li> </ul> <p><b>Other benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs can filter dust and other air pollutants.</li> <li>• They can increase amenity space.</li> <li>• They increase the life of waterproofing by acting as a protective layer against frost, ultra-violet light and other climatic stresses.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All roofs need to be maintained.</li> <li>• Extensive green roofs need an annual inspection to ensure all drainage outlets and shingle perimeters are vegetation free.</li> <li>• Green roof vegetation will need additional low maintenance, depending on the system.</li> <li>• Intensive and semi-intensive green roofs will need irrigation and a higher level of maintenance. They are, after all, parks and gardens!</li> </ul> <p><b>Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs will mean an uplift in structure to support the green roof. However, this uplift should be balanced against the benefits the system provides to the building and the wider environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs do cost more but this cost can be offset through reduced ground-level water storage devices, increased property value and energy savings.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
Promote the implementation of Green Roofs and Support the Greater Manchester vision for Green Roofs.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>

<b>Table B13</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Securing a healthy natural environment: An action plan for embedding an ecosystems approach</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2007
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The document sets out Defra's commitment to developing a more strategic approach and integrated framework for policy making and delivery to secure a healthy natural environment. The new natural environment Public Service Agreement sets out a clear vision and, for the first time, recognises that this is a shared responsibility across Government. In order to deliver this Public Service Agreement Defra are taking steps to embed an ecosystems approach in policy-making and delivery.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>Core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking a more holistic approach to policy-making and delivery, with the focus on maintaining healthy ecosystems and ecosystem services</li> <li>• Ensuring that the value of ecosystem services is fully reflected in decision-making</li> <li>• Ensuring environmental limits are respected in the context of sustainable development, taking into account ecosystem functioning</li> <li>• Taking decisions at the appropriate spatial scale while recognising the cumulative impacts of decisions</li> <li>• Promoting adaptive management of the natural environment to respond to changing pressures including climate change</li> </ul> <p>Also sets out priority areas for action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. promoting joined-up working within Defra and the Defra network to deliver environmental outcomes more effectively</li> <li>2. identifying opportunities for mainstreaming an ecosystems approach</li> <li>3. using case studies that demonstrate the benefits of taking an ecosystems approach</li> <li>4. developing ways of valuing ecosystem services</li> <li>5. developing a robust evidence base</li> </ol>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>Moving towards an ecosystems approach will deliver a number of important benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More effective delivery of our environmental outcomes</li> <li>• Better-informed decisions that take full account of environmental impacts, helping us to achieve sustainable development</li> <li>• Better prioritisation and more efficient use of our resources</li> <li>• More effective communications and greater awareness of the value of the natural environment and ecosystem services</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
•	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table B14</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2007
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
This document sets out the duty upon local authorities and public authorities to consider biodiversity in all their functions as required by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All local authorities and other public authorities in England and Wales now have a Duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions.</li> <li>• Conservation of biodiversity is vital in our response to climate change. Biodiversity also provides substantial economic, local and environmental benefits to local communities as well as vital life support services.</li> <li>• Effective conservation of biodiversity requires its integration into a wide variety of local authority activities, functions and services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local policies, strategies and procurement</li> <li>▪ Management of local authority controlled land and buildings</li> <li>▪ Planning, infrastructure and development</li> <li>▪ Education, advice and awareness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
Development of a good evidence base which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable the development of well-informed spatial planning policies setting the overall framework for development proposals. Ensuring policies are formulated on a robust and credible evidence base is a key test of soundness of the Development Plan.</li> <li>• Provide a good basis for planning applications to be appraised in a considered way, maximising opportunities for enhancement and avoiding potential adverse effects on biodiversity.</li> <li>• Allow for comprehensive monitoring of trends in the condition of habitats and species over time, acting as good indicators of the quality of the local environment.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
Ensure the objectives, indicators and targets for biodiversity are included in monitoring frameworks, and performance is reported upon in Annual Monitoring Reports. This will enable the local authority to judge the success of biodiversity policies and to identify potential changes that need to be made to improve biodiversity conservation.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</li> </ul>	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table B15</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2007
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>This document identifies national priorities and builds on Government policies relating to the quality of people's lives, the quality of the places in which people live and work, and the sustainable use of our resources. The strategy contributes to the delivery of the broad Government agenda on environment, energy, land use planning, housing, communities and health. It provides national policy direction to be incorporated in an appropriate way into regional priorities through the Regional Forestry Framework.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>The Strategy sets out five aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations</li> <li>• Ensure that existing and newly-planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and also contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes (both woodland and non-woodland), and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodlands</li> <li>• Increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England</li> <li>• Improve the competitiveness of woodland business and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this will deliver identifiable public benefits, nationally or locally, including the reduction of carbon emissions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>There are three themes where action will be focussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communities and Places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohesive and engaged communities</li> <li>• Green infrastructure</li> <li>• Sense of place</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Land and Natural Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Natural resources</li> <li>• Resilience to the changing climate</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Working Woodlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitiveness</li> <li>• Skills and innovation</li> <li>• Providing public goods</li> <li>• Woodfuel and timber products reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Increasing development pressure could affect new opportunities for trees, woods and forests.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<p>For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for trees, woods and forests i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a 'Trees on Development Sites' Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees in Towns II</li> <li>• Regional Forestry Framework</li> </ul>	<p>Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings</p>

