



## DRAFT REVISED PLAN - AUGUST 2015

# PARKS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Warwickshire sub-region has extensive areas of urban development within which there is a high proportion of greenspace which is formally managed municipal parkland.

Well-designed green space contributes towards ecological diversity, supports environmental sustainability and helps to counter pollution. Within urban open space, varied habitats help to relieve the monotony of the urban landscape with

the different colours and sounds and help to bring the delights of the countryside into our towns. As well as providing important visual amenity benefits in built up areas, urban open space gives people the chance to experience and learn about nature and wildlife close to where they live.



War Memorial Park, Coventry  
© Steven Falk

Greenspaces are important features for local communities, and often carefully designed and supporting historic value but their ecological value is highly variable. At one extreme they are regularly mown lawns with recently planted trees and perhaps some limit planting of exotic shrubs. These sites tend to support little of ecological interest, although several parks and public open spaces in Coventry now support 'wild' areas, borders and wildflower meadows but are valuable for a range of recreational activities such as child playing, dog walking, etc.

At the other extreme are sites that incorporate a variety of semi-natural habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, flower-rich grasslands, former wood pasture, tall herb and scrub plus collections of old trees. Some parks created in the Victorian era have considerable wildlife value due to the maturity of trees in particular.

These latter sites have higher value for wildlife. Some examples include [Brueton Park](#) in Solihull, [Priory Park](#) in Warwick and [Newbold Comyn Park](#) in Leamington Spa, sections of the Sowe Valley in Coventry, [Abbey Fields](#) in Kenilworth and the [Swift Valley Country Park](#) in Rugby. Country Parks and Greenspaces are often owned and managed by the Local Authorities, with many of the habitats covered by individual management plans or other habitat action plans in this BAP.

Some areas of public open space have evolved from more natural landscapes such as [Sowe Valley](#) of Coventry, and the Swift Valley in Rugby and therefore still retain many historic features such as old grassland and old trees. Newly created sites can be designed and managed to incorporate a degree of ecological value through sensitive mowing regimes and planting schemes.

Areas of public open space in turn attract interesting wildlife, such as good bird populations (including declining species such as song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), linnet (+*Carduelis cannabina*), green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) and kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), insects associated with dead wood and old trees, and a good variety of butterflies, moths,

hoverflies and bees, all attracted by the plentiful flowers at many sites. Many unusual trees can be present, including superb examples of exotic trees or cultivars e.g. large cedars and other conifers, unusual oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and limes (*Tilia spp.*), plus some important specimens of native species such as the [black poplar](#) (subject of a Species Action Plan) and a few mature elms (*Ulmus spp.*).

The challenge of this action plan is to maximise the wildlife value of parks and public open spaces while enhancing the recreational value and safety of such areas. Natural greenspaces are very important to our quality of life. They provide a wide range of benefits for people and the environment. Recent evidence shows that access to natural greenspaces for fresh air, exercise and quiet contemplation has benefits for both physical and mental health. Research provides good evidence of reductions in levels of heart disease, obesity and depression where people live close to greenspaces. In addition to their potential ecological value, greenspaces also help us adapt to changes in climate through their role in reducing the risk of flooding and by cooling the local environment. Where trees are present they also act as filters for air pollution. Nature nearby is good for people, good for wildlife and good for the environment.

To help people make this a reality, [Natural England](#) has produced [Nature Nearby - Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance](#) (ANGst) for parks and greenspace practitioners and their partners, recommending that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible **natural** greenspace:

- of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (5 min. walk) from home,
- at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of home,
- one accessible 100 ha site within 5km of home, and
- one accessible 500ha site within 10km of home, plus
- a minimum of 1ha of statutory Local Nature Reserves per 1000 population.

Some areas of amenity grassland still retain semi-natural grassland in a suppressed form and can recover to produce species-rich grassland of valuable [National Vegetation Classification](#) (NVC) categories such as MG5 (with plants such as pignut (*Conopodium majus*), great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)). Efforts should be made to identify areas with potential for restoration.

