



B I O D I V E R S I T Y

A C T I O N

P L A N

S U M M A R Y

for Test Valley



TEST VALLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** We all have an obligation to protect and enhance the variety of life, or *'biodiversity'*, including local wildlife and natural habitats. There are national and international policies and initiatives which seek to ensure that our biodiversity is maintained for future generations - there is also public support for efforts to protect the animals and wildflowers we live alongside because they enhance our quality of life.
- 1.2** This is a summary of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (hereafter referred to as the BAP) for Test Valley. The full version of the BAP is a detailed action plan, available on the Council's website, and is a working document that provides a framework for the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity of the Borough by a broad partnership.
- 1.3** The BAP has been published by the Council and was written in conjunction with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust through consultation with several relevant agencies, authorities, non-governmental organisations, special interest groups and individuals. The BAP also has the support of the Environment Group representing the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership, a group of stakeholders with a special remit for developing environmental activities as part of the Borough's Community Strategy.

What is Biodiversity?

- 1.4** The word *'biodiversity'* is short for *'biological diversity'* and encompasses all living things in the natural world ranging from the smallest plants to the largest animals. It relates to both rare and common species, to the complex interactions between them and to the habitats in which they live.

It is important to maintain biodiversity for a number of reasons:

- **Biodiversity provides a life support system:** We rely on a healthy environment to ensure our survival. For example, green plants take carbon dioxide from the air and in the process of growing and living they produce oxygen for us to breathe.
- **Biodiversity provides our resources:** The natural world provides humans (and all other species) with the basic resources, such as food and raw materials, we need to live our daily lives.

- **Biodiversity maintains our environment:** Without a stable environment we are more at risk from floods, droughts, soil erosion and pollution. The soils, rivers, air and species within them are all part of a natural cycle that, if managed wisely, can absorb the impacts of man's activities.
- **Biodiversity is used for recreation:** Most of us spend part of our leisure time outdoors: in the countryside, on nature reserves, or in a local park. The enjoyment of these places, and the plants and animals found within them, is an important part of people's lives.
- **Biodiversity gives us a sense of wellbeing:** The health of our environment has a direct positive effect on how we feel. Access to green spaces, such as woodlands and parks, or birds visiting our garden make us feel better and improve our quality of life.

Biodiversity and Test Valley

- 1.5** Much of Test Valley is an attractive rural landscape and the area includes many important wildlife areas. The enclosed valley of the River Test runs the length of the Borough, and the Borough's western edge abuts the wide-open spaces of the New Forest and Salisbury Plain. These varied landscapes support a wide range of habitats and species including some of the most important plants and animals in the UK.

Biodiversity across the Borough

- 1.6** The Borough contains an exceptional range of habitats and is host to rare and declining species:

- **Chalk downland** e.g. Porton Down – home to rare butterflies, birds and orchids
- **Chalk rivers** e.g. the River Test – with otters, damselflies and wild salmon
- **Wetland habitats** e.g. fens near Stockbridge – with wading birds, rare plants and insects
- **Woodland** e.g. Harewood Forest – with bats, rare fungi and butterflies
- **Heathland** e.g. the edge of the New Forest – with rare birds and insects
- **Farmland** – with declining bird populations and are arable plants



Human Influences

- 1.7** Our ancestors cleared large areas of native woodland to make way for grazed downland and cultivated open countryside. Where remnants of the former woodland persist, their wildlife value is high; the open habitats created perfect environment for an even wider range of species. More recently we began to modify and straighten our rivers and streams, and drain our wetlands. Together with intensified agriculture and forestry this has led to huge losses in biodiversity – particularly during the twentieth century. In seeking to protect and enhance biodiversity, it must be remembered that we still need to continually and sometimes drastically manage the land in order to sustain its wildlife. Traditional methods such as grazing, maintenance of water meadows, and the coppicing of woodlands, all help achieve this.
- 1.8** Although Test Valley is largely rural, there are a few locations where urban activity has an impact on wildlife in the adjacent countryside. Although urbanisation brings pressures on biodiversity, habitats in urban areas remain important because they provide people with contact with nature close to where they live. Habitats such as churchyards, allotments and domestic gardens also give urban areas their own wildlife value.

Looking Towards the Future

- 1.9** In recent years attitudes have changed and the conservation of biodiversity has become more important. The Government suggests that we should seek to 'live within environmental limits' and to do so we need to look after the rich and varied biodiversity of the Borough both for our own well-being and for future generations. It will be our management of the landscape in the future that will determine whether or not the biodiversity of the area is sustained.
- 1.10** The BAP should play a major part in helping to achieve that vision through the concerted efforts of planners, government agencies, conservation organisations, landowners and the public. For example, there are opportunities for the protection of wildlife sites through the Borough's Local Development Framework, and wildlife habitats can be enhanced through government funding schemes for farmers and land managers.

