



ENGLISH
NATURE

Report Number

484

Evaluation of development plans to assess biological and geological policy issues

English Nature Research Reports



working today
for nature tomorrow

English Nature Research Reports

Number 484

Evaluation of Development plans to assess biological and geological policy issues

Ciceley Postan – Baker Associates
Carl Simms – English Nature, Environmental Impacts Team

You may reproduce as many additional copies of
this report as you like, provided such copies stipulate that
copyright remains with English Nature,
Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA

ISSN 0967-876X
© Copyright English Nature 2003

Summary

This report assesses the extent to which nature conservation policies, based on the model policies English Nature uses, appear within a selection of development plans. A cross section of plans were taken and reviewed using a checklist to assess the content of their nature conservation policies. The data was noted and results were generated and conclusions made. Any good policies or policies, which were similar to the content of the model policies, were noted.

The results of the report show that all development plans contain at least one Nature Conservation policy. On average local plans and Unitary Development Plans Part IIs contained over twice as many policies as Structure Plans and Unitary Development Plans Part Is. Policy coverage was varied, with most containing policies on the protection of designated sites and species protection. Far fewer plans covered the more specific aspects of nature conservation such as wildlife corridors, habitat creation and access. The length and quality of policies varied greatly

Policies followed the aspirations of English Nature to a limited extent. Areas of policy were similar but no plans followed English Nature examples exactly or in full although some had similar wording. Those policies most closely linked to those English Nature model policies were those backed up by other legislation or guidance e.g. Habitats Directive or PPGs.

This report provides a base line of information that will contribute to English Nature's priority setting for policy promotion with local authorities.

Contents

Summary

1.	Introduction.....	9
1.1	Study task.....	9
1.2	Development plans - the current situation.....	9
1.3	Forthcoming changes to the development plans system.....	10
2.	Methodology	10
2.1	Overall approach.....	10
2.2	Selection of plans for examination.....	10
2.3	Preparation of the checklist.....	12
2.4	Collecting the data	12
2.5	The final sample.....	13
3.	Results.....	14
3.1	Overview	14
3.2	Site protection for biodiversity	15
3.3	Site protection for geological sites	16
3.4	Species protection.....	16
3.5	Other policies protecting and enhancing nature conservation resources	17
3.6	Environmental Impact Assessment.....	18
3.7	Biodiversity Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance.....	18
4.	Example policies	19
4.1	Introduction.....	19
4.2	Structure plan policies.....	19
4.3	Unitary development.....	21
4.4	Local plans - general comment	23
4.5	Local plans - general considerations policy.....	23
4.6	Local plans - site protection (designations)	23
4.7	Species protection.....	25
4.8	Geology	26
4.9	Protected areas	27
4.10	Features	27
4.11	Wildlife corridors	28
4.12	Habitat creation.....	28
4.13	Access	29
4.14	Mitigation.....	29
4.15	Other.....	30
5.	Conclusions.....	31
5.1	General	31
5.2	Comparison with the English Nature <i>Local Authorities Handbook</i>	32
5.3	Policy coverage	32
5.4	Impact of the planning Green Paper	33
	Appendix 1 – Plans examined.....	35
	Appendix 2 – Summary of findings	41

1. Introduction

1.1 Study task

English Nature encourages local and strategic planning authorities to include policies in their development plans that promote English Nature's nature conservation objectives. English Nature currently has a role as a statutory consultee in development plan preparation and development control.

Considerable importance is attached to ensuring that development plans contain comprehensive and up to date policies. This is because they set the framework within which all applications for development are considered. It follows, therefore, that ensuring nature conservation policies in development plans accord with the aims of English Nature, should help lead to better decisions that conserve, enhance and restore (as appropriate) the nature conservation and geological heritage.

The principal aim of this piece of research is to establish the extent to which the biological and geological policy issues of relevance to English Nature are covered in existing development plans (unitary development plans, structure plans, and local plans).

1.2 Development plans - the current situation

1.4 PPG1: General Policy and Principles (1997) sets out the purposes of the planning system and the role of development plans:

“The planning system regulates the development and use of land in the public interest. The system as a whole, and the preparation of development plans in particular, is the most effective way of reconciling the demand for development and the protection of the environment.” (para 39).

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 12: Development Plans (1999) contains a comprehensive statement of current Government policy in relation to the development plan process. This PPG provides advice on the general content of plans, and a strategic overview of the role and importance of development plans within the planning system. It also emphasises the Government's commitment to a plan-led system, i.e. that development plans provide the basis for all other planning decisions. The legislative requirement is for development plans to be prepared for all planning authority areas, and the policies contained within the plans must be considered in planning decisions.

Other PPGs set out more specific guidance for the topics covered in development plans. Of most relevance to English Nature is PPG9: Nature Conservation (1994) and to a lesser extent PPG7: The Countryside (1997).

The current development plan is rarely a single document. It may comprise one or more types of plan, depending on geographical location. The types of plan include: **structure plans** (SP), produced by county councils, some unitary authorities and National Park authorities, these set out key, strategic policies and provide a framework for local plans; **local plans** (LP), produced by district councils, some unitary and National Park authorities in which more detailed policies are set out to guide development in a particular local authority area; **unitary development plans** (UDP) this contains all the planning policies relevant to those areas. Part

I of a UDP consists of a written statement of the local authority's strategic policies for the development and use of land in their area. This forms the framework for the detailed proposals for the use and development of the land in Part II of the UDP. (PPG12: 1999)

1.3 Forthcoming changes to the development plans system

The Government is committed to a radical overhaul of the planning system. It is understood that there will be new primary legislation. Many of the changes are still unclear, but a number of matters of relevance to this paper can be discerned:

- the commitment to a plan-led system will remain;
- development plans as we currently know them will disappear;
- regional planning will become more important, as will sub-regional planning where local circumstances suggest that this is appropriate e.g. strategic expansion of a major city;
- local development documents will be prepared at the local level and will be supplemented by a range of topic plans which will be able to cover a wide range of material.

It can be anticipated that the need for effective policy formulation will remain as strong as ever, and that the lessons on current practice will be transferable to the new system when it is introduced (though these policies in themselves may not be sufficient to make English Nature's contribution to the new plans). Meanwhile, authorities are instructed to continue with the preparation of development plans.

2. Methodology

2.1 Overall approach

The task of reviewing development plan content on nature conservation is more complex than it may initially seem as the majority of development plan policies are individually written to reflect the particular circumstances of the plan area. In some authorities, a number of matters may be included in one policy, whilst in others there are several different policies. Some authorities develop policies that are very specific to their area, whilst others set out a more generalised approach.

To deal with this, an evaluation approach was required that promoted rigour and objectivity. The chosen method was a simple checklist to ascertain the scope of the nature conservation content of each plan. In addition, a more subjective approach was taken whereby policies that display 'good practice' were extracted from plans for subsequent examination and discussion.

2.2 Selection of plans for examination

The target was to examine approximately one-third of plans. However, it proved impossible to obtain a clear picture (e.g. from Government Offices) of exactly how many plans there are. A useful benchmark is that there are over 300 local and unitary authorities, plus the counties. Some authorities combine to produce joint SPs.

The first task involved choosing which plans to evaluate. A number of factors were taken into account:

- **status of plan:** only plans which had reached a statutory stage in the plan making process (and therefore a sufficient level of finality to represent a Council's policy position) were taken into account; these were:
 - first deposit plans
 - second deposit plans
 - modifications (both pre-Inquiry and post Inquiry)
 - adopted plans

issues papers and other non statutory stages were not used because they rarely contain policies and carry little legislative weight

- **the most up-to-date plan for the authority:** the most up-to-date plan from the four detailed above was the one chosen for examination
- **age of plan:** many extant plans are now very old, and the decision was made to favour newer plans wherever possible since these give a better indication of current practice
- **distribution between structure plans, unitary plans, and local plans:** given the differences in content and style between structure plans, local plans and UDPs, it was decided that a third of each should be appraised rather than a third of the total regardless of composition; this also enabled comparisons to be made between the policy coverage in these plans
- **geographical considerations:** the aim was to achieve geographical coverage of all the regions of England.

At the outset two principal sources of plans were explored. These were:

- the Internet, since plans on the Internet tend to be the most up-to date plans rather than the ones from authorities that adopted them a long time ago and have made no progress since;
- direct contact with local authorities, requesting their nature conservation policies to be sent by fax or e-mail; this was intended to help us ensure that we got good geographical coverage.

In practice, contacting the local authorities proved too time consuming, given the timescale for the study and the quality of the results it produced. Evaluating the nature conservation policies in isolation from the rest of the plan was unsatisfactory due to lack of context, and this method was therefore not pursued. This left the practical difficulty of finding a large number of development plans within a short space of time. Plans from the Internet were supplemented from the consultants in house library

A consequence of this has been that, whilst there is a good national spread, slightly more of the local plans evaluated are from the South West and South East, due to the bias towards these areas in the in-house library. A greater number of UDPs and structure plans were available on the Internet and here a greater national spread of plans could be achieved for

these categories. As some regions have a greater proportion of unitary authorities to district authorities, for example the North West and North East, this has also contributed to some regions being more represented by one type of plan.

Overall, it is not felt that any substantial bias has been introduced in this way, and consider that it is an advantage to have made use of the Internet and got strong representation of recent plans.

2.3 Preparation of the checklist

The second task involved the preparation of the checklist for plan content evaluation. Given the number of plans to be appraised, any checklist had to be succinct. The checklist was discussed with English Nature and then piloted. It was reshaped following the pilot to ensure that the study could be achieved within the available time.