2.	OBJECTIVES	TARGETS
Associated Action Plans are: 'Lowland Grassland (all types)', 'Lakes & Reservoirs', 'Ponds', 'Hedgehog', 'Bats', 'Song Thrush', 'Great Crested Newt', 'Black Poplar' and 'Scarce Arable Plants'		
<b>PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR OBJECTIVES COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS</b>		
<b>A.</b>	<b>Increase biodiversity opportunities by changing management techniques on 6ha of existing greenspaces.</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Develop new areas of wildlife friendly greenspace and parks within major new developments, to meet ANGst standards, with a minimum of 2ha per development</b>	<b>ongoing</b>

### 3. NATIONAL BAP OBJECTIVES & TARGETS

There are no specific BAP objectives or targets for parks and public open spaces, only for some of the habitats they contain, e.g. standing open water, reed beds, various grasslands and some of the species typical of these sites e.g. the song thrush. However, such sites provide a valuable opportunity to promote habitat creation or act as wildlife corridors in a manner that helps address national targets for various habitats.

The [Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002 - Working with the grain of nature](#) (2002) regarded parks and urban greenspaces as a Priority Policy Issue stating: “*Ensuring biodiversity as an integral part of parks, playing fields and other urban greenspace. Multi-functional role of greenspaces linked to urban renaissance*”.

It is also important to recognise that it has a legal obligation for all public bodies to consider and conserve biodiversity as part of the [NERC Act](#) (2006). This legislation means that, from 1 October 2006, all local authorities and other public authorities in England and Wales have had a duty to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. The act aims to raise the profile of biodiversity and to make sure that it is considered in all local authority decisions and policies.

### 4. CURRENT STATUS

The Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) records 8085ha of amenity grassland within the sub-region in 2014; however, this includes mown roadside verges, gardens (where recorded), sportsfields and school grounds as well as parks. It is clear that a very high proportion of this falls into the category of parks and amenity grassland, with further areas representing golf courses or private grounds. Much of it is concentrated within cities, towns and villages and in some areas it represents the predominant form of greenspace with greater coverage than all the combined coverage of semi-natural habitats (e.g. within Coventry).

Many parks and public open spaces are under local authority control. However, most National Trust sites and large estates with public access contain land that potentially fall under this heading. There are also areas retained by within the development control process which are open to the public.

#### 4.1 Legal and Policy Status

A wide range of species and habitats are protected under international and domestic laws, including the [Wild Birds Directive](#) (1979), the [Wildlife and Countryside Act](#) (1981), the [Conservation Regulations](#) (1994) and [EC Habitats Directive](#) (1992). Protection of sites is afforded nationally through [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSI), [Special Areas of Conservation](#) (SAC) and [Local Nature Reserve](#) (LNR) statutory status. Other sites are offered recognition of their value through Local Wildlife Site status (LWS), Local Character Areas and identified Landscape Scale Areas. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2012) chapter/section 11 states conditions with regard to any development negatively affecting biodiversity, including protected sites, ancient woodland and other irreplaceable habitats (paragraph 118). The Wildlife & Countryside Act and schedule 2 of

the [Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations](#) (2010) make it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, take, possess, sell, buy or transport a range of species.

Some parks and public open spaces fall within Conservation Areas, Green Belt or Areas of Restraint where they are covered by strong protective planning policies. Local Authority Development Plans provide strong commitments to the provision of minimum levels of public open space, both as a principle and through the listing and zoning of specific sites in associated plan maps. Recommendations for the minimum provision of open space have been published by [Fields in Trust](#) (FIT) and [Natural England](#) (the latter purely for accessible natural green space, ANGst).

Few parks and public open spaces attain Local Wildlife Site (LWS) status or SSSI quality due to a lack of extensive semi-natural habitat. However, there are examples such as [Coombe Country Park](#), where the publicly accessible areas are adjacent to the SSSI; the River Blythe SSSI runs through [Malvern and Brueton Park](#) in Solihull and several LWSs are similarly located within or adjacent to municipal parks and public open spaces across the region. (e.g. [Kenilworth Road Spinney](#) and [Tocil Wood and Meadows](#) in Coventry). Part of [Abbey Green Park](#) in Polesworth, North Warwickshire was designated in 2012.

