

# Taking Action and Monitoring

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## Taking Action and Monitoring

The simple part of the process has now been completed. The Scarborough Local Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) has been adopted by the Steering Group and Scarborough Borough Council. Adopted. Now we need the help and assistance of local people and organisations to play their part in helping to deliver the actions for biodiversity in the Borough of Scarborough. The Steering Group with members from a variety of organisations with many interests has aided the production of this plan and will continue to exist in an attempt to deliver the objectives of the BAP. Each plan has been prepared by experts on the steering group and is in two sections.

### The Action Plan.

This gives our objectives for the priority habitats and species in Scarborough and provides information on current status and reasons for decline. These are the plans that are included in this document.

### The Action Programme.

This gives the UK BAP targets (if any) and a table of quantifiable targets and actions to be delivered locally. These tables do not form part of the published BAP but are available on request. They provide a broad menu of targets and actions that will be initiated when opportunities, funding and partner leadership is identified.

In addition the Steering Group will select active targets. These are targets and their actions, which have been or are likely to be initiated in the current twelve-month reporting period. All 'live' targets and actions will be input into the on-line Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). The BARS software has been designed so that it can be set to communicate with the partners that have agreed action delivery, to prompt them to report progress.

Each year's active targets will be viewable on the website <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>.

The Scarborough BAP aims to achieve conservation through targets based in order of importance, on protection, enhancement and recreation.

- The key means of protecting habitats and species is by protecting the existing resource at sites, which include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserves (LNR) or other Nature Reserves (NR). Such sites require favourable management, often through Management Agreements with the owners.
- Enhancement seeks to improve existing degraded habitat to a state of favourable condition for wildlife.
- Re-creation seeks to expand the resource.

To work towards these objectives requires not just the assistance of the partners of the Biodiversity Steering Group, but the whole community.

The ways in which everyone within the community can get involved and play a part are highlighted in the following section entitled 'Getting Involved.'

Although a large number of people have been represented on this steering group and many others have been involved in the process, the publication of the LBAP does not mean that such public involvement should diminish. On the contrary, the publication of the LBAP is just the beginning of the process and should lead to the involvement of more local people in taking action, monitoring the progress of the action plans on habitats and species and providing more information (see 'How Can I Help?').

There is also a good opportunity to link the Scarborough BAP to the National Curriculum, in order for it to be a valuable learning resource for the education sector.

### Information and Data

In the past the extent of data available relating to habitats and species has been an unknown quantity, with pieces of information being held by various authorities, groups and individuals. Such information has been recorded in a variety of ways from advanced databases and spreadsheets to the naturalist's notebook or in someone's head.

This created the problem of not allowing a true picture to be established of the distribution and variety of biodiversity in Scarborough Borough.

### **Scarborough SSSIs**

The following details the SSSIs In Scarborough and their interest, i.e. Biological or Geological.

**Betton Farm Quarries - Geological**

**Cayton, Cornelian and South Bays - Biological & Geological**

**Filey Brigg - Biological & Geological**

**Flamborough Head (part) - Biological & Geological**

**Gristhorpe Bay & Red Cliff - Geological**

**Iron Scar & Hundale Point to Scalby Ness - Geological**

**North Bay to South Toll House Cliff - Geological**  
**Ruston Cottage Pasture - Biological**

**Spell Howe Plantation - Biological**

**Whitby/Saltwick - Geological**

Furthermore, without addressing this, the task of monitoring progress against targets becomes an almost impossible task. To assist in overcoming this problem Scarborough Borough Council has entered into a Service Level Agreement with North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) to hold relevant information and make it available for work involved with the Biodiversity Action Plan and to other members of the Council who require detailed information on, for example, the whereabouts of a certain species.

The NEYEDC has analysed all the habitat and species data available to it, to produce baseline maps showing the resource of each priority habitat and species. These maps will be used as the baseline maps but it should be noted that this is the 'known resource' rather than the actual resource. Thus, some species baseline maps such as the Tree Sparrow show very few records. These maps will be updated as our information base grows. Maps are viewable on line on the NEYEDC website, which is [www.neyedc.co.uk](http://www.neyedc.co.uk) ~ click on Biodiversity Data BAPs - Local BAPs - Scarborough.