Biodiversity Action Planning

1.11 At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by the UK government. In response, The UK Biodiversity Action Plan was produced by the UK Biodiversity Steering Group in 1994. This action plan identified actions for priority habitats and species, to be delivered by partner organisations. This was translated into more local priorities and actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire, the basis for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Test Valley.

Partnership Working for Biodiversity

1.12 The implementation of the action plan within the BAP will require informal working partnerships to be set up involving landowners, land managers, conservation bodies, other organisations and local people. In many cases implementation will mean practical conservation work but in other cases it may mean survey work or lobbying to change land management policies or financial incentive schemes. The implementation of the action plan will therefore ultimately depend upon the co-operation of key players at the local level, particularly landowners and farmers, as well as conservation bodies and local people.

Integrating Biodiversity into Local Decision Making

1.13 The BAP will play a major role in helping to conserve biodiversity in the Borough and this issue will need to be taken into account by the Council in all its activities, especially as it translates regional targets for housing into local development.

Landscape Character Assessment and Community Landscape Project

1.14 The BAP is cross-referenced to the Test Valley Community Landscape Project, a project which has taken stock of the Borough's landscape features - not only the visual character of the landscape but also its ecological, historical and cultural interests.

2. Preparing the BAP for Test Valley

2.1 Preparation of the BAP has comprised of four stages:

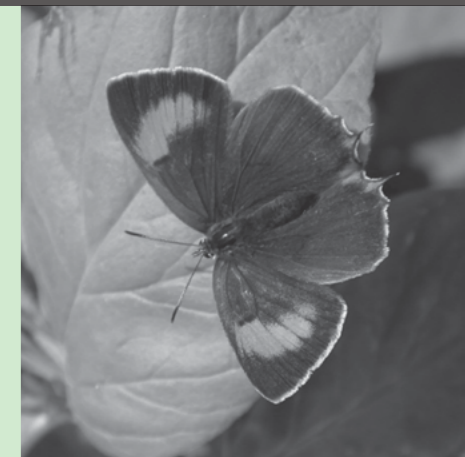
- **Audit** – where are there notable habitats and species?
- **Action Plan** – what needs to be done to protect and enhance priority features?
- **Implementation** – partners work together to progress the action plan
- **Monitoring and Review** – partners report and review progress

2.2 These phases are reflected in the structure of the document itself.

Biodiversity Objectives for Test Valley

2.3 The principle objective of the BAP is:

To maintain and enhance the biodiversity of Test Valley in accordance with national, regional and county biodiversity objectives and in ways which reflect the values of local people.



2.4 A number of more specific objectives are listed below:

- To ensure the protection and appropriate management of key habitats
- To reduce the effects of habitat fragmentation and isolation through the restoration of habitats on appropriate sites
- To encourage the sympathetic management of the wider environment for wildlife
- To protect key species and their habitats
- To ensure that biodiversity is fully taken into account in planning and land use decisions
- To take account of the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise on biodiversity
- To improve our knowledge of, and maintain up-to-date information on, the biodiversity of the Borough
- To increase awareness amongst local people
- To ensure that conservation action in the Borough is effective and co-ordinated

Finding Out What Is Proposed For Your Area

2.5 A comprehensive overview of biodiversity in Test Valley can be obtained by reading the BAP, in which there is also information on the actions proposed for the Borough for each of the eight local areas identified within Test Valley.

2.6 The eight areas mapped and listed in the BAP are as follows:

- The River Test
- New Forest Fringe
- Romsey and Southern Test Valley
- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Andover and Harewood Forest
- Tytherley and Mottisfont
- Salisbury Plain Fringe, The Wallops and Amport Park
- Somborne and Chilbolton Downs

