

## 1.1 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition BBAP in Context

The BBAP endeavours to promote coordinated action for biodiversity at the local level. Over the period 2003-5, covering the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition BBAP, a number of local, regional and national factors have influenced the relevance and value of the BBAP, or will come to do so in the near future.

During late 2005, the long-awaited 'Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' was issued. In addition to the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000) and Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (2002), this Government document further recognises 'biodiversity' as an important element to achieving its vision towards sustainable development, conservation, rural renewal and urban renaissance. PPS9 reaffirms the importance of a network of natural habitats and the hierarchy of protected sites, as well as drawing attention to the 'Section 74: List of Habitats and Species of Principle Importance in England'(2002). 'Countryside In and Around Towns' (Countryside Agency), published in 2005, sets out a vision for connecting town and country "in the pursuit of sustainable development". A review of the Common Agricultural Policy led to the introduction of cross-compliance rules and the launch of new grant scheme structures in 2005, including Environmental Stewardship and the England Woodland Grant Scheme. These schemes will prove to be a turning point in bringing landscape change and associated biodiversity benefits right across the countryside. The UK Biodiversity Action Reporting System was also launched in 2005 and will help assess progress towards meeting biodiversity action plan targets. The UK Government has also announced the intention to establish the 'Natural England' agency by 2007.

The London Biodiversity Action Plan was reviewed during 2004/5 and further regional strategies, such as the Tree & Woodland Framework for London (GLA) were published. 'Greenspace Information for Greater London' also came into being. This is a significant development that will help to coordinate biodiversity records across the London region.

In addition, it was confirmed that the UK Government is to submit the 'Darwin at Downe' nomination to UNESCO in 2006. During 2008, confirmation will be given as to whether Down House and it's environs are recognised as being of universal significance. The London Borough of Bromley's involvement with the SUN Project since 2003 (funded by the EU LIFE Environment Programme) has forced a refreshing approach to be taken towards the biodiversity action planning process and the implementation of the BBAP. SUN (Sustainable Urban Networks for Green Spaces) has required the employment of innovative methods in involving stakeholders and in implementing practical projects. The Public Inquiry for the Unitary Development Plan has also been held since the publishing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition BBAP, wherein the concept of 'biodiversity' is promoted.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition BBAP includes the same habitat and species action plans as present in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. The 2005 Review recognised that whilst some action plans have been subject to extensive effort (eg. bats, wetlands, birds) and others less so (eg. hedgehogs, glow-worms), there remained a desire to continue with the Species Action Plans for a further three years to make a more substantial difference. Special effort will be made to ensure reptiles are further considered as part of the Habitat Action Plans too.

Previous editions of the BBAP have been produced as printed documents. In order to deliver the biodiversity message to a wider audience, two approaches have been adopted in publishing actions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition BBAP (2006-9). To promote the principle that the BBAP is an *active* plan, the BBAP has been presented in the form of dynamic, 'bite-size' webpages, with particular emphasis being given on how the public may help and enjoy biodiversity. It is hoped the BBAP webpages will act as a 'one stop shop' to anyone who wishes to find out more about biodiversity action in Bromley. A simple leaflet has also been developed to promote the key elements of the BBAP.

# 1.1 Timeline of Significant Biodiversity Action

Though action to help wildlife has been around for decades, if not centuries, 1992 marked a very important turning point in British, and international, species conservation. Biodiversity Action Plans at the national, regional and local level have been devised since that time to help halt a decline in species. The following timeline highlights some key dates between 1992-2005.

