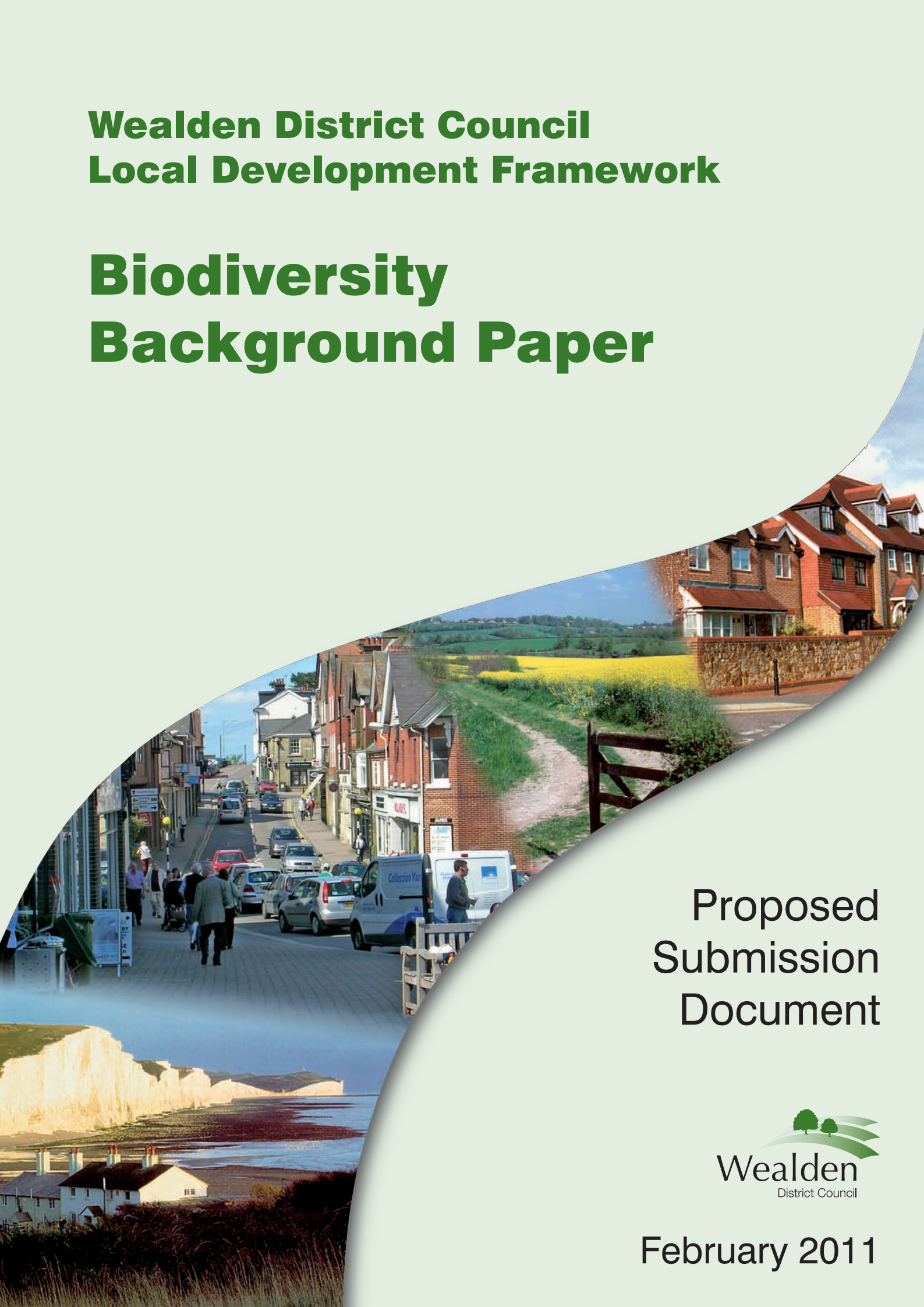
Wealden District Council
Local Development Framework

Biodiversity Background Paper



Proposed Submission Document

Wealden District Council

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Contents

1 Background

1.1 The Council has prepared a series of background papers to accompany the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. The papers cover a range of issues and provide technical and detailed information, derived from a number of our specialist studies, which informs the content of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

These background Papers are:

BP1: Development of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy

BP2: Managing the Delivery of Housing

BP3: The Economy and the Provision of Jobs

BP4: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

BP5: Biodiversity

BP6: Green Infrastructure

BP7: Summary of Town Masterplanning Documents

BP8: Summary of Core Strategy Consultation and Participation

BP9: Assessment of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy under the Habitat Regulations

BP 10: Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy

BP 11: Infrastructure Delivery Plan

BP12: Equalities Impact Assessment

BP13: Implementation and Monitoring Framework

1.2 This Background Paper, entitled Biodiversity, provides information on how relevant policy, guidance and evidence has been used to inform the Core Strategy's vision, objectives and policy in relation to biodiversity.

1 Background

2 Introduction

2.1 Biodiversity 'is the variety of life in all its forms'. This includes all species of plants and animals, so not just the endangered but also the commonplace, and also the habitats and ecosystems which support them. Biodiversity has decreased over the last century on a global scale, alarmingly in some areas, however, it is at the local level where it can be either lost or conserved. Biodiversity is also a vital element of sustainable development.

2.2 This paper sets out the main biodiversity designations and areas of importance for biodiversity that are considered within the Wealden Core strategy and explores a number of key issues in relation to biodiversity within the District of Wealden.

2.3 The final recommendation outlines Wealden's policy approach to Biodiversity across the District based upon this evidence and sets out our commitment to protect, conserve, enhance and create new habitats for wildlife where possible.

2 Introduction

3 Methodology

3.1 National Policy / Strategy / Guidance has been reviewed for the purpose of identifying issues and requirements which the Core Strategy will need to address at the local scale. The evidence that underpinned and supported the biodiversity elements of the South East Plan has also been reviewed. This is to address any gaps that may exist in planning policy in respect of this subject area and which the Core Strategy may need to address at the local level should the South East Plan be formally revoked or replaced by the proposed Localism Bill.

