



BIODIVERSITY

DESIGN GUIDE



The Harrogate District embraces a variety of landscape forms shaped by the underlying geology and the action of ice, water, sun and wind through the millennia. From the high gritstone moors in the west, rivers and streams flow down through undulating hills to the Vales of York and Mowbray.



Successive waves of climatic and vegetational change, and the work of humans gives us the present legacy of heather moors, mixed woodland, hay meadows, pastures, cultivated fields and historic parkland. We share this area with countless living organisms: insects, birds, fish, mammals, plants, and trees. We take our place in the natural world, mutually dependent upon unpolluted air, water and soils. This guidance explains why biological diversity is important and how local actions can help us pass on a richer natural inheritance to our children.

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Harrogate
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Think Global - Act Local

Britain was one of 150 nations signing up to the principles of sustainable development at the United Nations Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 - the Earth Summit. (The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as '*...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'.)

One of the key themes of the Rio Summit was a Convention on Biodiversity - a recognition that action must be taken to halt the global loss of animal and plant species and genetic resources.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in January 1994 in response to the Biodiversity Convention, to develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans involving local people are now identifying species and habitats needing special protection, and committing local communities to play their part in this global challenge.



What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is an abbreviation of 'biological diversity', and means simply the variety of life on Earth. It includes all life forms from the microscopic to the largest mammal, plants and fungi as well as animals. Its meaning encompasses individual species such as the skylark, the primrose, the ladybird and the water vole; it also means communities of species, or habitats, like hay meadows, heather moor or birch woodland. The richness of biodiversity is associated with a healthy environment.

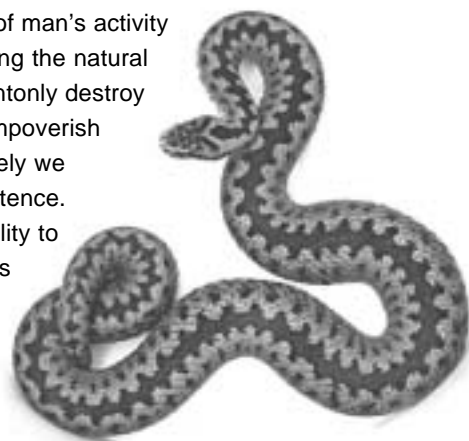


L. Kerala

Why is biodiversity important?

Biodiversity provides the basic life-support functions on which we depend for our survival. The oxygen we breathe, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the life-saving drugs we use are produced by different species, and we rely on other species to clean our water and re-cycle our rubbish. No single organism lives in isolation. Each contributes to the balance of nature and the survival of life on the planet. Apart from this essential life-support service to humans and to other species, there is an intrinsic spiritual value in the intricate beauty of wildlife, and we are continuously learning from the natural world.

However, the impact of man's activity is increasingly changing the natural equilibrium. If we wantonly destroy wildlife, we not only impoverish ourselves, but ultimately we threaten our very existence. We have a responsibility to conserve wildlife for its own sake as well as for future generations - our children and their children.



C. Slaton

Biodiversity Guidance Sheets

- **BDG1** Statutory Framework
- **BDG2** Considerations for Development
- **BDG3** Positive Practical Action
- **BDG4** Priorities: Species and Habitats lists
- **BDG5** Organisations and Agencies
- **BDG6** Glossary of Terms

Biodiversity in Harrogate District

While all wildlife areas are important to the people who live near or care for them, the Harrogate District contains many special areas that have a particular importance for the rarity of the habitat or the species that use them. These areas are given official designation, and protection from development. There are 25 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 102 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and 4 Local Nature Reserves. They include large areas of the Nidderdale Moors which are internationally important for breeding birds like merlin and golden plover and contain rare habitats now recognised within the North Pennine Moors Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); magnesian limestone grasslands important for their rare flowers and butterflies; wetlands important for plant life and for breeding sites for wading birds; and ancient woodland which is important for richly developed associations of plant and insect species.

Harrogate is particularly fortunate in having the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which covers almost the entire western part of the District. This nationally designated landscape area has specific strategies for nature conservation.