<b>Table B16</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Trees in Towns II</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Urban trees have an important role in sustainable communities, providing numerous aesthetic, social and health benefits. Their importance, within urban 'green spaces' has been emphasised by a number of Government reports. The report looks at the future development of Local Authority tree management as a result of the research undertaken.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
The need for baseline information on the nature and extent of trees and woodlands within the local authority area. This should then lead to the production of a comprehensive tree strategy to provide the basis for a planned approach to tree management. The tree strategy needs to be integrated and embedded into the local authorities Local Plan and other relevant policies. Identifies the need to work in partnership with a wide range of organisations and groups and the local community. The local authority should develop an integrated approach to management that embraces all aspects of its tree-related activities in a coherent and co-ordinated tree programme.	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To consider the tree strategy in the wider context of urban green space and the environment. Local authority tree programmes have a vital role to play in promoting the government's agenda for cleaner, greener, safer cities and the development of sustainable communities.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
Identifies a significant threat to local authority tree programmes posed by built development.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for trees, woods and forests i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a 'Trees on Development Sites' Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests</li> <li>• Regional Forestry Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Landscape, townscape and buildings</li> </ul>

<b>Table B17</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>State of the Natural Environment 2008</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Natural England
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The report brings together the evidence held by Natural England about the current state of our natural environment. This includes landscapes, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils. The report demonstrates that the natural environment in England is much less rich than 50 years ago and remains under pressure from a significant range of threats. It illustrates the impact of those threats on our landscapes and biodiversity.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>The state of the natural environment matters to everyone and is an essential asset that provides the foundations for our economic and social well being.</p> <p>A healthy natural environment provides essential public services, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean air, clean water and productive soils</li> <li>• Support for economic activity and sustainable energy production</li> <li>• Security against the impacts of climate change</li> <li>• A natural health service, contributing to people's health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Places to experience and enjoy the natural world.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
Focus on UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and important species groups associated with these habitats.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
External impacts such as climate change, development pressures and agricultural change.	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
Need to ensure policies are integrated to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations thereby contributing to sustainable development.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
•	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table C1</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wild About the North West: A Biodiversity Audit of North West England</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	The Regional Biodiversity Steering Group (RBSG)
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	1999
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
The Audit brings together, for the first time, currently available information on habitats and species of conservation importance in North West England. The data is presented to show the distribution of species and habitats so that those agencies, authorities, and managers, with responsibility for land management and planning can readily identify those species and habitats that need to be considered within their sphere of responsibility. For all habitats and priority species there are profiles and descriptions that will assist in preparing Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
Show the distribution of species and habitats so that those agencies, authorities, and managers, with responsibility for land management and planning can readily identify those species and habitats that need to be considered within their sphere of responsibility	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To produce targets within Local Biodiversity Action Plans</li> <li>• To provide information and status baselines against which future performance in biodiversity conservation may be assessed</li> <li>• To stimulate further recording, and research into those habitats and species for which more information is required</li> <li>• To indicate priorities for funding opportunities</li> <li>• The Government Office for the North West will use the Audit as reference material for ensuring that the region is delivering sustainable development using biodiversity as a key measure. It will also require the Audit to inform policies in relation to regional planning and nature conservation</li> <li>• Assist the Regional Development Agency in its efforts to achieve sustainable development</li> <li>• Input to Regional Planning Guidance</li> <li>• Regional agencies including English Nature, the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will use the information to ensure that biodiversity conservation is considered in their future plans for the region</li> <li>• Provide guidance to landowners and farmers and their representatives in terms of identifying important conservation issues on their land</li> <li>• Local authorities will use these data to assess the impact of their land use policies and practices on biodiversity conservation. Working with their partners to survey and collate biological data, biodiversity may be monitored through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan process and Development Plan preparation</li> <li>• Provide guidance for local communities and the voluntary sector on priorities for local biodiversity initiatives</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
To ensure that the Supplementary Planning Document is based on the up-to-date information collated through the audit and that the borough's action plans have clear chain of conformity with regional and sub regional levels	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework are developed with regard to the present and updated indicators and information from this and future audits.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora ("The Habitats and Species Directive") (92/43/EEC)</li> <li>• EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("The Birds Directive") (79/409/EEC)</li> <li>• The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</li> <li>• The Countryside and Rights of Way</li> </ul>	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