This checklist was based on the main biological and geological policy issues of interest to English Nature, drawn from the *Local Authorities Handbook*. They were:

- environmental keynote policy and/or sustainable development policy;
- general consideration of nature conservation;
- internationally protected sites;
- nationally protected sites;
- local sites;
- natural area protection;
- features of major importance to nature conservation;
- wildlife corridors, etc;
- habitat creation/enhancement ;
- nature reserves and species protection;
- BAPs/specific habitats.

This list represents the core of the content. In practice, three slightly different check lists were tailored to reflect each of the types of plan. In addition to information about plan content, background information about the plan was included in the checklist i.e. plan name, year, stage of plan preparation etc.

2.4 Collecting the data

In order to ensure a standardised approach, two people were involved in the evaluation of the plans. Due to the individuality of each plan, it was important to be consistent in the approach taken. To achieve this, a set of ‘rules’ was devised to promote consistency. The most important of these were:

- only the content of the policy statement was evaluated and not the supporting text – although policy and text were read in conjunction to get a better understanding of the policy;

- the nature conservation and geology considerations were included both when they appeared as separate policies and when combined in one policy.

Once the plans had been evaluated, the data was entered into a spreadsheet for analysis. This can be found in chapter 3.

In addition to using the checklist, any nature conservation or geology policies of interest were noted whilst the plans were being reviewed. This included policies that fit well with the English Nature model policies, and also policies that do not follow the English Nature model but would still provide benefit for nature conservation. A discussion of these policies is contained in chapter 4.

2.5 The final sample

In total 114 development plans were evaluated. This consisted of:

- 82 Local Plans
- 13 Structure Plans
- 21 UDPs.

Details of the plans chosen are included in Appendix 1.

As specified in earlier paragraphs, the most recent stage of each plan was chosen for evaluation and there was a bias towards the most recently prepared plans as a result of the use of the Internet. Despite this, some plans date back to 1995. These are structure plans and UDPs (which have a plan period of 15 years) rather than local plans (plan period 10 years).

The evaluation also included several plans from as recently as the month the evaluation was undertaken (February 2002). There is, therefore, a wide spread of practice demonstrated, although the analysis revealed that there seems to be little difference since 1995 in the nature conservation policies of the plans.

The regional spread of plans is shown below:

Table 1. Regional split of development plans evaluated

Region	NW	NE	WM	EM	YH	SE	SW	EA	GL
Local Plan	7	2	8	8	5	13	27	12	NA
Structure Plan	2	0	2	2	1	2	2	2	NA
UDP	7	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	10

(NM: North West; NE: North East; WM: West Midlands; EM: East Midlands; YH: Yorkshire and Humberside; SE: South East; SW: South West; EA: East Anglia; GL: Greater London)

As well as a split in regions, there was also a split in plan stage evaluated. As stated in previous paragraphs, every attempt was made to ensure that the stage reviewed was the most up-to-date (excluding Issues reports).

Table 2. Stages of development plans by type

	1 st Deposit	2 nd Deposit	Pre-inquiry modification	Post inquiry modification	Adopted
Local Plan	20	26	5	2	29
Structure Plan	5	NA	0	0	8
UDP	7	6	0	1	7

The table shows a relatively even spread of stages were evaluated, with the majority being at either second deposit or adopted.

3. Results

3.1 Overview

The purpose of this chapter is to set out the overall coverage of nature conservation matters included in development plans. It provides a baseline of information that will contribute to English Nature’s priority setting for information giving and policy promotion with local authorities. Appendix 2 contains a table that summarises the findings.

As a first step, the general coverage of nature conservation in all plans was examined. A primary finding of the evaluation is that all plans contain at least one nature conservation policy that, in general or specific terms, requires the protection of sites of nature conservation interest from unnecessary development.

Figure 1 shows the representation of policies in all types of plan evaluated.

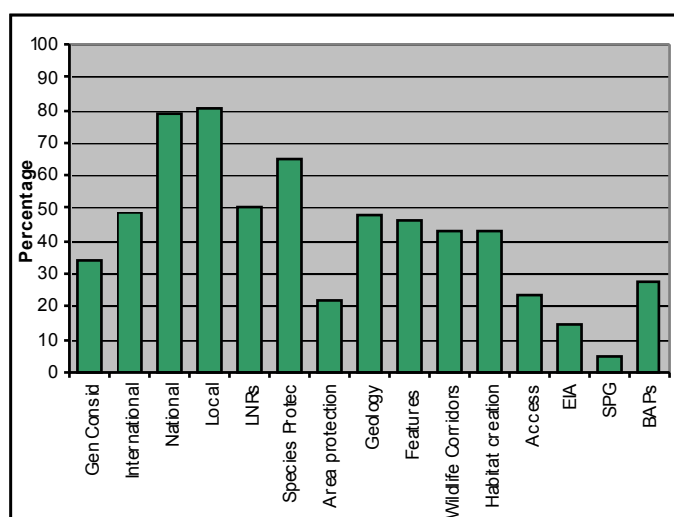


Figure 1. Inclusion of English Nature policy issues in all plans evaluated

There is relatively good coverage of policies that protect national and local nature conservation sites, at 80% and 79% of plans respectively. Another consideration that is well covered by plans is species protection (65%), yet this is still leaves more than a quarter of plans with no such policy.

At the other end of the spectrum, however, few plans (only 5%) make specific reference to nature conservation related supplementary planning guidance. Most of the other policies

explored are covered by only c.50% of plans or less. It is noteworthy that a general considerations policy, which often provides a good ‘scene setting’ policy, is contained in only 34% of the plans evaluated.

3.2 Site protection for biodiversity

Examination of coverage by the different categories of plans reveals some interesting differences. Figure 2 examines the coverage of different site designations by the different types of plan. It shows international sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas or Ramsar Sites), national sites for nature conservation (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves) and local sites of nature conservation interest (Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, County Wildlife Sites etc). It also examines whether distinctions were made between the various sites, or whether they were included in one catch all policy.

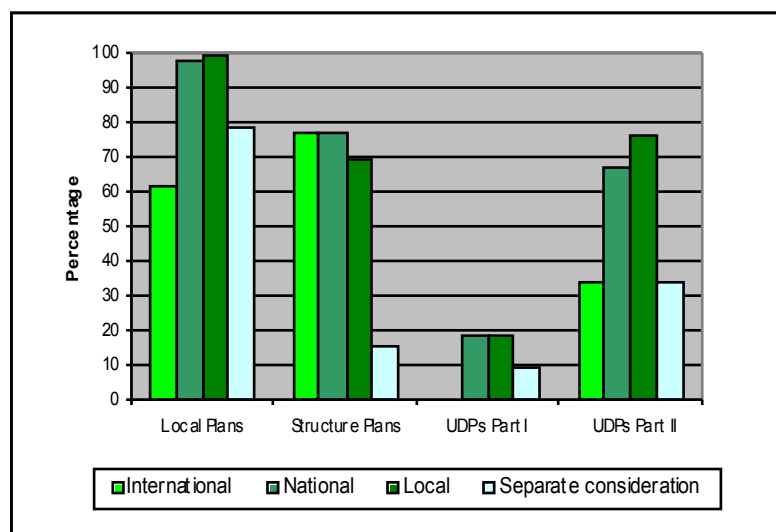


Figure 2. Development plans containing policies for nature conservation sites

An important point to note when interpreting the above figure is that these results do not distinguish between plans that do not contain a policy on, for example, international sites, because it is a poorly worded plan, and plans that do not contain a policy because there are no such sites in the plan area. Notwithstanding this, the figure does provide a good overall picture of the coverage of development plan policies on designated, and other, sites.

Not surprisingly, the results show that the most comprehensive coverage, and the greatest likelihood of separate consideration, is found in local plans. Over 76% of plans have separate policies (or parts of policies) for each of the designation types, which provide differing levels of protection.

Structure plans and part I UDPs rarely have separate considerations for the different site types. This reflects the strategic level of these plans, and the fact that specific policy considerations or criteria are expected to be covered by supporting local plans or be in part II of the UDP. The clear relationship between parts I and II of UDPs is demonstrated by these results, with few UDPs part I having any specifics, leading to more detail in part II.

The difference in the plan area covered by each type of development plan (urban or rural) also causes variations in the policy coverage. Most UDP areas are predominantly urban, and therefore much less likely to contain sites of international nature conservation importance. This is reflected in the policy coverage of these plans.

3.3 Site protection for geological sites

Specific policies for protection of geological sites are much less common than for biodiversity sites. The review looked for policies making specific reference to geology. This included geological SSSIs and regionally important geological sites (RIGS).

Again the findings are interesting (see figure 3). The highest level of representation is found in structure plans (c61%), compared with local plans (56%), UDP part IIs (29%), and UDP part Is (26%). The importance attached by structure plans probably reflects the occurrence of geological sites in open as opposed to intensely urban areas.

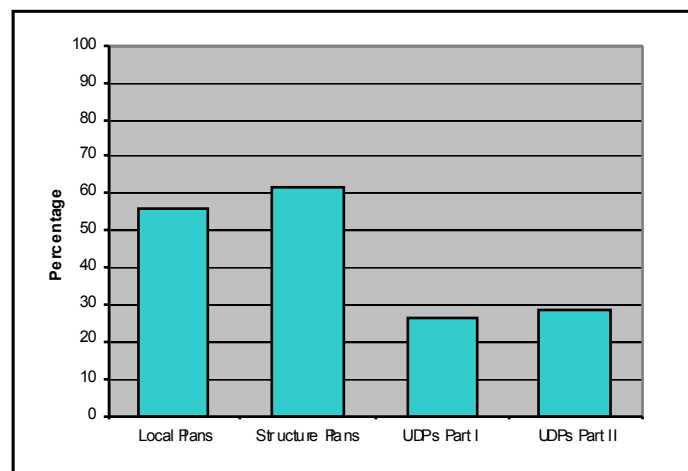


Figure 3. Development plans containing policies for geological protection

3.4 Species protection

Figure 4 sets out the extent to which each type of plan contains a policy specifically to protect species covered by law, such as badgers, rather than purely habitats.

