

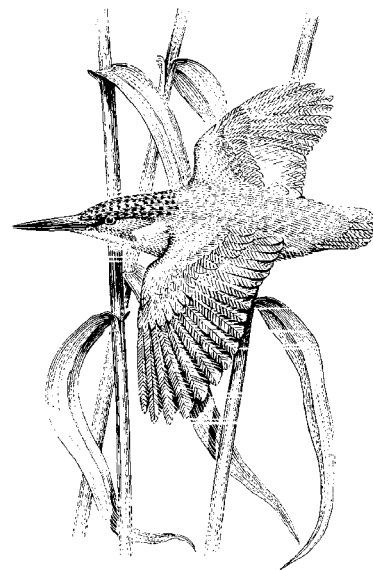
Introduction

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Greater Manchester incorporates ten local authorities; these are Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside and Wigan. The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GM BAP) aims to provide an overarching document for biodiversity across all ten districts. The overall aim of the Greater Manchester Action Plan is:

“To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations”

Whilst it provides an overview of biodiversity concerns and actions for the county, some districts have created their own local action plans to focus biodiversity conservation to meet particular needs for their local area.



These complement the GM BAP and can be used alongside it.

The Greater Manchester audit identified those species and habitats that are of local conservation importance and require action in order to conserve and protect them. Those habitats and species selected for the GM BAP were included for the following reasons:

- ◆ They are a priority habitat or species within the UK BAP and occur in the Greater Manchester area, or
- ◆ They are considered to be of conservation concern locally within Greater Manchester.

Changes for 2009 action plans

Integrated approach

Increasingly policy is approaching conservation at the landscape scale. So instead of viewing each habitat and species in isolation of each other, consideration is given to the surrounding areas to promote linking of habitats and populations to provide a more integrated approach. This becomes more important with the potential impacts of climate change that could rely on linking of habitats in order for species to move to suitable habitat in the future.

Therefore the Greater Manchester action plans have been integrated where appropriate when they have common threats or actions. See table 1 for the new habitat and species action plans and how they differ from the previous Greater Manchester Action Plans and the equivalent UK action plans.

SMART targets

The objectives and targets have been written as SMART targets, which stand for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time based to try to aid implementation and provide a measure to gauge success of the action plan.

Introduction

Best Practice

The revised action plans also include a 'best practice' section to provide practical advice to help implement the targets.

BAP Champions

Each action plan has an author who maintains ownership of the action plan and is responsible for recording achievements on BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System).

New format

The updated action plans also have a new format that incorporates the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project branding. The style is hopefully easier to read, more engaging and will encourage people to use the action plans.

Online

The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project website (www.gmbp.org.uk) will continue to host the PDF's of the GM BAP that you can download and view and will only be available online. This allows hyperlinks between the Action Plans, as well as to other online documents and websites. This increases the integration and creates a more dynamic document that enables the user to access information more easily.

Table 1: New habitat and species action plans and how they differ from the previous Greater

Manchester Action Plans and the equivalent UK action plans.

NEW GM BAP	PREVIOUS GM BAP	UK BAP
Grasslands	Acid Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
	Unimproved Neutral Grassland	Lowland Meadows
	Not covered	Open Mosaic habitats on previously developed land
	Marshy Grassland	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
Hedgerows	Not covered	Hedgerows
Lowland Mosslands	Mosslands	Lowland Raised Bogs
Reedbeds & Bittern	Reedbeds not covered, but separate Bittern BAP	Reedbeds and separate Bittern action plan
Ponds & Lodges	Ponds and Lodges	Partly covered by Eutrophic Standing Waters
Canals	Canals	Not Covered
Native Woodlands	Not covered	Wet Woodland
	Lowland Broadleaved Woodland	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
	Upland Oak Woodland	Upland Oakwood

Uplands	Not covered	Upland Heathland
	Not covered	Blanket Bog
Urban Managed Greenspace	Urban-Managed Greenspace	Not covered
Bats	Bats	Individual plans for each species
Black Redstart	Not covered	Not Covered
Farmland Birds	Not covered	Individual plans for each species
Great Crested Newt	Great Crested Newt	Great Crested Newt
Hares	Brown Hare	Brown Hare Mountain Hare
Native Black Poplar	Black Poplar	Not covered
Twite	Twite	Twite
Water voles	Water vole	Water vole
Willow Tit	Not covered	Willow Tit

GM BAP Process

The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plans were produced by the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project that consists of a range of individuals and organisations from across Greater Manchester. It involved two groups; the technical group that were directly involved in the writing of the plans, and the steering group that oversees the project, although people within these groups overlapped.

Each Action Plan was assigned to an individual author that was in charge of writing the Plan; occasionally there was dual authorship. Each Plan was checked by the Technical and Steering group, with overall formatting and design of the Action Plans created by Lucy Lush – Biodiversity Project Officer. The Action Plans went through a 6-week consultation period to the wider partnership; final changes were made following this and signed off by the Steering Group.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Technical Group for their contributions to the writing of the Action Plans:

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Introduction

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