The Scarborough Museums Service, including Whitby Museum, plays an important role in terms of being a repository for voucher specimens, an archive for historical data and a source of reference collections for local naturalists, as well as enthusing the naturalists of the future.

The following actions are considered important with reference to the collection and collation of information.

- Scarborough Borough Council will review its commitment to the agreement with NEYEDC on an annual basis;
- The Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group should continue to function following the adoption of the plan and re-assess its role on a continual basis;
- All recording should be encouraged and passed on to NEYEDC;
- Any existing information should be passed to NEYEDC; and Scarborough Borough Council will review its commitment to support the SINC Panel.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Scarborough**

English Nature (EN), the Government's conservation agency, has designated the very best examples of biological and geological sites in the Borough as SSSIs. SSSIs are protected under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981 (amended).

The sites shown adjacent occur in the BAP area and a map showing these SSSIs can be viewed on the websites [www.magic.co.uk](http://www.magic.co.uk) or [www.natureonthemap.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk)

SSSIs that are of European importance come under European legislation - sites important for birds are designated as Special Protection Areas (SPA) and those that are important for habitats are candidate Special Conservation Areas (cSAC).

Flamborough Head & Bempton Cliffs SSSI is designated as both a SPA and a cSAC.

### **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**

Many of the best examples of semi-natural habitat in the Borough have been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. The SINC system is the tier of sites below the statutorily protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). They are protected by a policy in the Scarborough Borough Local Plan and are part of the planning system, in that they require to be protected from significant effects of development. The SINC Panel is a broad partnership chaired by North Yorkshire County Council. This Panel has produced comprehensive scientific criteria for the classification of SINC (SINC Panel 5), which are largely based on the national British Plant Community criteria known as the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) system. SINC data is managed on behalf of the SINC Panel by the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC). SINC are not necessarily sites that have public access and each has been surveyed to exacting standards with the permission of the landowner. Ongoing liaison with SINC owners is important, and biodiversity gains can be made through the offering of ecological, management and funding advice. The SINC Panel undertakes a rolling programme of SINC survey work to identify new sites and to re-survey existing ones. This element of monitoring SINC quality is important and should help to identify the state of the resource and where best to apply resources.

SINC are shown on the Scarborough Borough Local Plan map, which can be viewed online at [www.scarborough.gov.uk](http://www.scarborough.gov.uk) or at a Council Office. The table in Appendix 4 shows the relationship between BAP habitats and SINC habitats.

## Other Strategies and Plans

It is imperative that the Scarborough BAP is not viewed as a stand alone document but is seen as a useful tool that can influence a variety of statutory and non-statutory plans, strategies and initiatives. Its implementation can also be assisted through these plans and strategies, which include the Local Agenda 21 Strategy (LA21), the Borough Local Plan and Planning Process and the Community Strategy. All of these strategies and plans currently recognise the need to sustain and enhance biodiversity and when reviewed and updated will take into account the content of the BAP. A brief description of these strategies and the linkages to the BAP is highlighted below.

### Local Agenda 21 Strategy

Scarborough Borough Council has adopted a LA21 Strategy and through it, is promoting sustainability. A central theme of the Council's adopted strategy is the need for the Council to commission and publish a Biodiversity Action Plan. This plan therefore satisfies one of the main targets of the Council's Local Agenda 21 Strategy.

### The Planning Process

The planning process is a statutory process which regulates and controls land use. As such the Local Planning Authority has a major role in conserving biodiversity. The current Local Plan covers biodiversity and specifically sets out a number of policies whose aims are centred around:

- Local, National and International nature conservation sites;
- Species and habitat protection;
- Protection of water resources;
- The protection of landscape features and
- Protection of open space.

