

# Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

## INTERIM Progress Report for 2011-2019: 5th Tranche of 9 Plans

IN 2019 WE REPORTED ON 9 ACTION PLANS ASSOCIATED WITH WOODLAND HABITATS:

**WOODLAND** **PARKS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES** **TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS** **OLD PARKLAND & VETERAN TREES**  
**ARGENT & SABLE MOTH** **RED WOOD ANT** **LEAF ROLLING WEEVIL** **WOOD WHITE BUTTERFLY** **COMMON DORMOUSE**

IN 2020 WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THE REMAINING 6 ACTION PLANS, ASSOCIATED WITH THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

### OUR ACTION FOR WOODLAND

- Our target of increasing the extent of woodland cover by 1000ha by 2026 has been exceeded with the creation of at least 1500ha of new woodland, thanks to the efforts of the Forestry Commission, Heart of England Forest, Woodland Trust, Local Authorities and private individuals.
- Additional woodland habitats such as ponds and riparian woodland have been created by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Severn Rivers Trust.

Management at Hay Wood © Mike Slater

- The management and creation of scrub to achieve a varied age structure at the margins of woodland and along rides has been achieved by Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire, Friends of Brandon Wood and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.



### OUR ACTION FOR PARKS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

- All our Local Authorities have improved the condition of existing natural habitats in one or more of their parks by changing their management. Our target of 1 park a year has been met by 5 LAs and the target of 50 parks has been exceeded by increased biodiversity opportunities at 67 sites.
- Awareness for lichens has been raised by the distribution of a document to Local Authority Planning Departments about the importance of conserving lichens at sites likely to be affected by development, e.g. walls.

### OUR ACTION FOR WOOD WHITE BUTTERFLY

- Habitat management by Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire since 2005 at many potential sites has increased the number of colonies from 1 to 4.

Growth of larval food plants among new scrub following ride management. © Mike Slater



- Monitoring continues at the original site of Ryton Wood, and at other sites within the vicinity, of existing colonies to assess opportunities for recolonisation.

### OUR ACTION FOR OLD PARKLAND & VETERAN TREES

- Our target of restoring degraded parkland by 2026 has been almost doubled with 194ha in active management including tree planting. Charlecote © Simon Barker
- Research by three graduate student volunteers has identified a minimum of 12 further sites where restoration of our parkland habitat would be achievable.



### OUR ACTION FOR TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS

- The extent of the habitat has been increased with the planting of 35, mostly small, orchards of locally traditional fruit varieties, including community and school orchards. Other sites are several canal sides and land belonging to Heart of England Forest, National Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Warwick University and private landowners.
- Many owners of existing orchards have registered them with the Orchard Network to document fruit varieties traditionally associated with Warwickshire.

### OUR ACTION FOR COMMON DORMOUSE

- Dormice have become established at 3 woodlands after introductions in 2009, 2017 and 2018 by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. These sites are managed to maintain suitable habitat conditions by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and a private landowner.

A juvenile found during a nest box check © Marie Fleming

- The movements of the dormice are being monitored using footprint tunnels and nest tubes. Their dispersal beyond these woods is facilitated in the Dunsmore Woodlands cluster by creating habitat linkages with new hedgerow.



## PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2020 - 2021

### Further action is needed for:

- **WOODLAND:** bring unmanaged woodlands into management; retain old dead and decaying trees at more wet woodland sites targeting threatened bird species e.g. willow tit, lesser spotted woodpecker.
- **PARKS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES:** implement monitoring of the many newly established wildlife rich areas.
- **TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS:** encourage the planting of more orchards, however small, to achieve our 2026 target of 40ha, using locally traditional fruit varieties and appropriate grass mix.
- **OLD PARKLAND & VETERAN TREES:** encourage landowners of our remaining old parkland to carry out restoration.
- **WOOD WHITE:** target the management of Ryton Wood to recover the population there.
- **COMMON DORMOUSE:** continue to create habitat linkages through hedgerow planting and protection in the Dunsmore Woodlands cluster.