3.2 The Wealden Sustainable Community Strategy has been reviewed to determine the relationship between biodiversity and the long-term objectives of the Strategy. Key priorities and areas of conflict for biodiversity and the long-term vision for the District were also identified.

3.3 Other local plans and strategies relevant to green infrastructure have also been reviewed to ensure that local plans and strategies are considered and integrated into the process of identifying objectives and formulating policy direction for Biodiversity.

3.4 Existing information and evidence has been reviewed to help understand the District's Biodiversity assets. This includes identifying the extent of biodiversity within the District, identifying any apparent issues or concerns surrounding the particular biodiversity asset and also identifying opportunities that may arise in which biodiversity can be created, restored or enhanced through the development of the Core Strategy.

3.5 The priorities, opportunities, key issues and challenges were used to inform a number of biodiversity related objectives.

3.6 Options for a biodiversity policy were tested within the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and a preferred policy option identified.

3 Methodology

4 National Planning Policy

4.1 The following documents set out the Government's national policies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development

Sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development. There is an implicit requirement to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment, including the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning

Explains what local spatial planning is, and how it can provide a means of safeguarding an area's environmental assets for their intrinsic value and their contribution to economic and social well-being. This can be achieved through the protection and enhancement of designated sites, landscapes, habitats and protected species, through mitigating and reducing the effects of climate change and more generally through the creation of a positive framework for environmental enhancement.

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biological and Geological Conservation

Sets out the Government's planning policies on the protection of biodiversity and geological conservation. The policy provides a number of key principles and sets a number of key requirements. The policy requires local authorities to protect, conserve and enhance certain sites, habitats and species and calls for an integrated approach in planning for biodiversity.

Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice

Provides detailed guidance on ways in which the Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) principles can be delivered through the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The guidance states that the Core Strategy should incorporate strategic objectives for biodiversity and geological conservation and that the Core Strategy should provide a criteria based policy that addresses biodiversity that is generic to the whole authority area or to broad locations shown in any key diagram. The guidance also reiterates that a Core Strategy policy should refer to, but not repeat national and regional policy. General advice on how to write a biodiversity policy and what to include is also provided in this guidance .

Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and their impact within the Planning System (06/2005)

Provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation. The Circular complements PPS9 and the accompanying Good Practice Guide and brings together advice on sources of legislation relevant to nature conservation and planning. The Circular covers international designated sites, national designated sites, nature conservation outside the designated sites and the conservation of habitats and species.

Biodiversity and Statutory Duties for Local Authorities

4.2 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a statutory duty on all Local authorities to have regards to biodiversity in the carrying out of all their functions. Consequently the inclusion of appropriate and evidence based policies within their Local Development Framework (LDF) documents is a key element of local authorities satisfactorily discharging this duty placed upon them.

5 The South East Plan

5.1 When adopted, the Council's Core Strategy will form part of the development plan, together with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) the South East Plan. Guidance suggests that it is not therefore, necessary for Local Development Documents, including the Core Strategy, to replicate the policy framework contained within the South East Plan.

5.2 The scope of the South East Plan Biodiversity Policy 'NRM5: Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity' provides a regional interpretation and builds on national policy provided in PPS9 and its associated guidance document.

5.3 The new Coalition Government is proposing to revoke RSS through The Localism Bill. The Localism Bill was introduced before parliament on 13th December 2011 and it is anticipated for it to receive Royal Ascent sometime in 2011.

5.4 Should the RSS be revoked the Local Development Framework will not be able to rely upon the strategic policies contained within the RSS. Therefore, it is necessary to justify a biodiversity policy without the framework of the South East Plan, based on robust and credible evidence.

5.5 For this reason the South East Plan has been reviewed to assess whether there are any areas in planning for biodiversity that may need to be covered within a Core Strategy policy biodiversity, should the South East Plan be formally revoked in the future, and where there is evidence to justify the inclusion of a biodiversity policy within the Core Strategy.

5.6 Prior to the South East Plan, the impetus for planning for biodiversity was contained in a number of national Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) (as outlined in section four).

5.7 Planning Policy Statement 9 and its Guidance is a prescriptive document ensuring that biodiversity is considered at all levels of planning. Should the South East Plan, and more specifically Policy NRM5 be abolished it is considered that there would only be gaps in those biodiversity areas not specifically covered by PPS9 or its associated guidance. These areas include:

- The protection of county and local wildlife and geological sites - PPS9 states that local authorities should establish a criteria based policy against which proposals should be judged. The guidance also states that local authorities should consider how local sites can be protected and enhanced. Good practice would be to protect, enhance and support the management of these sites;
- How to ensure appropriate access to areas of wildlife importance - There is no specific coverage of access to wildlife in PPS9. However, the guidance clearly recognises the role that access to local sites can play in relation to education, health and general well-being.
- How to influence and support a multitude of land management practices - Not specifically covered within PPS9. However, PPS1 advocates a spatial planning approach bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of

land with other policies and programs which influence the nature of places and how they function. This aspect is dealt within the following section.

5.8 Based on the above, this paper considers the need, based on local evidence, as to whether there is a need for a biodiversity policy to be included as part of the Core Strategy Policy.

6 Local Plans and Strategies

6.1 There are also a number of local plans and strategies to be considered for the purpose of the Core Strategy. The following paragraphs provide a summary of these documents.

Wealden Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

The SCS[1] recognises the importance of the countryside environment within the District including its designated sites, its location within the South Downs, and its rich and diverse rural landscape. The Strategy provides a vision for the environment of Wealden to be 'a healthy, rich and diverse environment based on sustainable principles for everybody'. The Strategy also identifies a number of environmental priorities. The Wealden SCS does not provide a specific priority which directly relates to biodiversity, however, a number of priorities can be cross referenced. These include priorities to:

- Provide a network of green spaces to buffer the effects of climate change on wildlife;
- Protect, maintain and enhance both rural and urban environments;
- Encourage support for farmers, other landowners and managers who maintain the landscape and contribute to the quality and visual attractiveness of rural environments; and
- Maintain public open space for people and wildlife including tree planting and maintenance of existing trees and planting schemes.

