

**Epping Forest District
Biodiversity Action Plan
2008 – 2012
(revised July 2010)**

The Epping Forest District Biodiversity Action Plan

Introduction

The aim of this document is to give a brief introduction to the biodiversity of the district and to establish a five year Action Plan containing a range of targets aimed at conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the district. The Epping Forest Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership document, (produced by the Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership, involving the organisations listed in Annex 1) where the council has taken the leading role. However, the process has actively involved important partners in nature conservation activities across the district. The targets set out in the plan reflect priorities and targets that have been developed in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and UK's National Biodiversity Action Plan.

What is Biodiversity?

Biological diversity, or "biodiversity" is the variety of life that is all around us and all over the world. It encompasses all living things from microscopic organisms to the largest trees. Not just exotic, rare and endangered plants and animals are included, but also those that are found in back gardens, parks and ponds. Although biodiversity surrounds us, we cannot take it for granted. It is not just the large-scale human activities such as urban development, agricultural intensification and road building that have an impact on wildlife. Even seemingly minor things such as cutting down a tree or allowing a pond to dry up can make a difference by isolating or reducing habitats. Many ordinary, daily activities are slowly modifying the variety of wildlife – our local biodiversity.

“Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species and of ecosystems.” (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1993)

Why are we developing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan?

Biodiversity is vital to our quality of life. It provides us with clean air and water, and resources for recreation and education. It improves our well-being and maintains a whole range of environmental protection functions such as flood control and climate regulation. Ultimately it acts as the life support system for the planet and is essential for our very survival. Species can take millions of years to evolve, but once a species is extinct it is lost forever. So as much as we need to conserve biodiversity for our quality of life we also owe it to future generations not to destroy this wonderful heritage.

In the UK the loss of wildlife and the destruction of the countryside are such that a healthy and rich natural environment is no longer guaranteed. For example, studies have shown that 98% of wildflower meadows, 448,000 kilometres of hedgerows, over 2 million skylarks and 95% of high brown fritillary butterflies have been lost in less than a lifetime. It is clear that we need to halt this decline and help these species to recover. This work is being carried out at all levels - internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. Epping Forest District Council has therefore decided to take action and produce a Local BAP to help conserve, enhance and promote awareness of biodiversity in the district. The Epping BAP focuses on habitats, following the recent drive by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan to focus on habitats and larger scale ecosystem plans. These are now considered a more effective conservation tool capable of delivering biodiversity gains for both habitats and the species dependent upon them.



Biodiversity Action: “Think globally act locally”

In June 1992, leaders from over 150 countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the ‘Earth Summit’. The loss of the world’s biodiversity was the major environmental issue discussed. As a result, the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed committing all countries to act to conserve and enhance their biodiversity to contribute to the global resource.

The UK Government signed this Convention and began to fulfil its commitment in 1994 when it published the UK’s Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The aim for this plan is:

“To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate means”

By this aim the Government has committed itself to a process designed to conserve and enhance:

- The range and numbers of wildlife species and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats.
- Species and habitats that are internationally important or characteristic of local areas.
- Species and habitats that have declined significantly over recent decades.

The Government recognised that the national objectives could only be achieved if there was action at all levels and by all sectors of the community. The principal means of achieving this is through the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. These plans have two broad functions.

- To ensure that national action plans are translated into effective action at the local level.
- To establish targets and action for species and habitats characteristic of each local area

The process to produce the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) began in 1997 when the Association of Essex Councils hosted an Essex Sustainability Conference. The species and habitats that occur in the EBAP were selected from a national list together with some extra ones that are characteristic or indicative of the Essex countryside.

The Epping Forest LBAP has been developed with close links to the Essex BAP.

The purpose of this plan is to help achieve some of the targets set out in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan. Hopefully it will:

- Concentrate on making local people more aware of the biodiversity around them and of the need to conserve it.
- Produce a more detailed understanding of the biodiversity in the district;
- Guide the work of Epping Forest District Council officers where this may impact on biodiversity;
- Set high standards for Epping Forest District Council as land managers;
- Support the work of all organisations in the district that are engaged in biodiversity action;
- Develop opportunities for active participation in biodiversity action by all members of the community



BIODIVERSITY IN EPPING FOREST DISTRICT

Background

Epping Forest District is fortunate to have a number of highly important wildlife sites including Epping and Hainault Forests, the Lee Valley Regional Park and the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve. These key sites are our most important protected areas with international or European recognition as Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and national significance as Sites of Special Scientific interest. (SSSIs).

Beyond these core sites are a linking network of Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites which gives the district its character and biodiversity.

Designated wildlife sites in Epping Forest District.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>No of sites</u>
<i>Ramsar Site</i>	1
<i>SPA</i>	1
<i>SAC</i>	1
<i>SSSIs</i>	7
Local Nature Reserves	9
Local Wildlife Sites	222

Natura 2000

The Habitats Directive 1992 required EU Member States to create a network of protected wildlife areas, known as Natura 2000, across the European Union. This network consists of SACs and SPAs, established to protect wild birds under the Birds Directive. These sites are part of a range of measures aimed at conserving important or threatened habitats and species. The District has one SAC (Epping Forest covering 1604 ha) and one SPA (Lee Valley covering 451.29ha).

Ramsar Sites

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. It was an intergovernmental treaty which provided for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The district has one of 157 Ramsar sites in the UK - the Lee Valley. This great wildlife resource comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs, sewage treatment lagoons and former gravel pits which straddles 24km of the valley

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites (Ramsar sites and SPAs and SACs are also SSSIs) and are designated by Natural England. They are selected for their value in terms of flora or fauna, or their geological or physiographical (i.e. landform) features. There are around four thousand sites across the country with eighty six in Essex. There are eight designated SSSIs which are partially or wholly in the District covering 2506ha. These are:

- 1) Epping Forest (including Wintry Wood, Epping; Gernon Bushes, Coopersale; Yardley Hill, Sewardstonebury; and Lord's Bushes, Buckhurst Hill). The SSSI extends into the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Waltham Forest (total area not all in district 1729 ha).
- 2) Hainault Forest, Chigwell and Lambourne, extending into the London Borough of Redbridge (total area not all in the district 136ha).
- 3) Royal Gunpowder Factory Woodlands, Waltham Abbey (34.2ha).
- 4) Roding Valley Meadows, Loughton and Chigwell. (19.8ha).
- 5) Cornmill Stream and Old River Lea, Waltham Abbey (24.6ha).
- 6) Turnford and Cheshunt Pits (extending into Broxbourne Borough 173.28ha).