Mature trees in parks and public open spaces may be protected with a [Tree Preservation Order](#) (TPO). Species protected under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act are known to reside at some sites, e.g. badger (*Meles meles*) setts within spinneys and scrub at various sites, water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) populations along water courses in Coventry, great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) associated with some ponds and bats associated with old trees. These require special attention during site management and land-use change.

**Coventry City Council (2014)** has a variety of strategic plans that feed into green space management:-

- Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- Coventry's Cultural Strategy, 2007 - 2017
- Green Space Strategy
- Promoting Physical Activity - a Strategy for Coventry 2008-2012
- Equality Strategy 2007-2010
- Play Strategy - 'Something to do' A strategy to improve play opportunities for children and young people in Coventry, March 2007
- Climate Change Strategy for Coventry, March 2008
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- The City of Coventry Unitary Development Plan, 1996-2011
- Coventry Development Plan – Core Strategy

**Warwick District Council** Green Space Team have produced the [Green Space Strategy for Warwick District](#) for the period 2012–2026. The vision is that by 2026 there will be a well planned and managed network of integrated, accessible and diverse green spaces within Warwick district: creating a sustainable environment for the benefit of people, wildlife and our natural heritage.

**Stratford District Council's** [Greenspace Strategy](#) 2006 states that 'Stratford on Avon District will have accessible, attractive, clean, safe, varied and welcoming green environments, which meet community needs and contribute to the quality of life for people who live in, work in and visit the District'.

**Rugby Borough Council** produced its Green Space Strategy: '[Making Green Space Your Place](#)' in 2014.

**Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council's** [Green Infrastructure Plan](#) was produced in 2009.

**North Warwickshire Borough Council's** [Green Space Strategy 2008 – 2018](#) will help the Borough Council to deliver its Corporate Priorities of:

- Enhancing community involvement and access to services
- Protecting and improving our environment
- Defending and improving our countryside and rural heritage
- Tackling health inequalities through improving well-being and providing leisure opportunities to all our citizens
- Working with our partners to tackle crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Making best use of our resources

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's** [Green Space Strategy 2006](#) was used by planners and the parks team to provide a focused approach to green space design, management and service delivery until 2011. It was updated in 2013.

## 4.2 Current Factors Affecting the Habitat

- **Development** – a number of areas of public open space have been lost to development or are under threat, e.g. sections of the Sowe Valley in Coventry.
- **Unsympathetic landscaping or restoration** – especially that which reduces the extent of semi-natural habitat or the number of other ecologically interesting features at a site.
- **The impact of climate change** is heightened in urban areas due to increased heat island effect, and increased surface water run-off and localised flooding, with higher and more frequent rainfall. The cooling effect of greenspaces and the shade they afford has been shown to be beneficial and can reduce death rates.
- **Public perception** - local residents can sometimes object strongly to the presence of informal habitat within public open space, seeing it as untidy, a source of hay fever, harbouring vermin, a threat to safety or a fire risk.
- **Site management** - the use of short-term contracts for site maintenance can disrupt continuity of ecologically-sensitive practices at a site and affect liaison with contractors.
- **Intensive recreational pressure** – difficult to avoid at some sites; it can cause impacts on vegetation and can reduce bird populations in particular.
- **Restoration potential** - some areas of amenity grassland still retain semi-natural grassland in a suppressed form and can recover to produce species-rich grassland of valuable [National Vegetation Classification](#) (NVC) categories such as MG5, with plants such as pignut, *Conopodium majus* great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*), birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*, etc.. Efforts should be made to identify areas with potential for restoration.