Proposals For Development

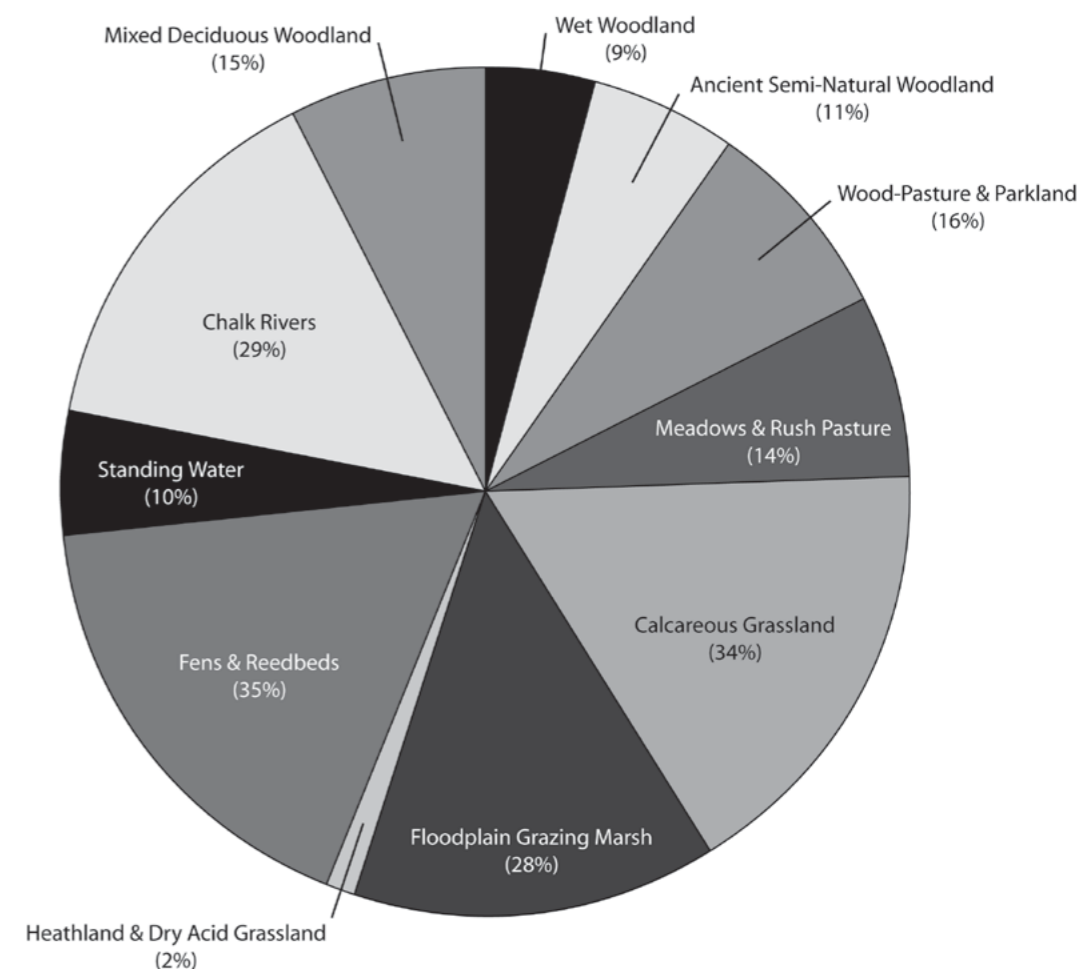
2.7 If you are considering proposing development in Test Valley, the BAP provides more detailed information on how this should be approached. Guidance will relate both to proposals put forward in planning applications and through the Council's forthcoming Local Development Framework.

3. Biodiversity in Test Valley

Habitats

3.1 Nationally, key habitats of nature conservation concern have been identified as 'BAP priority habitats' – these have been adopted locally within the Hampshire BAP. The chart below identifies the extent of BAP priority habitats in Test Valley compared to Hampshire as a whole. Most prominent is the amount of grassland and fen in the river valleys, and chalk (calcareous) grassland on the downs.

BAP Priority Habitats in Test Valley as a percentage of the whole of Hampshire*



*data derived from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre's habitats layer



Species

3.2 Certain groups of species, such as flora, birds and butterflies are considered to be good indicators of habitat quality. We know about their presence or absence largely thanks to the efforts of volunteer recorders, without whom our BAP would be far less meaningful. Listed below are a few of the notable species recorded in the Borough:

- Barbastelle Bat
- Water Vole
- Dormouse
- Otter
- Stone Curlew
- Skylark
- Marsh Fritillary Butterfly
- Southern Damselfly
- Juniper
- Marsh Helleborine
- Tooth fungus

Designated Sites

3.3 In Test Valley 7433 hectares of land are protected by one or more wildlife designations. This equates to over 11% of the land area. Map 1 shows the distribution of international and national designated sites within Test Valley. Sites designated for their biodiversity interest include:

- Special Area of Conservation¹ e.g. Emer Bog
- Special Protection Area² e.g. Porton Down
- Site of Special Scientific Interest³ e.g. The River Test; Stockbridge Down
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation⁴ e.g. Ampfield Wood; Harewood Forest

3.4 Other designations recognise features other than biodiversity, such as landscape or recreational value:

- New Forest National Park
- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Local Nature Reserves such as Valley Park Woodlands, Anton Lakes in Andover and Tadburn Meadows in Romsey