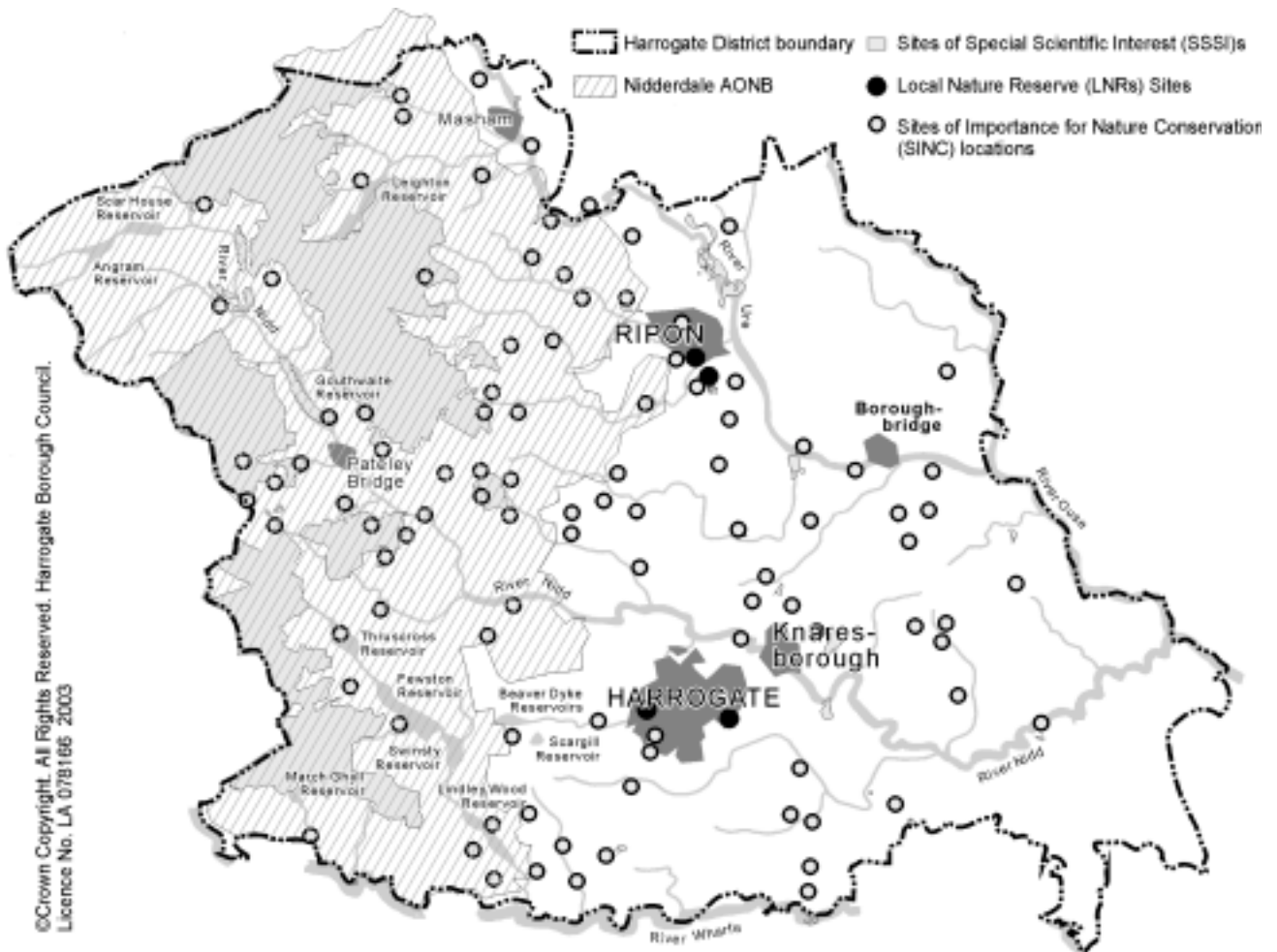
C. Henderson



C. Slater

Also within the Harrogate District are 12 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and about 40 other parks and gardens that hold valued specimens of indigenous trees and plants, and provide protected habitats for a variety of wildlife.

Of course the natural world does not observe human-devised boundaries, and to wide-ranging species like insects, birds or mammals, the quality of the general environment is just as important. There are many habitats such as hedgerows, scrub, mature trees, woodland, grassland, ponds and watercourses which are important in their own right as well as providing wildlife 'corridors' and links in a network of habitats.



Additional Information

Who is responsible for Biodiversity?

All custodians of the natural environment - landowners, farmers, water companies, businesses, government departments, sports clubs and gardeners - have a special responsibility to conserve wildlife on behalf of the wider community. However, you don't need to have a large plot of land to help and everybody can play a part - you, your family, your friends, your work colleagues (see *Positive Practical Action* guidance sheet).

The Borough Council's role

Harrogate Borough Council promotes the highest standards of design and development and seeks the best possible quality of environment. Through its land use and planning policies, the Council works to enhance the conservation of wildlife and, in partnership with local communities and conservation agencies, supports projects that improve wildlife habitats. Opportunities for enhancing biodiversity are sought in all suitable development proposals.



Further advice

Further advice on Local Plan policies, any of the issues raised in this guidance note, Planning Application forms and other related matters may be obtained from Planning Enquiries, Department of Technical Services.



L. Kerslake

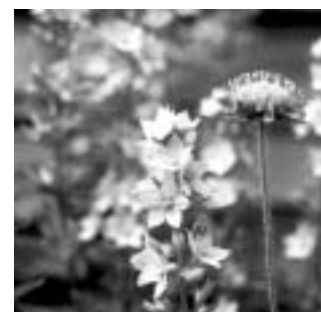


C. Slator

The Harrogate District Local Plan gives a high priority to the conservation of the natural heritage and its policies on Countryside and Nature Conservation emphasise the protection of special sites and the enhancement of the nature conservation interest of the District.