7) Chingford Reservoirs - extending into the London Boroughs of Enfield and Waltham Forest. (Total area not all in the district 391ha.)

8) River Lee diversion (a very small part of the Chingford Reservoirs SSSI)

Three SSSIs abut the district boundary. These are Curtismill Green (near Stapleford Abbots); Harlow Woods, Harlow; and Hunsdon Mead, Roydon. A further two SSSIs are very close to, but do not abut, the district. These are Parndon Wood, Harlow and Rye Meads near Stanstead Abbots.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, local authorities (including district, town and parish councils) have the power to establish Local Nature Reserves.

An area of land can be declared as an LNR if it has a high value for nature conservation, provides special opportunities for study and research or if the natural features of the site are of special interest to the public because they are used for recreation and education.

There are now 1050 LNRs in England. Epping Forest District Council has declared 9 LNRs to date between 1986 and 2007. These are;

- Roding Valley Meadows
- Chigwell Row Wood
- Linder's Field
- Roughtalley's Wood
- Church Lane Flood Meadow
- Nazeing Triangle
- Home Mead
- Thornwood Flood Meadow
- Weald Common Flood Meadow.



Natural England has put forward a target of 1 hectare of LNR per 1,000 head of population if LNRs are to play a role in sustainability. This figure has been adopted by the Audit Commission as a local performance indicator. EFDC currently has a figure of 1 hectare of LNR per 1,325 head of population.

Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS)

Local Wildlife Sites are "discrete areas of land which are considered to be of significance for their wildlife features in at least a District context". LoWS were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a Phase One habitat survey of the district in 1991(See Annex 2) (revised 1996 and 1998).

In 2009, a review of the LoWS network across the district was undertaken. This has identified a number of new sites resulting in a net gain of 41. The Epping Forest District now has 222 LoWS.

Key Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in Epping Forest District.

The Lee Valley Regional Park extends 26 miles from Ware in Hertfordshire to East India Dock on the bank of the Thames.

The Park incorporates the western border of the district and is characterised here by an almost continuous mosaic of floodplain grassland, flooded gravel pits and wet woodland. Key sites include Gunpowder Park, Cornmill Meadows, Royal Gunpowder Mills and the River Lee Country Park. There are three SSSIs with one of them, Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI, forming part of the Lee Valley Special Protection Area. This was designated under the EU Birds Directive on account of the large flocks of moulting and wintering ducks as well as its strategic importance as a stop-off for birds, including the bittern, outside the breeding season.

Although perhaps best known for its birds, the Park also supports over half of the dragonflies and damselflies species found in the UK, with Cornmill Meadows a well-known spot. Water voles, which have undergone a dramatic decline throughout

their range, can still be found in reasonable numbers at several sites throughout the Park, although much work remains to be done to link up these fragmented populations and safeguard them from predation by mink and other threats. (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) website www.leevalleypark.org.uk)

Hainault Forest constitutes a remaining fragment of a once much larger medieval woodland. It is thought to have been declared a specially protected forest by Henry I around 1130. Traditionally it would have been managed as wood pasture with livestock grazing the open grassy “plains”. Worked pollarded trees were scattered throughout. In 1851 an Act of Parliament led to large scale destruction of the Forest with, in just six weeks, an estimated 100,000 trees felled. The ensuing public outrage did serve to save Epping Forest from a similar fate and eventually led to the creation of a Hainault Forest Country Park in 1906. The remains of this ancient woodland are hugely significant for the district and of historic, cultural and landscape importance on a national scale.

Today, the Hainault Forest Country Park is split between the Woodland Trust (118 ha) which manages the northern part of the woodland (which is all within Epping Forest District) on a fifty year lease from Essex County Council. The remaining 100 ha is owned and managed by the London Borough of Redbridge.

Hainault Forest has a broad range of habitat types including ancient wood pasture with old growth stands, native broadleaved woodland, mature scrub and open grassy margins, amenity grassland, semi-improved acid grassland and a small area of heathland. Some 136ha is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. (<http://www.wt-woods.org.uk/HainaultForest>)

Epping Forest is by far the largest public open space near to London. At almost 2428 ha it stretches for about 12 miles from Manor Park in East London to just north of

Epping. Since 1878 the Forest has been owned by the City of London and is managed under the Epping Forest Act which stipulates;

“The Conservators shall at all times keep Epping Forest unenclosed and unbuilt on as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the people.”

As well as being a huge recreational resource the Forest is the key biodiversity resource of the district with over 1618 ha being designated as SSSI and SAC.

Epping Forest is really special for its ancient trees with around fifty thousand thought to exist. This in turn supports a vast variety of flora and fauna species, many of which have specialised to live in this unique environment. Perhaps the most significant of these are the saprophytic invertebrates (dead wood insects) many of which are found almost nowhere else in the country. In addition to the ancient trees, what makes the Forest so valuable is its unique blend of old grasslands, heaths, ponds and lakes. (http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/open_spaces/epping_forest.htm)

The Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve (LNR) includes the largest traditionally managed lowland hay meadows in Essex running along the banks of the River Roding through Loughton, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill on the southern edge of the district. Incorporating herb-rich flood-plain pasture and sedge fen, the meadows represent a huge regional biodiversity resource of national importance. This is recognised in the site’s designation as a Local Nature Reserve, LoWS and part SSSI.

At 66.7 hectares the meadows are easily the largest single block of grassland in the district which has otherwise lost much of its herb rich grassland. Today the meadows, which are owned by Epping Forest District Council and The Grange Farm Centre Trust, are managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. In addition to the important SSSI grassland and fen habitats, the reserve has

a fine network of hedgerows, scrub and secondary woodland. Being close to a large urban area, the meadows offer a unique place for local people to come into contact with wildlife.