Act 2000 (CROW Act) • UK Biodiversity Action Plan	
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<b>Table C2</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Northwest Regional Forestry Framework</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2006 onwards
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Woodlands and forestry should be a key component of the regeneration and sustainable development of the region. The focus of the framework is not just on woodlands and forestry but also on the public benefit and economic value that woodlands and forest industries can deliver for the people of the region.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
There are six Action Areas, and their associated priorities:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enterprise and Industry – priorities are training, improved business advice, co-operation and building on the sector’s environmental credentials.</li> <li>2. Regional Image – priorities are improving image, tourism, regeneration and reclamation and integration of trees and woodland into development schemes.</li> <li>3. Biodiversity and Landscape – priorities are joint agenda for agriculture and woodlands, addressing fragmentation, trees and woodlands in key regional policies and strategies and managing and protecting key woodlands, trees and biodiversity.</li> <li>4. Health, Well-being and Quality of Life – priorities are accessible woodlands, working with communities, linking woodlands and health, using woodlands for lifelong learning.</li> <li>5. Climate Change and Energy – priorities are urban trees, uplands and floodplains, timber as a low energy, sustainable construction material, assisting species migration and adaptation and biomass and wood fuel heating systems.</li> <li>6. Supporting and Resourcing the Sector – priorities are targeting of resources, integrated landscape approach, cross-sector partnerships, public forest estate, co-operation and management and advocating woodlands as assets and forestry as asset management.</li> </ol>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To develop co-ordinated action through the on-going development of action plans setting out short, medium and long-term objectives for delivering the priorities for action. To shape the woodland and forestry sector in the region for the next 20 years by guiding the sustainable creation, management and commercial use of woodlands.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
Need to ensure policies are integrated to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations thereby contributing to sustainable development.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Strategy for England’s Trees, Woods and Forests</li> <li>• Trees in Towns II</li> <li>• North West Green Infrastructure Guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Landscape, townscape and buildings</li> </ul>

<b>Table D1</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action (2003)</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2003
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The plan currently contains 18 action plans covering a range of habitats and species occurring in GM which require action to conserve them for the future.</p> <p>The Action Plans that follow are an indication of a selection of habitats and species needing action to conserve and enhance them in Greater Manchester. The plans included so far are just the first stage of the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan; other appropriate Action Plans will be added in later revisions. In time the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan will comprise a comprehensive list of national and local priority habitats and species.</p> <p>Those habitats and species selected for the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan were included for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are a priority habitat or species within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and occur in the Greater Manchester area, or</li> <li>• They are considered to be of conservation concern locally within Greater Manchester.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To provide a systematic approach to prioritising national and local habitats and species and provide appropriate action planning to address issues	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the foundation for each district to develop action plans to address are. Each district has its own characteristic biodiversity with local priorities sometimes peculiar to that one borough.</li> <li>• First tranche of action plans have been developed for : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bats</li> <li>• Bittern</li> <li>• Brown Hare</li> <li>• Canals</li> <li>• Floating Water Plantain</li> <li>• Grassland – Acid, Marsh/marshy, Neutral</li> <li>• Great Crested Newt Mosslands</li> <li>• Nightjar</li> <li>• Ponds and Lodges</li> <li>• Song Thrush</li> <li>• Twite</li> <li>• Urban – Managed Greenspace</li> <li>• Water Vole</li> <li>• Upland Oak Woodland</li> <li>• Lowland broadleaved woodland</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Where the land was once mined for coal, subsidence has resulted in a landscape dominated by network of wetland habitats and reedbeds. These habitats support a wide range of breeding colonies of waterfowl including tufted duck, crested grebe, gadwall, shoveler and pochard and support significant populations of other species such as dragonfly and damselfly. The importance of these sites to biodiversity has been officially recognised by the notification of Bryn Marsh and Ince Moss and Abram Flashes Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Wigan also contains the "Wigan Pondway", the highest concentration of ponds in the northwest known.</li> <li>• Post-industrial sites have also been colonised by unimproved neutral grassland. The amount of this habitat in Wigan makes up a large proportion of this habitat recorded in Greater Manchester. Wigan also contains a high proportion of Greater Manchester's semi-natural broadleaved woodland much of which has been identified as being ancient including Arley Woods, Atherton and Bedford Woods, Callico and Hullet Hole Woods, Barton Clough, Porter's Wood, Follient Wood, Barrowcroft Wood and Fairclough Wood.</li> </ul>	

**Issues / Constraints**

Agriculture and the effects of Wigan's post-industrial heritage dominate the Wigan landscape. Much of the agricultural landscape has resulted from man's exploitation of the vast peat bogs that would once have covered the area.

