



Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2029

Summary

Biodiversity is the variety of all life. The Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2024-2029 is a partnership plan. It demonstrates the commitment of the council and local people to protecting and enhancing nature in the borough.

This summary document includes the aims, objectives and targets of the BAP.

Aim

The aim of the BAP is to conserve and enhance biodiversity within Bracknell Forest Borough.

Objectives

Track sites: Track the condition of designated sites

Monitor and survey: Monitor key sites, features and indicator species to understand trends and inform management

Create and restore habitats: Enhance, restore or create high quality habitats, through Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Passive Open Space of Value (OSPV) projects and other project routes

Designate sites: Achieve nature conservation designations for high-quality sites

Connect habitats: Improve habitat connectivity

Enhance for wildlife: Enhance sites for wildlife by providing opportunities for nesting, foraging, hibernation and movement

Raise awareness: Build awareness and engage communities

Access to nature: Encourage access to nature while protecting sensitive habitats and wildlife

Strategic action: Contribute to related strategic plans and activities within Bracknell Forest and across administrative boundaries

Climate mitigation: Contribute to climate change mitigation (lowering emissions and/or carbon storage)

Climate adaptation: Contribute to climate change adaptation (improving the resilience of habitats, species and people to a changing climate)

The objectives link through to each of the targets in the plan. This is shown next to each target.

General Themes

General themes targets are based on factors that influence the conservation of all species and habitats.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
1	Track condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track sites
2	Formally survey each Local Wildlife Site every 10 years, and supplement with additional, more frequent surveys where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track sites Monitor and survey
3	75 per cent Local Wildlife Sites in positive management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track sites Monitor and survey
4	Review the network of Local Nature Reserves and designate appropriate sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track sites Designate sites Access to nature
5	Produce an annual report on the state of nature in Bracknell Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and survey Strategic action
6	Promote wildlife recording including submitting records to TVERC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and survey Raise awareness
7	Involve educational institutions in monitoring and management of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and survey Raise awareness
8	Hold or publish at least 30 events and articles each year promoting the importance of biodiversity within the borough (see also individual habitat plans), including links to climate change where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness Strategic action Climate mitigation
9	Host at least 10,000 hours of volunteering for nature each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and restore habitats Enhance for wildlife Raise awareness Climate adaptation
10	Bring together, review and enhance the plans and strategies for green infrastructure in Bracknell Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic action Climate mitigation Climate adaptation Access to nature
11	Secure and monitor at least 10 per cent biodiversity net gain on relevant developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and restore habitats Strategic action Climate adaptation
12	Engage with the development of the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic action
13	Support the delivery of the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic action
14	Support and work with the Joint Climate Action Board (JCAB), including the biodiversity working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness Strategic action Climate mitigation Climate adaptation

Grassland

Neutral grasslands towards the north of the borough and acid grasslands towards the south support species such as the harvest mouse and bumblebees.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
15	Design and undertake regular surveys of key grassland sites/species to understand trends and feed into annual report (see General Themes target 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey
16	Enhance, restore or create 15ha grassland habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate adaptation
17	Survey 5ha grassland to propose as Local Wildlife Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey • Designate sites
18	Make management advice available to grassland landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness
19	Raise awareness of grassland biodiversity within annual events and articles (see General Themes target 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness

Woodland

The woodland theme covers broadleaved and coniferous woodlands, orchards, hedgerows and veteran trees. Bracknell Forest has a high tree canopy cover at 35 per cent.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
20	Design and undertake regular surveys of key woodland sites/species to understand trends and feed into annual report (see General Themes target 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey
21	Enhance, restore or create 25ha woodland habitats, including ancient woodland sites where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
22	Create an action plan of prioritised sites for woodland invasive species removal and take action across at least 10 sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate adaptation
23	Enhance, restore or create 5km native hedgerow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitat • Connect habitats • Enhance for wildlife • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
24	Create 3 new community orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness • Access to nature
25	Survey 5ha woodland to propose as Local Wildlife Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey • Designate sites