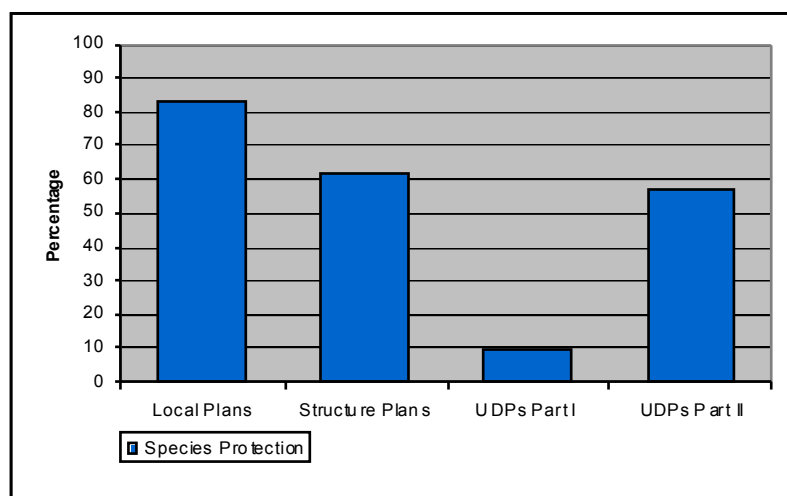


Figure 4. Development plans containing policies for species protection

This type of policy is a requirement of the European Habitats Directive, yet only 83% of the local plans evaluated contained such a policy and even fewer part II UDPs, at only 57%.

3.5 Other policies protecting and enhancing nature conservation resources

Three other policy areas that address the protection and enhancement of biodiversity resources were explored. They are:

- *features*: this is a policy that refers to conserving features of importance for wildlife in the wider countryside, including linear tree belts, ponds, hedgerows etc.
- *wildlife corridors*: this is a policy that specifically requires the preservation, enhancement or creation of wildlife migration networks through the plan area
- *habitat creation*: this is a policy that refers to the creation of new wildlife habitats, either through enhancement of existing open land, or through agreements with developers.

The findings are set out in figure 5.

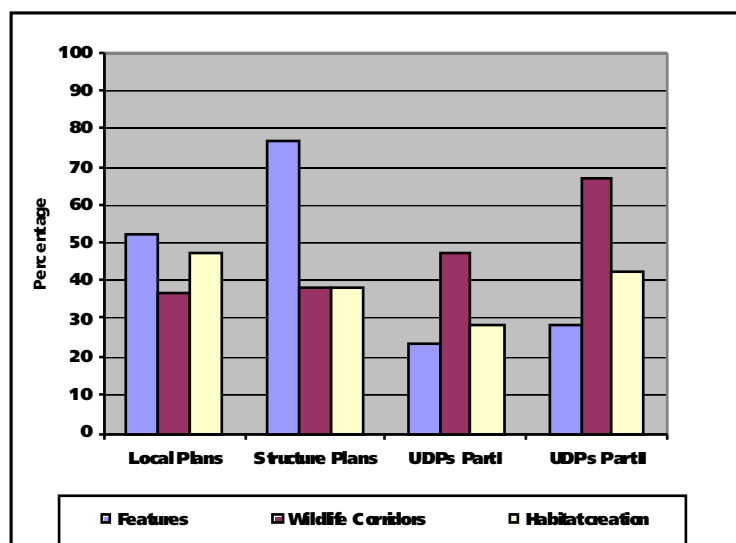


Figure 5. Development plans and policies to protect features, wildlife corridors, and for habitat creation

In summary, there is a relatively low coverage of these policy areas by all plans. There are various exceptions to this, for example 77% of structure plans contain a features policy, and 67% of UDPs part IIs contain a wildlife corridor policy. Conversely there are policy issues that are very poorly covered by some types of plan e.g. features of wildlife importance and geology are covered in less that 30% of UDPs part I.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 together highlight the clear distinction in the policy issues covered in local and structure plans on the one hand, and in UDPs on the other. Both the former have a greater coverage of geology and features, whilst UDPs have a greater coverage of wildlife corridors and habitat creation. As with the site designation, it is likely that this variation is associated with the different characteristics of the plan areas. Since most UDP areas are

predominantly urban, there will be less exposure of geologically important sites or presence of features of wildlife importance. There will, however, be important opportunities to improve wildlife migration routes and create new habitat areas.

The same observation can be made with respect to policies for access to sites of nature conservation importance (see figure 6).

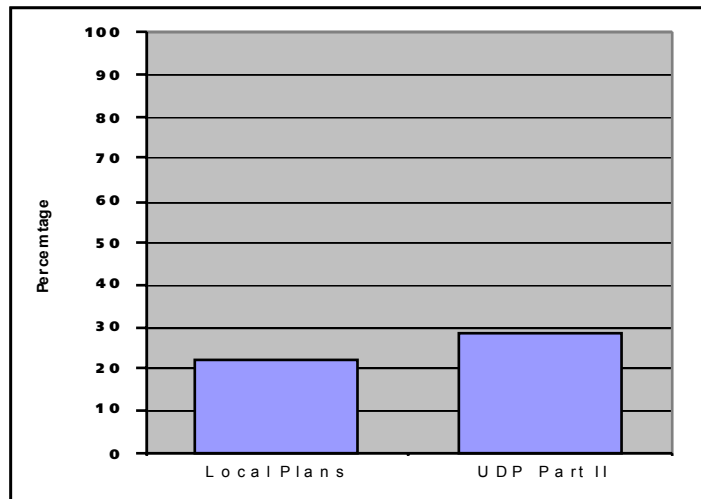


Figure 6. Development plans and policies to allow access to sites of nature conservation importance

The figure shows that, although low, the highest representation of such policies is in UDPs (29%). It is not surprising that more UDPs contain such a policy than any other plan type, but it is, perhaps, surprising that the percentage is not higher.

3.6 Environmental Impact Assessment

There are several other matters that are sometimes considered in development plans that are of relevance to nature conservation. The first is the issue of environmental impact assessment (EIA). It is a requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, that all development proposals that meet certain criteria include an EIA. English Nature's guidance to local authorities suggests that development plans should contain a reference to the requirement in the text of the plan, if not a policy.

In practice, only 17% of the development plans evaluated make reference to EIA, ranging from 24% of UDPs to only 13% of Local Plans, although as a legislative requirement it may not always be necessary to include it in a development plan.

3.7 Biodiversity Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are created at a number of levels from local to national and set out the objectives for nature conservation in the area they cover. 32% of the development plans evaluated contained some reference to BAPs, mainly in the supporting text of the plan but often also in the policies. The range of specific policy coverage for BAPs was from 39% coverage by structure plans, to 29% coverage in UDPs. In addition, several plans also referred to Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is a useful way of guiding development in any plan area. By cross-referencing SPG in the text of the nature conservation section of the plan, more comprehensive coverage of nature conservation issues can be achieved. The evaluation showed that only 6% of the plans contained a reference to SPG on nature conservation, with structure plans again making the greatest reference. However this was still only c.8%.

4. Example policies

4.1 Introduction

The checklist used in the first part of the evaluation gave a good broad view of the biological and geological policies covered by development plans. This part of the evaluation considers the development plan policies in greater detail, picking out plan policies that represent good practice. The policies selected either fit well with the model policies of the English Nature *Local Authority Handbook*, or cover issues not contained in the handbook but still of relevance to English Nature.

The good practice policies presented were identified when the plans were evaluated using the checklist and cover most of the topic issues in the handbook. However, it was not possible to find good practice examples for all of the issues.

As in the previous section, the three types of development plan, unitary development plans, structure plans, and local plans, are discussed separately due to the variations in their content and style. Broad similarities can be found between UDPs part II and local plan policies, and to a lesser extent between UDPs part I and structure plan policies.

4.2 Structure plan policies

Structure plans contain the strategic policies that guide local plans. For this reason, there are usually fewer and broader policies in SPs than in LPs.

The policy below (Lancashire Joint Structure Plan) is the only nature conservation policy in the plan. It encompasses many of the issues of importance to English Nature, yet in much less detail than in local plans or the model policies of the English Nature *Local Authorities Handbook*.

Policy 32: Lancashire's Natural and Manmade Heritage

Lancashire's natural and manmade heritage will be protected from loss or damage according to the hierarchy of designations of international, national, regional, county and local importance. The strongest levels of protection will be afforded to those heritage resources of international and national importance.

Sites, areas and features of heritage importance will be conserved and, in appropriate circumstances, enhanced and re-established taking account of:

- a) their rarity, vulnerability, antiquity or complexity;*
- b) their contribution to the countywide network of sites and features, to the character of its location and setting and to national and county biodiversity;*

- c) *positive opportunities afforded by development for the conservation, management or enhancement of heritage resources.*

Where, in exceptional circumstances, unavoidable loss or damage to a site or feature or its setting is likely as a result of a proposed development, measures of mitigation and compensation will be required to ensure there is no net loss of heritage value. Such measures may include the creation of appropriate new heritage resources, on or off-site

Replacement Joint Lancashire Structure Plan (Deposit 2002)

SPs normally only contain two or three broad policies on nature conservation. However, the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint SP contains a total of nine, including some on site protection that are similar to local plan policies. One is shown below, which covers nature conservation issues including habitat restoration/re-creation and the protection of landscape features of importance to nature conservation. It contains a cross-reference to the County BAP.