L. Kerslake



L. Kerslake



P. Cockbain

Harrogate Borough Council guidance on other issues includes:

- Landscape
- Rural Re-Use
- Residential
- Shopfronts
- Energy & Sustainability

The Law

Many wildlife species and their habitats are protected in law from damage and disturbance, and heavy fines or even imprisonment can be imposed on offenders.



- Some laws are general - for example, it is an offence to remove hedgerows from the countryside without notifying the local authority.
- Some laws protect individual species - for example badgers, bats and great crested newts.
- Some laws protect the habitats of individual species - for example the habitats of water voles.
- Some laws protect special conservation sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Legal protection has been stimulated by international treaties and European initiatives which have then been written into British law. The main legislation is set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and subsequent amendments, the Game Act 1831, the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 [‘the Habitat Regulations’] and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: national and international legislation is summarised in the Glossary of this Design Guidance.



Coot

Government policy on Biodiversity

Britain was one of 150 countries attending the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and seeking a sustainable use of natural resources. Biodiversity is seen as one of the key indicators of success. The Convention on Biological Diversity committed signatories to develop national strategies for the protection and sustainable use of Biodiversity or to adapt existing programmes.

The Government’s response to the Biodiversity Convention, ‘Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan’ (DoE1994) sets out the broad strategy for conserving and enhancing wild species and wildlife habitats in the UK for the next 20 years. The overall goal of the UK Action Plan is ‘To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms’.



The objectives for conserving biodiversity which underpin this goal are to conserve and where practicable to enhance:

- the overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats and ecosystems;
- internationally important and threatened species, habitats and ecosystems;
- species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems that are characteristic of local areas;
- the biodiversity of natural and semi-natural habitats where this has been diminished over recent decades.

The Plan combines new and existing conservation initiatives with the emphasis on a partnership approach. A cross-sector Steering Group has focused on four main areas:

- developing costed targets for our most threatened and declining species and habitats.
- establishing an effective system for handling the necessary biological data at both local and national level.
- promoting increased public awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and broadening public involvement.
- promoting Local Biodiversity Action Plans as a means of implementing the national plan.



Badger

Costed action plans with quantifiable targets have been produced for over 400 species and 40 habitat types. The selection of priority species and habitats is based on a detailed appraisal of the current status of critical species and habitats in the UK, together with the threats to their survival. This provides a basis for measuring future success of the whole UK plan.

The UK Plan includes a programme of action to gain broader public and political commitment to biodiversity at every level through partnerships with a wide range of organisations, agencies, and land management interests.

The Yorkshire & Humber Biodiversity Forum has produced a Biodiversity Audit of Yorkshire & the Humber providing information on national priority species and habitats within the region. Work to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Harrogate District is ongoing.



Children on a field trip at Rossett Acres.



Surveying the riverside habitat.

S. Jay

Planning

Statutory development plans have a key role in protecting and safeguarding important species and habitats. Local planning authorities are required to identify all internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites. Government Planning Policy Guidance on Nature Conservation (PPG 9) expects local authorities to take a broad view, promoting conservation beyond designated areas and supporting the creation of new habitats.

The Harrogate and District Local Plan lists wildlife sites and sets out the planning policies for land use, including policies on Countryside, Nature Conservation and Amenity that take into account PPG 9 and promote wildlife conservation.

North Yorkshire County Council's Structure Plan also has clear conservation policies that protect wildlife sites.

Nature conservation can be a material consideration in determining planning applications, and planning conditions and obligations can be used to secure the means for long-term management.



Queens Court, Harrogate - a car park redeveloped for office and residential use retained all the mature trees within the design.

Controlling the development work

The nature conservation interest in any development site should be protected during construction work, and it will be a condition of planning permission to prevent damage to habitats and species. Controls may include the timing of development to avoid disturbance to species such as birds in the breeding season, the use of protective fencing, measures to protect watercourses and groundwater from pollution, and re-instatement of soils. The Landscape Design Guide contains detailed advice on the protection of trees on development sites (see LDG2.5).

Sustainable development

The conservation of biodiversity is a global imperative and the wider implications of local developments should be borne in mind. The sourcing of materials used during development is a consideration, as extractive and processing procedures may have impacts on wildlife.

In general terms it will be beneficial to maximise the use of recycled materials and aggregates, to use renewable resources, and to minimise the amount of waste produced during construction.



A. Weston

Marsh Marigold

Peat-free composts should be specified for planting schemes. Timber should be obtained from a certified source such as the Forest Stewardship Council (See Harrogate Borough Council's Energy & Sustainability Design Guide).

Some Key Conservation Policies in the Harrogate District Local Plan

Policy NC1

Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on a European Wildlife Site, a Proposed European Wildlife Site, or a RAMSAR Site will not be permitted. The strictest protection will be afforded to these sites in accordance with their international importance.



Bluebell woodland

L. Kerlake

Policy NC2

Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will not be permitted. Strict protection of these sites will be afforded in accordance with their national importance.

Policy NC3

Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on a Local Nature Reserve or a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation will not be permitted. Protection of these sites will be afforded in accordance with their District-wide importance.