(<http://www.essexwt.org.uk>)

Key Habitats of the District

Urban Areas

Within the district's urban areas, public open spaces, cemeteries, allotments, derelict land and gardens all support a huge variety of wildlife. Across the UK it has been estimated there are more than 15 million gardens and it is becoming increasingly obvious that these areas are playing a vital role in providing habitats for wildlife. The potential for biodiversity could be huge if more people could be encouraged to garden for wildlife.

The district's population currently stands at 120,896 (2001 Census) of which 70% live in the suburban or market towns of Loughton, Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Waltham Abbey and Epping. In the south of the district these urban areas directly abut Epping Forest and therefore must be seen as a vital wildlife corridors between important sites such as the Forest and the Roding Valley Meadows. In a time of increasing pressure for development, especially from housing, the careful planning of effective green spaces and corridors which take account of both wildlife and people will be vital.

Farmland

Around 90% of the district could still be described as countryside with agriculture being by far the largest land use. The sympathetic management of this land is therefore vital for the effective conservation of our wildlife. The mosaic of ditches, ponds, hedgerows, woodland and field margins supports a great diversity of wildlife and all of the district's key biodiversity species rely on farmland. This land also forms the vital corridors linking the "hotspots" of biodiversity which still remain. Working with the farming community will be vital if any success is to be achieved.

Woodland

Since 1945 Essex has lost 24% of all its ancient woodland. This district is fortunate in having part of Hainault Forest and Epping Forest within its borders. As one of the UK's most coherent blocks of ancient woodland it is a hugely important site not only for the district, but nationally too. The key fauna are associated with dead and decaying wood and the Forest supports many nationally important invertebrate populations.

Only 9.8% of the district is in fact wooded (EWT Phase 1 habitat survey 1996) and of this just 2501.6 ha is biologically rich semi-natural ancient woodland (7.38% of the land area of the district)

Across the farmland areas of the district there are numerous small semi-natural broad-leaved woods. Of these some 119 are designated LoWS. These are almost exclusively neglected hornbeam coppice woodlands. Despite lack of recent management the woods still support a wide range of birds, mammals, plants and fungi.

Veteran Trees

Hainault and Epping Forests include a collection of veteran trees of European importance, but such trees are by no means confined to the Forest areas. The widespread practice of pollarding (the successive cutting of trees above the browsing height of deer and cattle) has left a legacy of many veteran trees across the whole of the district. In addition, numerous deer parks include large numbers of old trees. Today, many of these trees find themselves surrounded by urban development or arable farmland. It will be an aim of this biodiversity action plan to survey the district and record all the veteran trees. This will also include recording rarities such as the native black poplars and wild service trees.

Hedgerows

Across England since 1945 the average hedgerow loss in each parish has been around 50% and this figure can be fairly accurately applied to this district. Despite this loss the ancient nature of much of the district's landscape means that there is still

a significant hedgerow network. This coupled, with significant replanting by the farming community, gives reason for optimism. The EWT 1996 updated Phase 1 habitat survey for the district gives a figure of 1245km of hedgerow which can be coupled with 577 km of tree-lines.

Species rich grassland and heathland

Since 1945 intensive food production involving the application of chemical fertilizers and the use of ever bigger machines addressed the nation's demand for plentiful and cheap food. To the credit of the farming community this goal has been largely achieved. The downside is a significant loss of wildlife habitat, even more apparent in a county like Essex, which for over 50 years has been dominated by arable farming. Unimproved grassland has been the one major habitat that has seen catastrophic losses. Across the county there has been a 99% loss of all its flower rich grasslands. In Epping Forest District there are only 106.3 ha remaining equating to just 0.31% of the district's land area (EWT Phase 1 habitat survey 1996).

While the loss of a wood or hedgerow is often dramatic, involving heavy machinery and noisy chainsaws, the demise of a grassland is often far less obvious. Whether by the plough, over grazing, development or neglect, many grasslands are still slowly disappearing unnoticed. Many of the larger important sites which remain, such as the Roding Valley Meadows LNR (at 66.7ha this equates to over 60% of this rare grassland resource within the district), are being looked after. But it is the smaller sites such as the old churchyards, village greens, roadside verges and small fields which are gradually being lost. Often these small areas are the only remnants within a parish, an oasis of unploughed, unsprayed meadowland. These sites can have a unique association of plants and offer a haven for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

Heathland was never a widespread habitat across the district, but was restricted to the Forest areas on poor sands and glacial gravels overlying the London Clay. Historically the heaths were maintained by grazing, but in the last 70 years this has

largely ceased. Consequently, heathland sites have been lost to encroachment by woodland. The exact area of heathland that still remains is hard to calculate, but the area of stand-alone heathland sites amounts to under 3 hectares.

Ponds

The word "pond" can be used to describe all static areas of water such as small pools, canals, reservoirs and lakes, but for the purposes of this plan lakes, canals and reservoirs will be defined as open water.

In the EWT Phase One habitat survey 1996 some 982 ponds were recorded in the district (315 ha given as open water) and in terms of pond density this equates to a figure of 2.89 ponds per kilometre square. Ponds are found scattered across the whole district, but many are now under threat from lack of management through land use changes. Influencing farmers to manage existing ponds and encouraging people to create new ones will be a priority.

How to use the BAP

The aim of the plan is to raise public awareness and focus practical action on those biodiversity priority species and habitats occurring across the district. Each species and habitat action plan lists 'local actions' that should be undertaken within the district, and indicates the lead agencies or group concerned. To avoid unnecessary repetition, actions common to more than one plan have been listed under 'Generic objectives and actions'.

The biodiversity initiative is an ongoing process. The implementation and review of this and subsequent plans will be co-ordinated by the Epping Forest Biodiversity Steering Group, working with EFDC and other business and community partners.



Epping Forest biodiversity priority habitats, and species showing relationship to UK and Essex lists.

