



# *Biodiversity in Community Strategies*



*Guidance Notes for the Community Planning  
Process in Carlisle and Eden including suggested  
actions for the LSP to take on board to enhance  
biodiversity in Carlisle and Eden*

*Produced By the  
Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership  
April 2005*

BIODIVERSITY

# Guidance note for the Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership for the incorporation of Biodiversity issues into its Community Strategy

## Biodiversity for pleasure, health, economic growth and education

Carlisle and Eden is extremely rich in natural wonders, from the fells of the Lake District to the valley of the River Eden and the saltmarshes of the Upper Solway Firth. The nature conservation importance of many of these areas has been recognised by their designation as County Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and some even have the European designation of Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Many of these special areas are readily accessible and provide a chance to experience nature first-hand. So, in addition to being havens for wildlife, they provide people with the chance to stop for a moment and appreciate the natural world around them. The sense of well-being that arises from this experience is hard to beat.



Ian Amatt from Cumbria Wildlife Trust with some participants in a wildlife project in Carlisle. Photo: CWT

**Access to natural greenspace** and wildlife is now recognised for its benefits for people with mental illness or stress. Even being able to see trees and other aspects of nature can increase people's recovery times from physical illnesses, and over 300 studies suggest that time spent in green spaces such as Local Nature Reserves is good for physical, mental and social well-being. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) can help set up 'green gyms' to develop these ideas. These health benefits can help reduce healthcare and other public costs.

**The landscape and wildlife in Carlisle and Eden underpin the economy of the area**, through people's work and leisure activities, and their sense of local identity. Delivery of targeted biodiversity enhancements, therefore, has a significant contribution to make towards social inclusion and sustainable economic development, and logically forms an integral part of all aspects of the Community Strategy.

**New jobs can be created** in countryside skills by encouraging the agricultural sector to diversify their businesses, and a rich natural environment can also serve to attract new business investment into the area. In addition, undertaking conservation work as a volunteer can help improve people's health and self-esteem and help them get back into work

**Tourism** is a major source of income in Carlisle and Eden, mostly within the National Park, but also in the main towns of Carlisle and Penrith. The natural environment is already one of the main attractions that bring people to the area. The recognition and protection of what is already there will bring economic benefits. However, enhancing the biodiversity interest can use the natural environment as a selling point to attract tourists to less well visited areas, and create associated business opportunities such as marketing locally produced foods and crafts. Several Cumbria BAP targets could be achieved using this approach, for example, habitat creation projects on farmland can be marketed to visitors and as an educational resource for local schools and colleges.



## The Context of this Guidance Note

This guidance is additional to the generic guidance note dated August 2003 produced by the Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership, and the Cumbria Sustainability Toolkit produced by the Sustainability Team at Cumbria County Council, Carlisle.

Will the Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy contribute towards protecting and enhancing Carlisle and Eden's biodiversity? The 'Effective protection of the environment' section of the checklist contains questions which will help you to assess its contribution.

The following text and examples of targets and environmental indicators will help you to ensure that those questions can be answered positively and in full for Carlisle and Eden. These suggested targets and indicators can be lifted directly and transferred into your Strategy.



Volunteers carrying out work in Argill Woods Nature Reserve in Eden District.  
Photo: CWT

## Who's who in the Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership?

The main contacts in the Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership (CBP) for community strategy advice are the following people:

**Neil Harnott**, the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan Officer. Neil is based at the Cumbria Wildlife Trust office at Plumgarths, Kendal, LA8 8LX, 01539 816300, email [biodiversity@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:biodiversity@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk). He is responsible for encouraging, facilitating and monitoring all aspects of the CBAP, in particular the implementation of the actions and achieving targets.

**Judy Palmer**, the Cumbria County Council Ecologist, based at County Offices, Kendal, LA9 4RQ, 01539 773444, email: [judy.palmer@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:judy.palmer@cumbriacc.gov.uk). Judy chairs the Community and Communication Group of the CBP and sits on both the Technical Working Group and the Steering Committee.

**Erica Donnison** of English Nature, based at the Cumbria Team office in Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal LA9 7RL, 01539 792822, email: [erica.donnison@english-nature.co.uk](mailto:erica.donnison@english-nature.co.uk). Erica deals with community strategy issues within English Nature Cumbria Team and sits on the Community and Communication Group of the CBP.

**Alex McKenzie** of Cumbria County Council Sustainability Team, based at Citadel Chambers, Carlisle, CA3 8SG, 01228 601057, email: [alex.mckenzie@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:alex.mckenzie@cumbriacc.gov.uk). Alex is the Sustainability Manager and is the contact for the Sustainability Appraisal process and the Cumbria Sustainability Toolkit.

## **Biodiversity Targets specific to the Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy**

The tables below suggest actions and targets that are specific to Carlisle and Eden, and set out the biodiversity priorities for the Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy.

