

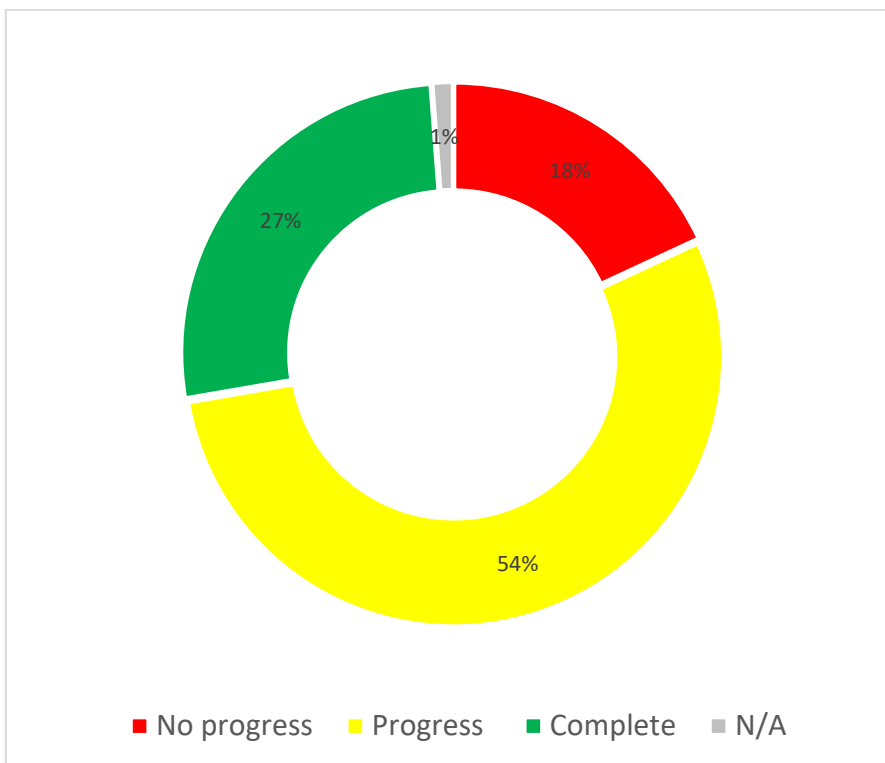
Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2023 Mid-term Review

This review is intended to check on progress between January 2018 and December 2020.

Highlights

Figure 1 below summarises the overall progress on targets in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Of the 83 targets set for action between 2018 and 2023, 23 targets have been achieved and a further 45 targets have made some progress and 15 are yet to have action. This is testament to the hard work of all involved organisations to support biodiversity in the borough.

Figure 1. Progress on targets in the Biodiversity Action Plan



General themes

- In 2020 the Nature Partnership held a Year of the Garden 2020 focusing on urban targets. While COVID-19 restricted public events, more focus went into encouraging people to focus on their gardens while in lockdown. The project has created a webpage (www.digforbracknell.org.uk/yog.html) hosted by BHA featuring factsheets on bumblebees, swifts and wildflowers.

Grassland

- Peacock Meadows was surveyed in summer 2019 and designated as Local Wildlife Site (LWS) in February 2020. This site supports 20 hectares of species rich grassland habitat.
- 14.7 hectares of grassland have been created or enhanced. This includes 11.5 hectares of wildflower meadow created at Frost Folly in 2018, 3.1 hectares at Cabbage Hill enhanced during 2018-2020 and 0.6 ha on road verges for the Downshire Way highway improvement project.

Woodland

- Since Spring 2018 Bracknell Forest Natural History Society has been working on the restoration of a 1.5ha woodland at Nightingale Crescent. The regular work parties undertake the removal of invasive species such as rhododendron and replanting with understorey and native wildflowers. This project is ongoing.
- 1.3km of hedgerows have been planted between 2018 and 2020 comprising:
 - Approx. 846 metres of hedgerow planted as part of the Downshire Way highways improvement project.
 - 215 metres planted at Quelm Allotments in Jan 2020 by WPC.
 - 210 metres planted at Larks Hill in 2018-19 by WEG
 - 60 metres at Popes Meadow in 2019 with BCV.

Wetlands

- Wildlife in Ascot completed their Blackmoor Pond project in 2018. This project restored the pond by dredging, removing introduced large fish, replanting edges and installing a kingfisher nest site. The project also enhanced 100 metres of the Blackmoor Stream within gardens as part of Blackmoor Pond project. This involved removal of rubbish, invasive non-native species and obstructions (fences).
- Wildlife in Ascot have also produced a leaflet "River Owners' Responsibilities" which has been circulated to over 100 people with the Blackmoor stream flowing through their land.

Heathland

- Bird survey volunteers coordinated by 2 J's Ecology have provided survey information each year for the three SPA birds to all landowners in the whole of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. In 2020, trends since 1999 reported were 12% increase for Woodlarks (167 pairs), 53% increase for Nightjars (404 pairs) and 60% increase for Dartford Warbler (711 pairs).
- In 2020, volunteers surveyed and found Silver-studded Blue butterfly at Wildmoor Heath, Swinley Brick pits, Wellington College Bog and rides within

Swinley Forest. SSB at Wellington College is a return after an absence of several years.