	<u>E BAP</u>	<u>LV BAP</u>	<u>UK BAP</u>
Habitats			
Urban areas	P	P	P
Farmland	P		P
Woodland	P		P
Veteran Trees			P
Hedgerows	P		P
Lowland Meadows			P
Lowland Heath	P		P
Ponds		P	P
Species			
Black Poplar	P		
Wild Service Tree			
Veteran Trees			
Great Crested Newt	P		P
Skylark	P		
Stag beetle	P		P

E BAP – Essex Biodiversity Action Plan

LV BAP – Lee Valley Regional Park Biodiversity Action Plan.

UK BAP – UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Epping Forest District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 – 2011

(Revised 10 June 2010)

GENERIC ACTIONS

Aim 1	Develop a partnership to work with biodiversity issues in the district				
Target	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
1.1 Establish effective mechanism for promotion, implementation, monitoring and developing of LBAP.	1.1.1 Hold an annual meeting of the steering group in June each year to review and update the Action Plan with partner organisations. 1.1.2 Steering Group members to feedback quarterly to EFDC on activities undertaken towards targets and actions. Action plan will be updated and sent to partners. 1.1.3 Countrycare liaison group to act as a community focus group	Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership (EFBP)	EFDC	June 2011	EFBP

Epping Forest District LBAP Steering Group Members (Abbreviations) – BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles), CoL (City of London – Epping Forest), EARG (Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group), EFBP (Epping Forest Biodiversity Project), EFBPK (Epping Forest Burial Park), EFDC (Epping Forest District Council), EA (Environment Agency), EWT (Essex Wildlife Trust), EFC (Essex Field Club), ECC (Essex County Council), FSC (Field Studies Council – Epping Forest), LVRPA (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority), WT (Woodland Trust), FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) and Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers (EFCV).

Aim 2	Raise awareness and profile of, and involvement with, biodiversity in the district				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
2.1 Establish a mechanism to publicise and raise awareness of biodiversity issues to local residents.	<p>2.1.1 Publish a minimum of four articles per year in either EYE, Forester, 'Making the links' (ECC e-newsletter), Forest Leaves (EFCV), Essex County Standard, Forest Focus, Biodiversity Project Biolog, or any other local newspaper and supply articles to relevant parish or town councils for their magazines.</p> <p>2.1.2 Identify individual contact person within all parish and town councils in the district to facilitate closer working and better communication.</p> <p>2.1.3 Write to those PCs, which do not currently have a representative regularly attending the Epping Forest Countryside Liaison Group Meeting.</p>	<p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP Town/parish councils</p>	<p>EFDC</p> <p>EFDC</p> <p>EFDC</p>	<p>06/2010</p> <p>10/2010</p> <p>10/2010</p>	<p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP</p>
2.2 Engage schools and higher education establishments in biodiversity projects. Provide them with suitable materials and promotional activities.	<p>2.2.1 Organise a minimum of two biodiversity projects per year in schools and higher educational establishments.</p> <p>2.2.2 Undertake a programme of work to promote biodiversity engaging with as many people as possible across the District.</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<p>EF FSC</p>		<p>EFBP</p>
2.3 Organise and participate in promotional events across the district to promote biodiversity issues	<p>2.3.1 Hold one promotional event per year, e.g. LNR Week. 2010 is "The International Year of Biodiversity Target" EFDC signed up as partners</p> <p>2.3.2 Organise a minimum of ten nature walks in 2010 across the district.</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<p>EFDC</p>		<p>EFBP</p>

Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
2.4 Encourage voluntary participation in practical management work for biodiversity gain.	2.4.1 Enable 7,000 volunteer hours dedicated to biodiversity projects across the district. 2.4.2 Work with Voluntary Action Epping Forest to ensure that all volunteering opportunities are known. Update: June 2010: Ongoing volunteers still coming through from VAEF	ALL	EFCV	Annual	EFBP
2.5 Develop 2 new biodiversity projects a year, with partners in the district.	2.5.1 Housham Tye Common with local residents and Matching PC 2.5.2 Roughtalley's Wood (Epping Forest Burial Park) 2.5.3 Others TBC by partners	EFDC/ Matching PC/ Residents EFDC/ EFBP			
2.6 Work towards achieving the objectives of NI197 (Biodiversity and LoWS)	2.6.1 Produce positive conservation management statements (PCMs) for 73 LoWS. Baseline 6 (April 2008) to achieve 73 PCMs (March 2011). TARGETS 2010/11 – 73 total in PCM (27 needed)	ALL	EWT	March 2011	LAA2 Target
2.7 Work towards achieving the objectives of Living Landscapes (LI10)	2.7.1 Produce Living Landscape Plans for the seven identified areas within the district by March 2011. Full list: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stort Valley 2. Lea Valley 3. Cobbins Wood – started July 2009 (Mark Iley) 4. Cobbins Brook – started July 2009 (Mark Iley) 5. Epping Forest – Existing plan 6. Lower Roding M25 to Chigwell 7. Upper Roding – Abbess Roding to M25 (Andy May) 	ALL	EWT	March 2011	LAA2 Target

HABITAT ACTION PLANS

URBAN AREAS

Aim 3	Maximise the biodiversity potential of the urban environments of the district				
Targets	Actions and updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
3.1 Increase public understanding and interest in the value of biodiversity in gardens.	3.1.1 Publish 'a Green Gardening Guide'. 3.1.2 Promote 'wildlife-friendly gardening' during partner run events. 3.1.3 Publish monthly garden updates on the Council website. 3.1.4 Produce list of gardening societies and allotment associations in the area 3.1.5 Promote the use of allotments via websites, events and articles. 3.1.6 Link with the National campaigns – BBC Spring watch, Autumn watch, breathing spaces. 3.1.7 Promote school gardens/allotments and wildlife friendly areas within Allotments and School Grounds.	Town/parish Councils Town/parish Councils, Allotment organisations	EFDC EFDC EFDC EFDC EFDC EFDC	04/2008 Ongoing Ongoing 07/2008	EFBP EFBP EFBP EFBP
3.2 Identify location and quality of garden ponds in the district.	3.2.1 Develop and circulate a public survey leaflet of garden ponds in the district. June 2010: No progress	Essex Amphibian Reptile Group (EARG)	EFDC	04/2009	EFBP
3.3 Raise the awareness about the impact on biodiversity of invasive alien plants.	3.3.1 Distribute "Protecting our native wildlife" by the Environment Agency on invasive species and link to EA website. 3.3.2 Produce articles for publication in the Forester/local council magazines.	Essex Biodiversity Project (EBP), Invasive	EFDC EFDC	05/2008 06/2008	EFBP EFBP