Timeline of Significant Biodiversity Action				
	<i>World &amp; Europe</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>London Borough of Bromley</i>
<b>1992</b>	United Nations Biological Diversity Convention Signed in Rio.			
<b>93</b>				
<b>94</b>		Launch of UK Biodiversity Action Plan.		
		Planning Policy Guidance No. 9 Nature Conservation.		
<b>95</b>				
<b>96</b>		Government endorsed targets and proposed action for 14 habitats and 100 species (Tranche 1)	London Biodiversity Partnership Established.	
<b>97</b>		Guidance published to aid production of local BAPs.	(Launch of Kent BAP).	Core Bromley Biodiversity Partnership established.
<b>98</b>		Great Stag Hunt. (Bromley on National Focus Group)		Wildlife workshop and consultation on Bromley BAP. Launch of 'Wanted – Bromley 8 species' Campaign.
<b>99</b>	Darwin at Downe put on UK Tentative World Heritage Site List.	Volumes I-VI from vertebrates to freshwater habitat action plans launched (Tranche 2)	Greater London Authority Act requires a Biodiversity Strategy.	Bromley BAP published (first borough in London) and action plans start to be implemented.
<b>2000</b>		Countryside and Rights of Way Act.	London's Biodiversity Audit published (Vol. 1 of the London Biodiversity Action Plan).	Wider BBAP partnership established. Greening Bromley's Gardens campaign launched.
			London Boroughs' Biodiversity Forum established	Launch of dragonfly survey.
<b>01</b>			The Action (first round of species and habitats action plans) – Vol.2 of the London BAP.	Bromley leads 'Chalking Up London's Downs' HLF campaign.
			Mayor's Draft Biodiversity Strategy.	Launch of amphibian survey.
<b>02</b>	World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg.	England Biodiversity Strategy	Second round of species and habitats action plans for LBP.	First 3-year review of Bromley BAP.
	UN GEO-3 report warns 25% of mammal species and 12 % bird species are threatened with extinction within 30 years.	Great Stag Hunt II	Annual report of LBP shows 5 borough BAPs published and 11 in production.	
			Launch of Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.	
<b>03</b>	2010 Global Biodiversity Challenge held in London	A Biodiversity Strategy for England – Measuring Progress: Baseline Assessment		SUN Project bid succeeds
<b>04</b>	Government confirms Darwin at Downe up for 2007 nomination.	Review of UK BAP targets commences.	Commencement of GIGL Development Plan	
			Launch of Recovery Strategy for London's Heathland	
<b>05</b>		BARS launched.	LBP Business Plan developed	'Exploring in Darwin's Footsteps' HLF project commences.
		Launch of SITA Trust	Development of Capital	

		<p>'Enriching Nature' £13.5M programme.</p> <p>UK BAP Reporting Round commences.</p> <p>PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation launched.</p>	<p>Woodlands Project including Bromley sites</p> <p>Trees and Woodlands Framework for London launched</p> <p>London Stag Beetle Survey</p> <p>Launch of 'Wild Web'</p> <p>'London's Heathland Heritage' HLF bid submitted.</p> <p>London Stag Beetle Workshop held in Bromley.</p>	<p>BBAP review for 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.</p> <p>'Taste of the Wild' Action Weekend held</p> <p>BBAP website launched.</p> <p>BBAP leaflet launched.</p>
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## 1.3 Evaluating Habitat and Species

Criteria\* considered for habitats include:

- Is the habitat a priority in the UK?
- Does the local area have a high proportion of the national or regional resource?
- Are there opportunities available to enhance the local resource?
- Is the habitat in decline locally?
- Is it locally rare?
- Is it threatened locally?
- Is the habitat fragmented and are any of the fragments viable?
- Is the habitat important for key species?
- Could the habitat be used to raise the profile of Local Biodiversity Action Plan work within the plan area?

The habitats chosen for the BBAP are:

- Woodlands (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Hedgerows (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Grasslands ~ Chalk, Neutral and Acid (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Lowland Heath and Mire (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Wetland (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Urban Habitats (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition with slight re-structuring of specific urban habitats).
- Farmed Land (2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).

Criteria\* considered for species include:

- Is the species of priority in the UK?
- Is the species unique to the area or does the area have a high proportion of the national population of the species?
- Are there local opportunities available to contribute towards national targets?
- Is the species in decline? (assessed where possible over the last 25 years)
- Is the species locally rare?
- Is the species threatened locally (e.g. lack of management, effect of recreation, pollution or development).
- Is the species locally distinct (high profile or popular species particularly associated with an area).

The species or groups of species chosen for the BBAP are:

- stag beetle ~ rare and/or dramatic decline in population numbers (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- song thrush ~ rare and/or dramatic decline in population numbers (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- skylark ~ rare and/or dramatic decline in population numbers (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- bats ~ rare and/or dramatic decline in population numbers (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).

