



The development of The National Forest offers unprecedented opportunities to create and enhance a wide range of wildlife habitats.

Wildlife is already benefiting from the integration of new woodland planting with the creation of new habitats and the management of existing sites of conservation interest.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity in its literal translation means the whole range of life - the variety of living organisms or "biological diversity."

The range of species occurring in a specific area is maintained through a series of complex ecological interactions, often dependent on factors outside the immediate area which the species occupy. This inter-dependence of species underlies the complex diversity of life with man comprising just one part of the system.

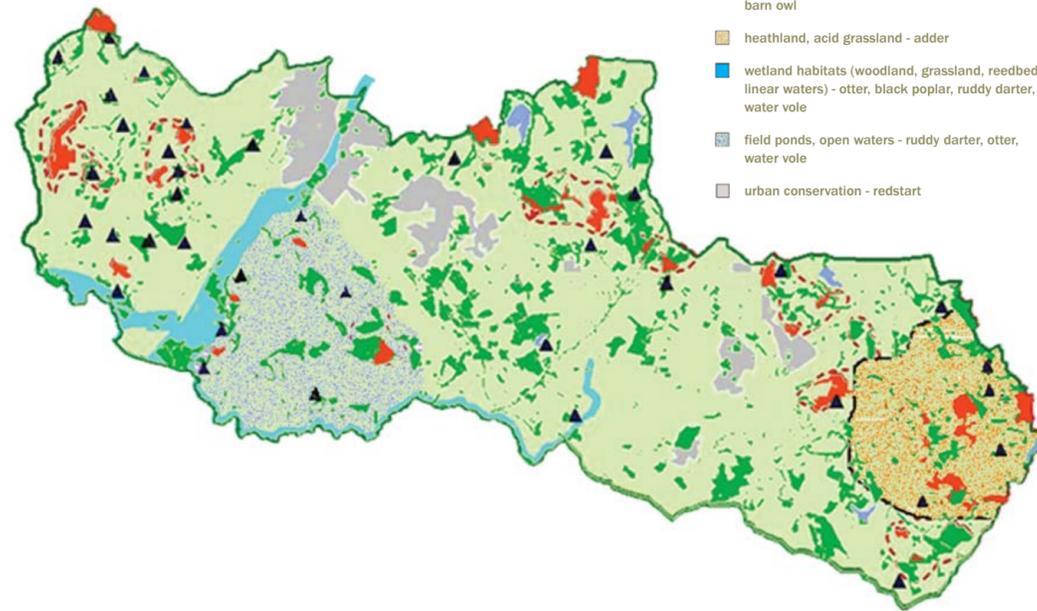
However, the natural diversity of species is increasingly under threat, largely as a result of the actions of man. Human activities are altering and destroying habitats, to the detriment of many species dependent on them. There is now a general rise in the level of

concern and recognition that biodiversity should be treated as a global resource to be protected and conserved.

Conserving biodiversity is not just about rare and threatened species. Ultimately it is about retaining the rich variety of life in any one particular area however small or large. This can be best achieved through protection and conservation of existing natural habitats and species and sometimes also through restoration/re-creation of habitats and re-introduction of species where these have been lost.

LBAPs are locally produced and implemented but, collectively, deliver the UK Government's commitment to conserving biodiversity as signatories to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Earth Summit.

Focus for BAP work by area



- woodland (new and existing) - bluebell, redstart
- ancient woodland sites - bluebell, redstart
- ⬢ ancient woodland priority areas - bluebell, redstart
- ▲ parkland, wood pasture - bluebell, barn owl
- hedges, neutral grassland, verges, field margins - barn owl
- heathland, acid grassland - adder
- wetland habitats (woodland, grassland, reedbed, linear waters) - otter, black poplar, ruddy darter, water vole
- field ponds, open waters - ruddy darter, otter, water vole
- urban conservation - redstart



THE NATIONAL FOREST

...a forest in the making



BIODIVERSITY action plan

2nd edition 2004



www.nationalforest.org



The National Forest Company
Enterprise Glade Bath Lane
Moira Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6BD
Tel: 01283 551211
Fax: 01283 552844
Email: enquiries@nationalforest.org
Website: www.nationalforest.org

Photographs: rpb-images.com NFC, Christopher Bech



Printed on environmentally friendly paper

Designed & produced by Design Wall T 01283 75247



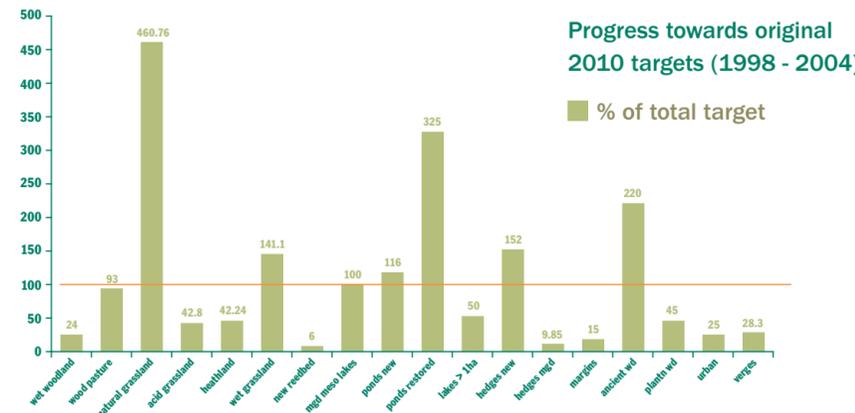
What is The National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan?