Aim 3	Maximise the biodiversity potential of the urban environments of the district				
Targets	Actions and updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
	3.3.3 Highlight invasive alien species in EYE – one species per edition.	species group EA	EFDC	04/2008	EFBP

FARMLAND

Aim 4	Raise awareness of biodiversity issues within farming community				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
4.1 Establish effective links/partnership projects with eight farmers by 2011.	4.1.1 Identify and establish good communication and relations with two farmers per year.	EFDC	FWAG	Yearly 2010	EFBP
	4.1.2 Distribute existing publications to farmers to encourage wildlife-friendly farming.			Ongoing	EFBP

FARMLAND

Aim 5	Achieve optimum biodiversity condition for farmland in the district through high quality management.				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
5.1 Maintain, improve and restore the biodiversity of 30 ha of farmland in the district by 2010.	5.1.1 Identify good quality* field margins in the district by working with farmers. 5.1.2 Identify ponds on farmland through targeted public survey.** 5.1.3 Identify good quality woodland on farmland through public survey.** 5.1.4 Offer assistance to farmers to enable the uptake of agri-environment schemes across the district.	BSBI,FWAG, local farmers, Natural England	EFDC EFDC EFDC FWAG	11/2010 02/2010 11/2010 Ongoing	EFBP EFBP EFBP EFBP

* Good Quality Field Margins

Field margins refer to the land between the field boundary feature and crop on arable fields (particularly cereals) or grasslands. Field margins of good quality are defined as ones which have high species and structural diversity and support key farmland species.

** Public Surveys

Within the document reference is made to public surveys. This refers to survey work which will be co-coordinated by EF Countrycare and partners and the local community. E.g. Epping Forest Tree Wardens for Veteran Tree Surveys and Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group for pond surveys.

WOODLANDS

Aim 6	Achieve favourable management of woodlands in the district				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
6.1 Promote positive management of LoWS woodland sites across the district linked to NI197.	6.1.1 Encourage all “partner” owned woodlands into to have up to date management plans. 6.1.2 Facilitate woodland owner applications to grant schemes where Appropriate in 2010 6.1.3 Target woodlands with the FC Cluster Area.	EWT, WT, CoL, EFDC, LVRPA, FWAG, EFBP	EFDC FWAG	06/2008 06/2008	EFBP EFBP
6.2 Identify the owners of LoWS woodland sites.	6.2.2 Produce a list of all woodland owners of LoWS (125 sites). June 2010 – ownership known for 97 woodland LoWS (77%)	Parish and town councils, EWT, ECC	EFDC	12/2008	EFBP
6.3 Produce positive conservation management statements for all Woodland LoWS linked to NI197.	6.3.1 Produce 40 PCM Statement’s and demonstrate that some positive management has been undertaken	EFDC, EWT, WT, CoL, LVRA	ECC	03/2011	EFBP
6.4 ID key Woodland Sites across the district.	6.4.1 ID sites – Epping Forest, Hainault, Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Lambourne Woods Complex, Bechet Wood, Theydon Mount, Envilles Farm Cluster, Fyfield, Deerpark, Roughtalley’s Wood Complex (LNR and Burial Park), Theydon Bois Wood (WT) and Galleyhill Woods Complex.				
6.5 ID key Woodland Sites across the district within the WGS Cluster Area (80% grant funding)	6.5.1 ID 2 woodlands to take forward as part of WGS priority Cluster group	EFDC, EWT, WT, CoL,		03/2011	

TREES

Aim 7	Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district					
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring	
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	See Completed Action Plan Targets (9 parishes completed)	EFDC, WT CoL	EFDC		EFBP	
	7.1.1 Complete the survey of Abbess Roding parish. March 2009: 3 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 5 veteran trees recorded					03/2011
	7.1.2 Complete the survey of Beauchamp Roding parish March 2009: Not started June 2010: 1 veteran trees recorded					03/2011
	7.1.3 Complete the survey of Berners Roding parish. March 2009: Not started June 2010: 50 veteran trees recorded					03/2011
	7.1.4 Complete the survey of Bobbingworth parish. March 2009: 26 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 42 veteran trees recorded					03/2010
	7.1.5 Complete the survey of Chigwell parish. March 2009: 153 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 200 veteran trees recorded					12/2010
	7.1.6 Complete the survey of Epping parish March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 9 veteran trees recorded					03/2011
	7.1.7 Complete the survey of Fyfield parish. March 2009: 27 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 50 veteran trees recorded					03/2010

Aim 7	Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	<p>7.1.8 Complete the survey of High Ongar parish. March 2009: 10 veteran trees recorded June 010: 12 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.9 Complete the survey of Loughton parish. March 2009: 85 veteran trees recorded June 210: 100 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.10 Complete the survey of Magdalen Laver parish. March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded June 210: 23 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.11 Complete the survey of Matching parish March 2009: 38 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 39 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.12 Complete the survey of Moreton parish. March 2009: 10 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 27 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.13 Complete the survey of Nazeing parish. March 2009: 152 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 164 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.14 Complete the survey of Sheering parish. March 2009: 5 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 5 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.15 Complete the survey of Stapleford Tawney parish. March 2009: 7 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 56 veteran trees recorded</p>	EFDC, WT CoL	EFDC	03/2011 10/2010 10/2010 03/2011 10/2010 10/2010 03/2011 03/2011	