Farmland

- Thames Water reported 4 barn owl chicks in barn owl boxes at their Sewage Treatment works in 2017.
- Skylark surveys have been carried out almost every year to check breeding status at Peacock Meadows. In 2020, Cabbage Hill was added. Results show that numbers are stable within these sites.

Urban

- There are now 58 'hedgehog highways' in the borough connecting 116 gardens (checked in June 2020). Help a Hog project hosted by the Bracknell Forest Natural History Society has helped to raise awareness and increase reporting of hedgehogs.
- In 2019 and 2020, a total of 72 large trees were planted in response to council highway improvement projects. These include 14 extra heavy standards (5 species) around London Road and 29 standards (8 species) around Downshire Way. In 2019, 12 oak trees were also planted to commemorate 21 years of Bracknell Forest Borough Council.

Measuring Progress

In this review, coloured dots are used to show progress on targets as follows:

- Target has been achieved
- Target has made progress
- Target has not been achieved
- No longer applicable

Action Plan Summary

Below is a summary of progress on targets across the sections in the plan, each dot represents a target. These symbols are continued within the detailed reporting for quick reference to show which targets have been achieved. Please see the detailed tables for specific target progress.

Section/Habitat	Progress
General themes	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Grassland	● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Woodland	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Wetland	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Heathland	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Farmland	● ● ● ● ● ●
Urban	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Conclusion



The Biodiversity Action Plan continues to drive local nature conservation action which involves a wide range of partners. The efforts of local people have achieved a great deal for nature conservation over the last three years. As a result, most targets in the plan have made some progress but there is more work to do.




We do face challenges created by the continuing decline of biodiversity and the limits on public funding. However, the tide is turning on public awareness and support now that the climate crisis is better publicised and during the COVID-19 pandemic bringing people closer to nature.

Progress on targets




In the following sections of the review, we look in detail at progress on each of the targets within the Biodiversity Action Plan between January 2018 and December 2020. Organisations and technical terms are referred to using acronyms that are listed in the Key to Abbreviations on page 39.



General themes


Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Survey designated sites to monitor condition	i) Every LWS to be surveyed once every 10 years	2023	TVERC	 <p>TVERC surveys some LWS every year and this would ideally be done every 10 years, but some sites are privately owned and permission is often refused.</p>
	ii) Develop a method to monitor surveying status, rate and total numbers of LWS	2019	BFC, TVERC	 <p>The database exists and could be updated by TVERC (subject to costs). This is sensitive information as not all LWS are publicly owned.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	iii) 75% of LWS in favourable management	2023	BFC, TVERC	 <p>The latest report for 2020 showed that 69% (34 of 49 sites) of Local Wildlife Sites are in positive management. The proportion of local sites (LWS and LGS) in positive management has increased by 1% since the last BAP period.</p>
B) Explore habitat connectivity through ecological networks of corridors	i) Produce a detailed green corridor map for Bracknell Forest Borough	2019	BFC, TVERC	 <p>Bracknell Forest Council ran a GI training session in 2019 to introduce members of the Nature Partnership to the GI review done by TVERC. Further work is needed to identify specific corridors.</p>
C) Contribute towards Berkshire biodiversity goals and work across administrative boundaries	i) Achieve the Biodiversity Opportunity Area targets within Bracknell Forest	2017	BBOWT, NE, BNCF, BFC	 <p>No action has been taken as BOA targets have not been updated since the beginning of this action plan. This work will be replaced by the Nature Recovery Network as required in the forthcoming Environment Act.</p>


Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) Where possible source seeds and plants locally or within England	Every year	WEG, BFC, Town & Parish Councils, Flora Locale, ELCG, WVTG, BFVTG, BHA, BFNHS	<p>●</p> <p>WEG sourced all whips for hedges at Larks Hill from British Hardwood Tree Nursery or the Woodland Trust in 2018-19.</p> <p>BEG Tree whips for Wicks Green from Jealott's Hill Landshare, and bulbs procured from English companies.</p> <p>All trees and plants for A3095 Wildway project were sourced in England in 2020.</p> <p>BFNHS sourced all trees from Woodland Trust and Wildflowers from Kew Grow Wild.</p>
D) Support biological recording of all species in order to maintain up-to-date information on biodiversity	i) Engage the community to survey biodiversity and promote recording	Every year	BFC	<p>●</p> <p>WEG carried out annual newt surveys at Newt Reserve in April 2018 and 2019. The group also carried out veteran tree surveys at Pendry's Lane in October 2018 and July 2019.</p> <p>BEG carried out monthly bird and butterfly surveys conducted at Wicks Green and Blue Mountain. Ad-hoc veteran tree, bat and dragonfly surveys were also conducted.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest Council led a wildflower survey attended by volunteers including Bracknell Conservation Volunteers in 2018 and 2019.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) Involve educational institutions in the monitoring of biodiversity as part of their students' programmes	Every year	BFC, TVERC	 <p>TVERC helped a student carry out a study on Skylarks (BAP species) which identified long term trends (see Farmland BAP Gi).</p>
	iii) Make biodiversity information accessible to the public, emphasizing the importance of the BAP habitats	2018	BFC, TVERC	 <p>BFC has the Nature and Wildlife map on the council website. In 2019, the map was updated to include Green Infrastructure, Ancient Woodland and habitat networks using connectivity so that local groups can identify important links.</p> <p>Stag beetle loggery and interpretation was installed at South Hill Park (April 2019), and Lily Hill Park (October 2020).</p>
E) Integrate biodiversity with planning process to achieve net gain	i) Adopt a green infrastructure strategy for Bracknell Forest borough	2022	BFC, TVERC, NE	 <p>Work has been delayed until the draft Local Plan is approved. However, the green infrastructure GIS is being used in the planning process to inform council decisions.</p>



Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) Develop a system for biodiversity accounting to achieve net gain in planning applications	2019	TVERC, BFC, BLNP, NE	 <p>After the revision of the NPPF in 2018, all major applications were required by the council to provide a biodiversity net gain assessment using a metric. The new system will be developed once the draft Local Plan is approved.</p>
F) Maximise the links between biodiversity, health and ecosystem services in the face of climate change	i) Address the deficit in the provision of 20ha of public accessible greenspace within 2km of residences, listed in Bracknell Green Infrastructure Review 2017	2020		 <p>New SANGs around the north of Warfield are being created and will reduce this deficit once they are open to the public. This includes Frost Folly, Windmill Farm, Church Lane, and Moss End.</p>




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
<p>G) Build awareness and engage the community in conserving biodiversity</p>	<p>ii) Hold at least 30 wildlife events within the borough each year</p>	<p>Every year</p>	<p>BFC, BBOWT, WEG, CE, DIO, ELCG, WIA</p>	<p></p> <p>In 2018, WEG held 6 events (including bird box making, newt survey, bat safari and bee hotel making) and BFC held 40 events. WIA held two talks, 10 pond conservation events, 1 walk and 10 school wildlife garden events.</p> <p>In 2019, BVCP held the Blackwater River Festival, WEG held 5 events (including newt survey, bat box making, bee hotel making and a bat walk). WIA held 23 events (including Wildlife Quiz, pond conservation, and school wildlife gardens) BFC held 30 events (including a Nature Quest, fungal foray and minibeast safari)</p> <p>In 2020, BFC held 2 events and WIA held 8 (including Wildlife Quiz, Gardening talk and Pond dipping). BEG held events on box-building and online activities in June and August. The COVID pandemic halted many public events after March. However, BBG did work to create online resources for School of Professor Brock and this was promoted with an offer of school sessions to all 29 primary schools in the borough.</p> <p>Since February 2018, BFNHS has held 26 wildlife-related events, including illustrated talks with such topics as Birds in Winter, Saving the Hazel Dormouse, Urban Ecology, Urban Birding, BBOWT's Water Vole Recovery Project and Farming for Wildlife. There have also been relevant outings to such venues as The British Wildlife Centre and The Natural History Museum at Tring and birdwatching at RSPB Pulborough.</p>


Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) Host at least 8000 volunteer hours of habitat management works each year	Every year	BFC, BBOWT, WEG, CE, BCV, HAWC, WMCV, WIA, BFNHS	<p>●</p> <p>This target has been met by volunteers and probation groups working with BFC rangers. Bracknell Conservation Volunteers, Berkshire Conservation Volunteers and Windsor & Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers provide a significant proportion of this time.</p> <p>2018 – 5967.5 hours comprising: BFC 536 (excluding following groups), WEG 405.5, BBG 100, BVCP 1050, WIA 200, BCV 3316, BFNHS 360.</p> <p>2019 – 9235 hours comprising: BFC 3135 (excluding following groups), WEG 266, BEG 400, BBG 100, BVCP 1050, BCV 3852, BFNHS 432.</p> <p>2020 – 5872.5 hours comprising - BFC 835 (excluding hours contributed by following groups), WEG 178.5, BEG 220, BBG 100, BVCP 1050, BCV 2260, BFNHS 100 and HAWC 1129.</p>
	iii) Promote a different habitat theme each year, to raise awareness and drive action for its conservation	Every year	BFNP, BFNHS, BBOWT, WEG, CE, BCV, HAWC, WMCV	<p>●</p> <p>A themed year has not been held every year but in 2020 the Nature Partnership held a Year of the Garden 2020 focusing on urban targets. While COVID-19 has restricted public events more focus went into encouraging people to focus on their gardens while under lockdown. The project has created a webpage hosted by BHA featuring factsheets on bumblebees, wildflowers, and the Wild Garden Awards competition.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
H	i) Develop an online system for reporting contributions towards BAP targets	2018	BFC	 <p>The Nature Partnership has discussed a website design but most recently used a spreadsheet shared online for reporting on targets.</p>



Grassland




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Understand the distribution and condition of grassland LWS in the borough.	i) Survey all LWS sites within last 10 years including BAP species	2020	BFC, TVERC	 <p>7 of 10 grassland LWS have been surveyed in the last 10 years by TVERC or ecological consultants. One of the biggest factors in achieving this target is private landowners refusing permission to access for surveys.</p>
B) All grassland SSSIs and LWS to be in favourable condition	i) Maintain 95% SSSI grassland in favourable and recovering condition with 50% in favourable condition.	2023	NE, BFC, BVCP, STC, BBOWT	 <p>87% of grassland SSSI are in favourable and recovering conservation status and 80% are in favourable condition alone.</p>


Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) 60% of LWS grassland to be in favourable management as defined by SD160 criteria	2023	NE, BBOWT, BFC	 <p>50% of grassland LWS are in favourable management (i.e. they have received habitat management or have a management plan), 5 sites out of 10. The new BFC hay cutting program has improved management at Peacock Meadows, Popes Meadow, Edmunds Green, Goddard Way.</p>
C) Increase the area of grassland meeting LWS selection criteria or BAP definition.	i) Survey at least 5ha of potential BAP grassland sites to propose as LWS	2019	BFC, TVERC, NE	 <p>Completed. Peacock Meadows was surveyed in summer 2019 and designated a LWS in February 2020. This site supports approx. 20 hectares of grassland habitat. Botanical surveys have also been done at South Hill Park and Cabbage Hill by BFC staff.</p>
	ii) Enhance or restore 25ha of grassland including BAP species.	2019	BFC, Town & Parish Councils	 <p>14.7 hectares have been created or enhanced. This includes 11.5 hectares of wildflower meadow created at Frost Folly in 2018, 3.1 hectares at Cabbage Hill enhanced during 2018-2020 and 0.6 ha on road verges for the Downshire Way highway improvement project.</p>




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
D) Encourage better management and good practices of grassland for wildlife	i) Provide management guidance to all identified landowners	Every year	NE, BFC, BFH, Flora Locale, Town & Parish Councils	 <p>BFC grounds maintenance staff attended a day course on managing road verges for wildflowers in 2019.</p>
E) Increase awareness of importance of grassland for biodiversity	i) Hold a grassland event or publish article at least once a year to raise awareness as part of the 'Year of the grassland'	Every year	BFC, BBOWT, BFNHS	 <p>Grassland events have been held every year up to 2020 including wildflower walks and mini-beasting.</p>

Woodland



Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Understand the distribution and condition of BAP woodland and species	i) Survey all LWS sites within last 10 years including BAP species	2020	BFC, TVERC	 <p>22 of 34 woodland LWS have been surveyed in the last 10 years. One of the biggest factors limiting progress on this target is private landowners refusing permission to access for surveys.</p>
	ii) Undertake transect bat surveys at one known noctule site each year	Every year	BFC, ESBBG, BFNHS, BBOWT, BVCP	 <p>WEG carried out a bat survey at Cabbage Hill in 2019 but did not identify Noctules (Soprano pipistrelles were recorded). John Wenman Ecology surveyed Big Wood in 2020 and identified Noctules but no roost sites. Volunteers are needed for regular transects.</p>


Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
B) All woodland SSSIs and LWS to be in favourable management.	i) Maintain 95% of woodland SSSI in favourable and recovering condition with 50% in favourable condition.	2023	NE, BFC, FC, CE	 <p>100% of SSSI woodlands (Wykery Copse, Windsor Forest – part, Swinley Park) are in favourable condition.</p>
	ii) 75% woodland LWS in positive management	2023	BFC, FC, NE, BCV	 <p>64% of woodland LWS are in positive management, that's 21 of 33 sites.</p>
C) Increase the area of woodland habitats meeting LWS selection	i) Increase area of BAP/LWS woodland habitats by 5ha.	2020	BFC, FC, CE, Town & Parish Councils, JHF	 <p>No reported progress.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
criteria or BAP definition.	ii) Enhance or restore 10ha of woodland habitats including BAP species.	2020	HAWCs, BFC, FC, CE, Town & Parish Councils, BFNHS	<p></p> <p>At least 8.61 hectares have been enhanced or restored.</p> <p>1.4 ha of conifer plantation at Big Wood has been converted to broadleaf planting (3600 trees).</p> <p>Rhododendron has been removed from 2.2 ha of woodland at Longhill Park and replaced with broadleaf understorey planting (800 trees).</p> <p>Wykery Copse (3.2 ha) has been enhanced by BCVs creating dams to hold water and improve condition of the wet woodland.</p> <p>1.5ha of woodland at Nightingale Crescent (known as Triangle) has been enhanced by BFNHS removing rhododendron, coppicing and new planting.</p> <p>0.01ha (45 native trees), obtained from the Woodland Trust, were planted at Lily Hill Park liaising with the Rotary Club.</p> <p>0.3 ha of woodland has been enhanced for the Downshire Way highway project.</p>
D) Understand extent and condition of hedgerows	i) Identify the hedgerows in the borough via aerial photography	2020	HAWCs, BFC, TVERC	<p></p> <p>Not done. This is a project that will be completed with TVERC.</p>



Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
within the borough	ii) Survey 5km of hedgerow using DEFRA method and add to GIS map	2020	BFC, WEG, HAWCs	 <p>A hedgerow training session at Jealotts Hill Farm was held for interested volunteers in 2019. No new hedgerows have been surveyed.</p>
E) Increase the length and number of hedgerows in the borough	i) Plant 2km of native hedgerow including BAP species of UK or local origin.	2020	HAWCs, BFC, Town & Parish Councils, BCV, JHF, WEG	 <p>1.3km have been planted between 2018 and 2020 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approx. 846 metres of hedgerow planted as part of the Downshire Way highways improvement project. - 630 metres planted at Frost Folly in 2019 - 210 metres planted at Larks Hill in 2018-19 by WEG - 215 metres planted at Quelm Allotments in Jan 2020. - 60 metres at Popes Meadow in 2019 with BCV.
F) Encourage appropriate management of hedgerows	i) Identify and provide management guidance to hedgerow landowner	2020	HAWCs, BFC, BBOWT, NE, JHF, Town & Parish Councils	 <p>Advice has been given on planning applications involving existing and new native hedgerows and improved in terms of species mix and management, such as tapered shape, rotational cutting, etc.</p>




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
G) Identify and protect veteran trees outside Windsor Forest	i) Identify 800 veteran trees and transfer to GIS	2020	CE, WEG, WVTG, RMAS, BFVTG	<p>●</p> <p>Complete. 890 trees are now recorded on the council's GIS thanks to the efforts of the BFVTS and WEG.</p> <p>Most recent records include Pendry's Lane: 8 trees recorded in 2018 and 5 trees in 2019 by WEG.</p> <p>WIA recorded 38 trees on Mill Ride and Sandy Lane in 2019.</p>
	ii) Publish a tree and woodland strategy for the borough	2018	BFC, Town & Parish Councils	<p>●</p> <p>Complete. The Tree Strategy was published in 2018. Available on the Bracknell Forest Council website here: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/parks-and-countryside-strategies-and-policies</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
H) Increase deadwood resource for BAP species	i) All public woodland sites to have at least one standing deadwood feature and two loggeries	2020	HAWCs, BFC, Town & Parish Councils, BCV, WEG	 <p>A comprehensive audit has not been completed but creating monoliths and stag beetle loggeries is now standard practice at all BFC Parks & Countryside sites. Many were created by BCVs, the latest include loggeries at South Hill Park in 2019, Ambarrow Court and Lily Hill Park in 2020.</p> <p>Other public woodland sites are increasing their deadwood features, generally through loggeries. The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership have also been creating stag beetle loggeries at Shepherd Meadows and the wider Blackwater Valley.</p>
	ii) Install 30 bat boxes at sites with limited deadwood	2020	BFC, CE, FC, Town & Parish Councils, WEG	 <p>At least 60 bat boxes have been installed. This includes:</p> <p>44 bird/bat boxes - Big Wood</p> <p>10 Bird/bat boxes - Clintons Hill</p> <p>BEG installed 6 bat boxes at Wicks Green in 2020.</p> <p>BFC also installed 42 bat boxes in woodlands surrounding the Downshire Way highway project.</p>





Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
I) Confirm and protect traditional orchard sites	i) Survey 30 orchard sites to determine status	2020	HAWCs, WEG, WVTG, JHF, BFNHS	 <p>Jealotts Hill Landshare orchard was surveyed by consultant ecologists in 2018. It is probably the biggest orchard in our borough at approx. 200 trees but it is only about 20 years old. Volunteers are needed to check potential orchard sites. One additional orchard was surveyed by consultants at Scotlands House, Warfield for a planning application.</p>

Wetland

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Understand the distribution and trends in BAP species	i) Monitor BAP species trends every five years	2021	BFC, RMAS, EA, BTO, BRAG	 <p>Great Crested Newts – at the Newt Reserve, annual surveys by WEG have shown a roughly stable trend over 14 years though numbers are highly variable.</p> <p>Kingfisher – There have been six records of kingfisher between 2018 and 2020 at Moor Green Lakes, Englemere Pond and Blackmoor Pond. Sightings have also been made at South Hill Park, Edmunds Green and Westmorland Park.</p> <p>Brown trout - Between 2018 and 2020, six brown trout were caught by The Trout Fishing Club within the RMAS. This appears to be a reduction on previous years but more data is needed.</p>
B) Understand the condition of SSSI and Local Wildlife Sites in the borough	i) Survey all LWS sites within last 10 years including BAP species	2021	BFC, TVERC	 <p>1 of 2 wetland LWS have been surveyed in the last 10 years.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) Understand the condition of SSSI wetlands in the borough	2021	NE, BFC, TVERC	 <p>Both Englemere Pond and Blackwater Valley SSSI (Shepherd Meadows and part of Sandhurst Memorial Park) are in favourable condition. Productive meetings in 2020 with NE at Shepherd Meadows established that wet-meadows are in good condition and benefitting from a programme of scrub removal and grazing.</p>
C) Understand the condition of ponds in the borough	i) Survey 30 ponds for BAP species	2021	BFBC, BRAG, WEG, TVERC, JHF, WIA	 <p>10 ponds across the borough were surveyed by consultants for planning applications. Annual surveys continue by WEG at The Newt Reserve and by BFC at Englemere Pond.</p>
D) Increase the number of ponds in the borough	i) Create 5 new ponds	2021	BFC, BBOWT, Town & Parish Councils, BRAG, DIO, CE, BCV, JHF	 <p>Completed, nine ponds in total. Four ponds have been created at Frost Folly and the new Frost Folly extension adjacent to the south. Three new ponds have also been created at Big Wood, Cabbage Hill, and in The Cut River Park (near Woodhurst Park, excluding SUDS). BCV created 1 small pond at Ambarrow Court in 2018 and 2 small ponds in Hayley Green Wood in 2019.</p>