¹ Statutory protection under European law

² Statutory protection under European law

³ Statutory protection under UK law

⁴ Non-statutory protection through planning policy

4. Issues Affecting Biodiversity in Test Valley



4.1 There are many issues affecting biodiversity in Test Valley – in both designated sites and the wider countryside:

- **Habitat Loss and Fragmentation** – through the effects of agricultural intensification and urbanisation, wildlife habitats have become reduced in size and isolated from one another. Species are unable to thrive when their habitat becomes fragmented in this way, and biodiversity is lost unless habitats can be reconnected.
- **Lack of Management** – rare species in many of the Borough's woodlands have suffered since the decline in traditional management methods, such as coppicing, which are not now as profitable as they were in the past. Many wildlife-rich open habitats such as downs, heaths and meadows have also become neglected, largely because traditional style grazing or hay-cutting have stopped.
- **Lack of Awareness** – many people are simply unaware of the biodiversity that shares their environment, and do not clearly understand why many species have declined so dramatically in recent years. Even naturalists have an incomplete knowledge of where our important species occur, so our efforts to protect them are not always based on sufficient information.
- **Development and Recreation** – pressure from development has a direct and visible effect on the environment, but also knock on effects including the need for more accessible recreational space, landfill, mineral extraction, and abstraction from, and discharges into, watercourses. Impacts on biodiversity are now more closely assessed than they have been in the past, especially given the ambitious current house building targets for the region.
- **Climate Change and Sea Level Rise** – the effects of climate change on biodiversity are hard to predict, but it is likely that impacts will be considerable if habitats continue to be fragmented. The related problem of rising sea levels is already causing considerable changes to the lower Test valley – habitats and species need to be free to move upstream if they are not to be lost altogether.

5. The Action Plan

5.1 The Test Valley BAP contains a series of actions which are a response to the above objectives and issues. No matter where you live in the Borough, there will be a number of actions which apply to biodiversity, its conservation, and our awareness of it. The BAP has a list of priority actions that apply anywhere in the borough, they are included in this summary as Appendix 1. Each of the areas shown in Map 2 also has a table of priority actions specific to the area and its local priorities within the BAP. These can be found in the BAP itself which is on the Council's website (www.testvalley.gov.uk). The actions have been compiled with different people in mind, and have been derived from both the Hampshire BAP, and direct consultation with partner organisations.

5.2 All actions fit into one of the following themes:

- **Designated Sites**

- actions relevant to sites designated for conservation e.g. SSSI, SINC

- **Wider Countryside** – actions for areas not designated, but often adjacent to designated land or forming key network habitats

- **Species**

- actions relevant to one or more priority species

- **Awareness**

- actions relevant to the awareness and engagement of people with biodiversity

BAP Project Areas

5.3 Within the Borough, areas for biodiversity action have been identified according to groupings of similar landscape character areas. These areas have been chosen because they are defined by a distinctive type of geology, habitat and/or land-use, and are shown in Map 2.

The River Test

5.4 Includes a nationally important chalk river and associated wetland habitats. Both the River Test's biodiversity and economic significance as a fishery is dependent upon a healthy environment. The river provides water resources for inhabitants, while lessening the risks of flooding and erosion where a natural floodplain is maintained. The huge volumes of peat also act as a carbon sink as long as water levels are sufficient.

New Forest Fringe

5.5 An internationally important ecosystem with a mosaic of habitats in the south of the area, changing to a more typical farmed and wooded landscape upon which the local economy is highly dependent. Lack of management has affected some of the woodland and grassland areas.

Romsey and Southern Test Valley

5.6 An important area which on a landscape scale presents substantial areas of countryside in proximity to large urban areas such as Eastleigh and Southampton. The area represents great potential as 'green infrastructure' for improving quality of life alongside biodiversity.

North Wessex Downs AONB

5.7 An area of high landscape value, with opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and its appreciation through promotion as a recreational resource. There are potential links between the rural economy and biodiversity enhancement.



Andover and Harewood Forest

5.8 Andover, the largest town in the Borough, is surrounded by a predominantly arable landscape and is close to some important wildlife sites, and there is a need to ensure that expansion of the town is matched by the development of green infrastructure.



Tytherley and Mottisfont

5.9 This area contains swathes of woodland and chalk downland with great value for biodiversity – notably butterflies and bats, for which the area is of international importance. This area offers great opportunities for linking sites across borders in a landscape with a strong economic dependence on the land.

Salisbury Plain Fringe, the Wallops and Ampport Park

5.10 Huge open vistas containing internationally important chalk downland at Porton Down, this area is largely arable and is economically productive. The landscape is dotted with sites of high biodiversity, but these are under pressure from fragmentation and recreation.

Somborne and Chilbolton Downs

5.11 A landscape with prime wooded downland habitats and the potential to link important ecosystems - the South Downs with the Hampshire Downs; the River Test catchment with the River Itchen catchment. Although largely private agricultural estates, game, fishing and other rural industries are economically significant in their own right; these areas also hold sites and paths popular with local residents, improving quality of life.

6. Practical Ways to get Involved

6.1 Everyone can help to protect and enhance the environment in which we live, work and play. Each of us can choose to do our bit for conservation, even in our own gardens. There are many organisations which you can join to support the work they do in your Borough. Alternatively, you may be a community group with an idea and needs some advice about how to proceed and where to get grant aid. The Test Valley BAP contains details of the various organisations that can give guidance. Listed below are specific ways in which you can help. For full details, consult the BAP.

- Join a voluntary work party
- Get involved through your school
- Join a species group
- Become a business who is supporting the local environment
- Conserve water around the home
- Buy local produce from conservation enterprises
- Become a tree warden
- Become a pond warden
- Join a community group
- Gardening for wildlife

6.2 If you would like additional information on gardening for wildlife you can contact WildLine at Hampshire Wildlife Trust (www.hwt.org.uk/what-we-do/wildlife-info/wildlife-advice.htm).