**How could the Local Development Framework respond**

That the Supplementary Planning Document is in accordance with regional, sub regional and local action plans and signposts to relevant sources of information.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of action plans.

**Cross references (General)**

- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora ("The Habitats and Species Directive") (92/43/EEC)
- EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("The Birds Directive") (79/409/EEC)
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- North West Biodiversity Audit
- Biodiversity Targets for the North West Region
- English Nature's Natural Area Profiles (Mersey Urban Basin, South Pennines)
- Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan
- Cheshire Countdown Biodiversity Action Plan
- North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan
- Peak District Action for Biodiversity

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table D2</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>An Ecological Framework for Greater Manchester</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Draft
<b>Date produced</b>	August 2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
This document summarises the work undertaken so far to develop an Ecological Framework for Greater Manchester. It will help us achieve the strategic objectives of the core strategy for biodiversity.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>National and regional policies now require that innovative new approaches to nature conservation be adopted involving habitat creation, repair and maintenance in the wider landscape and the establishment of connections between areas of important habitat. <b>One of these required new approaches is the development of Ecological Frameworks.</b></p> <p>An Ecological Framework is a spatial model developed using the principles of landscape ecology to inform and guide habitat creation and repair.</p> <p><b>It seeks to address the decline of species diversity in the wider environment, over and above 'protected sites'.</b></p> <p><b>Aims (for Greater Manchester):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 To conserve and enhance biological diversity in Greater Manchester by repairing, creating and connecting habitats.</li> <li>2 To provide guidance as to the best ways of enhancing biological diversity in Greater Manchester by repairing, creating and connecting habitats.</li> <li>3 To promote the need for pro-active nature conservation in Greater Manchester, including habitat creation and repair.</li> <li>4 To fulfil national and sub-regional land-use planning obligations and contribute to the requirement in Policy EM1 of RSS to achieve a step change increase in biodiversity resources.</li> </ol>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>Six '<b>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas</b>' have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Most Natural Areas</b>; greenspaces where the largest blocks of natural and seminatural habitat remain (generally at the fringes of the conurbation or along main river valleys).</li> <li>2. <b>Private Gardens</b>; areas where gardens are the predominant biodiversity resource (generally in suburban areas).</li> <li>3. <b>Habitat Mosaics</b>; areas of high habitat diversity across relatively small areas .</li> <li>4. <b>Locally Specific</b>; areas where there is currently a deficiency of biodiversity resource and/or a high degree of fragmentation, including highly urbanised areas and areas of intensive farmland where no predominant principles present themselves and <b>locally specific actions</b> for habitat creation and repair would be most applicable.</li> <li>5. <b>Species Hotspots</b>; smaller areas/sites regarded as important for the creation of relatively small scale habitat networks for great crested newts.</li> <li>6. <b>Priority Sites for Habitat Creation and Repair</b>; individual sites considered to have the most potential for large scale and visionary habitat creation and repair.</li> </ol> <p>In each Biodiversity Opportunity Area different policy initiatives and nature conservation measures apply.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester Ecological Framework reflects cross boundary working in the interests of ecological coherence.</p> <p>The development of a sub-regional model does not preclude the development of smaller scale ecological networks and/or frameworks that may operate at district or local level.</p>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
It is considered practically impossible to develop a network of large, connected areas of semi-natural habitat across all of Greater Manchester (the conventional form of ecological networks).	

The land-use planning system has for some time recognised and protected 'habitat corridors' and 'stepping stones' to facilitate species movement, but the ecological function of these have in many cases not been properly tested.

**How could the Local Development Framework respond**

Policies should refer to the general need for land use and development to contribute to habitat creation and repair, with the Ecological Framework used as a general guide to inform decisions as to which habitat types are best created where.

To develop detailed representation of biodiversity opportunity areas by way of a biodiversity opportunity diagram at a local scale.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

Potential to use map of biodiversity opportunity areas for appraisal

**Cross references (General)**

Green Infrastructure Framework  
Green Roofs

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Natural Resources and Pollution