Aim 7	Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	7.1.16 Complete the survey of Stanford Rivers parish. March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 37 veteran trees recorded	EFDC, WT CoL	EFDC	03/2011	
	7.1.17 Complete the survey of Theydon Garnon parish. March 2009: 39 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 39 veteran trees recorded			03/2011	
	7.1.18 Complete the survey of Theydon Mount parish. March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 20 veteran trees recorded			03/2011	
	7.1.19 Complete the survey of Waltham Abbey parish. March 2009: 263 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 369 veteran trees recorded			03/2011	
	7.1.20 Complete the survey of Willingale parish. March 2009: 13 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 48 veteran trees recorded			10/2010	
	7.1.21 Conduct a survey of veteran trees in Epping Forest			03/2011	
	7.1.22 Record 3,000 veteran and notable trees on the Favourite Trees Website: February 2009: 2,005 veteran trees June 2010: 3,529 veteran and notable trees recorded 17 ancient trees, 2,584 veteran trees and 886 others.			03/2011	
				03/2011	

Aim 7	Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district				
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
7.2 Ensure the veteran tree survey data is disseminated to all relevant partners	7.2.1 Supply data to the Woodland Trust's National Ancient Tree Hunt. January 2008: EFDC are signed up as partners. Records of approx 500 veteran trees have been transferred.	EFDC/WT	EFDC	03/2010	
7.2 Involve the local community including tree wardens in surveying for trees across the district.	7.2.1 Organise 3 veteran tree hunts in 2010 7.2.2 Organise 3 veteran tree hunts in 2011	EFDC, WT, City of London, FSC	EFDC	03/2011	EFBP
7.3 Ensure the protection and conservation of wild service trees across the District.	7.3.1 Record all trees on Favourite Trees web site. March 2009: 31 trees recorded January 2010: 44 trees recorded June 2010: 44 trees recorded	EFDC, WT, CoL	EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP
7.4 Ensure the protection and conservation of native black poplars in the district.	7.4.1 Identify all owners of black poplars across the district. 7.4.2 Offer management advice as appropriate. 7.4.3 Produce a leaflet for tree owners on the ecology of native black poplars and why they are special. 7.4.4 Take cuttings of individual trees for inclusion in "clone bank" nursery. 7.4.5 Record all known black poplar trees on the Favourite Trees Website. February 2009: 27 trees recorded. January 2010: 32 trees recorded June 2010 : 32 recorded	BSBI, EWT, EFDC	BSBI	03/2011 03/2011 03/2011 ?? 03/2011	EFBP

HEDGEROWS

Aim 8	Encourage the appropriate management of hedgerows and endeavour to extend existing area of hedgerows				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
8.1 Record species rich and ancient hedgerows across the district.	8.1.1 Undertake hedgerow surveys across the district starting with: 1) Roding Valley Meadows – No progress 2) Ongar parish – No progress 3) Cobbins Brook – No Progress 4) Parish boundary hedgerows – No progress	EWT	EFDC	03/2011	EFBP
8.2 Extend areas of hedgerows in the district.	8.2.2 Promote a minimum of four free hedge schemes per year to landowners, creating a min of 750m of new hedgerow.	Parish/town Councils, Essex County Council(ECC) Woodland	EFDC	Annually	EFBP
8.3 Increase the number of hedgerows that receive appropriate management	8.3.1 Inform and educate landowner with ancient hedgerows on their land to manage their hedgerows properly.	EFDC	FWAG	12/2009	EFBP
8.4 Describe the characteristic hedge types of the district.	8.4.1 To be completed after the initial hedgerow survey of northern parishes is completed.	EWT/FWAG	EFDC	12/2010	EFBP

SPECIES RICH GRASSLANDS

Aim 9	Achieve favourable management of species rich grassland in the district				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
9.1 Halt the loss of species rich grassland.	9.1.1 Identify the owners of all grassland LoWS (40 sites) January 2010: 27 LoWS owners identified.	EFDC, Parish/town councils	EWT	08/2008	EFBP
	9.1.2 Continue to manage special roadside verges. January 2010: EWT, EFDC, CoL, BSBI and ECC have resurveyed and ID new suite of sites	ECC,EWT, CoL, BSBI	ECC	Ongoing	
	9.1.3 Produce 10 PCM's and demonstrate that some positive management has been undertaken. January 2010: 6 produced June 2010: 8 produced	EWT/ECC	EFDC	03/2011	
	9.1.4 Advise owners of grassland LoWs about appropriate grants and management.	EWT/ECC	EFDC	03/2011	
9.2 ID key grassland sites in the Epping Forest District	Key sites: Roding Valley Meadows SSSI, Warley's Meadow LoWS, Fernhill's, Yardley Hill SSSI, Yates's Meadow LoWS, Shepherd's Meadow LoWS, Matching Green LoWS, Hawksmere Spring NR LoWS and Gunpowder Park LoWS.				

Aim 10	Increase the area of species rich grassland by appropriate restoration and creation				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
10.1 To create 10	10.1.1 Create and restore 3.5 hectares of grassland per	WT, CoL,	EFDC	12/2008	EFBP

Aim 10	Increase the area of species rich grassland by appropriate restoration and creation				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
ha of species rich grassland in the district by 2010.	year. October 2009: 7 hectares of grassland created at Bobbingworth Landfill site February 2010 – Nazeing Church Fields	EWT, EFDC, LVRPA		annually to 2010	

HEATHLAND

Aim 11	Achieve favourable management of species rich grassland in the district				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
11.1 ID key heathland sites in the Epping Forest District	Key sites: Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Hainault Forest, Norton Heath LoWS, Epping Forest SSSI (Long Running and Deershelter Plain)	WT, CoL, EWT, EFDC, LVRPA		11/2008 annually to 2010	

Aim 12	Increase the area of heathland by appropriate restoration and creation				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
12.1 To restore 1 ha of heathland by 2010.	12.1.1 Restore one third of a hectare of heath land per year. January 2010: Norton Heath 0.2 h, Chigwell Row Wood 0.3h, Kate's Cellar (Epping Forest) 1.5ha	WT, CoL, EWT, EFDC, LVRPA	EFDC	12/2008 annually to 2010	EFBP

