



SECURING BIODIVERSITY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

**The West Midlands Regional
Biodiversity Delivery Plan
2010 – 2015**

SECOND DRAFT

**Following discussion at the WMBP Steering
Group Meeting October 21st 2009**



Context

The purpose of this plan is to outline the proposed delivery of the regional biodiversity targets in accordance with the principles outlined in the new England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS) Delivery Framework 'Securing Biodiversity' that was launched in December 2008 (ref.....). The new EBS Delivery Framework states that regional and local partnerships are a critical component of the proposed framework, because it is at these levels that landscape-scale delivery can be achieved and that partnerships should agree delivery priorities, aiming to enhance biodiversity at a landscape scale and increase the resilience of habitats, sites and ecosystems taking account of the regional 'vision' maps. The document also states that statutory agencies and other conservation organisations will work more closely with them (i.e. regional and local partnership) to enhance biodiversity using all available delivery mechanisms.

The plan will set out the priorities for delivery within the West Midlands taking account of national priorities This plan seeks to:

- Guide future delivery by all partners and to assist funding organisations on the regional priorities.
- Focus on those habitats considered to be a priority for landscape scale enhancement.
- Take account of national priorities.
- Identify delivery issues and mechanisms
- Identify the landscapes scale projects particular those that require urgent action to meet the delivery gaps identified on an annual basis.
- Be reviewed/updated annually

Regional Targets

Regional targets to 2015 are outlined in Table 1 below. These are a sub-set of the new revised targets to 2016 developed as part of the RSS review (see Technical Report for further information). These are still subject to minor amendments to ensure that the regional targets align with the targets set by the local biodiversity partnerships.

Habitat	Maintain & Achieve Condition	Restore	Expand
Arable Field Margins	Unknown	0	1000
Blanket Bog	1504	9	0
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	7343	983	164
Eutrophic Standing Waters	500 sites	0	2 sites
Fens	250	38	16
Hedgerows	Unknown	16 km	105 km
Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree Habitats	n/a	0	0
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	943	31	143
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	956	63	47
Lowland Heathland	1630	0	230 ¹
Lowland Meadows	3492	469	156
Lowland Raised Bog	653	34	0
Mesotrophic Lakes	20 sites	0	0
Native Woodland	44184	3850	3653
Oligotrophic and Dystrophic Lakes	3 sites	0	0
Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	455	6	0
Ponds	Unknown	234 sites	234 sites
Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures	357	22	22
Reedbeds	154	0	63
Rivers	12500 km	63 km	0
Traditional Orchards	7990	313	313
Upland Calcareous Grassland	5	0	0
Upland Heathland	5146	56	9
Wood-Pasture & Parkland ²	21280	488	63

¹Heathland target adjusted to take account of the outstanding delivery required to meet EBG target for this region

²Wood-pasture & parkland target to be converted into sites – also need to ensure that 40 additional sites are restored & 15 new sites are developed in order that this region meets the EBG target to 2015.

Regional priority habitats for landscape scale restoration within the West Midlands region