Biodiversity

The biodiversity of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin will be encouraged through protection, conservation, enhancement and restoration of the populations and natural ranges of species and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and ecosystems. The effects on wildlife will be taken fully into account by planning authorities when determining proposals for development and land use change.

Habitat types of high nature conservation importance which are in need of particular protection and sympathetic management have been identified as priorities for conservation at the national level by the UK Biodiversity Steering Group. These are listed in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Biodiversity Action Plans. Wherever possible the area of these habitats should be increased through appropriate restoration and/or re-creation to meet the targets set in the Biodiversity Action Plans. Particular care will be taken to safeguard and consolidate the integrity of linear and other landscape features which are of importance for wild fauna and flora.

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Structure Plan (Deposit, 2000)

More SPs contained a stand-alone policy on the protection of geological sites than any other type of plan reviewed. An example is shown below.

Environment Policy 4: Geology

Measures will be taken to protect and conserve sites of geological significance.

Development will only be acceptable where it would not adversely affect any proposed or designated Regionally Important Geological Site or Sites of Special Scientific Interest designated because of its geological interest, unless an overriding national need can be shown to outweigh the geological interest or a substitute site of equal or greater value can be provided.

In the exceptional circumstance where development is allowed which could adversely affect any site of geological significance, conditions will be imposed to:

- a) *minimise disturbance*

- b) *conserve its geological interest as far as possible, and/or where damage is unavoidable; and*
- c) *provide an acceptable substitute site.*

Leicestershire County Council Structure Plan (Deposit, 2000)

4.3 Unitary development

Unitary development plans (UDPs), consist of two parts: Part I sets out the strategic policies of the plan area, while part II contains more detailed and site specific policies. The type of nature conservation policies in a UDP is different in two ways from the other types of development plan evaluated. Coverage of issues of importance to English Nature is much lower. We assume that this is because UDPs usually cover more urban areas than the other two types of plan. The policy content reflects more urban considerations, with greater representation of policies on access to nature conservation sites, Local Nature Reserves and wildlife corridors.

The policies below are taken from Richmond-upon-Thames UDP, which, unusually for a UDP, has good coverage of nature conservation issues. Policy STG2 is a broad policy that covers the protection of both the natural (part a) and built environment (parts b and c), and is the only nature conservation policy in part I.

UDP PART I

STG2 The Environment

The Council will protect and enhance the open and the built environment. In particular it will:

- A safeguard the Borough's green belt and metropolitan open land and protect green chains and green corridors and other areas of open land which are important for visual reasons, agriculture, nature conservation, biodiversity, or sport and recreation;*

Two, of a total of ten, part II policies are shown below. ENV19 and 22 are typical of the type of policies that are common in more urban areas, as they both seek to maximise the biodiversity potential in an area short of this type of resource.

UDP PART II

ENV19 Nature conservation and development proposals

All new development will be expected to preserve and where possible enhance existing habitats and wildlife features. The opportunity should be taken in new and existing development to create appropriate new habitats, in the design of buildings themselves and in appropriate design and species in landscaping schemes and to incorporate features to attract wildlife. Supplementary planning guidance will be issued and site briefs will incorporate specific requirements. Conditions or agreements will be used where appropriate to protect features, secure mitigating measures or ensure appropriate management, and subsequent monitoring.

ENV22 Aims for public information and promotion of nature conservation

The Council will maintain and enhance the value of sites for nature conservation purposes by promoting a greater awareness of nature conservation, through publicity,

references to appropriate parts of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and interpretive material, by encouraging the involvement of local groups in nature conservation activity, by encouraging the development of nature conservation areas within schools, and by the use of sites of nature conservation interest for educational purposes. Due regard will be paid to the need to balance these aims with the protection of the ecology and environment from over-use.

Richmond Upon Thames UDP: 1st Review (Post deposit changes, 2001)

Warrington Borough Council UDP part I shows nature conservation as numbered points in a broad environment policy (GRN3), a development control policy (DCS1), and a planning obligations policy (DCS2 not shown).

UDP PART I

GRN3 Environmental Protection

In making provision for development and in determining planning applications, the Council will:

- 6 maintain and where possible enhance the Borough's biodiversity;*
- 7 protect sites of recognised importance for nature conservation;*
- 8 safeguard protected species and their habitats.*

DCS1 Development Control Strategy

All development should satisfy the following requirements:

- 2 it should not damage the conservation of recognised historic, architectural, archaeological, nature conservation, geological or landscape features or areas.*

The part II policy requires a developer to enter into agreements to safeguard nature conservation interest where it is threatened by the development, and requirements that must be met before development can proceed. This is quite a common form of mitigation used in development plans.

UDP PART II

GRN25 Protection of the Nature Conservation Resource

The Council will seek to negotiate with developers to secure an agreement to safeguard nature conservation interest whenever this is threatened by development proposals. To inform such negotiations, development proposals affecting protected sites, threatened habitats or wildlife corridors, should be accompanied by:

- 1 a site survey where necessary to identify features of nature conservation importance*
- 2 an assessment of the likely impacts of the development proposed*
- 3 proposals for the protection and management of features identified for retention*
- 4 proposals for compensating for features damaged or destroyed during the development process.*

Warrington Borough Council UDP (1st Deposit 2001)

4.4 Local plans - general comment

The scope and extent of policies relating to nature conservation in local plans is much more extensive. It is discussed here under a series of headings that look at the different topics covered.

4.5 Local plans - general considerations policy

A general considerations policy introduces nature conservation interests as a material consideration for all planning decisions throughout the plan area. The policy below (Hambleton District) is an example of a typical general nature conservation and geology policy.

Policy NCI General Nature Conservation considerations

In considering development proposals throughout the Plan area the effects upon wildlife, their habitats and upon geological features will be taken into account and proposals, which would be seriously harmful to them, will not be permitted. Where appropriate, the creation of new habitats and features of wildlife interest will be encouraged in new developments and elsewhere.

If development is permitted which would result in a loss of or a significant alteration to a site or habitat of nature conservation value, an agreement from the developer will be sought to carry out works to mitigate the effect by safeguarding as much of the nature conservation value of the site as possible and/or by implementing a scheme of habitat creation or improvement on, or in the locality of, the development site.

Hambleton District Wide Local Plan (Adopted 1999)

This policy also contains a mitigation section, which in some plans gets developed further. The policy does not stand alone, and in the Hambleton District Wide Local Plan is complemented by a further seven nature conservation policies.

4.6 Local plans - site protection (designations)

In PPG9 (Nature Conservation), guidance is given requiring all plans to contain policies to protect designated sites from development. Such policies should reflect the relative significance of each of these types of site, with particular emphasis on the strength of protection afforded to international designations. The PPG also states that local plans should include planning policies that contain criteria against which a development affecting a site will be judged. The policies shown below come from different plans and indicate how different authorities draft their policies.

The first (East Hertfordshire) details the protection to be given to internationally important sites within the plan area, reflecting the relative importance of these sites, following the lines of the Habitats Directive and PPG9. Similar policies are found in many other development plans.

*ENV19 Special Area of Conservation/Special Protection Area/ Ramsar Site
(I) Proposals for development or land use which may affect a designated or candidate Special Area of Conservation, a classified or potential Special Protection Area or a Ramsar Site will be subject to the most rigorous examination. Development or land*

use change not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site and which is likely to have significant effects on the site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) and which would affect the integrity of the site will not be permitted unless the District Council is satisfied that:

- a) there is no alternative solution*
- b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development or land use change.*

(II) Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, development or land use change will not be permitted unless the District Council is satisfied that it is necessary for reasons of human health or public safety or for beneficial consequences of primary importance for nature conservation.

East Hertfordshire Local Plan – 2nd Review (Deposit 2001)

The next policy (Brighton and Hove) is for the protection of sites of national importance. It includes a requirement for developers to produce an EIA if it is likely that the proposal will cause significant adverse effects on the nature conservation interest.

Policy NC2 Sites of national importance for nature conservation

Planning permission will not be granted for a proposal within, or in the setting of, and existing or proposed site of national importance for nature conservation where it is likely to have an adverse impact, directly or indirectly, on the nature conservation features of the site. Exceptions will only be made where either:

- a the proposals can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on the nature conservation features and their setting, and includes provision for the protection, enhancement and management of nature conservation features; or,*
- b the proposal is of national importance and cannot be located anywhere else and the following requirements have been met:*
 - i the location, design and construction of the development is such that damage to nature conservation features is minimised and opportunities are taken for nature conservation gain;*
 - ii compensating and equivalent nature conservation features are provided;*
 - iii remaining features are protected and enhanced and provision made for their management; and,*
 - iv improvements to public appreciation of and access to the site are provided.*

Conditions will be imposed or a planning obligation sought in order to secure these requirements.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) will be required to accompany planning applications for development that would be likely to have a significant effect on sites of national importance for nature conservation.

Brighton and Hove Local Plan (2nd Deposit September 2001)

The next policy (Allerdale) addresses county designated sites:

Policy EN28: County Wildlife Sites

Proposals for development and or change in use likely to have an unacceptable adverse effect on a County Wildlife Site will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site. Where potentially damaging development is justified, such damage must be minimised and where appropriate the Council will use conditions and/or legal agreements to minimise damage and to provide compensatory measures.

Allerdale Local Plan (Adopted 1999)

Many local plans and UDPs part II contain policies specifically relating to Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), in addition to other site protection policies. These policies sometimes also include a commitment from the relevant Council to create new LNRs within the plan period.