6.3 Here are a few suggestions for improving the biodiversity in your garden:



- **Create a wildlife border:** Plant up a border with a mix of native wild flowers. It is important to provide a selection of plants that will flower throughout the year, as a nectar source for butterflies and bees. Don't forget to add a mix of native grasses which are essential food plants for some caterpillars. If you plant a mixture of night flowering plants such as honeysuckle and evening primrose, you will also attract moths, including the beautiful hawkmoths. The moths will attract bats which may roost in your loft.



- **Build a pond:** Even the smallest of ponds will be teeming with wildlife in a very short space of time. Ponds will attract frogs, newts, dragonflies and lots of aquatic invertebrates. Ponds don't need to be very deep, and should be shallow-sided to allow aquatic plants to grow, and animals to climb in and out. Make sure that you plant up the edges with native species such as marsh marigold, water mint, purple loosestrife and flowering rush. If possible connect the pond to a marshy area to increase its wildlife potential.
- **Provide shelter:** Little nooks and crannies in the garden may be invisible to us, but they are essential shelter for many species. If you turn over a stone or log in the garden, it will be hiding a wealth of invertebrates, including spiders, millipedes, beetles and woodlice. You may even be lucky enough to find a toad, or a slow worm. You can help these species by building an undisturbed log pile in a sheltered area of your garden. In winter this will provide hibernating sites for newts, and butterflies like the small tortoiseshell.
- **Gardening for birds:** We all enjoy watching birds in the garden, and many species have made a home alongside us because their natural habitats are in decline. To make the most of your garden for them, plant a variety of thick native shrubs, so that they have somewhere to nest and berries for the winter. If you haven't got room for shrubs then build a nest box. You could even go one step further and build a communal nest box for species such as sparrows. If you want to feed the birds, then buy good quality feeders and seed, and make sure you keep areas clean to prevent the spread of disease. Always provide birds with a clean, unfrozen supply of water.
- **Wildlife Watching:** Now that you've created a garden that has animals queuing for miles around why don't you tell someone about it? Recording wildlife in your garden can help conservationists to determine the status of species. There are many national and local surveys that want information about your garden wildlife. In Test Valley there is some concern that the numbers of swallows are declining, counting their nests each year will inform us of how serious this problem is and help us to concentrate conservation effort.

7. Reporting on Progress

- 7.1** All individuals and partners actively working towards the BAP within the Borough will be given the opportunity to report progress for each of the actions on a regular basis. This will help share successes as well as giving an opportunity to review overall progress.

Obtaining Further Information about the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

If you have any queries on the BAP or you would like to discuss its contents with someone from the Council:

Contact:	Karen Eastley (Planning)	Kevin Harrington (Leisure)
Address:	Test Valley Borough Council Duttons Road Romsey Hampshire SO51 8XG	Test Valley Borough Council Beech Hurst Weyhill Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 3AJ
Telephone:	01794 527700	01264 368815
E-mail:	planning@testvalley.gov.uk	leisure@testvalley.gov.uk