South East Biodiversity Strategy

The South East Biodiversity Strategy is produced by The South East England Biodiversity Forum. It is essentially a web-based resource providing a working guide for the south east for policy development and actions to deliver a secure future for biodiversity in the area. The South East Biodiversity Strategy is also a regional expression of the National England Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy identifies Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) across the South East region. These are considered to be the priority areas for the restoration and creation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. The document outlines that it is essential to embed the Strategy into strategic planning and policy documents at District level.

1 Wealden Sustainable Community Strategy (2008): www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk

Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan

The Sussex Biodiversity Action Plantranslates the UK BAP into action plans at the County level and sets out actions needed for protecting and enhancing wildlife at the local level. The Plan prioritises Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) identified in the South East Biodiversity Strategy and provides targets for maintaining, restoring and creating BAP habitats. In Sussex, the Local BAP is co-ordinated by the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership. Wealden District Council together with other local authroities and conservation bodies is a representative within this organisation.

Ashdown Forest Management Plan

The Ashdown Forest Management Plan sets out a number of objectives for the conservation, enhancement and protection of the Ashdown Forest and its internationally and nationally important features. The responsibility for managing the Ashdown Forest lies with an independent body, the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest. Wealden District Council has two appointed Council Members on this board.

Pevensey Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Water Level Management Plan

The Pevensey Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Water Level Management Plan sets out the objectives for the conservation of the Pevensey Levels and the ways in which the objectives can be achieved. The plan identifies opportunities for action to bring the site into favourable condition and provides information to assist operating authorities fulfil their duties for the conservation of wildlife and the enhancement of natural beauty. The Plan is produced by the Environment Agency.

The South Downs Management Plan

The South Downs Management Plan seeks to provide a common statement of public policy for the area as a designated protected landscape and as such, a framework for action by a range of local and national public bodies over the next five years. The South Downs Management Plan was adopted in October 2007 and was formally endorsed by Wealden in February 2008.

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2004

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2004 has been prepared by the High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) on behalf of the constituent local authorities who have delegated this task to the JAC. It is a statutory requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act that all local authorities must prepare a management plan for their part of any AONB within their administrative area.

The High Weald (AONB) Management Plan Review (2009)

The High Weald (AONB) Management Plan Review (2009)sets out clear land management priorities and outputs for the High Weald AONB. The plan sets out objectives against which actions that affect the landscape should be assessed and sets out guidelines for the conservation and enhancement of the High Weald. The 2009 revision of the Management Plan was formally adopted by Wealden District Council in March 2009.

The South East River Basin Management Plan

The South East River Basin Management Plan River Basin Management Plans are plans for protecting and improving the water environment. They contain the main issues for the water environment and the actions we all need to take to deal with them.

Regional Forestry and Woodland Framework, 'seeing the wood from the trees'

The Regional Forestry and Woodland Framework provides a regional expression of the England Forestry Strategy. The document describes priorities and programmes for using trees, woodlands and forestry to help meet the needs of the South East. It also sets out a number of objectives to secure the future of woodlands.

Wealden Ancient Woodland Inventory

The Wealden Ancient Woodland Inventory is an important tool for policy makers, planners and land managers to identify key areas for the conservation, protection, restoration and planting of native woodlands and increasing awareness of the importance of ancient woodland. Ancient woodland is a major biodiversity resource within the District and also contributes to the local rural economy and the recreation and leisure potential of the District.

Wealden's Ancient Tree Survey

Wealden's Ancient Tree Survey provides information on the location and distribution of ancient trees within Wealden District.

7 Biodiversity in Wealden District

7.1 Within Wealden's landscape there is a range of international, national and local designations for nature conservation and wildlife. Some of these sites are statutory and some are non-statutory designations. The following information summarises Wealden's Biodiversity assets. Further information and a review of these assets can be found in Appendix 1.

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Ashdown Forest
- Special Protection Area (SPA) - Ashdown Forest
- Ramsar Site[2] - Pevensey Levels[3]
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest - 32 sites
- National Nature Reserves - 2 sites
- Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) - 14 sites
- Local Nature Reserve - 6 sites
- Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - 97 sites
- Ancient woodland - 14.15% of Wealden District
- Legally protected Species
- UK BAP Habitats and Species (19 habitats and 242 species recorded in Wealden[4])
- S41 Habitats and Species of principal importance[5]
- Biodiversity Opportunity Areas - 20 areas within Wealden
- Veteran Tree's and woodland
- Important networks of habitats
- Previously Developed land

7.2 European and National legislation and guidance including that contained within PPS9 sets out how sites of biodiversity and geological importance will be protected and enhanced. The table in Appendix 2 sets out the legislation and national and regional policy and guidance requirements relevant to Wealden's environmental assets. The table also outlines how this will be implemented within Wealden's LDF.

2 A Ramsar Site is an International site, treated under UK policy as equivalent to a European site.
3 The Pevensey Levels are currently being considered by the UK Government as a possible SAC. Further information can be found on Natural England's website www.naturalengland.org.uk
4 It is possible that further BAP habitats and species are present in Wealden but not currently recorded.
5 Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities NERC Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

7 Biodiversity in Wealden District

8 Current Biodiversity projects in Wealden

8.1 Wealden District Council supports a number of initiatives where work has begun or is advanced on projects in and around Wealden that contribute to the enhancement or conservation of biodiversity. Projects within the District and beyond[6] are undertaken by the following bodies:

- The High Weald Joint Advisory Committee;
- South Downs Joint Committee (now the South Downs National Park Authority);
- The Ashdown Forest Conservators;
- The Environment Agency;
- The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre; and
- Sussex Wildlife Trust.

6 Projects are undertaken on a cross boundary basis.

8 Current Biodiversity projects in Wealden

9 Key Issues and challenges

9.1 Wealden is a large rural district situated within a diverse landscape. The landscape spans three broadly distinct geological areas, namely the High Weald, the Low Weald and the South Downs. The South Downs also includes an area of Sussex Heritage Coast[7]. The varied geology of Wealden's landscape together with its countryside environment means that Wealden and its surrounding areas has a rich variety of habitats and wildlife. Therefore, Wealden currently has a good biodiversity resource, although there is scope to further improve its biodiversity assets. However, a particular challenge for the Local Authority is to also meet the need for housing and employment growth whilst ensuring that habitats and species within the District are protected, conserved, managed and enhanced.