Policy NC2 Local Nature Reserves

The Borough Council will safeguard and protect areas designated as Local Nature Reserves by resisting development proposals which would directly or indirectly have a damaging impact on the wildlife and nature conservation interest of the reserve.

Hastings Local Plan Revised (Deposit Draft December 2000)

Often in development plans, there will not be separate policies for each of the above types of site. They appear as subsections of one policy but still reflect the relevant importance of each designation type.

4.7 Species protection

The policy from the Watford Local Plan shown below is relatively common in local plans.

SE26a Species Protection

Planning permission will not be granted for development which could have an adverse impact on badgers or species protected by Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended and the Habitats Regulations 1994, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to maintain the unaltered and undisturbed habitat of the affected species.

Where proposed development could have an adverse effect on such species, the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required with the application. Where such development is permitted, the council will seek to ensure that any necessary measures are taken to:

- a) facilitate the survival of the species;*
- b) minimise disturbance;*
- c) provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population; and*

- d) *resist breaking a habitat corridor which would lead to fragmentation of the wildlife population base.*

Such measures must be within the control of the developer and subsequent site owners and operators, unless a formal agreement for management of the conservation features of the site has been made with an appropriate body.

Watford District Plan 2000 (Pre-inquiry changes 2001)

The policy is usually adapted to make it relevant to the plan area. In the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan (Deposit 2001), for example, an almost identical policy appears, and includes a reference to the UK and Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

The policy below (Taunton Deane) is also a species protection policy, but unlike the policy above it is specific to the species being protected.

EN4 Wildlife in buildings to be converted or demolished

Where buildings are utilised by bats and/or owls for breeding and/or roosting, or by swallows, swifts and/or house martins for breeding, proposals for conversion or demolition will not be permitted unless:

- A) *operations are timed to avoid disturbance during breeding;*
- B) *during and after conversion bats, owls, swifts and/or swallows have adequate access to the roof space and house martins to the eaves, and to any other appropriate roosting or nesting locations on or in the buildings to be converted;*
- C) *in the case of owls, nest boxes are provided in the roof space prior to commencement of conversion; and*
- D) *in the case of owls and bats, every possible effort is made to make alternative nesting and roosting sites available in the vicinity of the site, prior to demolition.*

Taunton Deane Local Plan (2nd Deposit 2000)

This policy is unusual and was the only one of its kind found in any of the development plans evaluated.

4.8 Geology

Over half the local plans reviewed had a policy on protecting geological sites. In the majority of cases, these were contained within the policies on protecting sites of nature conservation importance. Although, a few plans have separate policies for the protection of the Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), no LPs were found that had a separate policy for geological/geomorphological SSSIs, which were included in the policy for wildlife designated SSSIs.

Policy L15 (Protection of Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS))

The District Council will seek to safeguard Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological sites. Development will not be permitted if it would have a detrimental effect on the scientific interest of these sites.

4.9 Protected areas

Few of the local plans reviewed have policies protecting any specific areas other than designated sites. The example below (East Dorset) is a policy that was only included in the modifications post Public Inquiry, which suggests that its content formed the subject of debate at the Inquiry. It is addressing a matter of substantial importance in national and international biodiversity terms (the heathlands).

New policy (proposed post Inquiry modifications)

In recognition of the importance, the decline and the vulnerability of heathland in East Dorset and in order to reflect heathland restoration targets in the Structure Plan, the Council will:

- a) not permit new development that would result in the direct loss of heathland unless there are compelling reasons of overriding public interest that outweigh the nature conservation value of the land;*
- b) not permit new development that would result in the direct loss of heathland quality of nearby sites through recreation or other access uses, unless there is provision of adequate alternative open space and effective buffer zones to minimise damage by public intrusion;*
- c) seek, through the use of conditions or agreements, the re-creation and re-establishment of heathland, where opportunities arise, particularly on sites adjacent to or in close proximity to existing areas of heathland.*

East Dorset Local Plan (post Inquiry modifications, 2001)

4.10 Features

Features policies are quite common in local plans. They appear both as separate policies and combined with other policy issues, such as wildlife corridors. This is because many of the features e.g. hedgerows and linear tree belts can be seen both as a nature conservation feature and as a means of species migration.

Policy N14: Protection of Landscape Features of Major Importance to Flora and Fauna

Development that may harm, directly or indirectly, the landscape features listed below which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there are reasons for the development which clearly outweigh the need to retain the feature. Where development affecting such features is approved, appropriate measures will be required to minimise, restore and/or compensate for any loss of, or deterioration in, the nature conservation value of the feature.

Features covered by this policy:

- Hedgerows*
- River and stream corridors (incorporating the river, its banks and associated wetland habitats)*

- *Canals*
- *Ponds, lakes and other permanent standing water features*
- *Woodlands*
- *Disused railways and mineral lines*

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Local Plan (Deposit 2001)

4.11 Wildlife corridors

The policy below (Hambleton) is a good example of a wildlife corridor policy, and its similarity to a features policy is evident in the first paragraph. The policy also seeks improvement to current wildlife corridors.

NC7 Wildlife Corridors

Development likely to destroy or impair the integrity or continuity of wildlife corridors formed by woods, hedgerows, green wedges, green lanes, rivers and streams will not be permitted.

The wildlife value of such corridors will be consolidated and strengthened and new developments within or adjacent to wildlife corridors will be encouraged, or where necessary required to make a positive contribution to this aim.

Hambleton District Local Plan (Adopted 1999)

In contrast, the Teignbridge policy is more specific and detailed in protecting the function and purpose of wildlife corridors.

ENV10 Protecting wildlife corridors

Development that would harm the integrity of a wildlife corridor, as shown on the Proposals Map, in its efficient functioning as a means of colonisation or movement of flora and fauna, or that would cause a material reduction in a habitat of demonstrable value in a wildlife corridor, or cause demonstrable harm to any protected species known to be dependent on the use of the affected part of the wildlife corridor for migration, breeding, feeding or shelter, will not be permitted, unless the benefits of the development outweigh the wildlife value of the site.

Teignbridge Local Plan (1st Deposit, 2002)

4.12 Habitat creation

The policy below (Forest of Dean) tries to ensure that all proposals for new development include the creation of new habitat areas, which will support priority species from the county Biodiversity Action Plan. The Holderness Local Plan policy is associated with the creation of new habitat areas on areas of under used land.

(R)FNE.7 Promotion of Biodiversity

Proposals for development will be required to incorporate appropriate opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Particular emphasis will be placed on creating or enhancing habitats and populations of species identified as priorities in the Biodiversity Action Plans for Gloucestershire, the South West Region and the United Kingdom.

Forest of Dean District Local Plan (Revised Deposit Version, January 2002)

ENV19

The Council will support proposals that create, improve or enhance appropriate habitats for wildlife on under used land through new planting and utilising existing features such as tree/woodlands and water.

Holderness District Wide Local Plan (Adopted, 1999)

4.13 Access

Few local plans contain policies to increase access to nature conservation sites, although a greater number make a mention of its importance in the supporting text. The two policies below are both from the Hastings Local Plan, the first one ensuring that the public have access to sites of nature conservation interest, and the second aiming to provide the public with a greater understanding of the nature conservation resource through information centres.

Policy NC10 Public Access

The provision of appropriate public access, especially by means other than the private car, to areas of nature conservation interest will be supported. The Borough Council will provide information on wildlife and nature conservation and will promote greater awareness, understanding and enjoyment of areas of wildlife interest.

Policy NC11 Information centres

The Council will support the provision of interpretive/information centres in the areas of nature conservation interest subject to:-

- a there being no significant adverse environmental impact from such developments;*
- b the availability of funds to construct and manage the centres.*

Hastings Local Plan (2nd Deposit, 2000)

4.14 Mitigation

Many development plans contain policies requiring developers, in appropriate circumstances, to enter into agreements with the Council to create or enhance nature conservation interests at the development site, as a way of mitigating for potential adverse impacts. The policies shown below range from using physical mitigation measures, such as fencing, to the use of management agreements to maintain or enhance the nature conservation interest of the development site.

LS8:

If development is permitted in accordance with policies LS6-7 conditions will be imposed, or a planning obligation sought, that will:

- (a) mitigate the effects of the development through the reservation or fencing or bunding, or any other such practical measures, to protect the habitat or feature or other conditions upon which the nature conservation value of the locality depends;*

- (b) *ensure replacements of the habitat, or features or other conditions upon which the nature conservation value of the locality depends;*
- (c) *ensure that resources are made available for the future enhancement and management of the replacement habitat or feature to enable it to attain the quality and attributes that have been lost.*

Exeter Local Plan First Review (1st Deposit, 2001)

Policy CTL.23

With regard to Policies CTL.20, CTL.21 and CTL.22, planning consent for development, if given, will normally be conditional upon appropriate measures being undertaken in order to mitigate adverse effects on sites and features of ecological interest/value. These measures should include:

- (i) *an ecological assessment undertaken by, or on behalf of the developer to identify least damaging development options;*
- (ii) *protection for specific features which could be accommodated in the development proposal, such as ponds, hedgerows, streams, trees and woodlands;*
- (iii) *financial provision by the developer for the management of retained features, the creation of new features or other wildlife conservation actions.*

Borough of Redditch, Local Plan No.2 (Adopted, 1996)

ENV22 Nature conservation area management agreements

(I) Within any of the Nature Conservation Areas referred to in Policies ENV17, 18, 19 above, which are considered to be at risk, the District Council may in certain appropriate cases enter into management agreement under Section 39 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or apply for Article 4 Direction Orders, as a means of controlling inappropriate types of permitted development or other activities which threaten the conservation interest of the site.