- **Financial pressure** – With significant budget pressure facing local government parks budgets are being significantly reduced. The results are still unclear, whilst some authorities may look to transfer ownership of open spaces, others are reviewing maintenance regimes which arguably could bring biodiversity benefits and increased volunteering opportunities.
- **Increase in invasive non-native species** – plants such as Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), and tree pests and diseases which are increasing with global transport.
- **Over-use of chemical herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers** can affect wildlife - they directly reduce number of plant and invertebrate species and food availability. They are often indiscriminate in their effects, killing beneficial insects such as ladybirds along with the target “infestation”. They also have consequences for predatory species, e.g. song thrush and hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europeus*) which can be poisoned by eating slugs and snails killed by metaldehyde slug pellets. Pesticides often enter the foodchain, often with disastrous results: e.g. ants treated with ant-killer can poison nestling green woodpeckers). Ignorance and the desire for ‘quick fix’ solutions still pervade the choice of pest control methods and there is clearly a need for greater awareness in this area.
- **Use of unsustainable materials** – use of peat based compost, limestone pavement and tropical hardwoods all negatively impact on biodiversity at the source.

## 5. LOCAL ACTION

- Survey work and designation - many parks and public open spaces have been subject to a long history of wildlife recording, though the data is of varying scope, detail and age. Coventry has the most comprehensive data due to various surveys carried out between 1982 and 1998 and this has resulted in parts of some sites becoming designated as LWSs. Much of the data collected is undertaken by volunteers and it is important that local authorities use this data when considering changes in management regimes.
- Established management - most sites are subject to contract-based management for aspects such as grass-cutting, tree care, planting, litter removal etc. This is usually controlled by the Parks and Amenities departments of local authorities, though some sites are privately owned. With Local Authorities finances continuing to face significant reductions over the next few there is a tendency for authorities to cut services and to just stop doing things. This also brings the threat of increased use of chemicals. However this very pressure could bring an opportunity to examine what environmental benefits that a change of management style may bring to a green space. These examples range from the creation of more small woods and copses, to introducing flower rich meadows and grassland.

- Specific nature conservation management takes place at a small number of sites, sometimes involving contractors and sometimes involving local residents or societies. Recent examples of habitat enhancement projects in public open space can be found at [Longford Park](#), Coventry (river enhancement), Brueton Park (wet grassland enhancement), [Newbold Comyn Park Abbey Fields, Kenilworth](#) (wildflower meadow enhancement).
- Education - some such sites are regularly used for education such as [Coombe Country Park](#) (by the Ranger Service there), Brueton Park (by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust) and [Priory Park](#) in Warwick (by [Warwickshire Museum](#)). Some sites also contain interpretation boards explaining the history of a site or plans for restoration e.g. [Jephson Gardens](#) in Leamington Spa.
- **Solihull MBC (2014)** has management plans for 10 Green Flag parks; of these 10 parks, 8 (not Shirley or Tudor Grange) also include areas of LNR which have separate management/action plans. Brueton Park and [Elmdon Park](#) are both within environmental stewardship schemes; the Brueton agreement is ongoing but the Elmdon agreement ended in 2014 and will not be renewed. Until 2014, the Local Nature Reserves Officer carried out mental health therapy projects with MIND; it is hoped that the post will be recruited in 2015.
- **Rugby BC (2014)** has strong biodiversity statements within its new Green Space Strategy and has completed the planting of one of only 60 Diamond Woods in partnership with The Woodland Trust. Management plans are in place for some Local Nature Reserves which have biodiversity requirements. Other parks within Rugby have been awarded a Green Flag Award in respect of sustainable management and used to help direct maintenance regimes on many areas of open space. This includes the planting of more sustainable species rich wildflower and pictorial meadows across the Borough, more tree planting and the installation of bird boxes, bat boxes and even bee hives. [Parkfield](#), a former allotment site in Newbold-on-Avon has been transformed into a major community green space.
- **Warwick DC (2014)** works in partnership with [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) to manage a number of Local Nature Reserves and woodland in the area. In addition, they are actively seeking to improve the wildlife value of many of our parks and open spaces through adopting management techniques which provide good habitat. These include, leaving areas of unmown grass around the margins of some parks, developing wildflower meadows and cornfield annual areas where appropriate, providing bat and bird boxes in trees and barn owl and kestrel boxes, leaving standing dead wood where it is safe to do so, creating 'habitat piles' of logs in some parks and woodland areas, changing annual bedding flowers to sustainable herbaceous plantings which are insect friendly, and seeking to reduce the use of pesticides wherever it is practical to do so.
- **Nuneaton & Bedworth BC (information as at 2005)** 'Pride in Our Parks' recognises that standing open water in the form of pools accounts for 30 ha of their open space and the River Anker runs for 7.25 km through the Borough. The Anker is actually a watershed with the River Trent running North and East and the Rivers Soar, Avon and Severn running South and