9.2 There is a relatively high coverage of internationally important areas of conservation within Wealden including the Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC and the Pevensey Levels Ramsar site. These are the most important sites within Wealden for biodiversity. Under European and national legislation the Local Authority must consider and seek to avoid any adverse impact the Core Strategy may have on the Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and also on the Pevensey Levels "Ramsar" site. This will be dealt with in more detail within the Council's Appropriate Assessment Background Paper which sets out how we have met the legislative requirements of the Habitats Regulations as applied to these areas.

9.3 Wealden has a high coverage of national designated sites (NNRs / SSSIs) as well as a number of regional and local sites designated for their nature conservation or geological importance (SNCIs). Around 15% of Wealden's Countryside is classed as a designated site (both statutory and unstatutory). This is distinct from the very high percentage of the District designated as of national significance for its landscape quality (AONB or National Park). These sites are also important sites for biodiversity.

9.4 In 2010 nearly all of Wealden's 32 SSSIs were recorded as being either in favourable or recovering condition. Land management work undertaken as part of a Government funded initiative to improve the condition of SSSIs (coordinated by Natural England) is key to the recent improvement in the condition of these sites. A key issue for the Core Strategy is to therefore ensure that the District's SSSI network continues to be protected, restored and maintained. This can be achieved by supporting relevant bodies and through partnership working with the relevant agencies. It will also be necessary to ensure that future development does not cause any SSSI unit to deteriorate or hinder recovering units from achieving favourable status. The condition of Wealden's SSSIs will continue to be monitored by Natural England.

9.5 In relation to SNCIs, National Indicator 197 (DEFRA) is concerned with measuring positive conservation management which includes bringing locally designated sites under good management and protection[8]. The indicator measures actions undertaken at the

7 Heritage Coasts are 'defined' rather than designated, as there is no statutory designation process like that associated with National Parks and AONBs.

8 In some instances this could be no management or very limited intervention.

local level. It is important that these sites continue to be protected and brought into positive conservation management, appropriate to their biodiversity features. The Local Development Framework will need to support and encourage the positive management of such sites where biodiversity of local importance is present and designate additional sites where appropriate. It is these local sites that contribute to Wealden's local distinctiveness.

9.6 Designated sites have previously been the main focus for protecting and conserving biodiversity within the District. However, a new integrated landscape approach to restore whole ecosystems is now advocated which requires a new way of planning for biodiversity to ensure "connectivity" between habitats of importance and to enable the enhancement of others.

9.7 BAP species are recorded as being most prevalent in Wealden's designated sites, where the Arlington Reservoir, Pevensey, Ashdown Forest and the Seven Sisters Country Park SSSIs are hotspots for recording BAP species.

9.8 Wealden also has an array of BAP species that live outside the boundaries of designated sites and specifically protected areas[9]. However, species are less concentrated in these areas[10]. Wealden's designated sites are somewhat isolated from the surrounding countryside, inhibiting the migration of species to colonise new areas. Therefore, biodiversity needs to be addressed outside designated sites to conserve and where possible enhance those habitats that support BAP species. Habitat protection, enhancement and management outside designated site boundaries is therefore key to ensure that wildlife corridors are created to allow the free movement of species across Wealden's both rural and urban landscape.

9.9 There are numerous BAP habitats present within Wealden. The South East Biodiversity Forum has incorporated the majority of these areas in the identification of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas[11]. Outside of the formally designated sites these areas are considered to be the most important areas for habitat enhancement, restoration and creation of BAP habitats and will provide Wealden with an opportunity to positively contribute to increasing biodiversity within the District. In planning terms the areas can be considered as areas of ecological constraint (in relation to specific habitats and species of importance) and also as areas of opportunity where positive action could be taken to expand the biodiversity resource of the District and wider area. Some development can therefore be seen as an opportunity to enhance and increase the diversity of these habitats and contribute to achieving BAP targets by expanding and improving the habitats located within the BOAs.

9.10 The District's 2006 Ancient Woodland Inventory indicated that since 1989 there has been a loss of around 250 hectares of Ancient Woodland within the District, of which 60 hectares has been lost to development and the remainder 190 hectares lost to grassland and agricultural uses. Ancient woodlands are a uniquely valuable habitat where its wildlife

9 See UK BAP species map in Appendix 4

10 Please note that records reflect recorder effort to some extent so cannot necessarily be used for a proxy for species abundance in a given area.

11 Please note that BAP Habitats also exist outside BOA also.

is generally richer than that of more recent woods, and they often contain rare and vulnerable species. Whilst similar across the UK, the District's Ancient Woodland resource is highly fragmented with approximately two thirds of its Ancient Woodland on the revised inventory occurring as small woodland parcels of less than 2 hectares in size. In the face of climate change this fragmentation may further threaten the ability of certain woodland species to migrate which could result in the extinction of species at a local level. It is therefore important to continue protecting the District's Ancient Woodland resource and where possible support and promote its restoration and better management including the protection or creation of links between woodland blocks such as hedgerows, copses and shaws to allow species migration.

9.11 There is a limited legacy of brownfield land within the District. Therefore a significant amount of future new development will have to occur on greenfield sites. This will inevitably make it more challenging to balance future growth with the concept of protecting the countryside, habitats and species. However, as indicated above, development might legitimately be expected to contribute to the overall biodiversity of the District through potential offered by the BOAs.

9.12 Additional new development located within the District of Wealden has the potential to contribute to biodiversity loss and have a negative impact on the District's biodiversity assets. It is therefore important to ensure that any future development proposed within the Core Strategy and subsequent Development Plan Documents (DPDs) does not cause harm to designated sites or to the many other sites and habitats which are of local and regional value for wildlife.

9.13 Rural development, increased urbanisation and transport infrastructure provision within Wealden all has the potential to contribute to the further fragmentation and deterioration of habitats. This can occur as a result of reducing the area of habitat (habitat destruction), isolating a habitat or breaking up a habitat area into smaller areas. This can result in a net loss of biodiversity and can also reduce the chance for species to migrate and populate new areas or those from which they have been lost. It is therefore important to reduce the fragmentation of habitats to enable species to move freely across Wealden's landscape. This will also increase the opportunity for species and habitats to adapt to climate change through colonisation of new areas. In this sense, the Local Development Framework will need to consider how best to contribute to the maintenance and creation of green networks to ensure the connectivity of sites for wildlife.