PONDS

Aim 13	Support the protection and appropriate management of ponds and their surrounding habitats in the district				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
13.1 Ensure that ponds and surrounding habitats are surveyed.	13.1.1 Identify location of Parish ponds by undertaking Parish pond surveys. January 2010: No progress 13.1.2 Produce list of significant ponds on partners land holdings. January 2010: No progress	EARG EWT,WT, COL, LVRP, FWAG	EFDC EFDC	12/2010 12/2010	EFBP EFBP
13.2 Raise awareness of importance of ponds in the wider countryside and gardens.	13.2.1 Promote pond management and creation for biodiversity value when attending events. January 2010: Feedback from EARG required 13.2.1 Distribute leaflets on pond management/creation. January 2010: Feedback from EARG required	EARG EWT FWAG	EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP
13.3 Restore existing ponds in the District through appropriate management.	13.3.1 Restore a minimum of 2 ponds per year. 2008: 2009: Nazeing Triangle LNR	WT, CoL, EWT, EFDC, LVRPA, FWAG	EFDC	12/2008	EFBP
13.4 Create new ponds across the District.	13.4.1 "Partners" to create a min of 2 ponds per year. 2008: 2009: Bobbingworth Tip and Swaines Green	EARG, EA EARG, EA,	EFDC EFDC	Annually Ongoing	EFBP EFBP

Aim 13	Support the protection and appropriate management of ponds and their surrounding habitats in the district				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
	13.4.2 Encourage the public to create ponds where appropriate via EFDC website and by giving advice on creation and grant funding.	FWAG			
13.5 Conduct surveys for Great Crested Newts (GCN).	13.5.1 Undertake a GCN survey of Nazeing Parish, then concentrate surveys on known areas of population. January 2010: No progress 13.5.2 Undertake further surveys in known areas of population. January 2010: Feedback from EARG required	EARG EARG	EFDC EFDC	03/2008 12/2008	EFBP EFBP
13.6 ID key pond sites within the district.	Key Sites: Nazeing Triangle LNR, Epping Forest SSSI - Wake Valley Pond				

LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNRs)

Aim 14	To achieve Natural England's access to natural greenspace target of at least one hectare of LNR per 1000 population.				
Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
<p>14.1 Increase the area of land declared as a Local Nature Reserve within the district. Achieve the designation of a further 30 hectares to meet NE green space target of 1ha of LNR per 1000 head of population.</p>	<p>14.1.1 EFDC has 9 LNRs covering 90ha. Investigate the potential for the following sites to be declared LNRs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Norton Heath Common, High Ongar (4.3ha) January 2010: Still in community consultation stage. Local opposition towards management 2) Swaines Green, Epping (9.64ha) January 2010: No progress 3) Worlds End, Roydon (4.6ha) January 2010: No progress 4) Apes Grove Wood, Lambourne (5.9ha) January 2010: Negotiations between EFDC and ECC established. Management agreement being looked at by Legal Sections 	<p>ECC, CoL, Parish and Town Councils</p>	<p>EFDC</p>	<p>12/2010</p> <p>12/2009</p> <p>12/2011</p> <p>03/2011</p>	<p>EFBP</p>

ACTION PLAN TARGETS COMPLETED

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
1.1 Establish effective mechanism for promotion, implementation, monitoring and developing of LBAP	Steering Group established with a range of partner organisations – 3 Steering Group Meetings held 19 November 2008, 25 February 2009 and 9 June 2010.	June 2010
2.1 Establish a mechanism to publicise and raise awareness of biodiversity issues to local residents.	Web page developed on EFDC website for biodiversity, to promote the issue throughout the district. Link the EFDC Biodiversity page to all partners websites. Identify individual contact person within all parish and town councils in the district to facilitate closer working and better communication. (Partially done via Epping Forest Countrycare Liaison Group)	December 2008 February 2009 April 2009
2.3 Organise and participate in promotional events across the district to promote biodiversity issues	Hold one promotional event per year, e.g. LNR Week. 2009 – EFDC partners with BBC Breathing Spaces 2010 - “The International Year of Biodiversity” EFDC signed up as partners: Volunteer Event held on World Environment Day June 2010 Ensure at least 7,000 volunteer hours are given on biodiversity projects across the district annually. 2008 Total = 7088 EFDC Countrycare – 4544 hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Roding Valley Meadows) – 2544hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Gernon Bushes) – Not Known Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers - ??????	Ongoing Targets

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
	<p>Lee Valley Regional Park Authority – Not known Epping Forest Centenary Trust – Not known</p> <p>2009 Total = 9938 EFDC Countrycare – 4544 hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Roding Valley Meadows) – 2544hrs Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers – 2850 hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Gernon Bushes) – Not Known Lee Valley Regional Park Authority – Not known Epping Forest Centenary Trust – Not known</p> <p>Expand the Countrycare website and advertise all volunteering opportunities for the district.</p> <p>Organise a minimum of ten nature walks per year across the district.</p> <p>2008 - EFDC Countrycare – 4 walks</p> <p>2009 - EFDC Countrycare - 7 walks</p> <p>Develop 2 new biodiversity projects a year, with partners in the district.</p> <p>2008/09. 1. District wide Veteran Tree Hunt with Woodland Trust 2. Cripsey Brook Nature Reserve with Ongar Town Council.</p> <p>2009/10 1. Willingale Road Allotments, Loughton with Loughton TC 2. Bobbingworth Former Landfill Site 3. Thomas Willingale School Nature Area Project</p>	<p>May 2009</p>

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
<p>2.4 Work towards achieving the objectives of NI197 (Biodiversity and LoWS)</p>	<p>Produce positive conservation management statements (PCMs) for 73 LoWS. Baseline 6 (April 2008) to achieve 73 PCMs (March 2011).</p> <p>TARGET 2009/10 – 35 LoWS in PCM</p> <p>ACTUAL 2009/10 – 46 LoWS in PCM</p>	<p>31 March 2010</p>
<p>3.1 Increase public understanding and interest in the value of biodiversity in gardens.</p>	<p>January 2010: EFDC partners for 2009/10 Breathing Spaces and 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote school gardens/allotments and wildlife friendly areas within Allotments and School Grounds. Willingale Road Allotments Thomas Willingale School</p>	<p>January 2010 March and June 2010</p>
<p>4.1 Establish effective links/partnership projects with six farmers by 2010</p>	<p>Mark Iley EBP – links through Rural LAA strand</p> <p>Links/projects with a 6 farms/private landowners achieved.</p> <p>Barbers Wood LoWS The Mores LoWS Nazeing Church Fields LoWS Fyfield Woods LoWS Spains Wood LoWS Deerpark Wood LoWS</p>	
<p>5.1 Maintain, improve and restore the biodiversity of 30 ha of farmland in</p>	<p>Offer assistance to farmers to enable the uptake of agri-environment schemes across the district.</p>	