### **Action plans in Phase 1 of the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan**

The following species and habitats have individual plans in the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan, and are relevant to Carlisle and Eden. The first list is those plans that have general relevance to the broader policy aspects of the Community Strategy. Of particular interest is the Public Involvement and Awareness plan which explains the value of getting people involved in their local environment and taking responsibility for and pride in it. The CBP believes that encouraging this is a major role for the LSP to take on board.

### **General action plans of relevance to all community strategies**

*Land Management & Policy for the Wider Environment, Legislation & Planning, Public Involvement & Awareness and Data and Information.*

### **Species action plans of relevance to Carlisle and Eden:**

Mammals:	Bats
	Red squirrel
	Water vole
Birds:	Barn owl
	Song thrush
Amphibians:	Great crested newt
Molluscs:	Geyer's whorl snail
	Sandbowl snail
Butterflies:	Marsh fritillary
Dragonflies:	White-faced darter
Caddisfly:	<i>Glossosoma intermedium</i> (no English name)
Mosses:	Slender green feather-moss
Lichen:	<i>Lobaria amplissima</i> (no English name)
Vascular plants:	Juniper



### **Habitat action plans of relevance to Carlisle and Eden:**

Mesotrophic standing waters (Talkin Tarn, Ullswater, Thurstonfield Lough)  
Rivers and streams (River Eden and tributaries, River Irthing, for example)  
Cities, towns and villages (wildlife and people)  
Coastal habitats (Upper Solway Firth)  
Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows (Cumberland hedge-laying style)  
Calcareous grassland (on the flanks of the Pennines)  
Hay meadows and lowland pastures (some examples in the Ravenstonedale/Orton/Tebay area)  
Limestone Pavement (on the fells between Shap and Kirkby Stephen)  
Purple moor-grass and rush pasture (some examples on the edge of the Pennines)  
Blanket bog (on the North Pennines and Border areas)  
Upland heathland (in the Lake District high fells and North Pennines)  
Basin mire (many examples in the Eden Valley such as Newton Reigny Moss, Cliburn Moss etc)  
Lowland raised mire (Scaleby Moss, Black Snib for example, in Carlisle District)  
Reedbeds (in Sunbiggin Tarn for example)  
Upland oak woodland (woods in Ullswater valley, for example)  
Upland mixed ashwood (in the North Pennines and Orton Fells areas)  
Wet woodland (in the Eden and Irthing Valleys for example)

**Table 1:Suggested targets in the CBAP to which the Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy can contribute:**

**The Community Strategy is one of the main vehicles through which the Local Biodiversity Action Plan should be implemented.**

<b>Cumbria BAP Plan</b>	<b>Objective or action as set out in the CBAP</b>	<b>Suggested Timescale</b>	<b>Relevance to the Community Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant aim in the Community Strategy</b>
Data and Information	Organisations involved in the implementation of the Cumbria BAP to have ready access to appropriate biological information	Local Authorities and other organisations whose work can impact on biodiversity to have up-to-date information on constraints maps by 2006/07	Ensuring the effective implementation of the Cumbria BAP	To protect and enhance our environment
Land Management and Policy for the Wider Environment	Assess the nature conservation value of land in Local Authority ownership and its potential for maintenance and enhancement	Produce assessment by end 2006. Follow up by production of management plans for all appropriate areas by 2008	Managing land for nature conservation and making it accessible to local people and visitors can be beneficial to health and well-being	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Land Management and Policy for the Wider Environment	Influence activities of industry, businesses, domestic and leisure activities to maintain conditions for biodiversity	On-going through the planning system and the wider Community Strategy process	Recycling programme, general environmental enhancement, improvements to brownfield land and engagement of private sector in the Community Strategy	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Legislation and Planning	Develop and incorporate policies into Local Plans etc which promote protection of habitats and species (both from direct loss and through degradation)	On-going through the planning system and the wider Community Strategy process	Promote social, economic and environmental well-being	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Legislation and Planning	Incorporate considerations of biodiversity conservation into “strategic development sites”	On-going through the planning system and the wider Community Strategy process	Promote social, economic and environmental well-being	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living