West. In addition, there are 16.9 km of canals, which are vitally important in maintaining our wildlife infrastructure. About 220 ha of the Borough are formal parks and 26 allotment sites cover a further 31ha. The maintenance of this “green lung” is not a statutory obligation but is a Council priority for which we should all be thankful. The international plan to improve quality of life and the environment across the world, Agenda 21, is fully supported and managed locally by the Council. An urban sprawl devoid of plants, trees, flowers and wildlife corridors indicates a society devoid of spiritual harmony and wellbeing (information as at 2015).

- **Stratford-on-Avon DC (information as at 2005)** owns and manages 29 formal and informal parks, greenspaces and playgrounds throughout the district. Also, in addition, we work in partnership with local friends groups to manage two local nature reserves (information as at 2015).
- **North Warwickshire BC (information as at 2005)** has produced an ‘Open Space, Sports and Recreation Background Paper’ (March 2004) through their planning section which is to identify Formal Park/Garden, Wildlife Area and Informal Space land allocation (amongst others). Wildlife areas being described as ‘*Areas dedicated for wildlife conservation, encouraging biodiversity and environmental awareness*’ (information as at 2015).
- **Coventry City Council (2014)**
  - Specifically, since 2007 we have left a 5m margin alongside all water courses where practicable. These margins are maintained using a 1/3 cut every three years. This is part of our Water Vole partnership and this regime obviously benefits many small mammals and invertebrates. Prior to this, all close mowing ceased at hedge bottoms within parks, where a 2m strip either side of the hedge is left un-mown. Initially, there was some customer dissatisfaction but when we explained the reason for this, these issues were overcome.
  - We have made bug houses and bug motels as part of Rangers event programme involving local children and Friends Of groups.
    - We have changed a number of annual beds to more sustainable perennial beds in Longford Park, Binley frontage and Top Green, for example, thus providing over wintering sites as well as longer lasting nectar producing plants.
  - The Rangers have also given a number of talks to local community groups on Wildlife Gardening.
  - This year we have introduced Wild Flower meadows in Longford, Allesley (the second meadow for Allesley), Caludon and War Memorial Parks as well as on Whitley roundabout, the A45 central reservation and along Hinckley Road, a total of 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> of additional wild flower planting.
  - In terms of pesticide usage, we do not use any on our green spaces, we only use glyphosate non residual herbicide to minimise the negative environmental impact of these products.
- **Warwickshire County Council(2014)** through the [Country Parks and Countryside Access Group](#) owns and manages over 730ha of open space at the following locations:

<i>Alvecote Priory</i>	<i>1.5 ha</i>
<i>Pooley Country Park</i>	<i>62.5 ha</i>
<i>Kingsbury Water Park</i>	<i>272.5 ha</i>



<i>Hartshill Hayes Country Park</i>	62.2 ha
<i>Ufton Field Nature Reserve</i>	45.5 ha
<i>Ryton Pools</i>	45.5 ha
<i>Burton Dassett Country Park</i>	45.5 ha
<i>Stratford-on-Avon Greenway</i>	200.0 ha
<i>[an 8km length linear park with an average width of 25m]</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>735.2 ha</b>

- Various management plans are in place and there are specific policies with respect to the pools at [Kingsbury Water Park](#) and [Ryton Pools](#).]
- [Ryton Country Park](#), now in [Higher Level Stewardship](#), is encouraging the adjacent wood white (*Leptidea sinapis*) population by planting meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) in the new [Butterfly Conservation](#) Warwickshire reserve [Ryton Wood Meadows](#).
- [Ryton Conservation Trust](#) is one of the groups formed as part of the parish plan action group work, to highlight and where possible improve nature conservation within the village, including monitoring of bats, butterflies and hedgerows (pers.comm.Joe Taylor, May 2013).
- At Keresley, Coventry - in 1999 [Prologis Country Park](#) was created as part of a business park; in 2012 the 3ha [Jubilee Wood](#) and wildflower area were planted.
- At Lighthorne a new Nature Reserve is proposed, to be included within a new housing development, retaining an existing LWS
- An M.Sc. student at Warwick University has carried out a Phase 1 survey of both campuses and mapped the results on QGIS. Recommendations have been made for planting lamiales and clovers in Jubilee Wood to encourage bees and increasing the connectivity between adjacent woods (2015).