- hedgehog ~ a popular species about which we have little information on their distribution, particularly in urban areas; useful indicator of the wildlife value of gardens and thought to be in significant decline (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- ancient trees ~ of local significance to many residents and are also being surveyed nationally; also supporting rare communities of organisms, which are dependent on standing dead wood (1st Edition, 2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Common Dormouse ~ a species rare in Greater London; Bromley has the only known population in the Capital. Though people are unlikely to have ever seen one, the species generates a lot of affection (2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Butterflies ~ These insects are attractive, easily recognised and occur across the whole Borough (2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Glow-worm ~ an unusual and under-recorded insect indicative of long-established grasslands (2nd Edition, 3rd Edition).
- Blue butterflies ~ indicators of the presence of species-rich grassland (1st Edition; absorbed into 2nd Edition under 'Butterflies' SAP).
- Birds-foot-trefoil ~ a widespread species occurring in various grassland habitats (1st Edition; removed from subsequent editions as it did not generate enormous interest).

*\* Criteria suggested by the UK Local Issues Advisory Group (part of the UK Biodiversity Group) were taken into account.*

## 1.4 Key Achievements at a Glance

Action Generic	Selected Key Achievements	
	1999-2002 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition	2003-5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition
Policy & Land management	Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation; Unitary Development Plan review including new Natural Environment chapter; Initiated and founding Chair of the London Boroughs' Biodiversity Forum. Steering group member of the London Biodiversity Partnership; Member of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Secured Darwin entry on UK World Heritage Site Tentative List; 4500 practical volunteer days for wildlife conservation; established four conservation volunteer groups.	Public Inquiry of new UDP; production of statutory management plan for the Kent Downs; 'Down House and environs' World Heritage Site proposal completed; success in receiving funding for EU LIFE-funded SUN Project and subsequent implementation; contributing to work of London Biodiversity Partnership through the Project Board, London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum and Action Groups. Bromley Environmental Awards continue to be promoted.
Advice & Publicity	Holding of 60 BBAP related events. Public campaigns – Wanted Bromley 8 species Regular press articles.	Development of BBAP webpages and leaflet. Promotion of volunteer opportunities through the 'Taste of the Wild' weekend.
Monitoring & Research	The training of 80 volunteer surveyors in monitoring chalk grasslands, amphibians, dragonflies and water voles.	Training on BARS with a view to commencing inputting of BBAP targets. Help towards establishing London Biological Record Centre, GIGL. Survey and species focus within proposed World Heritage Site through 'Exploring in Darwin's Footsteps' and WHS Biodiversity Group.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Selected Key Achievements</b>	
<b>Habitat Action Plans</b>	<b>1999-2002 1<sup>st</sup> Edition</b>	<b>2003-5 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</b>
Woodland	Written management plans for all Council-owned woodland; raising awareness of woodlands through wood and craft fairs. 15 Woodland Grant Schemes on public and private land	Contribution towards London-wide 'Capital Woodlands' HLF project, Trees and Woodland Framework for London and 'Walk in the Woods' campaign.
Hedgerows	Sympathetic road verge treatments in rural areas; laying and planting of 3km of hedgerow. Management of 70 km of roadside hedges	Planting and restoration of more than 2km of hedgerow.
Grassland	Chalk: Heritage Lottery Funding for 'Chalking Up London's Downs'; Chalk Grassland Survey of more than 20 sites; BBC Wildlife Magazine Readers' tour of Bromley's Darwin sites; creation of 70ha of chalk grassland. Neutral: 36 ha of neutral grassland managed on Council-owned land through hay cutting. Acid: 3 Ha of acid grassland managed on Council-owned sites, cut as hay meadow; acid grassland survey started.	Further linkage of chalk downland sites in the Cudham Valley and associated grazing. Creation of 5ha of chalk downland. Production of chalk downland leaflets and displays and purchase of equipment under HLF project to ease management. Production of leaflet promoting London's Acid Grassland.
Lowland Heath & Mire	Establishment of Friends of Hayes Common.; heathland restoration work	Further restoration effort on Bromley's heathland in Petts Wood & Hayes. Contribution to the London Heathland Working Group. Submission of a 'London's Heathland Heritage' HLF bid.