(II) Proposals for development or land use change outside any of the Nature Conservation Areas referred to in Policies 17, 18 and 19, which may have an adverse effect directly or indirectly on such areas will be subject to the same considerations as proposals within the designated areas.

East Hertfordshire Local Plan – 2nd Review (Deposit 2001)

4.15 Other

Development plans sometimes contain nature conservation policies that do not fit into any of the above categories, but nonetheless may be of interest to English Nature.

The policy below is an interesting policy that requires a habitat survey of all sites over a certain size where development is proposed, this includes both previously undeveloped sites and sites that were previously developed but have long been vacant. This is a useful policy in protecting nature conservation interests of previously developed sites that may now support protected species, but are a target for new development.

Policy N2: Development and nature conservation - site surveys

In determining applications for development of previously undeveloped, or long abandoned sites of over 1/4 hectare, the Council will require the applicant to carry out and submit a preliminary habitat survey together with a data search of relevant ecological information, except where the Council is satisfied that a survey is not necessary by virtue of the site's location, planning history and/or existing data records.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Local Plan (Deposit 2001)

The policy below is from Stevenage Borough and is the only policy found during the review of plans that is designed to protect natural habitats in adjoining local authority areas.

Policy EN18: Natural Habitats in adjoining local authorities

Development proposals which would have an adverse affect on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in adjoining local authority areas will not be permitted unless the following criteria can be met:

(A) adverse affects could be prevented or satisfactorily minimised through mitigation measures which accord with policy EN20; or

(B) in exceptional circumstances it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the development that would outweigh the nature conservation value of the site itself and the national policy to safeguard the national network of SSSIs.

Development proposals which would have an adverse affect on local nature reserves and wildlife sites in adjoining local authority areas will not be permitted unless the criteria in policy EN17 can be met.

Stevenage District Plan (2nd Deposit, 2001)

5. Conclusions

5.1 General

A number of broad conclusions can be drawn from this study. The single most important of these is that all of the development plans reviewed contained at least one nature conservation policy.

Three types of development plan were reviewed, namely unitary development plans, local plans and structure plans. These vary greatly in their inclusion of nature conservation policies. It was found, on average, that local plans and UDPs Part II contained over twice as many policies as structure plans or UDPs Part I. This would be expected as it reflects the greater level of detail at the more local level. The averages mask a great variation in the number of nature conservation policies within categories of plans. The number of policies on nature conservation, for example, in the local plans reviewed varied from 2 to 12.

Policy coverage was also very varied. Whilst the vast majority contained policies on the protection of designated sites and species protection, far fewer covered more specific aspects of nature conservation, such as wildlife corridors, habitat creation and access. There was also a great range in the length and quality of the policies.

5.2 Comparison with the English Nature *Local Authorities Handbook*

The policies reviewed follow the aspirations of English Nature (as set out in the *Local Authorities Handbook*) to a limited extent. Although the areas of policy coverage are similar, it cannot be said that any plans reviewed were following the English Nature examples exactly or in full, although some plans had similar wording of some of their policies. If the aim of the policies in the Handbook is for development plans to cover all of the policy topics shown (assuming relevance to their area), then almost all the plans reviewed fall well short of this. Often the policies that were worded most closely to those in the Handbook are those that are backed by other legislation, for example the Habitats Directive, or other guidance, for example PPG9. These include those on species protection and designated sites.

Policies in UDPs Part I differ in practice from the Handbook in that they are strategic, reflecting the rest of the Part I material, and much less specific than the examples given in the Handbook. In many instances, the protection of nature conservation interests is only included as one or two bullet points in a more general policy on environmental protection in UDPs Part I, or as considerations to be taken into account when determining planning applications. They do not contain the detail provided in the Handbook.

The Handbook groups UDP Part I and structure plan policies, giving the same good practice examples for both. The review has shown, however, that these two types of plan are usually very different, with structure plans being more site specific and detailed. UDPs Part II and local plans are much more comparable, and their grouping in the Handbook is more relevant.

The results of the review show that the policy coverage of the main nature conservation topic areas specified in the Handbook are better covered in local plans, than by structure plans, with the least comprehensive coverage in UDPs. Whilst a major reason behind this may be that most authorities producing a UDP are in more urban areas (where the nature conservation resource will be lower than in many rural local plan areas) there are, nonetheless, a wide range of important issues relevant to nature conservation in urban areas.

5.3 Policy coverage

In addition to policies to protect designated nature conservation sites and species, the more comprehensive (and better) plans go further in both breadth and depth and incorporate the protection and enhancement of wider nature conservation interests. The better plans have a range of policies that have been shaped to fit the needs of the plan area.

For example, in urban areas, or other areas where the nature conservation resource has been degraded, policies restoring or recreating areas of nature conservation interest or providing access to a nature conservation resource are identified as important. In more rural areas there will be policies to protect features in the landscape of nature conservation interest, and/or to protect geological sites.

The number of policies contained in a plan is not, in itself, an indicator of the quality of protection given. The aim should be for tightly worded policies that cover a wide range of relevant nature conservation issues i.e. quality not quantity of policies. Developing nature conservation policies to reflect the character and issues in the plan area (and its wider context) is the critical task. A development plan need not cover all the policy topics illustrated in the Handbook, but should focus on those most relevant to its area. Policies

contained in the development plan must be relevant to matters that can be influenced through the planning process.

The review identified a number of policies which propose the use of agreements or conditions whereby the developer is to ensure that nature conservation interest are taken into account, with the aim of mitigating potential adverse impacts. This is a positive way that the planning system and development control can enhance the nature conservation resource, especially through the restoration of areas of degraded habitats. Other policies include requirements that must be met before development can proceed, for example habitat surveys or environmental assessments.

In most cases, the nature conservation section of the development plans reviewed did not stand in isolation. They were linked to the rest of the development plan, for instance to landscape and design policies, to wider environmental protection, and to other plans in the region. In a few cases, explicit links are made to Biodiversity Action Plans and Habitat Action Plans, and to landscape character assessments, which are sometimes adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. This cross referencing provides a comprehensive resource for planners and developers alike to base their planning choices and decisions.

5.4 Impact of the planning Green Paper

The impact of the Green Paper on the planning system and the likelihood of changes in primary legislation leads on to questions about the relevance of current guidance on nature conservation policies.

Many of the changes are likely to be about process (for example, increased community participation, rolling review of local development frameworks, pre-application discussions, and reductions in periods for appeals) and about institutional structures (for example the removal of county planning functions other than with respect to minerals and waste).

There is nothing in this that removes the need for a robust policy framework, and English Nature will want to continue to influence policy at a variety of different levels, namely the regional, the sub-regional, and the local.

The need for policy reformulation will be related to the extent to which the current types of wordings and policies suit the new documents. Much is still unclear. However, a critical factor for biodiversity will be how cross boundary issues are going to be treated, given that there is the potential for a plethora of smaller area plans. This is also important for all other aspects of the environment and for sustainable development.

One area where it is likely that there will need to be rapid formulation of policies will be with respect to criteria based policies for use in development control which are currently not well developed.

Within this changing planning context, helping to ensure that policies are well worded and appropriately focussed will remain an essential part of English Nature's role.

Appendix 1 – Plans examined

Structure Plans General

Planning Authority	Region	Name of Plan	Stage of Plan	Date of Plan	Plan period	Next step	Number of NC policies Part1?
Essex and Southend-on-Sea	EA	Essex + Southend-on-Sea Replacement SP	Adopted	Mar-97		Review	2
Cheshire	NW	Cheshire 2011 Replacement SP	Adopted	1999	to 2011		1
Norfolk	EA	Norfolk Structure Plan 1999	Adopted	1999	1993-2011		6
Northamptonshire	EM	Northamptonshire County SP	Adopted	Feb-97	1996-2016	Review	3
North Yorkshire	YH	North Yorkshire County Structure Plan	Adopted	1995	1995-2006	Review currently being prepared	1
Surrey	SE	The Surrey Structure Plan	Deposit draft	Dec-96		mods	1
Warwickshire	WM	Warwickshire Structure Plan	Adopted	Jul-97	1996-2011	Review	2
West Sussex	SE	The West Sussex Structure Plan	Deposit draft	Dec-97	2001-2016	EIP	1
Wiltshire and Swindon	SW	Joint Replacement SP	Adopted	Dec-96	to 2011	Review	3
Somerset CC + Exmoor Nat. Park	SW	Somerset + Exmoor National Park - JSP Review	Adopted	Mar-96	1991-2011		3
Lancashire	NW	Replacement Joint Lancashire SP	Deposit	Dec-97	2001-2016	Receiving representations	1
Leicestershire CC, Leicester City and Rutland County and District	EM	Leicestershire CC Deposit Draft SP	Deposit	2000	1996-2016		2
Shropshire and Telford+Wrekin Council	WM	The Shropshire and Telford+Wrekin JSP	Deposit	May-96	1996-2011	PE	9