## 6. PROPOSED LOCAL ACTIONS

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
<b>PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS</b>			
<b>Policy, Legislation &amp; Protection</b>			
<b>PL1.</b> Continue to select all qualifying 'park and public open space' sites as LWSs and enter onto database.	LWSP	NE LAs HBA	ongoing
<b>PL2.</b> Ensure the inclusion of biodiversity statements within Park and Greenspace Strategies.	WCC	NE LAs WWT	2015

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
<b>PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS</b>			
<b>PL3.</b> Encourage Local Authorities and Parish Councils to protect parks and wildlife friendly greenspaces, e.g. by working with organisations, e.g. FIT, to ensure they are protected into the future, or by designation as LNRs.	LAs	FIT    PCs	ongoing
<b>PL4.</b> Encourage the adoption of a policy discouraging the use of pesticides on land controlled by local authorities, e.g. parks and allotments, and promote organic alternatives.	WCC	LAs	2015
<b>PL5.</b> Promote the adoption of a policy to discontinue the use of all chemical slug repellents on land controlled by all local authorities.	RBC	NE    WWT WCC    LAs	2015
<b>PL6.</b> Share and encourage adoption of policies re use of sustainably sourced materials with other local authorities, ceasing or at least reducing use of peat and limestone pavement.	WCC	NE    WWT LAs	ongoing
<b>Site / Species Safeguard &amp; Management</b>			
<b>SM1.</b> Maintain favourable condition of the ecologically important parks and greenspaces, or ecologically important parts of them, by ensuring the appropriate management of sites.	WCC	NE    WWT WBRC LAs	ongoing
<b>SM2.</b> Develop and implement management plans for all parks and public open spaces to retain the level of biodiversity interest.	LAs	NE    WCC WWT WBRC	ongoing
<b>SM3.</b> Improve the condition of existing semi-natural habitats in parks and public open spaces, with priority given to those holding UK BAP Priority Species, Red Data Book species, Nationally Scarce and Regionally Scarce species. Each local authority to improve / change the management of 1 park per year, aiming at a total of 50 parks.	LAs	WBRC WWT	2020
<b>SM4.</b> Increase biodiversity opportunities by changing management techniques on 1ha of existing greenspaces by 2015 and a further 5ha by 2020.	WCC	LAs	2015-2020
<b>SM5.</b> Establish wildlife friendly habitats within all new parks, occupying at least 30% of the area.	LAs	WWT    HBA WBRC    BC	2020

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
<b>PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS</b>			
<b>SM6.</b> Manage and enhance existing semi-natural habitats for wildlife value within University campuses and sports fields (see <b>RM4</b> ).	CSG	Unis HBA CCC	2020
<b>Advisory</b>			
<b>A1.</b> Share existing policies with other authorities regarding use of pesticides, sustainable compost, recycling, and installation of green roofs.	RBC	LAs	ongoing
<b>A2.</b> Develop and share policy with other authorities regarding the conservation of lichen, fern and moss growth on walls and memorials, e.g. only clean where necessary.	LNPIG	WBRC BLS CDEG LAs	ongoing
<b>Research &amp; Monitoring</b>			
<b>RM1.</b> Identify all, or parts of, ecologically important parks and greenspaces (see <b>SM1</b> ) and map on GIS.	LWSP	HBA WBRC LAs	ongoing
<b>RM2.</b> Develop a traffic light system for monitoring the condition of all ecologically important parks and greenspaces.	CSG	Unis CCP BC	2015
<b>RM3.</b> Monitor the condition of all ecologically important parks and greenspaces using the traffic light system (see <b>RM2</b> ).	LAs	HBA LAs	2017
<b>RM4.</b> Monitor the condition of University campuses and sportsfields using the traffic light system (see <b>RM2</b> ).	CSG	Unis HBA CCC	2016
<b>Communication &amp; Publicity</b>			
<b>CP1.</b> Attend at least one of the meetings of the existing West Midlands Parks Forum to keep people updated.	RBC	WCC WWT LAs	annual
<b>CP2.</b> Raise awareness for lichen conservation by distributing a document to Local Authority planners outlining the importance of conserving lichens at sites that are likely to be affected by development, e.g. walls.	WCC	LAs WWT BLS WBRC	2015