Policy NC4

Outside designated sites development will not be permitted which would result in the loss of or damage to semi-natural habitats which are important for nature conservation. Protection of these habitats will be afforded in accordance with their importance within the District.

Policy NC5

Where development is exceptionally permitted which is likely to have an adverse effect on any site of nature conservation interest or semi-natural habitat the harm to the site's natural interest should be kept to a minimum. Where appropriate the developer will be required through the use of conditions and/or planning obligations to provide appropriate compensatory measures in accordance with Policy IMP3 of this Local Plan.

Policy NC6

Development and other land use changes which may have an adverse effect on badgers and other species protected by schedules 1, 5, and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, will only be permitted where harm to the species can be avoided. To avoid harm to the species the local planning authorities may consider the use of conditions and planning obligations which seek to:

- A) Facilitate the survival of individual members of the species; and/or
- B) Reduce disturbance to a minimum; and/or
- C) Provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of populations.

Policy NC7

Proposals for development should, where appropriate, introduce new habitats which would enhance the natural interest of the District and be in accordance with Policy IMP3.

Policy C3

Development will not be permitted where it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the landscape character and amenity of river and stream corridors.

Policy C5

Development will not be permitted where it would harm the landscape, screening, or wildlife value of woodland. Strictest protection will be afforded to ancient semi-natural woodland.

Policy C5A

Development which would require the removal of important hedges will not be permitted, unless justified in the wider public interest.

Policy IMP3

Where acceptable development would result in the loss of, or an adverse impact on, local environmental features, the Borough Council may seek a Planning Obligation to secure mitigation measures which would minimise the potential damage and/or compensation measures which may enhance the environmental features on an appropriate site nearby.



Harrogate town centre from Harlow observatory on Otley Road

Planning policy for land use in the Harrogate District is contained in the Harrogate District Local Plan. Harrogate Borough Council's nature conservation objectives are to protect sites, habitats and species of nature conservation interest from inappropriate development; and to enhance the nature conservation interest of the District. The following notes give more specific guidance for developers on what is expected from them in order to protect and enhance biodiversity during the process of development.

Location

There is a presumption against development affecting sites that are important for wildlife. Protection policies are applied in accordance with the conservation status of the site:

Designated Sites

- The highest priority for conservation is given to nationally and internationally important wildlife habitats.
- Statutory designated wildlife sites are shown in the Harrogate District Local Plan and planning policies for Nature Conservation (policies NC1, NC2 and NC3) give protection to those sites from potentially harmful development.



An established pond.

Non-designated sites

- There are many sites of importance for nature conservation that may not carry statutory designation, but where sympathetic management is supporting biodiversity
- Developers are required to avoid direct or indirect impact on these sensitive sites (see policies NC4 and NC5).



Great Crested Newt.

C. Slator

- Developers are expected to give special consideration to the biodiversity potential of any proposed development site (see policies NC7 and IMP3). This potential should include adjacent areas and wildlife 'corridors' that may give the proposed site an ecological context.

Recommended Good Practice

Site survey

- Both green field and brown field sites may have important wildlife features, and proposals for development should take account of the quality of existing wildlife value and the potential for enhancement. An ecological survey should be conducted to assess this nature conservation interest and the likely impact of development. This should be done at an early stage as the retention of any existing features will need to inform the design process.
- The ecological survey must be conducted at the appropriate time of year to be able to identify the presence of particular species.
- The survey report should be appropriate to the size of the proposed development and the importance of the species and habitats identified. It should be sufficient to provide information that will allow the impact of the proposal to be assessed.
- Proposals should demonstrate how wildlife considerations have been incorporated into the development, if any measures for mitigation will be instituted, and what positive measures for enhancing biodiversity are planned.
- Major developments will require a formal Environmental Impact Assessment.

Criteria for ecological assessment

- Environmental Impact Assessment is mandatory for projects of the kinds listed in Schedule 1 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Regulations) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999.
- Environmental Impact Assessment is normally required for projects of the kind listed in Schedule 2 of the above Regulations that may affect internationally important wildlife sites, other environmentally sensitive areas (either statutory or non-statutory), World Heritage Sites and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Protecting important species & habitats

- Any development proposal affecting protected or important species should provide for their safeguarding and long term conservation. Important species are those species recognised as being at risk, but not necessarily receiving statutory protection (see policies NC6, C3, C5 and C5A of the Harrogate District Local Plan (HDLP)).



Studley Royal - a Registered Historic Park and part of the Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site.

- If a proposed development site is known or suspected to contain protected or important species, Harrogate Borough Council will require a survey to be carried out by a suitably qualified professional consultant. The Council will consult English Nature on such proposals. Developments that may have a detrimental effect on protected species or their habitat may only be permitted under licence from DEFRA.

Retaining existing habitats

Most development sites are likely to contain features that have a wildlife value. These may be natural, such as ponds, wetland, watercourses, trees, hedgerows, grassland or scrub, or they may be constructions like walls and buildings. The site survey should evaluate the wildlife value of such features, and provision should be made to retain important habitats within the development in a way that will enhance their wildlife value.