26	Consolidate veteran tree data, identify gaps and undertake targeted surveys to identify veteran trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Error! Reference source not found. • Error! Reference source not found.
27	Identify 50 trees with potential to become veterans and improve management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats
28	Plant trees in an open, parkland-style setting at 5 sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate mitigation
29	Include wild-service trees in re-stocking and planting plans for sites in the north of the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate mitigation
30	Install loggeries, bat roosting opportunities and dead-hedges at 30 sites with limited deadwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance for wildlife
31	Make management advice available to woodland and hedgerow landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
32	Raise awareness of woodland biodiversity within annual events and articles (see General Themes target 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness
33	Review Bracknell Forest Borough Tree Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic action • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation

Rivers and Wetlands

Rivers and wetlands targets cover waterways and waterbodies such as the Blackwater River, The Cut, Englemere Pond and smaller ponds. Important wetland species include great crested newts and kingfishers.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
34	Design and undertake regular surveys of key wetland sites/species to understand trends and feed into annual report (see General Themes target 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey
35	Monitor outfalls at least every 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey • Raise awareness • Strategic action
36	Enhance, restore or create 20 ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Enhance for wildlife • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
37	Restore or enhance 2km of river or stream habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Connect habitats • Enhance for wildlife • Climate adaptation
38	Restore or enhance 3 wetland sites, including improving reedbed management where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate adaptation
39	Create an action plan of prioritised sites for Himalayan Balsam removal and take action across at least 10 sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate adaptation
40	Review access patterns at two river or wetland sites and adapt access management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness • Access to nature
41	Make management advice available to riverside landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness
42	Raise awareness of wetland biodiversity, including issues facing rivers and opportunities for communities to get involved, within annual events and articles (see General Themes target 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness
43	Engage with the Catchment Partnership and its strategic plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic action

Heathland

The Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area is the largest example of heathland in the borough. This is a protected region home to important threatened birds.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
44	Design and undertake regular surveys of key heathland sites/species to understand trends and feed into annual report (see General Themes target 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey
45	Enhance, restore or create 10ha of heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
46	Create 5 new bogs or ponds within heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
47	Promote SANGs to reduce pressure on SPA heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness • Strategic action • Access to nature
48	Review access patterns at two heathland sites and adapt access management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness • Access to nature
49	Run 20 educational sessions on heathland wildlife and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness
50	Raise awareness of heathland biodiversity within annual events and articles (see General Themes target 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness

Farmland

Farmland is mostly located in the north of the borough and supports species such as skylarks and barn owls.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
51	Monitor trends in farmland bird species and feed into annual report (see General Themes target 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey
52	Monitor barn owl boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey • Enhance for wildlife
53	Install 5 new owl boxes including at least 2 barn owl boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance for wildlife
54	Share information on new agri-environment schemes and monitor uptake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness • Strategic action • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
55	Make management advice available to farmland landowners and horse owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
56	Raise awareness of farmland biodiversity within annual events and articles (see General Themes target 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness

Urban

The urban theme covers different types of habitats in the more built-up areas of the borough. Urban areas support species such as swifts, hedgehogs and badgers.

Targets

No.	Target	Objectives
57	Design and undertake regular surveys of key urban sites/species to understand trends and feed into annual report (see General Themes target 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey
58	Identify, protect and increase the number of active swift and house martin nest sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey • Enhance for wildlife
59	Plant or replace 50 large native urban trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Climate mitigation • Climate adaptation
60	Identify 20 verges or groups of verges and enhance for wildflowers and pollinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Connect habitats
61	Enhance 10 community spaces for wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Enhance for wildlife • Raise awareness • Climate adaptation

62	At least 10 private landowners to have enhanced their grounds for wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Enhance for wildlife • Raise awareness
63	Secure wildlife enhancement features, including nest boxes, hibernation features and gaps for movement, within new and existing urban spaces, including seeking enhancements via planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance for wildlife
64	Planning permissions in areas with badger setts to ensure measures for badger protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance for wildlife • Strategic action
65	All public greenspace management plans to include biodiversity actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Enhance for wildlife • Strategic action
66	Make management advice available to urban landowners, such as businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and restore habitats • Raise awareness
67	Raise awareness of urban and garden biodiversity, and opportunities for communities to get involved, within annual events and articles (see General Themes target 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness
68	Promote Local Access to Nature to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness • Access to nature