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
the district by 2010.	Maynards Farm, Upshire – HLS application	January 2010
6.1 Promote positive management of LoWS woodland sites across the district linked to NI197.	<p>Facilitate woodland owner applications to grant schemes where appropriate.</p> <p>Barbers Wood, Theydon Mount (EFDC CC - March 2009) Spains Wood, Willingale (EFDC CC - July 2009) Northlands Wood, Stanford Rivers (EFDC CC - July 2009) Deerpark Wood, Nazeing (EFDC CC - Nov 2009) Icehouse/Langford Bottom (EFDC CC - Dec 2009) Apes Grove Wood (ECC - Feb 2010) Great Wood (ECC - Feb 2010)</p>	Ongoing
6.2 Identify the owners of LoWS woodland sites.	Send maps identifying woodland wildlife sites to all parish and town councils.	April 2009
6.3 Produce positive conservation management statements for all Woodland LoWS linked to NI197.	<p>Produce 40 PCM Statement's and demonstrate that some positive management has been undertaken.</p> <p>January 2010 – PCM Statements produced for 21 woodland LoWS</p>	
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	<p>Complete the survey of Stapleford Abbots parish. 163 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of Lambourne parish. 310 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of Theydon Bois parish. 101 veteran trees recorded.</p>	<p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p>

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
	<p>Complete the survey of North Weald parish. 62 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of Roydon parish. 157 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of Epping Upland parish. 144 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of High Laver parish 75 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>Complete the survey of Little Laver parish. 15 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>Complete the survey of Ongar parish. 54 veteran trees recorded</p>	<p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p> <p>August 2009</p> <p>August 2009</p> <p>October 2009</p>
<p>7.2 Involve the local community including tree wardens in surveying for trees across the district.</p>	<p>Organise 3 veteran tree awareness days in 2008 Launch of Ongar Tree Strategy, Ongar Training Day Upshire, Waltham Abbey Summer of Hugs Event, High Beach, Waltham Abbey Veteran Tree Hunt, Loughton</p> <p>Organise 3 veteran tree hunt awareness days in 2009. Lambourne Parish Sheering Parish Stapleford Tawney/Theydon Mount parish</p>	<p>19 April 2008 22 June 2008 05 July 2008 16 October 2008</p> <p>26 April 2009 17 May 2009 4 October 2010</p>
<p>7.4 Ensure the protection and conservation of native black poplars in the district</p>	<p>DNA Clone type known for all Black Poplars "Groups" within in the district undertaken by Dr K Adams BSBI</p>	<p>April 2010</p>

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
8.1 Record species rich and ancient hedgerows across the district.	Sheering, Matching, Bobbingworth and the Lavers Parishes. - Local Hedgerows Survey Grant secured from DEFRA (April 2010) – 100 hedgerows to be surveyed.	Started June 2010
8.2 Extend areas of hedgerows in the district.	Promote a minimum of four free hedge schemes per year to landowners, creating a min of 750m of new hedgerow. 590m created (12 schemes) 915m created (14 schemes)	31 March 2009 31 March 2010
9.1 Halt the loss of species rich grassland.	Advise owners of grassland LoWs about appropriate grants and management. Dorkins Farm Meadow, Moreton All Saints Churchyard, Epping Upland The Mores, Fyfield Nazeing Church Fields, Nazeing	August 2009 August 2009 September 2009 January 2010

Annex 1

Organisations in Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership (July 2010)

Epping Forest District Council
Essex County Council
Essex Biodiversity Project
City of London (Epping Forest)
Essex Wildlife Trust
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Botanical Society of the British Isles
Woodland Trust
Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers
Field Studies Council (Epping Forest)
Essex Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Natural England
Environment Agency
Parish and Town Councils of the Epping Forest District
Epping Forest Burial Park

Annex 2 - Glossary of terms used and explanations.

Good Quality Field Margins

Field margins refer to the land between the field boundary feature and crop on arable fields (particularly cereals) or grasslands. Field margins of good quality are defined as ones which have high species and structural diversity and support key farmland species.

Public Surveys

Within the document reference is made to public surveys. This refers to survey work which will be co-coordinated by EF Countrycare and partners and the local community. E.g. Epping Forest Tree Wardens for Veteran Tree Surveys and Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group for pond surveys.

Phase 1 Habitat Classification

This classification was developed in the 1980s for the purpose of mapping terrestrial and freshwater habitats within SSSIs and nature reserves, and for larger scale strategic surveys. The classification has subsequently been used extensively for major surveys, including a Phase 1 habitat survey of Wales completed in 1996. The classification has been adopted by the Institute of Environmental Assessors as one of the standard methods for preparation of Environmental Statements under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1988. The classification was originally published by NCC (reprinted by JNCC) and is supported by a field manual (JNCC)

Ancient semi-natural woodland is woodland that is known to have existed before 1600 and Secondary Woodland is woodland that has developed on land which at sometime has not been wooded.

Local Wildlife Sites are “a discrete area of land which is considered to be of significance for its wildlife features in at least a District/Borough/ Unitary Authority context”. LWS were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a phase one-habitat survey of the District in 1991 (revised 1996 and 1998). Formerly known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), County Wildlife Sites and Wildlife Sites. The Epping Forest District has 181 Wildlife Sites. That breaks down into 118 Woodlands, 39 grasslands, 19 mosaic sites and 5 fresh water aquatic.

Veteran trees are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition. As a rule, a tree that is either over 250 years old or has a diameter of over 3 metres at breast height can be described as a veteran. However, other factors must be considered such as the location and past management of the tree.