C. Slator

Rossett Acres, an LNR in Harrogate, supports Great Crested Newts.

Habitat Creation

Opportunities should be sought for creating new habitats or enhancing existing habitats in any development proposal. These should be appropriate to the location and the scale of the development. On larger sites for example it may be possible to plant trees and shrubs or to incorporate a pond; on small developments the use of climbing plants on walls can provide shelter, nesting sites, or be a source of food.

Consideration should be given to the use of bird boxes on suitable walls or trees, and bat boxes or bat bricks on buildings. Native species of plants, preferably of local provenance, should be chosen to maximise the benefits to wildlife.

Harrogate Borough Council will use planning conditions and planning agreements to enhance the nature conservation interests of suitable development sites (see policies NC7 and IMP3 of the HDLP).

Management and monitoring

The key to maintaining the viability of wildlife sites is active conservation management and it is important that provision is made for this in any development. A long term management plan should outline the conservation objectives, the means of monitoring habitats and species, and describe the practical maintenance measures that may be needed. Harrogate Borough Council's Landscape Design Guide suggests what is needed in management plans (see sheet LDG7.5).

Planning agreements may be sought to ensure that conservation management is properly resourced.

There are many ways for individuals to help wildlife: at home, at school, in the workplace. This section offers some ideas on what may be possible. These need not be expensive or time-consuming and even small things can make a big difference. It is important to remember that all species have a place in a natural food chain as well as a wildlife importance in their own right, and we should respect this in the ways we control our surroundings. For example, slugs and snails may be pests in gardens, but are the food source of hedgehogs, frogs, and song thrushes. Indiscriminate use of poisons like slug pellets not only kill the slugs, but also get carried up the food chain and poison other creatures too. It is better to use other forms of pest control that work with nature rather than against it.

Garden for wildlife



bird boxes: encourage birds with nest boxes, sited in a shady spot secure from cats.

bat boxes: bats are clean and harmless and consume large numbers of insects when they emerge to feed at night.

bird feeder station: regular feeding of birds, particularly during winter months, helps to keep them healthy.

compost bin for kitchen & garden waste: recycling organic waste in a compost bin returns nutrients to the soil.

pond: ponds attract frogs, newts and toads which keep down garden pests; birds may also use ponds for drinking and cleaning their feathers.

plants for insects (pollinators): by growing plants that attract bees, fruit yields could improve with better pollination.

plants for berries (food source): shrubs like elder produce late summer berries to provide a rich food source for birds.

native species: retain established native species but where possible extend variety to attract a diversity of insects.

climbing plants for shelter: using climbing plants to conceal an ugly wall provides shelter for birds and insects.

pile of logs: a pile of rotting logs in a damp corner will attract toads and provide a home to many plants and insects.

These are just a few ideas to make your garden more attractive for wildlife. There are many useful books on the subject, and natural history societies and wildlife organisations can offer advice. Gardens can provide habitats for many species, and sympathetic gardening will make a significant contribution to biodiversity in the District.

Agriculture & Land Management

Sympathetic management can transform the wildlife potential of a land holding. Even small and minimum-cost actions such as allowing hedgerows to grow taller and wider, and confining hedge trimming to the winter months when birds have finished nesting and hedge fruits have been dispersed, will bring benefits. Advice on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme may be sought from the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) or DEFRA's Rural Development Service which can help with grant funding for projects that improve or extend wildlife habitats.

- restrict grazing and be careful with machines while ground-nesting birds are breeding.
- maintain grassland and hay meadows for botanical and bird interest by restricting chemical and organic inputs.
- delay haymaking in flower meadows until seeds have set.
- allow hedge growth to develop good cover rather than just a 'green fence'.
- establish grass field margins and headlands on arable fields to buffer hedges from sprays and to provide wildlife habitat.
- leave some stubble in arable fields through the winter months.
- fence stock away from watercourses and allow bank-side vegetation to develop, planting native trees in gills and alongside becks.
- create scrapes or wet areas to encourage amphibians.
- create new woods on marginal land using native species.
- consider farming on organic principles.
- avoid pollution & run-off from stock housing.
- protect soils from erosion and compaction.

Business

Many opportunities exist on business and commercial sites to create new habitats and to promote biodiversity. Some of the ideas for gardens and land holdings above may be used on commercial premises where there is suitable space. Even where space is limited, a company's policies can be used to sponsor activities and to promote good practice in sustainability principles that will benefit wildlife elsewhere. Seeking ISO14000 Environmental Management accreditation can benefit both profitability and the environment.



- wildlife areas at industrial/business premises.
- sponsoring local species action plans.
- responsible sourcing of materials (e.g. specifying recycled aggregates or timber from sustainable forestry).
- conduct an environmental audit of the supply chain
- design for energy efficiency.
- minimise waste in all production processes.
- minimise noise.
- promote recycling and reclamation (e.g. separate 'clean' waste paper for recycling).
- minimise potential for pollution (including light pollution) by improving on current environmental standards.
- include sustainability awareness in employee training.
- develop 'green' credentials through community involvement, such as inviting schools to participate in creating wildlife areas.