<b>Cumbria BAP Plan</b>	<b>Objective or action as set out in the CBAP</b>	<b>Suggested Timescale</b>	<b>Relevance to the Community Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant aim in the Community Strategy</b>
Legislation and Planning	Increase and improve people's access to and contact with wildlife and natural environments	Each parish to have at least one accessible wildlife area by 2015. Assess interest in public participation in wildlife survey/data gathering by 2005/06	Promote social, economic and environmental well-being through access to nature	To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Public Involvement and Awareness	Increase the opportunities for biodiversity education of young people by promoting involvement in wildlife conservation through various existing groups and initiatives	Plan of action produced by end 2005/06 All schools and youth groups in the district to be delivering biodiversity education by 2010	Promote social, economic and environmental well-being through access to nature and increased exercise	To provide a framework where children and young people can thrive and improve their life chances
Public Involvement and Awareness	Enhance people's involvement with wildlife conservation by promoting involvement in practical conservation tasks in their local area	Plan of action to take this forward to be in place by 2004/05. eg BTCV Green Gym initiative etc.	Promote social, economic and environmental well-being through access to nature and increased exercise.	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Bats	Maintain and improve opportunities for roosting, foraging and hibernating bats. Include bat protection measures in building maintenance programmes and development proposals.	On-going.	Promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing through education	To protect and enhance our environment
Red squirrel	Raise awareness of red squirrel conservation	On-going support of Red Alert North West project	Promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing through education	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living

<b>Cumbria BAP Plan</b>	<b>Objective or action as set out in the CBAP</b>	<b>Suggested Timescale</b>	<b>Relevance to the Community Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant aim in the Community Strategy</b>
Water vole	Increase public awareness of the importance of the water vole and its habitat	On-going initiative for all partners in the LSP	Educational resource, social and environmental wellbeing	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Song thrush	Promote the provision of bird food in gardens	On-going initiative	Social and environmental wellbeing	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Great crested newt	Increase the number of sites where great crested newts occur	Consider as part of the management of Council owned land where new great crested newt habitat could be created by 2008	Educational resource, social and environmental wellbeing	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Sandbowl snail	Consider the need to produce water level management plans for non main river snail sites	Local Authorities and Environment Agency to consider and produce as necessary by 2006.	Ensuring the effective implementation of the Cumbria BAP	To protect and enhance our environment
Marsh fritillary	Ensure the spread of the marsh fritillary within the existing network of sites	Habitat creation when possibilities arise (on-going initiative)	Educational resource with opportunities for encouraging people into the outdoors for educational and health benefits	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
Juniper	Increase the extent of juniper in Carlisle and Eden	Aim to expand the amount of juniper by 1 hectare in the area by 2015.	Educational resource with opportunities for encouraging people into the outdoors for educational and health benefits	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living

<b>Cumbria BAP Plan</b>	<b>Objective or action as set out in the CBAP</b>	<b>Suggested Timescale</b>	<b>Relevance to the Community Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant aim in the Community Strategy</b>
All BAP habitats	Ensure that planning and legislation systems protect all BAP habitats	On going for Local Authorities	Ensuring the effective implementation of the Cumbria BAP. Educational resource	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living
All BAP habitats	Looking for opportunities to create new areas of BAP habitats	On going for Local Authorities and private enterprise	Ensuring the effective implementation of the Cumbria BAP Educational resource	To protect and enhance our environment To improve the health and well-being of our communities by promoting healthy living



**Table 2: Suggested Indicators and Targets to show how Eden District Council’s and Carlisle City Council’s operational activities can contribute to biodiversity enhancement and the achievement of CBAP targets.**

Indicator of Operational Activity in relation to Biodiversity	Targets
<p>Total area of Council owned land managed to enhance CBAP habitats. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Nature Reserves</li> <li>School grounds</li> <li>Small holdings and farms</li> <li>Road verges</li> <li>Public open space</li> <li>Cemeteries and graveyards</li> <li>Business parks</li> </ul>	<p>A public statement of the percentage of Council land currently managed to enhance CBAP habitats.</p> <p>Set up a project to assess the current situation and propose areas where positive management for biodiversity could be introduced by 2006/07</p>
<p>Management and designation of Council owned land as Local Nature Reserve or other accessible green space. Assess the accessibility of natural green space to Carlisle and Eden residents using the English Nature Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt model), 2003.</p>	<p>Assess current situation and produce a report outlining areas where action is needed by 2006/07.</p>
<p>Number of new initiatives set up by Eden District and Carlisle City Councils to encourage public participation in the Cumbria BAP.</p> <p>Number of people or groups involved in a wildlife/environmental project as a part of the drive to increase the amount of physical exercise or access to the countryside for improvement to physical and mental health</p>	<p>For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Community composting schemes in Carlisle, Penrith and Brampton by 2008</li> <li>◆ BTCV Green Gym (or equivalent initiative) set up in at least one main town in Carlisle and Eden by 2007.</li> <li>◆ Enhancement of school grounds project encouraging school children to get involved in the management of their school grounds for the benefit of biodiversity; project set up by 2008 (refer to CWT project in place in 2004)</li> <li>◆ Wildlife survey of Council owned land encouraging local people to get involved in biodiversity conservation in their area; project set up by 2008</li> <li>◆ Set up Conservation Village of the Year competition to encourage wildlife gardening by 2008</li> </ul>

**Biodiversity in the context of the Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy**