9.14 Within Wealden the rural economy, for so long based upon farming and forestry, is subject to economic pressures and changing circumstances. The change of use or abandonment of both farms and land (once used for traditional rural practices) can lead to the inappropriate management of habitats and / habitat loss. When this happens there is a risk that the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat could eventually be lost. Where rural diversification takes place it is therefore especially important to ensure that habitats continue to be managed in a way that will continue to enhance biodiversity.

9.15 Whilst BOAs are useful in directing conservation efforts, they are not the only locations where biodiversity can be increased or enhanced. It is increasingly being recognised that urban habitats as well as rural habitats are also of nature conservation

value for both wildlife and people. Development that successfully plans for and subsequently incorporates biodiversity into its design can also contribute to the creation of wildlife corridors and can contribute to the restoration of both urban and rural degraded habitats.

9.16 The distribution of wildlife is already changing in the UK, with southern species expanding northwards and cold-loving species declining or disappearing. This is more important in Wealden District's rare and distinctive habitats, such as heathland in Ashdown Forest and the chalk grassland of the South Downs, because of the longer and increasing distances between locations where species with these specialist requirements can exist. In time, it is also predicted that climate change will transform the appearance of Wealden District's landscapes and the occurrence of plant species. It is important for the Core Strategy and later DPDs to address climate change pressures on biodiversity and to address land use measures for facilitating species adaptation including the re-connecting of habitats. This is addressed more fully within Wealden District's Green Infrastructure Background Paper.

9.17 Water management has strong links with biodiversity and designated sites of European and local importance. Watercourses are also valuable ecological habitats and valuable landscape features. Water based habitats are significant in Wealden. The Pevensey Levels Water Levels Management Plan provides information on important habitats and species. The River Basin Management Plan for the South East area provides objectives to be met in relation to waterways within the District.

9.18 Urban areas including brownfield land are often discounted as having no biodiversity value and are often overlooked for habitat and species protection and enhancement. However, urban areas and brownfield land can often provide habitats which are important for a wide range of species. In addition, brownfield habitats, urban verges, amenity planting and formal landscaped zones can be of value when considering green corridors and connecting urban areas with the rural hinterland.

9.19 Landscape also has strong links with biodiversity with the " health " of the landscape and its management having a direct bearing upon its biodiversity interest. Key issues and opportunities are outlined within the Core Strategy green infrastructure background paper where an overview of the District's landscape is considered as part of a green network.

10 Biodiversity Objectives - what we are seeking to achieve

10.1 By 2030 and throughout the Core Strategy period Wealden will:

- achieve an improvement in the quality and extent of its natural and semi-natural habitats;
- actively seek opportunities for restoration and creation to assure a net gain in biodiversity is achieved;
- conserve and enhance sites of biodiversity value;
- continue to offer support to those organisations that help deliver the objectives;
- ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on biodiversity;
- contribute to local[(12)] and regional[(13)] biodiversity targets; and
- act to mitigate the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

12 Local Biodiversity Targets can be found at the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership Website: www.biodiversitysussex.org
13 Regional Biodiversity Targets can be found at the South East Biodiversity Strategy website http://strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk

10 Biodiversity Objectives - what we are seeking to achieve

11 Policy elements

11.1 National policy promotes the protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity. The Council's emerging Core Strategy can contribute to this by addressing key issues in relation to biodiversity within the District and providing support and guidance through appropriate policies.

11.2 The key issues and objectives outlined in the previous section can be addressed as follows:

- implementing national policy in relation to sites and features of biodiversity and geodiversity importance within Wealden;
- identifying Wealden's international, national and local sites on the proposals map;
- providing mitigation measures and implementing management plans to ensure that development proposed within the Wealden Core Strategy and subsequent DPDs (either directly or indirectly) does not have a negative impact on the Ashdown Forest or Pevensey Levels;
- supporting and integrating the biodiversity objectives of local management plans and strategies including the Sussex BAP;
- protecting, conserving and encouraging the positive management of Wealden's local sites and ensuring that damage to these sites is avoided unless there is no reasonable alternative option. This should include the provision of compensation measures where development may be considered;
- conserve habitat types and species identified as being of principal importance;
- enhancing, conserving, restoring and creating BAP habitats within biodiversity opportunity areas identified within Wealden;
- protecting, restoring and creating networks of natural habitats;
- integrating biodiversity including conserving and enhancing natural features within the design of development;
- supporting and promoting sustainable land management practices; and
- protecting and restoring waterways.

11 Policy elements

12 Testing of policy direction

12.1 Public engagement and consultation has been an important element of developing Wealden's Proposed Submission Core Strategy. An Issues and Options consultation took place in July 2007 in order to determine the possible growth options which Wealden District Council should address in more detail. Both the public and statutory consultees and other interested parties were invited to make comments on the Issues and Options Paper.

12.2 A section of text within the Landscape Chapter of the Issues and Options consultation document was dedicated to biodiversity. A limited number of responses were received regarding this topic with a significant response from the Environment Agency which asked that for their comments be translated into nature conservation policy / policies. Representations were also received from Natural England, the Sussex Environment Partnership and also the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). A summary of the responses can be seen in Appendix 3. Overall these confirmed that it is considered that wildlife is especially important to Wealden's landscape and that wildlife should not be adversely affected by development proposals or prevented from viably co-existing with development including by fragmentation of habitats and the inability to move after development has taken place.

12.3 No alternative options or suggestions in relation to biodiversity were put forward and there was broad support for the approach outlined above from those who did respond.

12.4 In July 2009 the Council undertook a Core Strategy Spatial Development Option Consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to further the development of the Council's agreed spatial strategy by providing the opportunity for the local community, Parish and Town Councils, other statutory consultees and key organisations to comment on the strategic aims and alternative options for future housing and employment growth in the District and other key issues. A number of issues relating to the Districts landscape and biodiversity were raised including protecting valued landscapes such as the AONB and South Downs National Park and sites of nature conservation value, especially the Ashdown Forest.