- ALSO**
- the **FISHES** action plan will be progressed in conjunction with the **Rivers & Streams** plan.
  - the **WADERS** action plan will be completed.
  - new action plans for **COMMON FROG**, **COMMON TOAD**, **SNAKES** (grass snake and adder) and **LIZARDS** (common lizard and slowworm) will be finalised.

# Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

## INTERIM Progress Report for 2011-2019: 5th Tranche of 9 Plans

Our 52 Local Biodiversity Action Plans provide a local response to the UK Government's National Action Plans for threatened habitats and species. A county-wide network of over 100 partners, all active in nature conservation, is consulted on these plans and their measurable targets. The partnership works to fulfil the agreed priorities. Most of the plans were written 2002-5 and progress was first reported on in 2007-8. The plans were fully revised 2011-15 and the current reporting programme, in tranches of associated habitats and species, will be complete in 2020.



ACTION PLAN	STATUS 2008-2010	WE ARE REPORTING ON THE FOLLOWING KEY ACTIONS IN 9 OF OUR BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS: Key to status: ↑ Good progress    ↑ Some progress    ↔ No change    ↓ Decline	STATUS 2011-2019	
			ACTION	PLAN
WOODLAND	↑ = any progress	Continue to select all qualifying ASNW, including sites of less than 2ha, as <b>LWSs and enter onto database.</b> <b>224 sites designated (2724ha)</b>	↑	↑
		<b>To achieve condition of 1000ha</b> of ancient semi-natural woodland over 0.25ha that are currently in unfavourable condition by 2015. <b>580ha known (excl. Forestry Commission figs)</b>	↑	
		<b>Restore 287ha of conifer/non-native broad-leaved plantation</b> on ancient woodland sites to native broad-leaved plantation/semi-natural woodland by 2015. <b>Target doubled (578ha)</b>	↑↑	
		<b>Increase the extent</b> of the woodland cover and resource by 314ha by 2015 and a further 692ha by 2026. <b>2026 target of 1006ha exceeded, with 1500ha min. created</b>	↑↑	
		<b>Introduce additional woodland habitats</b> e.g. open ground, rides, river banks. <b>12 sites min</b>	↑	
		<b>Achieve a varied age structure at the margins of woodland and along rides</b> within woodland by managing or creating areas of scrub. <b>16 sites</b>	↑	
		<b>Retain old dead and decaying trees in wet woodland</b> , or at least stumps, for nesting sites for lesser spotted woodpecker and willow tit. <b>14 sites</b>	↑	
		Maintain the <b>age structure of wet woodland</b> for biodiversity value. <b>7 known sites</b>	↑	
PARKS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES	↑ = any progress	Continue to select all qualifying 'park and public open space' sites as <b>LWSs.</b> <b>8 sites</b>	↑	↑
		Promote the adoption of a policy to <b>discontinue the use of all chemical slug repellents</b> on land controlled by all Local Authorities. <b>Achieved</b>	↑	
		<b>Maintain features of existing wildlife value in parks and greenspaces</b> , or in ecologically important parts of them, by management sympathetic to biodiversity. <b>By all LAs</b>	↑	
		Each local authority to <b>improve the condition of existing semi-natural habitats</b> in parks and public open spaces / change the management of <b>1 park per year</b> , aiming at <b>50 parks in all.</b> <b>Both targets exceeded, with at least 67 parks improved</b>	↑↑	
		<b>Increase biodiversity opportunities by changing management techniques</b> on 1ha of existing greenspaces by 2015 and a further 5ha by 2020. <b>2020 target vastly exceeded with at least 64ha (total area unknown)</b>	↑↑	
		<b>Manage and enhance existing semi-natural habitats</b> for wildlife value within University campuses and sports fields. <b>Some progress by the University of Warwick</b>	↑	
		<b>Develop a traffic light system for monitoring</b> the condition of all ecologically important parks and greenspaces. <b>Achieved</b>	↑	
		<b>Raise awareness for lichens</b> with a document for LA planners about the importance of conserving lichens at sites likely to be affected by development, e.g. walls. <b>Achieved</b>	↑	
TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS	↔	Continue to select all qualifying traditional orchards as <b>LWSs</b> , targeting designation at the most valuable, taking account of priority species. <b>4 sites and 7 potential sites</b>	↑	↑
		Ensure that new minor or major developments aim for <b>net biodiversity gain</b> through adherence to the mitigation hierarchy. <b>1 site</b>	↑	
		<b>Maintain condition of those orchards currently in 'excellent' condition</b> by ensuring the appropriate management of all sites. <b>At least 3 known sites</b>	↑	
		<b>Achieve condition of those ecologically and horticulturally (rare varieties) important orchards in 'good' condition</b> by appropriate management. <b>At least 4 known sites</b>	↑	
		<b>Restore those orchards in 'poor' condition</b> by 2026, retaining mature and veteran trees and retaining dead wood, both standing and fallen, to maximise its value for wildlife. <b>6 known sites</b>	↑	
		<b>Expand the extent of the habitat</b> by creating another 13ha by 2015 of new 'standard' orchards of locally traditional fruit varieties and appropriate grass mix. <b>Target achieved with 13ha minimum, at 35 sites at least, including 15 schools</b>	↑	
		Organise an <b>annual event</b> to support local groups and landowners to manage traditional orchards by promoting their biodiversity value. <b>Achieved</b>	↑	
FULL PROGRESS REPORTS FOR THE 2019 ACTION PLANS AND A LIST OF PARTNERS ARE ON THE WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST WEBSITE				

# Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

## INTERIM Progress Report for 2011-2019: 5th Tranche of 9 Plans

ACTION PLAN	STATUS 2008-2010	WE ARE REPORTING ON THE FOLLOWING KEY ACTIONS IN 9 OF OUR BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS: Key to status: <span style="color: green;">↑</span> Good progress <span style="color: orange;">↑</span> Some progress <span style="color: red;">↔</span> No change <span style="color: black;">↓</span> Decline	STATUS 2011-2019	
			ACTION	PLAN
<b>OLD PARKLAND &amp; VETERAN TREES</b>	↑ slight	Continue to select all qualifying old parkland sites as <b>LWSs</b> and / or Local Nature Reserves. <span style="color: red;">No specific parkland LWS designated</span>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	↑
		Review sources of information and research all old parkland and veteran trees sites to form the best understanding of the <b>number and total area of old parklands</b> . <span style="color: red;">Achieved</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Identify <b>priority sites</b> and potential opportunities for habitat restoration. <span style="color: red;">Achieved</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Continue to <b>achieve favourable condition of 17 priority sites</b> by 2020 and a further 38 priority sites by 2026 by appropriate management. <span style="color: red;">Known management at 3 sites</span>	<span style="color: orange;">↑</span>	
		<b>Restore 50ha of degraded habitat</b> by 2020, and a further 50ha by 2026, by tree planting. <span style="color: red;">2026 target of 100ha almost doubled with 194ha min. restored at 7 sites</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑↑</span>	
		<b>Retain decaying wood</b> , standing and fallen, to maximise its wildlife value. <span style="color: red;">1 known site</span>	<span style="color: orange;">↑</span>	
<b>ARGENT &amp; SABLE</b>	↑ = any progress	Continue to work with other interested parties to develop / implement a <b>management plan for Hay Wood</b> which fulfils the species' habitat requirements. <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	↓
		<b>Restore the condition of rides</b> within the Hay Wood. <span style="color: red;">In progress since 2008</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		<b>Establish connective corridors from Hay Wood</b> to other woodlands. <span style="color: red;">To 3 woods</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Continue <b>regular monitoring at Hay Wood</b> to assess the population size and determine the extent of the colony. <span style="color: red;">Last seen in 2006</span>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	
		Continue to <b>survey former locations</b> to see if the species is still present. <span style="color: red;">No new sites</span>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	
<b>RED WOOD ANT</b>	↑ = any progress	Ensure that Forestry Commission Design Plans continue to <b>consider the needs</b> of the red wood ant. <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	↑
		Continue to <b>map nests and monitor the population</b> at Arley Wood. <span style="color: red;">Last mapped in 2014</span>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	
		Continue the restoration of at least one site to good condition for the ant. <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
<b>LEAF ROLLING WEEVIL</b>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	Ensure that <b>Forestry Design Plans</b> continue to account for the needs of this and other scarce species. <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	↑