Species

A summary of records for UK priority species for Harrogate local authority area.

This list has been drawn from 'A Biodiversity Audit of Yorkshire and The Humber¹' and represents species identified as priorities at a national level. The document recognises that work to compile a more comprehensive list of regionally important species is ongoing. This work will be given more emphasis during the development of Harrogate's Biodiversity Action Plan and the information here will be updated in due course.

Order	Name	Common name	record
Mammal	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Water vole	
Mammal	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown hare	
Mammal	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European otter	
Mammal	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Dormouse	h
Mammal	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle bat	
Mammal	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser horseshoe bat	h
Bird	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	
Bird	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Nightjar	
Bird	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	
Bird	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting	
Bird	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Corn bunting	
Bird	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted flycatcher	
Bird	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree sparrow	
Bird	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey partridge	
Bird	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	



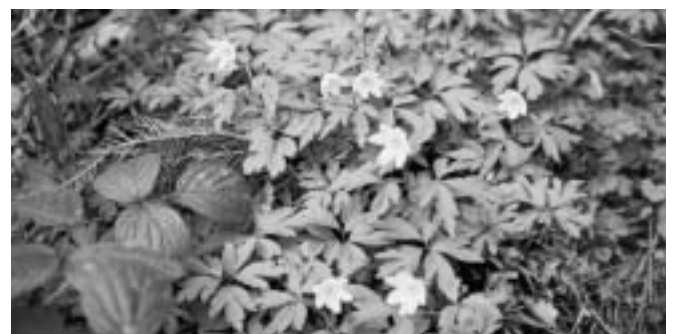
G. Trinder

Spotted Flycatcher



puffball fungus

Order	Name	Common name	record
Bird	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle dove	
Bird	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush	
Amphibian	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great crested newt	
Fish	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>	Sturgeon	h
Fish	<i>Lota lota</i>	Burbot	o
Ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>	Red wood ant	o
Beetle	<i>Anostirus castaneus</i>	a click beetle	o
Beetle	<i>Bembidion -testaceum</i>	a ground beetle	o
Crustacean	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	White-clawed crayfish	
Fly	<i>Spiriverpa lunulata</i>	a stiletto fly	
Mollusc	<i>Pseudanodonta complanata</i>	Depressed river mussel	o
Moth	<i>Cosmia diffinis</i>	White-spotted pinion	h
Moth	<i>Xylena exsoleta</i>	Sword-grass	o
Fungus	<i>Hygrocybe calyptraeformis</i>	Pink wax cap	o
Lichen	<i>Caloplaca luteoalba</i>	Orange-fruited elm-lichen	h



A selection of woodland floor species

Liverwort	<i>Riccia huebeneriana</i>	Violet crystalwort	o
Moss	<i>Bryum uliginosum</i>	a moss	h
Moss	<i>Orthodontium gracile</i>	Slender thread moss	h
Moss	<i>Orthotrichum sprucei</i>	a moss	
Moss	<i>Weissia rostellata</i>	a moss	o
Moss	<i>Weissia squarrosa</i>	a moss	h
Vascular plant	<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Tower mustard	h
Vascular plant	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	h



Painted Lady on Buddleia.

Vascular plant	<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	Purple ramping-fumitory	o
Vascular plant	<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Red hemp-nettle	h
Vascular plant	<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	Pillwort	
Vascular plant	<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Killarney fern	

(All recent records [1990 onwards], except code h = historic [before 1960]; o = old [1960 – 1989])



Deciduous broadleaved trees and the margin of a conifer plantation.

UK priority habitats in the Harrogate local authority area

Habitat	no. of hectares
Upland oak woodland	<15
Upland mixed ashwoods	
Wet woodlands	
Neutral grassland	2,343
Calcareous grassland(un/semi-improved)	50
Upland heathland	10,055
Fens (number of sites)	8
Reedbeds	4
Blanket bog	6,109
Mesotrophic standing water	



Scar House reservoir in the North West of the District

Organisations & Agencies which can advise on Biodiversity

There are a number of organisations which advise on biodiversity and some also run conservation grant schemes:

For biodiversity issues related to:	Contact:	Telephone:
Planning	Planning Section, Department of Technical Services, Harrogate Borough Council, Knapping Mount, West Grove Road, HARROGATE HG1 2AE	01423 500600
Farming	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South Parade, NORTHALLERTON, DL7 8SL	01609 783632
	Rural Development Service (RDS - part of DEFRA) Unit 3, Northallerton Business Park, Standard way, Northallerton DL6 2XQ	01609 767400
Business	Earthwatch, 57 woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HJ www.businessandbiodiversity.org	01865 318800
Rural communities	Countryside Agency, Embankment 4, Victoria Wharf, Sovereign Street, LEEDS LS1 2AD	0113 246 9222
	Rural Development Service (RDS - part of DEFRA)	01609 767400
Gardening	Northern Horticultural Society, Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens, Crag Lane, HARROGATE	01423 565418
	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, 10 Toft Green, YORK YO1 6JT	01904 659570
	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)3-7 Leake Street, YORK	01904 644300
	The Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society	contact details are available from the local Public Library
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) North England, 4 Benton Terrace, Sandyford Road, Newcastle, NE2 1QU	0191 281 3366
Land managers	English Nature, Genesis Building, Science Park, University Road, Heslington, YORK YO1 5DO	01904 435500
	Forestry Commission, Wheldrake Lane, Crockley Hill, YORK YO19 4FF	01904 448778
	Rural Development Service (RDS)	01609 767400
	Game Conservancy, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF	01425 652381
	Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AH	01609 780780
Wetland & water courses	Environment Agency, Coverdale House, Aviator Court, Clifton Moor, YORK YO3 4UZ	01904 692296
	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, 10 Toft Green, YORK YO1 6JT	01904 659570
	English Nature	01904 435500
	Swale and Ure Washlands Project, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AH	01609 780780
SSSIs & Nature Reserves	English Nature	01904 435500
Biological Records	North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre, 5 College Street, York, YO1 7JF	01904 557235

English Nature is the Government Agency that promotes the conservation of wildlife and natural features throughout England. It works directly and with others to halt and reverse continuing serious losses of wildlife. It also works with Government and others to secure policy changes that will help conserve wildlife.

The **Countryside Agency** is responsible for advising Government and taking action on issues relating to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the English countryside. It works to conserve and enhance the countryside, promote social equity and economic

opportunities for people who live there, and to help everyone, wherever they live, to enjoy this national asset.

The **Environment Agency** is a non-departmental public body established by the Environment Act 1995 to regulate environmental standards. Sponsored by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Environment Agency took over the functions of its predecessors, the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, Waste Regulatory Authorities and some parts of the Department of the Environment.



River with banks well sheltered by woodland

The **Forestry Commission** is the Government Department responsible for forestry throughout Great Britain and seeks to protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and to increase their value to society and the environment.

The **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)** is a charity employing county and area based Farm Conservation Advisers who visit farmers and landowners to offer advice on the integration of conservation features with commercial agriculture, through the adoption of environmentally responsible methods of farming. It has a network of local groups supported by a head office in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

The **Game Conservancy Trust** promotes the conservation of game in the British Countryside. It advises landowners, farmers and other conservationists on practical management techniques which will benefit game and wildlife.



Thistle broomrape

The **Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)**. DEFRA aims to balance the needs of agriculture and food production with conservation of the environment and public enjoyment of the countryside.

Through its **Rural Development Service (RDS)**, DEFRA promotes farming and rural practices that benefit wildlife, notably with financial incentive schemes such as Countryside Stewardship.

The **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** is the charity that takes action for wild birds and the environment. It runs 150 nature reserves covering over 100,000 hectares of prime wildlife habitat, and strives to conserve wildlife wherever it may live. RSPB is an active partner in Biodiversity Action Planning.

The **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** is the largest charity dedicated to the protection and enhancement of habitats and species in Yorkshire. As well as managing over 80 reserves, it works with local people and businesses to promote the importance of nature conservation for the well being of the environment and the people of Yorkshire.



Grant assisted woodland replanting

The **Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society** is a long-established local natural history society with a deep knowledge of local flora and fauna.

The **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** is Britain's largest practical conservation charity involving volunteers of all ages and backgrounds in a wide variety of practical tasks and training opportunities.

North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre is the primary source for biological records in the region.



Meadow wildflowers

Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1982 (protected plant species list revised in 1991).

To conserve wild flora and fauna, including migratory species, and their natural habitat; contains lists of protected species; used as the basis for UK wildlife legislation and EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Bonn Convention 1979.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora) 1973.

Controls trade in endangered species of plants and animals.

Conservation (Natural Habitats, Etc.) Regulations 1994 ['The Habitat Regulations'].

The Regulations 1994, a transposition of the EC Habitats and Birds Directives into law in England, Scotland and Wales

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Places a new duty on Government Departments to have regard to biodiversity conservation and to maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted. Amends the 1981 Act provisions and improves protection for SSSIs in England and Wales. Strengthens legal protection for threatened species. Increased powers for tackling wildlife crime.

Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Replacement of Nature Conservancy Council by the Countryside Agency in England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee; additional protection for SSSIs; various provisions for environmental protection.

Game Acts

England and Wales 1831, Scotland 1832. These specify conditions when certain game species may not be hunted or shot.

Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (1992).

EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora. The Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a series of high quality Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) across Europe that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 169 habitat types and 623 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

Removal of hedgerows requires notification to Local Authority. Important hedgerows must be preserved.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Designated under provisions of National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) by local authorities in consultation with English Nature.

National Nature Reserve (NNR).

English Nature has powers, stemming from the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to designate land as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). The aim is both to secure protection and appropriate management of the most important areas of wildlife habitat, and to provide a resource for scientific research. The majority of NNRs have some permitted access.

Natura 2000.

Natura 2000 is the European Union-wide network of nature conservation sites to be established under the Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC 'The EC Habitats Directive'). Natura 2000 will comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under that Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC 'The EC Wild Birds Directive').