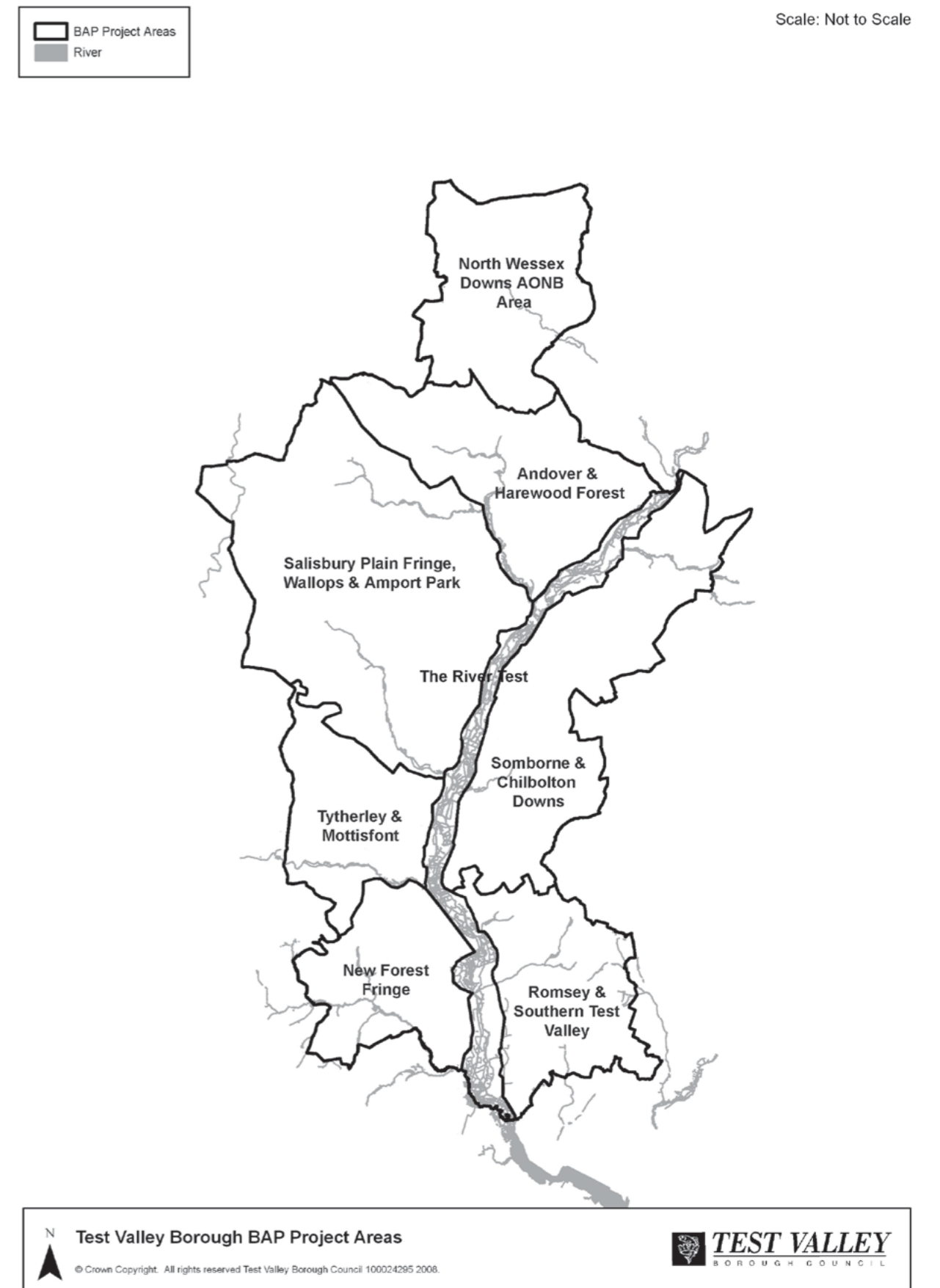
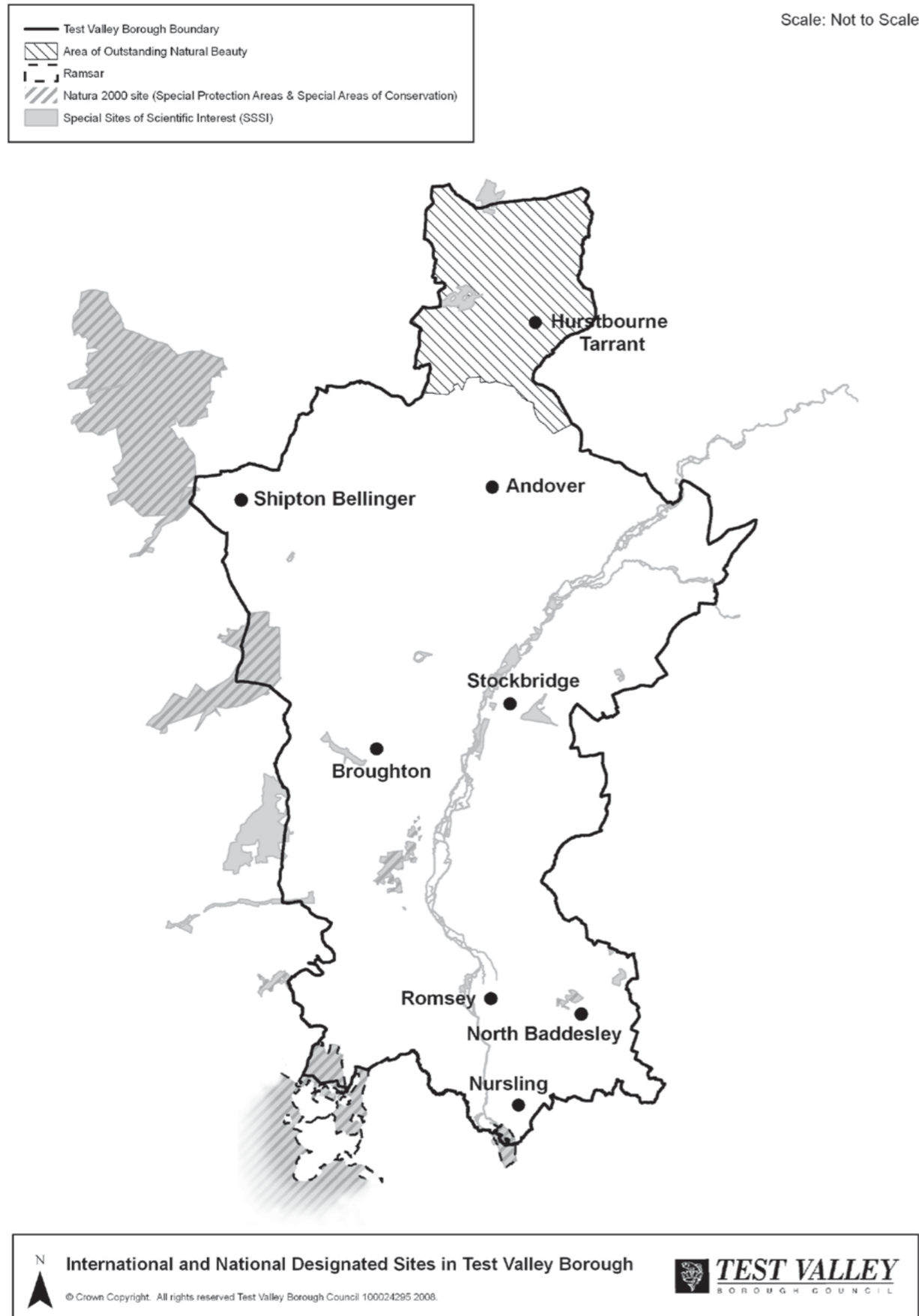
If you would like to speak to someone from the Wildlife Trust:

Contact:	Dr. David Rumble Biodiversity Manager
Address:	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Beechcroft House Vicarage Lane Curdridge Hampshire SO32 2DP
Telephone:	01489 774433
E-mail:	davidr@hwt.org.uk

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Map 1: International and National Designated Sites within Test Valley

Map 2: BAP Project Areas



Appendix 1: Borough-wide Action Plan

(list of Lead Partners provided at the end of the table)

	Objective	Action	Outcome (link to Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership's Key Objectives in brackets)	Lead Partner(s)
DESIGNATED SITES	Ensure SSSI land is maintained in favourable condition	Protect SSSI/SAC/SPA through the Local Development Framework	• Site protected (2a)	TVBC
		Owners of sites in unfavourable condition receive specialist advice and assistance in managing SSSI land	• SSSIs managed suitably and sustainably for biodiversity (1b)	NE
		Owners of sites in favourable condition receive ongoing advice and support in managing SSSI land	• SSSIs maximised as reservoirs of biodiversity (1b)	
		Monitoring with focus on sites in strategic areas	• Increased knowledge of biodiversity on SSSIs (3c)	
		Improved survey records for designated sites		
	Ensure SINC land is managed for biodiversity in strategic areas	Protect SINCs through the Local Development Framework	• Site protected (2a)	TVBC
Notify SINC owners; conservation advisor to visit and advise		• Site managed suitably and sustainably for biodiversity (1c)	HBIC HCC HWT FWAG	
Monitor site condition		• Site assessment made and fed-back to land manager (1c)	HBIC	
WIDER COUNTRYSIDE	Protect and enhance the water resource requirements of wetland habitats	Encourage management of water levels to support wetland habitats and species through e.g. implementation of Water Level Management Plan, the planning process, and water level control on partners' land	• Water requirements of river and wetland species and habitats are maintained (1c, 1g)	EA NE TVBC
	Reverse past fragmentation of priority habitats	Create buffer areas around designated sites and sites containing priority habitats through the planning system and agri-environment schemes	• Reduced edge effects on BAP habitat (1e, 1g) • Reduced effects of diffuse pollution in freshwater habitats (1e, 1g) • Potential enlargement of fragments through restoration (1e, 1g) • Creation of ecological networks (1e, 1g)	NE TVBC HWT HCC FWAG
	Protect BAP priority habitat outside of designated sites	Survey and designate sites as SINC where appropriate	• Priority habitats and species protected through the planning system (3c)	HBIC
		Promote and utilise opportunity mapping as a decision-making tool for targeting resources	• Landowners offered advice on conservation management (1a, 4c)	HBIC HCC HWT FWAG
		Select sites for protection and designation where there is value for connectivity of existing sites through e.g. Planning Policy Statement 9 and the NERC duty	• Suitable connecting sites identified and protected through the planning system (1e, 1g)	TVBC
			• Suitable sites designated as SINC / SSSI (3c)	HBIC/NE
	Create habitats in the wider countryside and in urban areas	Provide advice to landowners on appropriate Environmental Stewardship options to implement corridors, buffers, margins and reversion schemes on farmland	• Wildlife value of farmland increased (1a) • Wildlife and character of farmland improved at a landscape scale (1e, 1g)	NE FWAG HWT HCC AONB / NFNPA
		Restore/create/re-create wildlife habitats in urban areas	• Isolated habitat patches linked in urban areas (1e, 1g)	TVBC
		Target public and local businesses with advice on habitat creation opportunities in built-up areas	• Public involvement (4c) • Local business involvement (4c)	
	Promote traditional and sensitive management as a means of restoring habitats	Promote grazing as a means of managing grassland, heathland and wetlands following scrub management	• Local graziers supported	HCC
		Target woodland sites for the reintroduction of sustainable coppicing regimes	• Local coppicers supported • Habitat structure maximises biodiversity (1g) • Populations of grassland & woodland species maintained (1f)	FC HCC
		Leave standing and fallen dead wood in situ		
	Protect the water ecosystem	Encourage sensitive cultivation and land management practice, especially on slopes and near lanes and drains	• Runoff and soil erosion reduced (4c)	EA NE
• Diffuse pollution and siltation reduced (4c)			FWAG HWT	
• Water quality maintained and enhanced (1g)				