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
E) Increase the area of wetland habitats in positive management in the borough	i) Restore 5 ponds	2021	BFC, BBOWT, Town & Parish Councils, BRAG, DIO, CE, BCV, JHF, WMCV, WIA	<p>●</p> <p>Three ponds have received restoration works: WIA completed a large project funded mainly by HLF, at Blackmoor Pond to dredge, remove introduced large fish, replant edges and install a kingfisher nest site which was completed in 2018. Rachels Lake received tree pruning and marginal planting by BFC. Pope's Meadow was cleared of some reedmace in 2019 by BFC.</p>
	ii) 75% wetland LWS in positive management	2023	BFC, Moor Green Lakes, WIA	<p>●</p> <p>50% in positive management. There are two wetland LWS: Yateley Gravel Pits (unknown status) and Moor Green Lakes (positive management).</p>
F) Enhance the habitat corridor of rivers and streams	i) Restore or enhance 2km of river habitat for BAP species	2021	EA, RMAS, BFC, BVCP, WIA	<p>●</p> <p>WIA enhanced 100 metres of the Blackmoor Stream within gardens as part of Blackmoor Pond project. This involved removal of rubbish, invasive non-native species and obstructions (fences). The Moor Green Lakes group have been removing Himalayan Balsam (non-native invasive) from the banks of the Blackwater River. BFC has also carried out removal of this species on The Cut in Warfield.</p>




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
G) Help the River Cut achieve good ecological potential by 2027		2021	EA, TW, BVCP, BFC	 <p>Thames Water and South East Water are both running projects to improve water quality within The Cut catchment.</p>
H) Waterside vegetation to be managed appropriately for biodiversity	i) Improve wetland habitats through partnership with fishing clubs at two sites.	2021	EA, TW, BVCP, BFC	 <p>No progress has been made on this target.</p>
	ii) Make guidance available to all identified riverside landowners	2021	BFC, EA, TW, BVCP, DIO, BRAG, WIA	 <p>Wildlife in Ascot have produced a leaflet 'River Owners' Responsibilities' which has been circulated to over 100 people with the Blackmoor stream flowing through their land.</p>
I) Identify and protect reedbeds in the borough	i) Identify and survey reedbeds outside designated sites	2021	BFC, TVERC, Town & Parish Councils	 <p>No progress has been made on this target.</p>

Heathland

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Monitor BAP species and adapt habitat management	i) Survey key sites for BAP species to identify trends and distribution	Every year	Bird survey volunteers, RSPB, BTO, BOC, CE, DIO, NE, BDS, BBOWT	<p>●</p> <p>Bird survey volunteers coordinated by 2 J's Ecology have provided survey information each year of the three SPA birds to all landowners in the whole of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. In 2020, trends since 1999 reported were 12% increase for Woodlarks (167 pairs), 53% increase for Nightjars (404 pairs) and 60% increase for Dartford Warbler (711 pairs).</p> <p>In 2020, volunteers surveyed and found Silver-studded Blue butterfly at Wildmoor Heath, Swinley Brick pits, Wellington College Bog, and rides within Swinley Forest. SSB at Wellington College is a return after an absence of several years.</p>
B) Maintain all heathland and bogs within existing designated sites	i) Maintain 95% heathland and bog SSSI in favourable and recovering condition with 30% in favourable condition.	2023	BFC, BBOWT, CE, DIO, NE	<p>●</p> <p>99.5% of heathland SSSI area is in favourable and recovering status, and 72% are in favourable condition alone. The main area in unfavourable condition is Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths (Wildmoor Heath) which is in unfavourable recovering condition but based on assessments in 2013.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) 70% of LWS to be in positive management	2023	BFC, BBOWT, CE	● 50% of heathland LWS are in positive management, that's 1 of 2. for Edgbarrow Hill and Heath LWS was surveyed and found to be positively managed in 2018.
	iii) Maintain or restore all heathland with a varied structure within existing SSSI and LWS (162ha)	2022	CE, MOD, NE, BFC, BBOWT	● Most heathland areas continue to be managed in the same way during the life of this plan.
C) Increase area of heathland	i) Create 20ha of new heathland	2022	NE, TVERC, BFC, DE, BBOWT	● TVERC habitat mapping indicates that the area of heathland in the borough has decreased slightly from 192.36 hectares in 2018 to 187.82 in 2020. This could be due to increases in scrub cover.
	ii) Create 5 new bogs or ponds within heathland	2022	FC, CE, BBOWT, DIO, RMAS	● A small pond was created within the heathland in 2018 at Englemere Pond.