The statutory provisions applying to Natura 2000 sites are contained in the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (HMSO SI 1994 No 2716) as amended by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) Regulations 1997 (HMSO SI 1997 No 3055)

Guidance on the application of the Regulations is contained in: Planning Policy Guidance: Nature Conservation (PPG9) HMSO

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitats 1971.

An intergovernmental treaty that aims to stem the progressive encroachment on, and loss of, wetlands now and in the future.

The Convention was signed on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian town of Ramsar. It came into force in December 1975 and was ratified by the UK in 1976.

Red Data Book.

A list of species that are rare or in danger of becoming extinct in a particular area. Species are categorised as Extinct, Critically Endangered (most threatened), Endangered, or Vulnerable (least threatened);

[Previous categorisation (before 1994) was Extinct, Endangered (most threatened), Vulnerable, or Rare (least threatened)].

Regulation 797/85/EEC and Agriculture Act 1986.

Provision for Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for protection of wildlife by adoption of suitable agricultural methods.

Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are the best examples of our natural heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. An SSSI is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In 1992, the Government increased protection for SSSIs within the land use planning system. It withdrew permitted development rights for certain temporary uses of land and indicated that the Secretary of State would generally call in and determine planning applications which would significantly affect sites of national and international conservation importance. It also provided additional advice on the need for Environmental Assessment, and required local planning authorities to consult the conservation agencies about planning applications on land near to and likely to affect an SSSI.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

A non-statutory designation used to identify high quality wildlife sites. Local authorities are required to identify and provide for the protection of natural heritage for planning purposes. In North Yorkshire, the Heritage Unit at the County Council is responsible for identifying sites that qualify under English Nature's criteria. It works with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, English Nature, the Environment Agency and District Councils and in partnership with landowners.

Special Areas Of Conservation (SACs).

Internationally important habitats as designated under the European Habitats Directive.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Internationally important habitats for wild birds as designated under the European Wild Birds Directive.

Town and Country Planning Act 1991 Planning and Compensation Act 1991

Specifies development requiring planning permission.

Provides for additional classes of project requiring Environmental Impact Assessment; Local Authority powers to safeguard conservation areas strengthened.

Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EEC.

EC Directive on the protection of wild bird species and their habitats in Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Candidate SACs together with classified SPAs form the Natura 2000 network of sites. Under the Habitats and Birds Directives this European-wide network of sites is designed to promote the conservation of habitats, wild animals and plants.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

(Amended 1985, 1991) Designation of SSSIs, NNRs, Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs), and Areas of Special Protection for Birds (AOSPs); Nature Conservation Orders, Limestone Pavement Order; lists species protected by law.

References

If you are interested in reading more about biodiversity, relevant publications are:

- | | | |
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| Biodiversity Audit of Yorkshire and the Humber.
<i>The Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum.</i> | Selman R., Dodd F., & Bayes K. 1999. | Guidance for Local Biodiversity Action Plans: Guidance Note
GN 1 - An Introduction;

GN 2 - Developing Partnerships;

GN 3 - How Local Biodiversity Action Plans Relate to Other Plans;

GN4 - Evaluating Priorities and Setting Targets for Habitats and Species;

GN5 -Delivery Mechanisms:
DoE & Local Government Management Board 1997.
<i>Available free from Biodiversity Secretariat</i> |
| Planning Policy Guidance 9: Countryside, Nature Conservation and Amenity | DoE (DEFRA)
(ISBN 0-1-11-752586-3) | Business and Biodiversity:
<i>Available free from Earthwatch Tel. 01865 311600</i> |
| Harrogate and District Local Plan
<i>Harrogate Borough Council</i> | | Making Biodiversity Happen:
Supplementary consultation paper in the Opportunities for Change Series.
<i>Reference only. Available from DEFRA
Free Literature Tel. 0870 1226 236</i> |
| Sustainable Development:
The UK Strategy, £22 | (ISBN 0-10-124262-X) | |
| Biodiversity:
The UK Action Plan (1994), £18.50 | (ISBN 0-10-124282-4) | |
| Biodiversity:
The UK Steering Group Report -Volume I:
Meeting The Rio Challenge, £26 | (ISBN 0-11-753218-5) | |
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The UK Action Plan-Volume II:
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| Government Response to the UK Steering Group Report on Biodiversity, £7.90 | (ISBN 0-10-132602-5) | |
| UK Biodiversity Group:
Tranche 2 Action Plans -Volume I vertebrates and vascular plants
<i>Free from Biodiversity Secretariat.</i> | (ISBN 1-85716-406-7) | |
| UK Biodiversity Group:
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<i>Free from Biodiversity Secretariat.</i> | (ISBN 1 85716 422 9) | |
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<i>Free from Biodiversity Secretariat.</i> | (ISBN 1 85716 445 8) | |
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<i>Free from Biodiversity Secretariat.</i> | (ISBN 1 85716 448 2) | |
| Biodiversity News - quarterly newsletter.
<i>Free from Biodiversity Secretariat.</i> | | |

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