	Objective	Action	Outcome (link to Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership's Key Objectives in brackets)	Lead Partner(s)
WIDER COUNTRYSIDE	Protect ancient trees and hedgerows in the district	Development of a Borough Tree Strategy or equivalent	• Ancient tree and woodland biodiversity maintained (1f, 1g)	TVBC
		Survey ancient hedgerows and give advice to landowners on appropriate management	• Ecological habitat and corridor value of hedgerows maintained and enhanced (1e, 1g)	HBIC FC HCC
SPECIES	Update and improve species records	Ensure local groups and recorders share records with the wider recorder community and HBIC	• Greater understanding of the range and distribution of biodiversity in the borough (3c)	HBIC
		Identify lesser-known priority species and areas and target surveys accordingly	• Local surveyors aware of importance of their data in the wider community (3b)	HWT
		Encourage recorders and local groups to target surveys in data-deficient areas	• Recording activity promoted (3b)	HBIC
		Circulate species list to all surveyors for updating	• More robust data available to make informed decisions (3c)	
	Monitor and encourage populations of flagship species in strategic areas	Species groups continue to monitor key species	• Key flagship species monitored (3c)	BC HARG HFG HMG HOS HWT TVBC
		Share good management practice and promote link between recording schemes and site management plans e.g. through site-specific forums	• Habitat management linked to appropriate objectives for flagship species (1f) • Populations increase within and between protected sites (1f)	
AWARENESS	Promote biodiversity and its conservation to the public	Use a variety of media to raise awareness of local biodiversity	• Information available to public in a wide range of media (4c)	TVBC
		Develop school-partner forums to promote links and develop resources	• Appreciation and understanding of biodiversity and its conservation increased (4b, 4c)	HCC
		Develop environmental study sites in public places		TVBC
		Develop programme of talks, walks and events for local communities		AONB / NFNPA HCC HWT
		Provide resources to train groups in species identification, surveying and monitoring	• Local community involved in species monitoring (3b, 3c, 4c)	HWT
	Promote biodiversity and its conservation to land owners, land managers and decision-makers	Develop and implement initiatives to train land managers and developers, businesses, parish and district councillors in local biodiversity issues and actions	• Appreciation and understanding of biodiversity and its conservation are increased (4c)	HCC NFU AONB/NFNPA FC
			• Local decision-makers made aware of how they can protect and enhance biodiversity (2d, 4c)	TVBC
	Promote local produce as a way of sustaining traditional land management practice.	Provide advice to farmers on branding and marketing local produce which is compatible with conservation practice (e.g. charcoal from coppice; beef from nature reserves)	• Economic viability of traditional practices such as coppicing and grazing improved. (4c)	CLBA Hampshire Fare HCC
		Promote traditional management amongst the landowner community in strategic areas	• Semi-natural habitats maintained in a favourable condition. (1b, 1c, 1d, 1f)	TVBC
	Increase knowledge base of skills for use in conservation	Improve communication between groups to increase access to individuals with specific conservation skills	• Increased access to available skills for conservation projects (4c)	BTCV; Local Conservation Groups
		Develop volunteer training	• Increased skilled volunteer base (4b)	BTCV
	Promote District and Local Rights of Way as a way of appreciating biodiversity	Create borough-wide rights of way map which is user friendly	• Local community made aware of how they can access the countryside (4b, 4c)	HCC
Cross reference map to BAP, sites and other districts		• Appreciation of biodiversity and its conservation are increased (4b)	NE TVBC	

Lead Partners for Borough-Wide Action Plan:

AONB	(North Wessex Downs) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	CLBA	Country Land and Business Association	HCC	Hampshire County Council	NE	Natural England
BC	Butterfly Conservation	EA	Environment Agency	HFG	Hampshire Flora Group	NFNPA	New Forest National Park Authority
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group	HMG	Hampshire Mammal Group	NFU	National Farmers' Union
		HARG	Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group	HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society	NT	National Trust
		HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	HWT	Hampshire (& Isle of Wight) Wildlife Trust	TVBC	Test Valley Borough Council

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Photographs: brown hairstreak butterfly by Philip Precey, Broughton Down and Emer Bog by Albert Roberts, otter by Stewart McDonald, dormouse by Andy Rothwell, small blue butterfly by Ian Ralphs, man orchid by Bruce Shortland, brown hare by Damian Waters, little egret by David Longshaw, dartford warbler by Paul Roberts and Serotine Bat by Dennis Bright, all supplied by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.



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