Wetland	The re-establishment of the river system through Norman Park & Shaftesbury Park; implementation of surveys on dragonflies and water voles; Bromley's Wetland Campaign; the surveying of key great crested newt sites.	Surveying of further sites for amphibians. Promotion of more than 25wetland creation, management and species conservation through 'Bromley's Wetland Campaign' events sheet. Securing of Aggregates Levy Sustainability Funding for Ruxley Lakes.
Urban Habitats	Greening Bromley's Gardens Campaign to encourage garden or allotment-holders, and others, to consider their impact on the environment. Appointment of a Wild space Officer to encourage community interest in Bromley's local nature reserves.	Community action encouraged on Local Nature Reserves through the Wildspace! Project. Creation of educational resource directory for open spaces along the Green Chain Walk. House sparrow recording promoted and more than 50 sparrow boxes distributed.
Farmed Land (New addition in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	-	Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship Schemes further promoted to local farmers by Countryside Management Service.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Selected Key Achievements</b>	
<b>Species Action Plans</b>	<b>1999-2002 1<sup>st</sup> Edition</b>	<b>2003-5 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</b>
Stag beetle	Local surveys feeding into national level; production of report 'Conservation Status of the Stag Beetle in London'; production of leaflet on stag beetle friendly gardening; 'Wonder of Stag Beetles' display boards. National press coverage. Great Stag Hunt II survey launch by Michael Meacher	Securing records under 2005 Stag Beetle Hunt. Hosting of London-wide Stag Beetle Workshop organised by LWT. Creation of stag beetle loggeries along the Beck Corridor.
Song thrush	Existing Records collated to reveal key areas. Local surveys feed into national level e.g. Breeding Bird Survey	Monitoring of song thrushes on 3 farms.
Skylark	Identification of some skylark 'strongholds' in the Borough. Local surveys feed into national level e.g. BTO Recording scheme	Monitoring of skylarks on 3 farms.
Bats	Bat information to tree surgeons, planners and developers; management and monitoring of 3 hibernation sites.	Survey of roost sites at High Elms; 6 bat/hibernation box schemes running. Research to support the identification of habitat preferences of pipistrelle species. Distribution of information to local vets. More than 15 events promoting bats held. Leislars roost discovered.
Hedgehog	Records collated. Buzz and Greening Bromley's Gardens events held.	Promotion of hedgehogs through talks and events.
Ancient Trees	Trees of Time and Place launched.	Mapping of ancient trees in targeted areas.
Birds Foot Trefoil (SAP deleted in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	Records sought and sites identified. However the public are unable to correctly identify it and the species doesn't act as the intended good indicator of unimproved grassland	-
Blue Butterflies (SAP deleted in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	Sightings by the public as part of the 'Bromley 8' campaign. Much management of key grasslands.	-
Butterflies (New Addition in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	-	Transect monitoring on more than 8 sites. Promotion of butterfly-friendly plants through Green Gardening events and SUN Project.
Common Dormouse (New Addition in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	-	Further establishment and monitoring of nest boxes in Downe & Farnborough. Promotion of dormice to 100 scouts, guides and woodcraft folk.
Glow-worm (New Addition in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	-	Glow-worm talks and survey walks organised on selected chalk grassland sites.

## 1.5 Web Information to Supplement the BBAP

The text within this document relates to the content of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2006-9 Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan. Additional information is provided on the BBAP website at [www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk) and includes:

- **Getting Involved**

Provides ideas on how people can help biodiversity. Here you can select: a specific category to find out activities tailored to suit you (eg. teacher); which organisations are active in your area; what events, training, surveying and practical work is currently being carried out; what other people have been doing to help biodiversity.

- **Enjoying Bromley's Biodiversity**

This provides ideas on where to visit and places to find out further information.

- **The SUN Project**

Further information is provided on the various elements required by the London Borough of Bromley for the Project, which is funded by the EU LIFE Environment Programme. Innovative approaches to involving stakeholders in progressing the BBAP, provides the central theme.

- **Specialist Information**

This includes more details on how the BBAP is implemented locally, including: Role of the Steering Group; Role of the Action Groups; monitoring progress of the BBAP; monitoring habitats and species; communications strategy for the BBAP; minutes of meetings.

- **Contacts & Links**

This provides a list of local organisations participating in the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership, as well as useful links to other websites.