12 Testing of policy direction

13 Sustainability Appraisal

13.1 It is a requirement of the existing legislation that all DPDs shall formally undergo a process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA). As part of the SA process of Wealden's Proposed Submission Core Strategy, the biodiversity policy has been appraised. The likely effects of the implementation of the policy are considered to be positive.

13.2 Furthermore, the commitment to work with partners in developing a green network strategy will help to ensure consideration is given to wildlife corridors and biodiversity links and allow an holistic approach to biodiversity across the District and should result in significant beneficial effects for the Core Strategy biodiversity objective. Beneficial effects for other objectives may not in themselves be significant but include human health, reducing flood risk, conserving the countryside and prosperity.

13 Sustainability Appraisal

14 Delivery of policy

14.1 Wealden's approach to biodiversity will be delivered through:

- Working with relevant organisations and groups including Natural England, The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre**,** The High Weald AONB Unit, The South Downs Joint Committee / South Downs National Park, The Conservators of Ashdown Forest, The Environment Agency and The Sussex Wildlife Trust;
- Working with East Sussex Local Wildlife Sites Partnership to help protect, enhance and support the positive management of local sites (SNCI / RIGS) and to consider the inclusion of new local sites and updating the local site system;
- National and local planning policy;
- Provision of appropriate biodiversity enhancements within development schemes;
- Where appropriate through planning obligations including contributions for off site enhancements where it is not possible to satisfactorily deliver on site gains); and
- Through provision of Suitable Accessible Natural Green space (SANGs).

14.2 The following indicators can be used to monitor the effectiveness of any biodiversity policy:

- The condition of SSSIs, SNCIs and RIGS;
- A change in areas of biodiversity importance including a change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, and local significance;
- A change in area and populations of BAP and SAP habitats and species;
- The number of planning applications granted within sites of international, national and local importance (including BAP habitats);
- The number of planning permissions granted and their impact on ancient woodland;
- The number of records of protected, rare and BAP species within a 500m buffer of a planning application;
- The amount of land managed primarily for biodiversity purposes including land under environmental stewardship schemes;
- The biological quality of water courses; and
- Monitoring of relevant targets / outputs from AONB management plans.

14 Delivery of policy

15 Recommendations

15.1 Through the inclusion of biodiversity policy at the national level, biodiversity is increasingly seen as an important consideration within the overall sustainable development objective of Town and Country Planning. National policy provides direct guidance to Local Authorities in carrying out their duties, in relation to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. However, whilst prescriptive about certain elements, there is scope for Local Authorities to best decide how they can contribute to biodiversity and meet their biodiversity duty at the local level.

15.2 Within it's Local Development Framework (LDF) Wealden District Council will be producing a number of Local Development Documents (LDDs). It will be appropriate for Wealden to consider how best to deal with biodiversity issues, objectives, targets, policies, sites, features, habitats and species within more than one of these documents.

15.3 The Core Strategy will however be the overarching LDD that sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Wealden. Therefore, it is considered appropriate for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy to consider a policy to provide the overarching direction in relation to Wealden's overall vision and objectives in relation to biodiversity. This will then provide the broad scope in which more detailed policies can be drawn up and be integrated with the Core Strategy in other Development Plan Documents (DPDs).

15.4 It is important that any such policy for the Wealden's Proposed Core Strategy should not repeat higher level Policy and Guidance, although it would certainly be practical to cross reference the important elements in the explanatory text in relation to International, National, and Local Sites and other biodiversity habitats and species in accordance with National policy and Guidance. Any Core Strategy policy should also be based on evidence and will need to be locationally specific to Wealden. It will also need to take into account and integrate the objectives of other strategies and plans relevant to the national policy and the governments overall objective for biodiversity.

15.5 The Wealden Community Strategy identifies that the Countryside environment and biodiversity assets are key to understanding Wealden, and its richness and diversity of landscape are significant factors in making Wealden a desirable place to live[14]. The Strategy also sets out a number of aspirations relating both directly and indirectly to biodiversity, with the environment and biodiversity clearly identified as important considerations in the shaping of Wealden's future.

15.6 A review of Wealden's biodiversity assets also highlights that Wealden is rich in biodiversity and that there are many opportunities (and indeed responsibilities) where Wealden can protect, conserve and enhance its habitats and sustain its wildlife both in rural and urban areas. Therefore, policies in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy should ensure that consideration of biodiversity and other environmental assets are fully integrated with development and infrastructure provision.

14 Wealden Sustainable Community Strategy (2008) www.wealdencommunitystrategy.co.uk

15 Recommendations

16 Recommended policy

16.1 Taking into account all of the issues covered in this paper a suggested policy for Wealden's Draft Proposed Submission Core Strategy is set out below. This is based upon sound and up to date evidence that is relevant to the local area, founded in both empirical and consultative support and which has been subject of consultation with a number of key partners including Natural England and the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership. It is considered that this overarching policy addresses Wealden's key biodiversity issues at a level commensurate with the Proposed Submission Core Strategy's strategic nature and provides a basis upon which more detailed policies can be delivered in future DPDs:

Policy WCS12 Biodiversity

In order to contribute to the biodiversity targets provided in the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan the Council will prevent a net loss of biodiversity, ensure a comprehensive network of habitats, and work with partners to maximise opportunities to ensure habitats, biodiversity features and ecological networks are maintained, restored, enhanced and where possible created to achieve a net gain in biodiversity and sustain wildlife in both rural and urban areas. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of an integrated green network strategy.

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 9 there may be exceptional circumstances when compensatory measures for a net loss of biodiversity is required. Appropriate compensatory measures will be required to contribute to Wealden's overall biodiversity resource, and may include enhancement of Wealden's Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and other relevant Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, so that there is overall no net loss of biodiversity.

16 Recommended policy

Appendices

Appendix 1

Introduction

PPS9 requires planning policies and decisions to be based on up-to-date information about the environmental characteristics of the area. This should include a review of relevant biodiversity and geological resources and an assessment of the potential to sustain and enhance those resources. The latter will be addressed in more detail within other DPDs. In essence the PPS requires that all development, as a broad principle has at least a neutral impact upon biodiversity.