Unitary Development Plans – General

Planning Authority	Region	Name of Plan	Stage of Plan	Date of Plan	Plan period	Next step	Number of NC policies Part1?	Number of NC policies Part 2?
Calderdale Metro Borough Council	YH	Calderdale UDP	Adopted	1997	to 2006	Issues now and deposit 2002/3	1	8
Birmingham City Council	WM	The Birmingham Plan-Alterations	Deposit	January-98	to 2011	Second deposit	4	1
Halton	NW	Halton UDP	1st Deposit	August-96	1996-2011	Second deposit	1	6
London Borough of Hammersmith + Fulham	GL	H+F UDP Review	Revised proposed alterations	May-96?		Modifications	2	4
London Borough of Harrow	GL	Harrow Replacement UDP	1st Deposit	May-97?		2nd deposit	1	4
London Borough of Lambeth	GL	The Lambeth Plan	Deposit	December-97?		2nd deposit	1	0
London Borough of Merton	GL	Merton UDP	2nd deposit	September-96	up to 2016	PI	2	7
London Borough of Newham	GL	Newham Proposed Alterations to the UDP	Deposit	2000		Adoption	1	3
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	GL	Richmond upon Thames UDP: 1st Review	Post deposit changes	Oct-97?		?	2	10
London Borough of Southwark	GL	Southwark UDP	Adopted	Jun-91?		Review at Issues - Deposit March 2002	2	3
Borough of Sutton	GL	Sutton UDP	2nd deposit	Jul-97	up to 2006	Mods	2	9
London Borough of Wandsworth	GL	Revised Wandsworth UDP	2nd Deposit	Sep-96			2	5
London Borough of Westminster	GL	Shaping the Future of Westminster UDP	2nd deposit	Sep-97	10-15 years	PI	2	2
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	NW	Oldham Replacement UDP	1st Deposit	30-Sep?			2	5
City of Salford	NW	City of Salford UDP	Adopted	1995	up to 2001	deposit of review due shortly	2	4
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	NW	St Helens MBC UDP	Adopted	Jun-94	up to 2001	Review	0	8
Sunderland	NE	Sunderland UDP	Adopted	1998		Review	2	5
Tameside	NW	Shaping tomorrows Tameside - UDP	Adopted	August-92	up to 2001	Issues paper has been produced	2	4
Trafford MBC	NW	Trafford UDP Review	Deposit consultation	October-97	up to 2011		2	4
Warrington Borough Council	NE	Warrington Borough Council UDP	1st Deposit	May-97		2nd Deposit	3	8
Wigan MBC	NW	Metropolitan Wigan UDP	Adopted	December-91	up to 2001	Review - Issues out	1	3
							1.8	4.9

Local Plans General

Planning Authority	Region	Name of Plan	Stage of Plan	Date of Plan	Plan period	Next step	How many nature cons policies?
Allerdale	NW	Allerdale Local Plan	Adopted	1999	1996-2006		10
Amber Valley Borough Council	EM	Amber Valley Borough Local Plan Review	1st Deposit	2001	2011	2nd Deposit	3
Ashfield	EM	Ashfield Local Plan Review	Deposit	April 1999	2011	Inspectors report received 12/2001	4
Barrow in Fumess	NW	Barrow Borough Local Plan	Adopted	August 2001	1996-2006	Review	5
Basildon	EA	Basildon District Local Plan	Adopted	March 1998	1991-2001	Issues July 01	5
Bath and NE Somerset	SW	Bath and NE Somerset Local Plan	Deposit	January 2002	2012	Second deposit Autumn 2002	9
Bolsover	EM	Bolsover District Local Plan	Adopted	February 2000	1995-2005	Review?	4
East Riding	YH	Boothferry Borough Local Plan	Adopted	April 1999	1999-2002	Reivew to single local plan see Holderness	6
Brighton and Hove	SE	Brighton and Hove Local Plan	Second Deposit	September 2001	2011	Local Plan Inquiry starts 09/2002	6
Bristol City Council	SW	Bristol Local Plan	Adopted	December 1997		Produced issues 2002	5
Bromsgrove District Council	WM	Bromsgrove District Local Plan	Pre-inquiry mods	June 2000		Local plan inquiry closed 08/2001. Inspectors report Spring 2002	5
Caradon District Council	SW	Caradon Local Plan	Adopted	December 1999	1991-2001	Review	7
Carrick Local Plan	SW	Carrick District Wide Local Plan	Adopted	April 1998	2011	Review (soon)	7
Charnwood District Council	EM	Borough of Charnwood Local Plan	Mods	October 2001		Public Inquiry May 02	6
Chelmsford Borough Council	EA	Chelmsford Borough Council Local Plan	Deposit	June 2001	2001-2011	Revised deposit March/April 2002	4
Cheltenham Borough Council	SW	Cheltenham Borough Local Plan	Adopted	February 1997	2001	Review - Issues 10/2001	6
Borough of Crewe + Nantwich	WM	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	First deposit	March 2001	2011	Second deposit on 02/2002	3
Derwentshire District Council	NE	Derwentshire District Local Plan	Adopted	January 1997	2006	Review started now at Issues	4
Eastbourne Borough Council	SE	Eastbourne Borough Plan	Revised deposit	February 2001	2001-2011	Adopt summer 2003	8
East Dorset	SW	East Dorset Local Plan	Post inquiry mods	August 2001	2011	Adoption?	7
East Hampshire	SE	East Hampshire District LP	1st Deposit	October 1999	2011		3
East Hertfordshire	EA	East Hertfordshire Local Plan (2nd Review)	Deposit	Summer 2001	2011	2nd deposit and PI summer 2002	7
East Yorkshire Borough Council	YH	East Yorkshire Borough wide Local Plan	Adopted	June 1997	1993-2004	Review - deposit in 2002	5
Epping Forest	EA	Epping Forest District Local Plan	Adopted	January 1998	2001		5
Exeter	SW	Exeter Local Plan	1st deposit	January 2001	1995-2011	2nd deposit	3

Planning Authority	Region	Name of Plan	Stage of Plan	Date of Plan	Plan period	Next step	How many nature cons policies?
Forset of Dean	SW	Forest of Dean Local Plan Review	1st deposit	July 2000	2011		6
Gedling Borough Council	WM	Gedling Borough Local Plan	Deposit	June 1998	2011		4
Gloucester City Council	SW	Gloucester First Deposit Local Plan	1st Deposit	June 2001	2011	Second deposit Feb 2002	8
Guildford	SE	Guildford Borough Local Plan	Deposit	February 1999	2006	Inspectors report Sept 2001	4
Hambleton District Council	YH	Hambleton District Wide Local Plan	Adopted	1999	2006	Monitoring reports	8
Harrogate	YH	Harrogate District Local Plan	Adopted	February 2001	2006		7
Hart District Council	SE	Hart District Replacement Local Plan	Proposed mods	March 2001	1996-2006		6
Hastings Borough Council	SE	Hastings Local Plan	Revised deposit	December 2000	up to 2011		12
East Riding	YH	Holderness District Wide Local Plan	Adopted	1999	to 2006	Review to single district plan see Booth ferry	9
Hyndburn Borough Council	NW	Borough of Hyndburn Local Plan	Adopted	November 1996	up to 2006	Review being undertaken	2
Ipswich	EA	Ipswich Local Plan Review	1st Deposit	August 2001	1996-2016	2nd Deposit	8
Kennet District Council	SW	Replacement Kennet District Local Plan	2nd Deposit	March 2001		LPI ends 6/02, adoption 7/03	5
Kerrier District Council	SW	Kerrier District Local Plan	Deposit	1999	1991-2011	PI	8
Lake District National Park	NW	Lake District National Park Local Plan	Adopted	May 1998	to 2004	Replacement	2
Macclesfield	NW	Macclesfield Borough Local Plan	Alterations	June 2000	2001-2011	Produce deposit	5
Maidstone Borough Council	SE	Maidstone Borough Wide Local Plan	Adopted	December 2000	2006	Review	4
Melton	EM	Melton Local Plan	Adopted	June 1999	1991-2006		2
Mendip District Council	SW	Mendip District Local Plan	2nd deposit	February 2000	up to 2011	Mods 2002	6
Mid-Devon	SW	Mid-Devon Local Plan	1st Alteration	October 2001	up to 2011	2nd deposit 2002	3
Mole Valley	SE	Mole Valley Local Plan	Adopted	October 2000	up to 2006	Review	8
Newcastle-under-Lyme	WM	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	Deposit	2001	2001-2011		11
North Devon	SW	North Devon Local Plan First Review	1st Deposit	November 2001	1995-2011	2nd Deposit	5
North Dorset	SW	North Dorset District-wide Local Plan Review	Pre inquiry changes	November 2001	to 2011	Adoption	4
North Shropshire	WM	North Shropshire Local Plan	Deposit	June 2000	to 2011	revised deposit	2
Norwich City Council	EA	City of Norwich Replacement Plan	Deposit	July 2001		revised deposit July 2002	3
Penwith District Council	SW	Penwith Local plan	Pre-inquiry changes	March 2001		PI	6
Preston	NW	Preston Local Plan	Proposed mods	October 1999		Adoption (soon)	5
Purbeck District Council	SW	Purbeck District Local Plan	Deposit	June 1997	up to 2011	Inspectors report due Aut 2002	7
Redditch Borough Councils	WM	Borough of Redditch Local Plan No2	Adopted	February 1996	up to 2001	Review likely in 2003	3