**Abbreviations:** BC – Butterfly Conservation, BLS – British Lichen Society, CCC – Coventry City Council, CCP – Coombe Country Park, CDEG – Coventry Diocesan Environmental Group, CSG – Core Steering Group, FIT – Fields in Trust, HBA – Habitat Biodiversity Audit partnership, LAs – Local Authorities, CSG – Core Steering Group, LNPIG – Local Nature Partnership Implementation Group, LWSP – Local Wildlife Sites Project, NE – Natural England, PCs – Parish Councils, RBC – Rugby Borough Council, Unis – Universities, WBRC – Warwickshire Biological Record Centre, WCC – Warwickshire County Council, WWT – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

## 7. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS

From 2015–2020 there will be a rolling programme of reporting on progress, of 10 action plans per year with an annual summary of results. Results will be entered onto the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System [BARS](#). Progress with this plan up to 2008 can be seen at [www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP](http://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP).

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Kirby, P. (1992) [Habitat management for Invertebrates](#): a Practical Handbook. RSPB.

North Warwickshire Borough Council (2004) Open Space, Sports and Recreation Background Paper.

DEFRA [Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002](#) - Working with the grain of nature' and [Biodiversity 2020](#) - A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.

Centre for Alternative Technology (2005) The Little Book of Slugs. (Tel. 01654 705950)

Falk, S.J. (2009) [Warwickshire's Wildflowers](#) - provides habitat-specific species lists, and explanations of habitats from a botanical viewpoint.

Lawton, J.H. (2010) [Making Space for Nature](#): a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network. Report to Defra.

RSPB (2013) State of Nature – a stocktake of all our native wildlife by 25 wildlife organisations.

HBA (2013) The State of the Habitats of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

## 9. FURTHER INFORMATION

UK [Urban](#) Biodiversity Action Plan (JNCC Old broad habitat type, 1995-1999, now archived)

Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) for Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull – mapping data set and associated information. Phase 1 ([JNCC](#)) 1996-2002 and Phase 2 (Local Wildlife Sites) ongoing.

[British Trust for Ornithology](#) (2007). Managing habitat for birds and other wildlife in urban greenspaces.

[CABE Space](#) (2006). Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks.

[Flora Locale](#) - promotes the restoration of wild plants and habitats for the benefit of biodiversity, landscapes and people in town and countryside. A [Code of Practice](#)

for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora was produced in the 1990's and more detailed advice is now available in [Go Native: planting for biodiversity](#), guidelines for planting projects in the countryside. Also (2005) Knowledge Zone: Wild plants and your village green (free leaflet available from Flora Locale, Denford Manor, Lower Denford, Berks. RG17 0UN (sae A5)

[Plantlife](#) - a charity which carries out plant species and habitat conservation, owns and manages nature reserves, campaigns, and raises awareness through education.

[Mammal Trust](#) UK (2006). Living with Mammals - Survey (Information available from 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG. Tel. 0207 498 5262 .

[Open Spaces Society](#) (2007). Getting Greens Registered (available for £17, including p&p., from 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2BA. Tel. 01491 573535, Fax. 01491 573051.

The [Open Air Laboratories \(OPAL\)](#) network is developing a wide range of local and national programmes to encourage people from all backgrounds to get back in touch with nature.

Heritage Lottery Fund (2013) research project into [The State of UK Parks](#)

[Fields in Trust](#) - safeguards all kinds of outdoor spaces forever, from sports pitches to children's playgrounds, bicycle trails to country parks.

[Parish Wildlife Map Toolkit](#) – How to make a Wildlife Map

## 10. CONTACT

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