The purpose of this Appendix is to review the biodiversity and geological resources within Wealden and to make the connection between the legislative requirements placed upon the Local Planning Authority and emerging policy in relation to the particular biodiversity resource. The aim is to provide evidence for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy, from which a 'locally specific' biodiversity policy can be drawn.

Statutory Biodiversity sites

Areas of International or European Importance for Nature Conservation

Local Planning Authorities are required under Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of any land use plan on a European site. UK Government policy[15] recommends for Ramsar sites to be treated as having equivalent status to European sites for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them.

The ultimate aim of the Habitats Directive is to “maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest” (Habitats Directive, Article 2(2)). The aim relates to habitats and species, rather than the European sites themselves, although it is acknowledged that the sites have a significant role in delivering favourable conservation status.

Wealden District contains two such internationally designated wildlife sites, namely the Ashdown Forest and the Pevensey Levels.

In relation to Wealden's International sites, Wealden District Council has commissioned Consultants to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Wealden Core Strategy as required by this legislation. The report promotes the use of a number of mitigation measures to ensure that the Ashdown Forest and Pevensey Levels are not adversely affected by the distribution or quantum of development proposed in the Core Strategy. In accordance with the Habitats Regulations a further Appropriate Assessment will be required for individual development sites at the planning application stage to ensure the protection of Wealden's European sites. Further detailed information relating to

15 Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation; and Circular 06/05

Wealden's European sites can be found in Background Paper 9: Assessment of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy under the Habitat Regulations[16]

Ashdown Forest SAC (2,729ha)

The Ashdown Forest was designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in 2005. SACs are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Their purpose is to form a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving specific habitats and species. As outlined in Annex I and II of the Directive the Ashdown Forest is an SAC because it has one of the largest single continuous blocks of lowland heath in south-east England, with both European Dry Heaths and, in a larger proportion, North Atlantic Wet Heath present. The site also supports important assemblages of beetles, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies, including the nationally rare silver-studded blue *Plebejus argus*. The site also supports a significant presence of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus,* although this is not a primary reason for site selection.

Ashdown Forest SPA (3,207ha)

The Ashdown Forest has also been designated a Special Protection Area (SPA). SPAs are also strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed in Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species. The Ashdown Forest has been designated an SPA for its heathland bird populations of European importance, in particular Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Dartford warbler *Sylvia* undata.

Pevensey Levels Ramsar site (3,578ha)

The Pevensey Levels is located in the south of Wealden and has been designated a Ramsar Site (a wetland of international importance) due to its assemblage of rare, endangered and vulnerable species, and important communities of wetland flora and fauna. The Pevensey Levels is also currently being considered by the UK Government as a possible SAC.

Further information relating to these sites and their current condition can be found in the Wealden Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Background Paper or at the Natural England website[17].

National sites

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

NNRs emerged at the same time as National Parks under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. NNRs represent some of the Country's most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems and are a selection of the finest SSSIs. They are managed by Natural England to conserve their habitats or to provide

16 Wealden District Council www.wealden.gov.uk
17 Natural England SSSI www.naturalengland.org.uk

special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats communities and species represented within them.

The following NNRs are located in Wealden.

Table 1 : National Nature Reserves located within Wealden District

Site Name	Area (ha) within WDC boundary
Lullington Heath	62.676
Pevensey Levels	176.685

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

In total there are 32 SSSIs within the District of Wealden covering an area of 8233 ha. The Ashdown Forest and Pevensey Levels are also designated SSSIs.

Sites were originally notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and they represent the Country's very best wildlife and geological sites, supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features. The purpose of SSSIs is to safeguard a series of sites that are individually of high natural heritage importance for the benefit of both present and future generations. The list below provides details of the SSSIs within Wealden together with the area of land located within the District boundary.

Table 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within Wealden District

Site Name	Area (ha) within WDC boundary
Ashdown Forest	3209.172
Penn's Rocks	10.424
Weir Wood Reservoir	152.550
St Dunstan's Farm Meadows	10.234
Folkington Reservoir	5.814
Hastingford Cutting	0.045
Eridge Park	396.787
Pevensey Levels	3098.848
Wilmington Downs	209.776
Seaford to Beachy Head	584.950

Arlington Reservoir	100.405
Rock Wood	10.397
Waldron Cutting	0.183
Bingletts Wood	15.959
Heathfield Park	41.008
Stockland Farm Meadows	5.788
Lullington Heath	72.732
Herstmonceux Park	4.305
Plashett Park Wood	73.211
Milton Gate Marsh	17.736
High Rocks	2.292
Willingdon Down	0.838
Lower Dicker	0.122
Paines Cross Meadow	3.684
Park Corner Heath	2.894
Buxted Park	84.727
Firle Escarpment	86.780
Bream Wood	7.779
High Woods	0.205
Sapperton Meadows	14.610
Burgh Hill Farm Meadow	0.902
Eridge Green	8.458

Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

The biological state of health or condition of SSSIs located in Wealden can be seen below. In 2010 97.83%[18] of Wealden's SSSIs met the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) condition target[19]. This figure compares well against the figure for the

18 Based on information derived from the Natural England SSSI dataset
19 PSA target to have 95% of the SSSI area in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

whole of the South East region of 85.37%. There is an increase in the number of sites showing a favourable condition from 2008. This reflects land management work undertaken as part of a Government funded initiative to improve the condition of SSSIs coordinated by Natural England.

Table 3 Condition of Wealden's SSSI units

Condition	No. of Units (2010)	% of units (2010)
Favourable	37	16.09
Unfavourable recovering	188	81.74
Unfavourable no change	4	1.74
Unfavourable declining	1	0.43

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

Whilst the PSA target has been met in Wealden, there are still 4.01% of SSSI units which are not in favourable or recovering condition. Reasons for this include inappropriate scrub control and under grazing. The majority of SSSIs are privately owned and active conservation management is vital to their well-being. Natural England is currently working towards establishing appropriate management plans for those SSSI units which do not fall within the remit of either favourable or recovering condition.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) provides a general duty on all public bodies (including local planning authorities) 'to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the special features on SSSIs'. There is an expectation from Natural England that public bodies (including Local Planning Authorities) will take full account of their responsibilities whenever their actions or the carrying out of their statutory functions may affect SSSIs.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

LNRs are declared and managed for nature conservation purposes under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. LNRs provide opportunities for research, education, or to simply enjoy and have contact with nature. Local Authorities manage LNRs to maintain and enhance their special wildlife and geology. Some of Wealden's LNRs are privately owned and some are owned by Town Council's. The table below outlines Wealden's LNRs.