Planning Authority	Region	Name of Plan	Stage of Plan	Date of Plan	Plan period	Next step	How many nature cons policies?
Rochford District Plan	EA	Rochford District Replacement Local Plan	1st Draft	2002	up to 2011	Summer 2002 2nd deposit; PI winter 2002; mods summer/autumn 2003; adoption	3
Rushcliffe	EM	Rushcliffe Replacement Local Plan	Deposit	1999	1996-2011	Second deposit	3
Salisbury	SW	Salisbury District Local Plan	Replacement deposit	June 1998	up to 2011	PI	8
Scarborough Borough Council	EM	Scarborough Borough Local Plan	Adopted	January 1999	up to 2006	Alteration Issues Spring 2002	4
Sedgefield Borough Council	NE	Sedgefield Borough Local Plan	Adopted	October 1996	up to 2006	Deposit of Review May 2002	6
Shepway District Council	SE	Shepway District Local Plan Review	Deposit Draft	November 2001	up to 2011	Revised deposit 2002	8
Slough	SE	Review of the Local Plan for Slough	Deposit Draft	January 1999	2006	Inspectors report	3
South Gloucestershire	SW	South Gloucestershire Local Plan	Deposit Draft	September 2000	up to 2011	Revised deposit March 2002	4
South Hams	SW	South Hams Local Plan Review	Deposit	January 2002	1995-2011	Second deposit	6
South Northamptonshire	EM	South Northamptonshire Local Plan	Adopted	October 1997		Review	3
South Somerset	SW	South Somerset Local Plan	2nd deposit	1998	up to 2011	Public Inquiry April 02	5
Stevenage Borough Council	EA	Stevenage District Plan	2nd Deposit	March 2001	1991-2011	Public Inquiry	5
Stroud District Council	SW	Stroud District Local Plan	2nd Deposit	October 2000	to 06/2011	Public Inquiry Summer 2001; waiting for mods	5
Taunton Deane	SW	Taunton Deane Local Plan	2nd Deposit	October 2000		LPI started 09/2001, scheduled to close 04/2002	6
Teignbridge	SW	Teignbridge Local Plan	1st Deposit	January 2002	1998-2011	2nd Deposit Autumn 2002, PI 2003, Adopt 2004	6
Tewkesbury	SW	Tewkesbury Local Plan	2nd Deposit	January 2001	1991-2011	Public Inquiry starts 3/2002 for 5 months	7
Thanet	SE	Thanet Local Plan	1st Deposit	June 2001	up to 2011	Revised deposit	5
Thurrock	EA	Thurrock Borough Local Plan	Adopted	September 1997	up to 2001	Review to UDP - Deposit in 2002	6
Uttlesford	EA	Uttlesford Local Plan	1st Deposit	October 2001			3
Watford District	EA	Watford District Plan 2000	Pre inquiry changes	October 2001	up to 2011	PI	5
Welwyn Hatfield	EA	Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan	At PI	2001	2000-2011	Inspectors report Spring 2002, Mods Autumn 2002, Adopt end 2002	6
West Dorset	SW	West Dorset District Local Plan	Adopted	1998	up to 2001	under review	11

Planning Authority	Region	Name of Plan	Stage of Plan	Date of Plan	Plan period	Next step	How many nature cons policies?
West Lancashire	NW	West Lancashire Local Plan	Adopted	December 1999	1996-2006	Local plan review 2006-2016 at Issues	4
West Wiltshire	SW	West Wiltshire District Plan 1st Alteration	2nd Deposit	November 2000	up to 2011	Public inquiry	5
Winchester	SE	Winchester District Local Plan	Deposit	October 2001	up to 2011	Consideration of representations and then revised deposit	3
Worthing	SE	Worthing Local Plan Review	2nd Deposit	2000	2011	hope to adopt 2002	4
Telford and Wrekin	WM	Wrekin Local Plan	Adopted	February 2002	1995-2006		6
Wychavon	WM	Wychavon Local Plan	Adopted	1998	2001	Review	3
							5.4

Appendix 2 – Summary of findings

General findings of checklist review

Percentage coverage of the main policy issues in each type of development plan reviewed

	Local Plans (%)	Structure Plans (%)	UDPs Part I (%)	UDPs Part II (%)	Total (%)
General Considerations	29.3	46.2	66.7	14.3	34.3
International	61.0	76.9	0	33.3	48.9
National	97.6	76.9	19.0	66.7	78.8
Local	98.8	69.2	19.0	76.2	80.3
Separate consideration	78.0	15.3	9.5	33.3	54.7
LNRs	50.0	NA	NA	52.4	50.5
Area protection	22.0	NA	NA	23.8	22.3
Geology	56.1	61.5	26.6	28.6	48.2
Features	52.4	76.9	23.8	28.6	46.7
Wildlife Corridors	36.6	38.5	47.6	66.7	43.1
Habitat creation	47.6	38.5	28.6	42.9	43.1
Species Protection	82.9	61.5	9.5	57.1	65.0
Access	22.0	NA	NA	28.6	23.3
EIA	13.4	23.1	4.8	23.8	14.6
SPG	6.1	7.7	4.8	0	5.1
BAPs	31.7	38.5	4.8	28.6	27.7

Structure plan - Policies

Name of Plan	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection
Essex + Southend-on-Sea Replacement SP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Cheshire 2NoYesYes Replacement SP	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Norfolk Structure Plan Yes999	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Northamptonshire County SP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
North Yorkshire County Structure Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
The Surrey Structure Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Warwickshire Structure Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
The West Sussex Structure Plan	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Joint Replacement SP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Somerset + Exmoor National Park - JSP Review	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Replacement Joint Lancashire SP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Leicestershire CC Desposit Draff SP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
The Shropshire and Telford+Wrekin JSP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Unitary Development Plans – Policies

Part I

Name of Plan	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection
Calderdale UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
The Birmingham Plan-Alterations	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Halton UDP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Hammersmith and Fulham UDP Review	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Harrow Replacement UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
The Lambeth Plan	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Lambeth UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Newham Proposed Alterations to the UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Richmond upon Thames UDP: Yesst Review	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Southwark UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sutton UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Revised Wandsworth UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Shaping the Future of Westminster UDP	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Oldham Replacement UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
City of Salford UDP	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
St Helens MBC UDP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sunderland UDP	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Shaping tomorrow's Thameside - UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Trafford UDP Review	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Warrington Borough Council UDP	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Metropolitan Wigan UDP	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

Unitary Development Plans – Policies

Part II

Name of Plan	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Area protection	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection	Access
Calderdale UDP	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
The Birmingham Plan-Alterations	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Halton UDP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Hammersmith and Fulham UDP Review	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Harrow Replacement UDP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
The Lambeth Plan	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Lambeth UDP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Newham Proposed Alterations to the UDP	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Richmond upon Thames UDP: Yesst Review	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southwark UDP	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Sutton UDP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Revised Wandsworth UDP	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Shaping the Future of Westminster UDP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Oldham Replacement UDP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Local	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
City of Salford UDP	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
St Helens MBC UDP	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sunderland UDP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Shaping tomorrows Tameside - UDP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Trafford UDP Review	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Warrington Borough Council UDP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Metropolitan Wigan UDP	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Local Plan Policies

Planning Authority	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Area protection	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection	Access
Allerdale Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Amber Valley Borough Local Plan Review	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ashfield Local Plan Review	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Barrow Borough Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Basildon District Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Bath and NE Somerset Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Bolsover District Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Boothferry Borough Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Brighton and Hove Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bristol Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Bromsgrove District Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Caradon Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Carrick District Wide Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Borough of Charnwood Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Chelmsford Borough Council Local Plan	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cheltenham Borough Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Derwentshire District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Eastbourne Borough Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Dorset Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
East Hampshire District LP	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
East Hertfordshire Local Plan (2nd Review)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Yorkshire Borough wide Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Epping Forest District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Planning Authority	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Area protection	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection	Access
Exeter Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Forest of Dean Local Plan Review	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Local sites sep.	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gedling Borough Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Gloucester First Deposit Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guildford Borough Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Hambleton District Wide Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Harrogate District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hart District Replacement Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Hastings Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Holderness District Wide Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Borough of Hyndburn Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Ipswich Local Plan Review	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Local	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Replacement Kennet District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Kerrier District Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Lake District National Park Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Macclesfield Borough Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Maidstone Borough Wide Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Melton Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mendip District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Mid-Devon Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Mole Valley Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Devon Local Plan First Review	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
North Dorset District-wide Local Plan Review	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Shropshire Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Local	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

Planning Authority	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Area protection	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection	Access
City of Norwich Replacement Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Penwith Local plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Preston Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Purbeck District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Borough of Redditch Local Plan No2	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rochford District Replacement Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Rushcliffe Replacement Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Salisbury District Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Scarborough Borough Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sedgefield Borough Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Shepway District Local Plan Review	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Review of the Local Plan for Slough	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
South Gloucestershire Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
South Hams Local Plan Review	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
South Northamptonshire Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Local	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
South Somerset Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Stevenage District Plan	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Stroud District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Taunton Deane Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Teignbridge Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Tewkesbury Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Thanet Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thurrock Borough Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Uttlesford Local Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Watford Distrit Plan 2 No No No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
West Dorset District Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
West Lancashire Local Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Planning Authority	General considerations policy	International	National	Local	Separate consideration for each	Area protection	Geology protection	Features	Wildlife corridors	Habitat creation	Species protection	Access
West Wiltshire District Plan Yesst Alteration	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Winchester District Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Local	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Worthing Local Plan Review	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Wrekin Local Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wychavon Local Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No



English Nature is the Government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and geology throughout England.

This is one of a range of publications published by:
External Relations Team
English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA

www.english-nature.org.uk

© English Nature

Cover printed on Revive Silk, 75% recycled paper (35% post consumer waste), Totally Chlorine Free.

ISSN 0967-876X

Cover designed and printed by Status Design & Advertising, 2M.

You may reproduce as many copies of this report as you like, provided such copies stipulate that copyright remains with English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA

If this report contains any Ordnance Survey material, then you are responsible for ensuring you have a license from Ordnance Survey to cover such reproduction.

Front cover photographs:

Top left: Radio tracking a hare on Pawlett Hams, Somerset.

Paul Glendell / English Nature 23,020

Middle left: Identifying moths caught in a moth trap at Ham Wall NNR, Somerset.

Peter Wakely / English Nature 17,396

Paul Glendell / English Nature 24,888

Bottom left: Using a home-made moth trap.

Peter Wakely / English Nature 17,396

Main: English Nature bat warden with a whiskered bat near Holme, Devon.

Paul Glendell / English Nature 24,795



Awarded for excellence