The BAP will have a significant impact on the future review of planning policy with reference to biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Action Plan highlights the need to protect and enhance the diversity of wildlife and it is hoped that the Development Control process will take full account of information contained within the BAP when considering and deciding upon development proposals. Planners are becoming increasingly involved in the process and recent examples

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the importance attached to biodiversity have been seen at sites in Scarborough and Filey, where specific conditions have been attached to decisions ensuring that development will not harm existing flora and fauna including Great Crested Newts and Badgers.

### Community Strategy

The Government has acknowledged that the community has a pivotal role in setting its own agenda. This has manifested itself in the establishment of Local Strategic Partnerships to produce Community Strategies which promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community. Scarborough has produced a Community Strategy for the period 2002 to 2007, and in line with Government expectations incorporates the principle of protecting biodiversity in the Borough.

A partnership between the community, Local Authority and other interested parties has been set up which seeks to 'PROTECT, SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT'. A main aim of this group is to 'PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BOROUGH'S WILDLIFE HABITATS AND SITES OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST.

## Reporting and Monitoring

Progress in hitting targets as set out in the Scarborough BAP Action Programme requires continual monitoring and reporting, both to the BAP Steering Group and to the public. The BAP also contains a general action plan (see following page), the aims of which are targeted towards the use of the BAP in informing other plans and strategies and the future role of the Steering Group.

Whilst the process of getting a BAP adopted has been a lengthy and complicated one, the need to monitor forms a similarly difficult but important task. This will form a large part of the work of the Steering Group, which will use the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). The targets and actions for each priority have been formulated so that they fit BARS. This provides an efficient way of monitoring and local reporting, as well as feeding biodiversity gains up to the UK BAP level. The Scarborough BAP will also provide information to the regional level, where currently the Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum (YHBF) is preparing a suite of regionally important habitats and species.

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Comprehensive reports will be generated from BARS and circulated prior to annual Steering Group meetings. At these meetings the Steering Group will discuss progress, review targets and activate targets and actions for the next year.

### Review

The BAP will need to be reviewed in the light of both new information and information received as part of the annual monitoring process. The BAP should be seen as a strategy that can be continually updated to meet the needs of the ever-changing biodiversity of the area. New Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans can be added when information suggests that this is necessary. For example, it may become apparent that a previously populous species is identified as being in national decline. If this species is one which is common to the Borough, it would be sensible to add a SAP on that species.

There will be an on-going process of identifying new targets and actions, and these can be added to the BAP Action Programme at any time, while redundant ones can be removed. Targets and actions becoming active will be entered into BARS.

## General Action Plan

### General Aims and Objectives

As explained in the previous section the BAP has objectives, aims and targets set out in each of the individual Habitat and Species Action Plans. The aims set out opposite refer more to the overall aims of the BAP, to the purpose of developing the BAP, the need to update and review and the need for it to be viewed as an important document which can inform and affect policy making.

	Targets / Measures	Responsible	Period
<b>Implementation</b>	Review and establish future role of BAP Steering Group.	BAP Steering Group	Ongoing
	Involve the community.	Environment and Sustainable Development Officer, Parks and Countryside, BAP Steering Group, etc	Ongoing
	Use BAP to inform policy and strategy making.	SBC and other Local Authorities and Agencies	Ongoing
	Work towards individual targets of HAP's and SAP's.	Partner groups, SBC and BAP Steering Group	As per Action Programme.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Update database of baseline information.	BAP Steering Group, NEYEDC	Ongoing
	Identify new HAP's and SAP's and add to BAP as necessary.	BAP Steering Group	Annual
	Identify new targets and actions and add to Action Programme as necessary.	BAP Steering Group	Annual
	Input data for active targets into Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), including costings	NEYEDC, NYCC	March 2005, then ongoing.
<b>Review</b>	Undertake annual review of progress with HAP's and SAP's.	BAP Steering Group	Annual
	Produce an Inter-Tidal HAP.	University of Hull, BAP Steering Group	April 2006
	Investigate the possibility of linking the BAP to the National Curriculum for educational use.	BAP Steering Group	April 2007