Launched in 1998, The National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was one of a number of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) covering the country and was one of the first to be produced. LBAPs are "strategies" or "handbooks" to focus nature

conservation work. They outline work required to achieve the necessary protection and conservation of habitats and species at a local level, which in turn contribute to conserving biodiversity at a national and even international level.

The National Forest BAP is unique. It was the first BAP to be prepared for an area which already has its own intrinsic conservation interest but which is also creating a major new landscape and adding a whole new layer of conservation opportunities. The 1st edition was initiated by the National Forest Company with the support of its Nature Conservation Working Group.



targets BY 2010

Why a 2nd edition?

The BAP was originally scheduled for revision in 2005. However, a number of factors resulted in the 2nd edition being brought forward:

- **excellent progress has been made against many of the targets, with some well exceeded**
- **partner BAPs in Lowland Derbyshire and Staffordshire both have revised targets, which will influence The National Forest's targets**
- **other partners have produced new BAPs, e.g. Severn Trent Water, British Waterways, British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)**
- **there is now greater national and regional co-ordination of BAP work in general, from which the National Forest Company can benefit**

The 2nd edition builds on the original plan and updates the objectives and targets for habitats and species set out in the 1st edition.

The BAP recognised the dynamic nature of the developing Forest in "knitting together" thousands of hectares of new woodland, grassland, hedgerows, wetlands and heathlands to create a resource capable of supporting species already found within the Forest area but also to attract new species, including some rare and declining ones.

This is already evident, with new records of some of the original 7 species chosen for the 1st edition – black poplar, otter and adder especially – as their habitats are enhanced and extended.

Action plans have been prepared for 16 habitats and 9 species. Some habitats from the 1st edition have been amalgamated, 2 added and 1 deleted. 2 new species have been added to reflect plans in partner BAPs and because work is already being done in the Forest area for their benefit.

Implementing the Plan

The momentum and successes from the 1st edition will be carried into the 2nd edition through a partnership approach. The BAP is for the Forest area, not the National Forest Company, and many organisations and individuals will play their part in achieving progress towards the targets.

- **Landowners** – through the Tender Scheme, grant aid and agri-environment schemes have created and managed thousands of hectares of habitat
- **Businesses** – have created and managed habitats on their own land and also sponsored conservation work in the Forest
- **Individuals** – have carried out practical conservation work and surveys in the Forest with BTCV and others
- **Partner organisations** – have worked with others to create and manage habitats and encouraged people to get involved in a variety of ways, as well as making policies to help deliver targets



habitat

Wet woodland	create 50 ha
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	restore 150 ha
Neutral grassland	create a further 200 ha
Lowland dry acid grassland	create 40 ha
Lowland heathland	restore 100 ha
Wet grassland and marsh	re-create 50 ha marsh/create 100 ha wet grassland
Reedbeds	create 40 ha
Open water	restore 5 water bodies each year + create one new body of 1 ha each year to + create 5 new ponds each year
Ancient or species-rich hedgerows	restore 20 km p.a. and plant 5 km p.a.
Field margins	establish 2 - 6 m margins on 10% farms; encourage 6 m margins on all watercourses
Ancient semi-natural woodland	extend 15 sites and bring 15 into management
Plantation/secondary woodland	plant 3735 ha - 4125 ha of new trees
Urban	2 projects per annum
Linear waters - rivers, streams, ditches & canals	create 50 km buffer strips by linear waters; restore 30 km river
Orchards	create 1 per annum and restore 5 in total
Roadside verges	designate 2 verge nature reserves per annum

species

Otter	Provide suitable otter habitat along 80% of the watercourses in The National Forest
Adder	Increase the number of sites and populations of adders in The National Forest
Black poplar	Increase the number of black poplars in appropriate locations within The National Forest using cuttings taken from local stock
Bats	Maintain existing populations and increase the distribution of bats to all suitable habitats within The National Forest
Bluebell	Include bluebells in 5 new woodlands per annum. Bring 2 woodlands with existing populations into management per annum
Ruddy darter	Double the number of breeding sites in the Forest area
Redstart	Determine the population of redstart in the Forest; increase the population in The National Forest to a total of 30 breeding pairs
Water vole	Restore water voles to 8 targeted sites in The National Forest
Barn owl	Determine current status of the species in The National Forest; increase the breeding population in The National Forest; establish a network of nest boxes across the Forest area