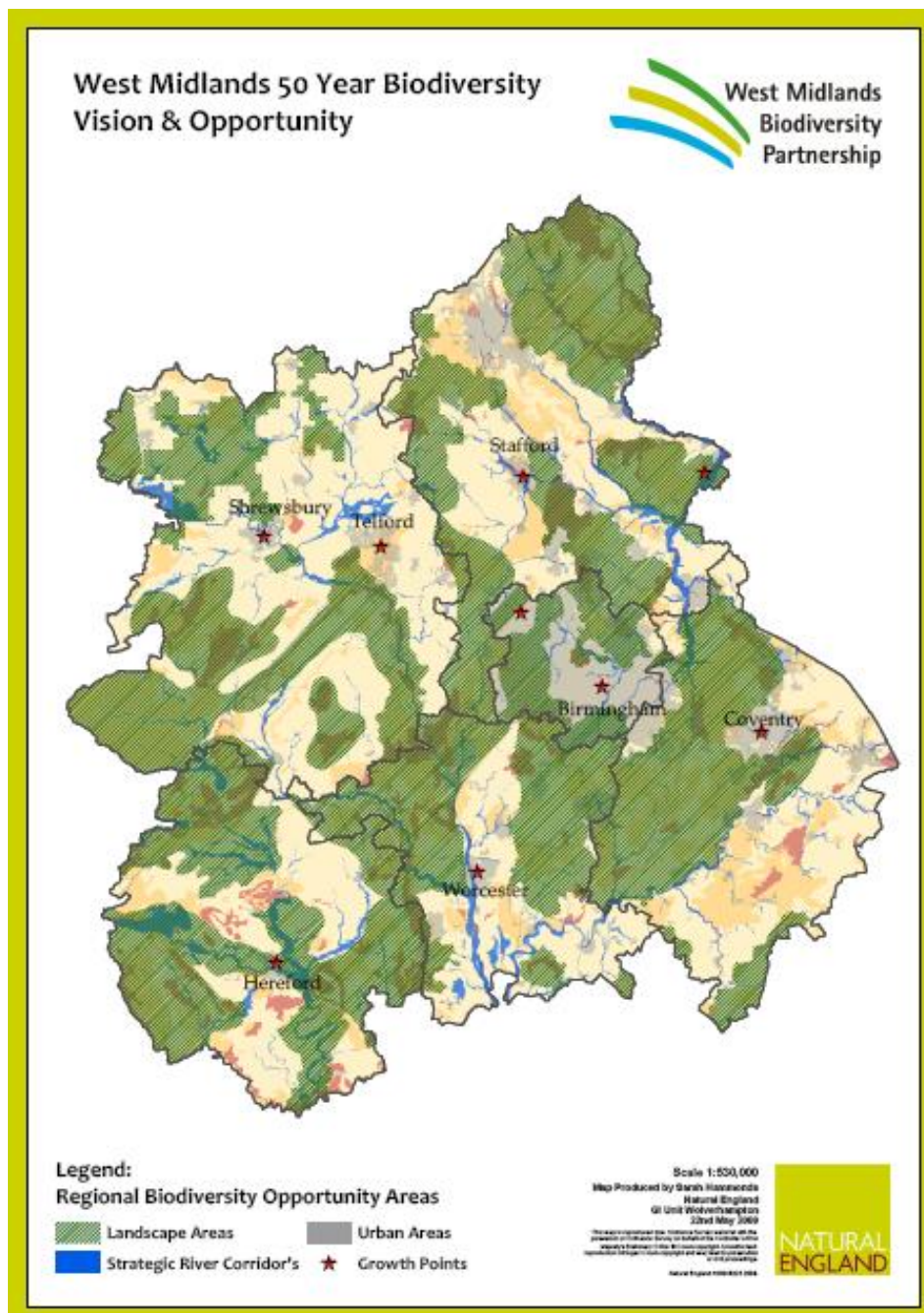
A set of habitats within the region were identified as ‘regional priority habitats for landscape scale restoration’ in 2007 (See technical Report). These have been taken into account in the production of this Delivery Plan

The 50 year ‘Biodiversity Vision and Opportunity Map’, (figure 2) identifies locations across the region that are considered to be the best opportunity to enhance biodiversity

at a landscape scale over the next 50 years. These locations are shown on the map and include:

- 30 landscape areas
- 7 Strategic River corridors
- Urban Areas
- 9 Growth Points

Figure 2 - West Midlands 50 year Biodiversity Vision and Opportunity Map



Delivery of Targets to 2015

The delivery of these targets will be undertaken through a range of measures including;

- Delivery programmes by National Agencies such as HLS and EWGS
- Green Infrastructure
- Direct delivery within AONBs through delivery of Management Plans
- Positive management of Designated Sites (SSSIs, SACs) to meet PSA targets
- Positive Management of Local Wildlife Sites through NI197
- Direct land management by Local Authorities
- Landscape scale projects managed by partnerships
- Thematic projects managed by partnerships
- LBAPs

Further information on the above delivery mechanisms will be added to the final document.

DELIVERY GAPS

It is important that all partners focus resources to deliver the targets and ensure that any gaps identified are addressed. The gaps currently identified are outlined below including the need to improve the baseline data for future planning work.

- Lowland Calc grassland
- Lowland dry acidic grassland
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland heath
- Traditional Orchards
- Woodpasture & Parkland
- Eutrophic Standing Water and Mesotrophic Lakes
- Native Woodland
- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land
- C&FPGM

- Rivers
- Hedgerows
- Arable Field Margins

Regional priority landscape scale projects in urgent need of action

In an attempt to address the above gaps in delivery partners have identified the following projects as regional priorities in urgent need of action over the next 5 years, the list will be reviewed annually to ensure that national and regional priorities are met. In many cases the precise boundaries for partner activity contributing to the partnership project is still under discussion.

1. Princethorpe Woodlands
2. Lias Grasslands
3. Tame, Cole & Blythe Rivers
4. Severn & Avon Vales wetlands
5. Pastoral Landscapes within Malvern Chase and Forest of Feckenham
6. SE Wyre Forest/Kidderminster heathlands & acidic grasslands
7. Black Country Living landscapes
8. Birmingham Waterways
9. Brownfield Land Project
10. Hay to Hereford
11. Woolhope Dome to Malvern Hills Landscape Link project
12. Traditional Orchards and Grassland Wildlife Sites Project
13. Meres & Mosses
14. Shropshire Hills AONB
15. Severn River Corridor
16. Cannock Chase to Sutton Park
17. Staffordshire Washlands
18. Staffordshire Moorlands including Weaver Hills