<b>Table E1</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wigan's Biodiversity Strategy</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan Council
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The strategy was developed in response to the National Biodiversity Action Plans, North West Biodiversity Audit 1999. This Biodiversity Strategy for Wigan aims to focus attention on the most important priorities in the borough set out in six key challenges generated from the main objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generate wide partnership and community support for Wigan's biodiversity</li> <li>• protect Wigan's wildlife sites</li> <li>• create more habitats</li> <li>• promote Wigan's Greenheart</li> <li>• engage with and involve the community in biodiversity</li> <li>• enhance the quality and diversity of the environment</li> </ul>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus attention on the most important biodiversity priorities in the borough</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for the enhancement and creation of habitats and to foster species conservation and diversity;</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>The strategy will seek to ensure the most effective use of all resources to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generate political, inter departmental, partner and community support for Wigan's biodiversity and establish clear lines of responsibility;</li> <li>• protect and promote effective management of Wigan's sites of nature conservation importance;</li> <li>• provide opportunities for the enhancement and creation of habitats and to foster species conservation and diversity;</li> <li>• develop, protect and promote Wigan's countryside under the 'Greenheart' umbrella;</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the moment extinction is running at more than 1000 times its natural rate.</li> <li>• Development pressure will continue to have direct or indirect impact on natural habitats</li> <li>• Community access to 'biodiversity' through Wigan's formal and informal greenspaces although amongst the highest in Greater Manchester still falls short in achieving the recommendations for minimum provision of natural greenspace produced by English Nature.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<p>For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<p>That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of the strategy.</p>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Biodiversity Action Plans</li> <li>• North West Biodiversity Audit 1999</li> <li>• Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan/ Audit</li> </ul>	<p>Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings</p>

<b>Table E2</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans: Reedbed</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan Council
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans present a positive and clear way forward to conserving our local wildlife. As the title suggests, these reflect the biodiversity of local areas and require the active involvement of local communities. They provide targets and actions that work towards both species and habitat conservation.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To protect and enhance Reedbed habitats in the borough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of reed/fen communities (dependent on site conditions) is desirable – achieved through rotational cutting.</li> <li>• Development of reedbed fringe communities, which are suitable for a range of associated species, increasing the amount of reed/water interface with suitable ditches and pools.</li> <li>• Prevention of seral scrub succession.</li> <li>• Development of water quality monitoring for invertebrate communities and flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Development of pocket reedbeds.</li> <li>• Management of non-native weed species as required.</li> <li>• Control of disturbance and damage by human influence.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<b>Strategic Objective:</b> Protect, develop and monitor reedbeds in Wigan	
<b>Operational objective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the current distribution and quality of reedbed in Wigan</li> <li>• Protect existing reedbed</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for creation of new reedbed</li> <li>• Monitor reedbed resource</li> </ul>	
<b>Management Objective:</b> Create and maintain reedbeds in Wigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect existing reedbed</li> <li>• Develop new reedbed</li> <li>• Manage existing and newly created reedbed</li> <li>• Promote conservation value of reedbeds</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface and groundwater abstraction= causing lowering of water levels within existing reedbeds.</li> <li>• Water quality – water pollution, pesticide and heavy metal pollution.</li> <li>• Population isolation as a result of fragmentation of existing areas.</li> <li>• Development pressures.</li> <li>• Absence of targeted management for existing reedbed habitat.</li> <li>• Recreational pressures.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of the strategy.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li> </ul>	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E3</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans: Bittern</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan MBC
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans present a positive and clear way forward to conserving our local wildlife. As the title suggests, these reflect the biodiversity of local areas and require the active involvement of local communities. They provide targets and actions that work towards both species and habitat conservation.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To protect and enhance Bittern habitats in the borough	
<b>Strategic Objective:</b> Protect, encourage and monitor Bitterns in Wigan	
<b>Operational Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the current distribution and numbers of Bitterns in Wigan</li> <li>• Protect bittern</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for enhancement of bittern habitat</li> <li>• Monitor and record bittern in Wigan</li> </ul>	
<b>Management Objective:</b> Increase opportunities for Bittern population growth in Wigan	
<b>Management Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage existing bittern habitat</li> <li>• Develop new bittern habitat</li> <li>• Monitor and record bittern population</li> <li>• Promote conservation value of bittern</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To have an improved strategic approach to protecting and improving biodiversity in the Wigan borough.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of suitable breeding areas in fens and reedbeds through natural succession and lack of appropriate management (particularly cutting and water management).</li> <li>• Degradation of habitat through eutrophication and pollution.</li> <li>• Food availability, especially eels, affected by inappropriate management and pollution.</li> <li>• Salt water intrusion into coastal reedbeds by rising sea levels.</li> <li>• Vulnerability to severe winter weather.</li> <li>• Small size population reduces the potential of the species expanding to other potentially suitable habitat</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of the strategy.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
Wigan's Biodiversity Strategy	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E4</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans: Great Crested Newt</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan MBC
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans present a positive and clear way forward to conserving our local wildlife. As the title suggests, these reflect the biodiversity of local areas and require the active involvement of local communities. They provide targets and actions that work towards both species and habitat conservation.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To protect and enhance Great Crested Newts habitats in the borough	
<b>Strategic Objective:</b> Protect, encourage and monitor great crested newts in Wigan	
<b>Operational Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the current distribution of great crested newts in Wigan</li> <li>• Protect great crested newts</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for enhancement of great crested newt habitat</li> <li>• Monitor and record great crested newts in Wigan</li> </ul>	
<b>Management Objective:</b> Increase opportunities for GCN population growth in Wigan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage existing GCN habitat</li> <li>• Develop new habitat</li> <li>• Develop new habitat</li> <li>• Promote conservation value of GCN</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To have an improved strategic approach to protecting Great Crested Newts and their habitats.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
One of the main factors in the decline of the great crested newt has been the loss of suitable habitat. This includes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of ponds due to development, pollution, neglect and infilling</li> <li>• Loss and fragmentation of terrestrial habitats</li> <li>• Fish introduction to breeding ponds</li> <li>• Decline of water quality due to pollution</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of the strategy.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
Wigan's Biodiversity Strategy	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E5</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans: Red Squirrel</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan MBC
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans, or BAPs as they are more commonly known, present a positive and clear way forward to conserving our local wildlife. As the title suggests, these reflect the biodiversity of local areas and require the active involvement of local communities. They provide targets and actions that work towards both species and habitat conservation.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To protect and enhance Great Crested Newts habitats in the borough	
<p><b>Primary Objective:</b> Protect and maintain the existing population of Red Squirrels</p> <p><b>Strategic Objective:</b> Determine and assess Red Squirrel population dynamics</p> <p><b>Operational objective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the current population size of Red Squirrels in Wigan</li> <li>• Investigate potential benefits by crossboundary working with St Helen's</li> <li>• Raise community awareness of importance of red squirrel in Wigan</li> <li>• Identify all areas of potential suitable habitat</li> </ul> <p><b>Management Objective:</b> Protect existing population and identify opportunities to expand/increase range/numbers.</p> <p><b>Management Objective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate areas for potential woodland creation/improvement for red squirrel</li> <li>• Support landowners with existing red squirrel presence</li> <li>• Introduce management measures for grey squirrel in 'Action Zones'</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to supplement existing population</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To have an improved strategic approach to protecting Red Squirrels and their habitats.	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main causes of decline have been due to pressure from grey squirrels. However, other factors have tended to reduce populations of red squirrels and make them more vulnerable to replacement by greys.</li> <li>• Squirrel Pox is a disease that afflicts red squirrels to a far greater degree than it does grey squirrels. The virus has depleted populations of red squirrels and even caused local extinction but it rarely affects grey squirrels. The origins of the virus are obscure, but it may have been introduced with the grey squirrels from North America. If this were the case, it would not be surprising if grey squirrels have acquired a degree of natural immunity to the disease.</li> <li>• Destruction of hedgerows, loss of woodlands and changes in management of woodland habitat make it more difficult today than in the past for red squirrels to colonise sites. Grey squirrels, being less arboreal than red squirrels, are better able to move through treeless landscapes.</li> <li>• Red squirrels live at low densities (less than two per hectare on average compared with up to nine grey squirrels). When the 'surplus' population disperse they are prone to being killed on roads. The extent of road mortality in Lancashire is however, unknown. During spring 2005 a red squirrel was found dead by the side of the road close to Orrell Post – it was presumed that it was a road kill.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and	

Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of the strategy.

**Cross references (General)**

Wigan's Biodiversity Strategy

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E6</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Woodland Strategy</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan MBC
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	1995
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The strategy is based on a survey of the borough which as shown that Wigan falls below the national average in terms of tree cover, and that many of the woodlands are in urgent need of management. The correct management will ensure that they can be used for a wide range of activities. The importance of trees and woodlands for wildlife and recreation, along with their landscape value and potential economic value make them an essential natural resource. This strategy contains a range of proposals indicating where opportunities will be sought to plant more trees across Wigan. It also recognises a variety of the constraints which will be applied for future planning.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<p>To promote the importance of trees and woodlands for wildlife and recreation, landscape and potential economic value in the borough.</p> <p><b>On a large scale (over 0.25 hectares or 500 trees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The urban fringe</li> <li>• Farm woodlands</li> <li>• Reclaimed spoil heaps</li> <li>• Reclaimed mineral workings</li> <li>• Old allotments</li> <li>• Major road schemes</li> <li>• Existing urban woodland</li> </ul> <p><b>On a medium scale (up to 0.25, or 500 trees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks</li> <li>• Recreation/ Play areas</li> <li>• Urban roads and street trees</li> <li>• Reclaimed factory sites</li> <li>• Housing and Commercial Industrial development</li> <li>• Railway land</li> <li>• Inner City Developments</li> <li>• Golf courses</li> </ul> <p><b>On a small scale (fewer than 500 tree down to single trees)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town centre developments</li> <li>• Office blocks</li> <li>• Shopping precincts</li> <li>• Formal gardens</li> <li>• Private gardens</li> <li>• Out – of Town retail developments</li> <li>• Recreation grounds</li> <li>• Housing estates</li> <li>• Car parks</li> <li>• Roundabouts</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
To have an improved strategic approach to protecting Woodland areas	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<p><b>On a large scale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsuitable growing conditions.</li> <li>• Where a site has particular nature conservation value and should remain 'open'.</li> <li>• Where a site is of archaeological value.</li> <li>• Where an area is of historic value.</li> <li>• Where the land is of Grade I, II IIIa agricultural land.</li> <li>• Where areas have a high landscape value.</li> </ul> <p><b>On a medium scale:</b></p>	