		Continue to account for the species' habitat needs in the current Forest Design Plan (2011-2021) for Oversley Wood, with <b>two areas managed on a 6-year rotation</b> to ensure that young aspen is always available. <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		<b>Monitor the weevil population</b> at Oversley Wood, by counting leaf rolls and adults between May and October. <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		<b>Carry out searches</b> at other potentially suitable sites. <span style="color: red;">No known progress</span>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	
<b>WOOD WHITE</b>	↑ = any progress	Designate all new wood white sites that qualify as <b>LWSs</b> . <span style="color: red;">All 3 new sites are LWS</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	↑↑
		Secure and continue the long-term <b>management of all known wood white colonies</b> to increase population size. <span style="color: red;">In progress at 3 out of 4 sites</span>	<span style="color: orange;">↑</span>	
		Maintain long-term <b>management of at least 4 sites in the Dunsmore Living Landscape</b> complex to allow for meta-populations to form. <span style="color: red;">Target exceeded with 7 sites</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑↑</span>	
		<b>Increase the number of colonies</b> from 1 to 2. <span style="color: red;">Target exceeded with 3 new colonies</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑↑</span>	
		Introduce positive <b>management on at least 3 potential sites</b> to create the conditions for natural colonisation. <span style="color: red;">Target exceeded with 7 sites, 3 of which now have colonies</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑↑</span>	
		Continue <b>monitoring at Ryton Wood</b> . <span style="color: red;">In progress</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Determine the presence or absence of the species at sites within the vicinity of existing colonies to <b>assess opportunities for recolonisation</b> . <span style="color: red;">In progress at 9+ sites</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
<b>COMMON DORMOUSE</b>	<span style="color: red;">↔</span>	Ensure that the Warwickshire <b>Forestry Commission Design Plan</b> continues to account for <b>the needs of the species</b> at Weston & Waverley Wood. <span style="color: red;">No records since 2013</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	↑
		Ensure that any site meeting the relevant criteria, but not already an SSSI, is considered for designation as a <b>LWS</b> . <span style="color: red;">All 4 known sites are LWS</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Implement <b>management of all other dormouse sites</b> to maintain suitable conditions for the species. <span style="color: red;">In progress at the 3 introduction sites</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Create <b>habitat linkages through hedgerow planting</b> and protection in the Dunsmore Woodlands cluster. <span style="color: red;">In progress at 3 locations</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		<b>Monitor all known dormice populations</b> annually. <span style="color: red;">In progress at the 4 known sites</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Determine the status of the <b>introduced population at Bubbenhall Wood</b> . <span style="color: red;">Probably extinct</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Continue the <b>survey of Warwickshire's woodlands</b> . <span style="color: red;">In progress by Heart of England Forest</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	
		Establish <b>management agreements that account for the habitat requirements of dormice</b> for all sites at which the species has been identified or re-introduced. <span style="color: red;">Achieved at all 4 known sites</span>	<span style="color: green;">↑</span>	

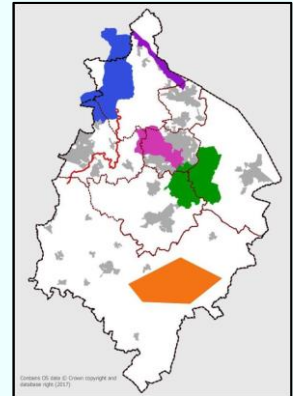
# Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

## INTERIM Progress Report for 2011-2019: 5th Tranche of 9 Plans

### LANDSCAPE SCALE SCHEMES

These are active on the ground, delivering the first phases of a 50- year vision, and comprise:

- ❖ **Tame Valley Wetlands:** this £2.5m landscape partnership scheme was delivered between 2014-2018, led by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), Environment Agency and a wide partnership of charities, local groups, councils and statutory bodies. In this regionally important area for wildfowl and wetland species, the vision to create a landscape rich in wildlife and accessible to all has been initiated with the donation of 23,500 volunteer hours. Hedgerows and wetland habitat have been created or restored, watercourses restored or enhanced, and footpaths made more accessible with the creation of circular trails. Funding for the next phase of the landscape work has been secured through major projects including 'Love Your River Cole', and invasive species control work. **Key themes identified are:** landscape scale habitat enhancement; opportunities from strategic planning; community engagement; development of Tame Valley Wetlands as a visitor destination with projects and events.
- ❖ **Dunsmore Living Landscape:** a wide partnership focussed on managing and restoring ancient and semi-natural woodland and hedgerows. Led by WWT, the partnership's application to NLHF was approved in 2016, bringing over £1m grant over 4 years delivery. Following an introduction to one of the woods in 2017 by the People's Trust for Endangered Species, the project undertook a second approved release of 38 dormice into a second wood in 2018. Monitoring has shown that breeding has occurred at both sites and a programme of tracking the dispersal of the dormice through the woodlands and surrounding hedgerows began in 2019.
- ❖ **Southam Lias Grassland Landscape Area:** Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire, working with landowners such as CEMEX, is undertaking a species recovery programme for the small blue butterfly in the Southam area. The project is also helping other rare butterflies such as grizzled and dingy skipper, and the chalk carpet moth.
- ❖ **River Blythe SSSI:** Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is working with Environment Agency and Natural England to deliver the river restoration implementation plan (2017), with enhancement projects at Temple Balsall Nature Reserve and at Southfields and Hawkeswell farms. An Invasive Species Management Plan has been produced.
- ❖ **Anker Valley Living Landscape** and **Sherbourne Living Landscape:** active partnerships have been developed in these areas, including landowners, local authority, the voluntary sector and agency representatives. Initial projects have been identified and mapped. A significant funding application was submitted for Sherbourne in November 2019.



### The Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) Partnership

The HBA was established in 1996 by WWT, working with the 7 Local Authorities across Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull, Natural England and the Environment Agency. It is managed by WWT and based at Warwickshire County Council's Ecology Unit in Warwick.

It provides up-to-date biodiversity data by surveying all habitats to Phase 1 methodology and to map digitally, with 20% of the area re-surveyed every year. The partnership has been expanded with Kier, managing agents for trunk roads in the sub-region for Highways England.

It carries out detailed ground truthing of areas previously mapped from aerial photography and has identified further sites, e.g. unrestored calcareous grassland.

### The Wildlife Sites Project (LWSP)

The LWSP began in 1999 to develop and maintain a formalised Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) system for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, and is part of the HBA Partnership. It designates sites following detailed site habitat survey (Phase 2) and review by a panel of experts. This has been expanded with a further two local specialists.

To date there are a total of **624** LWSs, covering **7122ha** across the sub-region, ranging from woodlands, grasslands, post-industrial sites, hedgerows, rivers and canals. 51% of these are managed (322 managed in 2018, the rest unmanaged or unknown).

The project ensures that all LWSs receive management guidance and have a detailed site plan, to monitor the success of the management, and to assess their current condition on a 5-year rolling programme.

### The Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was recognised by Government in 2013

It was established to:

- ❖ Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a strategic view of challenges and opportunities.
- ❖ Contribute to achieving the Government's national environmental objectives locally, including identification of local ecological networks.
- ❖ Become local champions influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes.

The LNP works strategically and has Board Members from many sectors: Local Authorities, statutory agencies, Public Health, environment, NGOs and business.

**Strategic Aim Themes:** improving the quality of life, maximising benefits for society, restoring biodiversity and water quality improvements.

The LNP Board has endorsed a programme of landscape scale habitat restoration projects developed by the LNP Implementation Group, developed the NIA criteria and started to engage business contacts.

**NIAs recognised in Warwickshire:**  
In 2016 the Tame Valley Wetlands became the first locally designated Nature Improvement Area in Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull.

Developing the NIA as a destination to engage more people is a future theme. If you wish to be involved, contact:  
[enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk)