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
D) Maximise the biodiversity value of forestry	i) Publish a review on the biodiversity value of commercial forestry and conifers in the borough	2022	CE, BFC	 <p>No progress has been made on this. It is possible that the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership could be approached to work on this across the SPA.</p>
E) Manage public access to protect sensitive habitats and species	i) Review access patterns on two designated sites to protect sensitive habitats and species	2022	NE, BBOWT, BFC, DIO, CE, FC, TBHP	 <p>In 2019, access to Crowthorne Woods was reduced when the car park was closed by Crown Estate which may have reduced pressure in that area of the SPA.</p> <p>No progress has been made on an access review. It is possible that Natural England or the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership would be best placed to encourage this work across the SPA.</p>
	ii) Access management works carried out at two sites	2022	CE, MOD, NE, BFC, BBOWT, FC	 <p>No progress has been made on this. It is possible that Natural England or the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership would be best placed to encourage this work across the SPA.</p>



Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
F) Increase public understanding of heathland importance and sensitive species	i) Produce a publication or site interpretation to raise awareness of heathland and forestry biodiversity	2022	BBOWT, BFC, CE, DIO	 <p>Thames Basin Heaths Partnership have been very active in raising awareness of the importance of heathland and its sensitive species through onsite presence, public events, and social media posts.</p>
	ii) Run at least five school sessions using the heathland information pack	2022	TBHP, BFC, BBOWT	 <p>Achieved. Between 2017 and 2019, 6 school visits have been run at Caesars camp since 2017 as part of the Higher-Level Stewardship agreement.</p>
	iii) Run at least two heathland events each year to include BAP species information	Every year	BFC, BBOWT, BFNHS, BRAG	 <p>In 2018 and 2019, Nightjar walks were held at Caesars Camp. These events were mainly hosted by BFC and BFNHS. Heath Week also 2019 ran from Sunday 28 July to Saturday 3 August 2019. This involved events across the Thames Basin Heaths SPA including Bracknell Forest.</p>




Farmland



Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Understand the distribution of BAP farm habitats and species	i) Survey BAP species across the borough to monitor trends	Every year	BTO, RSPB, BOC, JHF	● Skylark surveys have been carried out almost every year to check breeding status at Peacock Meadows. In 2020, Cabbage Hill was added. Results show that numbers are stable within these sites.
	ii) Monitor barn owl boxes once every 5 years	2023	BFC, BTO, RSPB, BOC, JHF	● Thames Water reported 4 barn owl chicks in barn owl boxes at their Sewage Treatment works in 2017.
B) Seek to increase populations of farmland birds	i) Promote wildlife projects and low intensity grazing to all known horse owners	2023	DEFRA, BFC, NE, Flora Locale	● A Catchment Sensitive Officer has been employed by South East Water and seconded to Natural England and has been contacting landowners about sensitive land use including horse grazing.

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
C) All farmland to be managed with nature conservation as an aim	i) Review land use to identify farmland and pasture not within agri-environment schemes	2018	TVERC, BFC, DEFRA	● A review has not yet been done.
	ii) At least 60% of agricultural holdings entered into agri-environment schemes or habitat management plans	2023	BFC, BBOWT NE, DEFRA, LEAF, CFE, BTO, RSPB, BOC, JHF	● The area of agri-environmental schemes has significantly reduced to 85.6 hectares from 433 ha in 2016/7 but this may be due to Brexit and the transition to the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).
D) Better public understanding of the role farmers have in supporting wildlife	i) Hold at least 1 farm visit events each year that include raising awareness of wildlife	Every year	JHF, LEAF	● No farms were registered in the borough for Open Farm Sunday.



Urban




Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
A) Protect and enhance significant areas of urban biodiversity as part of Green Infrastructure	i) Plant or replace at least 50 large native urban trees	2022	BFC, BFH, Parish & Town Councils, WEG	 <p>Achieved. In 2019 and 2020, a total of 72 large trees were planted in response to council highway improvement projects. These include 14 extra heavy standards (5 species) around London Road and 29 standards (8 species) around Downshire Way. In 2019, 12 oak trees were also planted to commemorate 21 years of Bracknell Forest Borough Council.</p> <p>Three new street trees were planted on Benetfeld Road by Binfield Parish Council in 2020.</p>
	ii) Manage at least 25% of grass verges as roadside nature reserves within Bracknell town	2023	BFC, BTC, BFH	 <p>This target is almost met. Council's maintenance landscape contractors are currently managing 235 hectares of grassland. 23% of this land is managed as roadside nature reserves, meadows or banks.</p>


Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
B) Make provision for biodiversity within all urban greenspace	i) Identify, protect and increase swift nest sites by 30%	2018	BFC, Parish & Town Councils, BTO, RSPB, BVCP, BRP, WEG	<p></p> <p>There are 15 identified nest sites based on TVERC data and RSPB Swift Inventory.</p> <p>Planning applications have secured at least 25 new swift boxes at various sites: Old Bus Depot (6), Blue Mountain Phase 2 (6), Eagle House School (5), Foresters Cottage (4), Brakenhale School (2) and Wyevale Garden Centre (2).</p> <p>In 2020 at Binfield Road, three new swift boxes were installed and three repositioned. Residents in two houses were supplied with swift calls to encourage the birds to use new nest sites.</p>
	ii) Create or enhance at least 5ha of wildflower areas within urban greenspaces	2019	BFC, BFH, Town & Parish Councils, BCV, BFNHS, BHA	<p></p> <p>Highway projects created or enhanced grassland around Horse & Groom roundabout, Twin Bridges and Bill Hill.</p> <p>In 2020, BFNHS created a wildflower bank on the edge of Nightingale Triangle (parallel to Bagshot Road).</p>
	iii) Enhance three places of worship for wildlife	2018	BFC, ELCG, Town & Parish Councils, BFNHS	<p></p> <p>No progress on this target so far.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	iv) All public greenspace management plans to include biodiversity actions	Every year	BFC, Town & Parish Councils	 <p>The BFC Parks & Countryside service is in the process of reviewing all management plans. As part of the process, biodiversity actions will be considered for all sites.</p>
	v) Restore or enhance at least 6 school wildlife areas for use in lessons	2019	BFC, BBOWT, RHS, BCV, WIA	 <p>In 2018, WIA held 10 events in the wildlife garden at Ascot Heath Infant School.</p> <p>In 2020, BEG worked with the Friends of Binfield School to plant trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in the outdoor learning area at Binfield Junior School.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	vi) Identify at least 10 active badger setts and create, enhance or protect adjacent areas suitable for foraging	2018	BFC, BBOWT, BBG	<p>●</p> <p>Active badger setts have been identified at Clintons and Scots Hill by BFC and adjacent areas have been identified for protection through site management.</p> <p>BBG and consultants on planning applications identified at least 7 active badger setts within the borough. An 'outlier' badger sett was identified on the Thomas Lawrence Brickworks development site in Warfield by ecological consultants. This was later established as inactive but is still protected within a green corridor through the site. The site design includes some grassland areas that will be enhanced for foraging.</p>
C) Make provision for biodiversity within new development	i) Planning permissions to include requirement for at least 100 new wildlife features (not mitigation)	Every year	BFC	<p>●</p> <p>At least 206 features have been secured through planning conditions in between 2018 and 2020 (this excludes 25 swift boxes covered in the target above). These features most often take the form of bird and bat boxes but also include hedgehog boxes, insect hotels, reptile hibernacula and stag beetle loggeries.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	ii) Planning permissions in areas with badger setts to ensure measures for badger protection	Every year	BFC, BBOWT, BBG	 <p>In 2018, an 'outlier' badger sett was identified on the Thomas Lawrence Brickworks development site in Warfield by ecological consultants. This was later established as inactive but is still protected within a green corridor through the site. The site design includes some grassland areas that will be enhanced for foraging.</p>
D) Create corridor opportunities	i) Explore corridor possibilities to link at least 5 significant areas for urban biodiversity	2019	BFC, Parish & Town Councils	 <p>No progress on this target to date.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
E) Increase area of private greenspace, allotments and gardens managed for wildlife	i) Undertake a public survey to identify gardens or allotments of high biodiversity value			 <p>Completed. In 2020, the Nature Partnership co-ordinated the Wild Garden Awards which identified gardens of high biodiversity value in the borough and encouraged their owners to do more.</p>
	ii) At least 100 gardens connected as part of Hedgehog Street	2019	BFH, BFNHS, BHA	 <p>Completed. As of 1st June 2020, there are 58 holes in the borough connecting at least 116 gardens. Help a Hog project hosted by the Bracknell Forest Natural History Society has helped to raise awareness and increase reporting.</p>
	At least 10 private landowners to have management plans including biodiversity	2019	BFP, BTC	 <p>No progress to date.</p>

Objective	Target	Achieve by	Partner organisations	2018-2020 progress
	All golf courses to have identified areas of wildlife value in positive management	2018	BFC	 <p>No progress to date.</p>

Key to Abbreviations

2Js Ecology	John Clark and John Eyre
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BBOWT	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust	BCT Bat Conservation Trust
BEG	Binfield Environment Group
BSBBG	Berkshire and South Bucks Bat Group
BCV	Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
BDS	British Dragonfly Society
BFC	Bracknell Forest Council
BFNHS	Bracknell Forest Natural History Society
BHA	Bracknell Horticultural Association
BLNP	Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area
BOC	Berkshire Ornithological Club
BRAG	Berkshire Reptile and Amphibian Group
BTC	Bracknell Town Council
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BVCP	Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership
CVAG	Crowthorne Village Action Group
CE	Crown Estate
CFE	Campaign for Farmed Environment
CLA	Country Land & Business Association
DIO	Defence Infrastructure Organisation
DEFRA	Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
ELCG	Easthampstead Living Churchyard Group
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HAWC	Hedgerow and Woodland Conservationists
JHF	Jealotts Hill Farm (part of the Syngenta estate)
LFCC	Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MOD	Ministry of Defence
RHS	Royal Horticultural Society
NE	Natural England
RMAS	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area for Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STC	Sandhurst Town Council
TBHP	Thames Basin Heaths Partnership
TVERC	Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
TW	Thames Water
WEG	Warfield Environment Group
WIA	Wildlife In Ascot
WMCV	Windsor and Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers
WVTG	Winkfield Veteran Tree Group