- Where the trees are perceived to be a risk to community safety or a source of anti-social behaviour.
- Where planting may cause a loss of views.
- Where traffic hazards are created.
- Where fire hazards may develop.
- Where they will have a detrimental effect on the wildlife value of the site.

**On a small scale:**

- Where the trees are inaccessible and cannot be maintained.
- Where vandalism is at such a high level that it is not economic to continually replace the trees.
- Where roots can enter drains, disturb services, cause foundation damage and disrupt paving services.
- Where trees may cause a traffic hazard
- Where T.V. reception can be affected.
- Where insects, falling leaves, and fruits can be a source of nuisance.

**How could the Local Development Framework respond**

For the Local Development Framework to identify specific areas of woodland and ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in those areas.

**Implications for the sustainability appraisal**

Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework should have regard to the maintenance of existing and new trees and woodlands in the borough.

**Cross references (General)**

Wigan Nature Conservation Strategy

**Cross reference (Topic Reviews)**

Environment, natural resources and pollution  
Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E7</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Nature Conservation Strategy (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan MBC
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	1991
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition strategy follows the an initial strategy which was regarded as a major step forward by the Council, with it being the first urban local authority to produce one and subsequently leading the way in urban nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>This strategy was seen as a further new initiative by a metropolitan authority by moving away from the broad-brush policy approach to a site specific approach to provide a more robust approach to protect, promote and enhance a wide variety of wildlife habitats.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To promote and enhance a wide variety of wildlife habitats.	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect and enhance areas of wildlife interest</li> <li>• To increase the wildlife resource through the creation of habitats</li> <li>• To increase opportunities for the enjoyment of wildlife through improved access where appropriate.</li> <li>• To provide linkages between sites of wildlife interest</li> <li>• To generate an interest in natural history and encourage community involvement in creation, management and enjoyment of sites.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<p>Plants and animals can only survive providing the habitats in which they live, feed and breed continue to exist largely undisturbed. However man continues to modify the environment and, in some cases, destroys the habits available to wildlife and essential to survive. In Wigan the greatest pressures continue to come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban development</li> <li>• Land reclamation</li> <li>• Tipping</li> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• People and attitudes</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
For the SA framework and monitoring to have regard the objectives and in particular areas of greatest pressure identified in the constraints section.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E8</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>The Mosslands Strategy</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan Council
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Non statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	1989
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The strategy is described as a positive blueprint for the future, in which commerce and conservation strike a balance to protect the remaining fragments of Remnant Moss from further development and wherever possible actually improve the wildlife value of the areas. As well as restoring a wetland habitat that is nationally threatened.</p> <p>The Mosslands Strategy has been adopted by the City of Salford and Wigan MBC to provide detailed guidelines for the future use and management of the mosslands.</p> <p>The Mossland Strategy covers an area of the Mersey basin broadly known as Chat Moss as well as smaller Mossland areas such as Little Woolden Moss, Calishead Moss, Irlam Moss, Bedford Moss, Astley Moss and Barton Moss.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To provide a positive blueprint for the future, in which commerce and conservation strike a balance to protect the remaining fragments of Remnant Moss from further development and wherever possible actually improve the wildlife value of the areas	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To unite the local, statutory bodies, and government agencies in concerted action to protect and/or promote the existing and potential wildlife value of The Mosslands by actively acknowledging their responsibilities towards wildlife.</li> <li>• To promote joint working and understanding between all public, private, voluntary and statutory agencies having an interest and responsibility for the future development of The Mosslands.</li> <li>• To provide decision makers with better information in their task of arbitrating between the needs of wildlife and the pressures to maximise the economic potential of The Mosslands.</li> <li>• To inform public opinion about the very important legacy that The Mosslands represent, not only in terms of their wildlife value but also their social, historical and educational value.</li> <li>• To show that the Mosslands are more than an economic resource – they are part of the historical culture and landscape of the North West.</li> <li>• Whilst being fully aware of the importance of high grade land across The Mosslands, to fulfil their wildlife potential by creating a large and diverse area of different wildlife habitats and plant/ animal communities, including the restoration of conditions conducive to an actively growing raised bog.</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wet lowland bogs and mosses of Great Britain are fast disappearing. This has occurred as a result of drainage, cultivation for agriculture, peat extraction, waste disposal, motorway construction and urban development.</li> <li>• In Lancashire 95% of former lowland bogs have been destroyed or become dried out.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to identify specific areas of mossland and ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in those areas.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
The SA framework to have regard to specific forms of habitat.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
	Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings

<b>Table E9</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Greenheart Vision</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	
<b>Date produced</b>	2008
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
<p>The Greenheart Vision sets out the aspirations for the long-term development of Greenheart as a Regional Park to achieve environmental protection and enhancement whilst realizing the economic regeneration of post-industrial sites in the borough. A set of strategic action plans is being developed to set out proposals for key Greenheart sites and to take forward the practical delivery of Greenheart helping to contribute to Greater Manchester's 'green infrastructure'.</p>	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
<b>Vision Statement</b>	
<p>Greenheart will become a regional park of the highest quality, bringing together sites across Wigan Borough to provide a diverse range of recreational facilities and wildlife habitats within a thriving countryside setting.</p>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support habitats and biodiversity of regional and national importance, including wetlands, waterways and woodlands.</li> <li>• To provide recreational and leisure facilities to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors from across the region and beyond.</li> <li>• To provide economic benefits to the local community.</li> <li>• To support the development of sustainable communities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<p>The Greenheart Regional Park will provide a framework for funding applications for a whole range of works including biodiversity enhancement, access and recreation, education, heritage, health and well-being and long-term stewardship of key assets. Greenheart will also provide economic opportunities, training and skills development, encourage inward investment, explore opportunities for renewable energy generation, promote low carbon energy efficient design and support the future growth and regeneration of the core of the Borough. Protecting and enhancing opportunities for biodiversity is key to the Greenheart Regional Park proposals.</p>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<p>Need to ensure there is no threat to biodiversity from activities which are included under the Greenheart banner.</p>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
<p>For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for biodiversity and Greenheart i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document.</p>	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
<p>That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the vision and any subsequent Greenheart publications.</p>	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>Environment, natural resources and pollution Landscape, townscape and buildings</p>

<b>Table E10</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plan: Mosslands</b>
<b>Proponent body</b>	Wigan Council
<b>Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)</b>	Non-statutory
<b>Date produced</b>	2006
<b>Why is it relevant to the Local Development Framework?</b>	
Wigan's Biodiversity Action Plans present a positive and clear way forward to conserving our local wildlife. As the title suggests, these reflect the biodiversity of local areas and require the active involvement of local communities. They provide targets and actions that work towards both species and habitat conservation.	
<b>Key messages, requirements, objectives</b>	
To protect and enhance Mossland habitats in the borough and achieve	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diverse range of mossland communities.</li> <li>• Optimal conditions for mossland vegetation, especially sphagnum mosses.</li> <li>• Prevention of scrub succession.</li> <li>• Development of monitoring systems for associated flora and fauna.</li> <li>• A range of small pools for aquatic species diversity.</li> <li>• Management of non-native weed species.</li> <li>• Control of disturbance and damage by human activity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	
Protect, develop and monitor mosslands in Wigan	
Operational objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the current distribution and quality of mossland in Wigan</li> <li>• Protect existing mossland</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for restoration of mossland</li> <li>• Monitor mossland resource</li> </ul>	
<b>Management Objective:</b>	
Create and maintain mosslands in Wigan MBC	
Operational objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect existing mossland</li> <li>• Develop mossland on extraction sites</li> <li>• Manage existing mossland</li> <li>• Promote conservation value of mossland</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues / Constraints</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development pressures including peat extraction.</li> <li>• Surface and groundwater abstraction causing lowering of water levels.</li> <li>• Water quality – pollution, pesticide and nutrient enrichment.</li> <li>• Habitat isolation as a result of fragmentation.</li> <li>• Absence of management for existing mossland habitat.</li> <li>• Recreational pressures.</li> <li>• Agricultural expansion and intensification.</li> </ul>	
<b>How could the Local Development Framework respond</b>	
For the Local Development Framework to promote and ensure there are robust planning policies for nature conservation in i.e. through core policies in the Core Strategy and site specific requirements in the Allocations and Infrastructure development plan document. In addition detailed policy can be provided through the production of a Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.	
<b>Implications for the sustainability appraisal</b>	
That the Sustainability Appraisal framework and monitoring framework has regard to the monitoring of the strategy.	
<b>Cross references (General)</b>	<b>Cross reference (Topic Reviews)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The England Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>• Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, natural resources and pollution</li> <li>Landscape, townscape and buildings</li> </ul>