Table 4 Local Nature Reserves located within wealden District

Site Name	Area (Ha) within WDC boundary.
Arlington Reservoir (also a SSSI)	100.539
Crowborough Country Park	7.338

Hempstead Meadows	1.603
Old Lodge, Nutley	102.795
Weirwood Reservoir	32.507
West Park, Uckfield (also a SSSI)	10.571

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

Non-Statutory designations

Local Sites (Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) / Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)

SSSIs, SPAs and SACs offer legal protection over extensive areas of habitat and wildlife interest and importance. However, this system can often leave out sites, which although are not of national or international importance, are nonetheless of significant local value for the conservation of wildlife and geological features.

SNCIs and RIGS are non statutory locally designated sites and are the most important resource of biodiversity outside of the statutorily designated areas. These sites not only often represent local character and distinctiveness but also have an important role to play in meeting local and national targets for biodiversity conservation. The sites can also help to provide linked corridors along which species can migrate and colonise to help biodiversity adapt to long-term changes such as climate change.

The objective of a 'local sites system' is to ensure the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of species, habitats, geological and geomorphological features of substantive nature conservation value[20]. The role of such local sites as set out in a DEFRA publication[21] is:

- To provide a comprehensive rather than a representative suite of sites;
- To provide wildlife refuges for most of the UK's fauna and flora and through their connecting and buffering qualities, they complement other site networks;
- To have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets;
- To represent local character distinctiveness;
- To contribute to the quality of life and the well being of the community, with many sites providing the opportunities for research and education.

There are a total of 97 SNCIs in Wealden. These sites vary in size from individual fields to much larger areas and collectively they form part of Wealden's network of habitats which help to maintain biodiversity in the area[22].

20 Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) overall objective of a local sites system
21 Local Sites: Guidance on their identification, selection and management (DEFRA, 2006)
22 Please see 'Appendix 1' - Local Wildlife Sites

The identification of SNCIs in Wealden took place around 15 years ago. The aim was to continually assess and identify SNCIs. However, the network currently remains unchanged from its original form and resurvey or sampling of SNCIs to assess their health, is overdue.

Through the Local Area Agreement process, there is now a statutory duty for Local Authorities to report to central Government on a National Indicator NI 197 Improved Local Biodiversity[23]. The indicator measures the performance of Local Authorities for biodiversity by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management of Local Sites. This relates to the influence Local Authorities have on local site systems and the measures and procedures involved in ensuring effective conservation management is introduced to, and acted upon, by Local Site owners and managers. Overall, the process aims to identify sites where positive conservation is lacking and therefore identifies sites where positive conservation management could enhance environmental quality and biodiversity.

The designation of Wealden's Local Sites is developed, managed and implemented through the East Sussex Local Sites Partnership. The Partnership operates as a consultative group where by procedures are agreed and Local Site selection and management is verified. The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre has accepted responsibility for collating information in relation to NI 197 with Local Site Partners (including Wealden District Council) reporting on the positive conservation management status of the sites.

The 2010 Review of Local Sites[24] identified that the total number of Local Sites within Wealden where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented is 50.9%. This is an increase from the 2009 figure of 42.3%. Good performance is defined as a year on year increase in the indicator.

The number of sites recorded to be under positive conservation management for the purpose of NI 197 is considered to be low when compared with other adjacent Local Authorities. However, looking at the results of the review on a site-by-site basis, there are no sites within Wealden which are recorded as not meeting the NI197 criteria. Instead, the sites failed to meet the criteria due to a lack of supporting information which is required to meet NI 197. Further work therefore, needs to be undertaken to establish the condition of these sites and whether positive management is being undertaken.

One of the main issues is that many SNCIs are in private ownership. Therefore, it is often difficult to ascertain who the landowner is and to gain access to establish the sites condition.

National Guidance[25] advocates for local site partnerships to review the Local Site system. The purpose is to conserve, maintain and enhance species, habitats, geological and geomorphological features of substantive nature conservation value.

In response to the National Guidance, Wealden District Council commissioned a pilot project to develop and test a methodology for a ten-year rolling programme of survey and

23 NI 197 reporting is undertaken by East Sussex County Council
24 East Sussex Local Sites and National Indicator 197 Review 2010.
25 Local Sites: Guidance on their identification, selection and management (DEFRA, 2006)

assessment of existing and proposed new local sites[26]. The project aimed to gather relevant NI197 information and data about each site to bridge the current data gap, as well as to form part of Wealden District Council's responsibilities to identify, select and encourage the management of SNCIs.

The project assessed 7 existing SNCIs within Wealden and 3 potential new SNCIs and made a number of recommendations in relation to these specific sites. Overall, the project highlighted a number of factors:

- There is a need for the network of SNCIs within Wealden to continually be reviewed as there has been some change (both deterioration and also improved biodiversity) in some of the Districts important sites for wildlife since their original identification;
- There is a continuing need to protect, enhance and restore the biodiversity value of Wealden's Local Sites;
- There is value in keeping Wealden's local site system up to date in order to best protect, maintain and conserve locally specific habitats and species; and
- There is value in assessing biodiversity features outside locally designated sites for the purpose of SNCI designation.

Below is a list of the SNCIs located within the District of Wealden.

Table 5 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) within Wealden District

Site Name	Area (ha) within WDC boundary
Washwell Lane Scrub	1.615
Barnet Wood Complex	2.355
Furnace Lane Meadow	2.692
Foster's Meadow	0.634
Veal's Wood Scrub	1.306
Frant Meadows	3.755
Newick Lane Meadow	4.176
Upper Old Mill Meadows	8.443
Hastingford Meadow	2.435
Croom Cottage Meadow	0.077
Tollgate Meadow	0.808

26 Wealden Places for People Pilot Project, Sussex Biodiversity record Centre and Wealden District Council

Appendix 1

Sheffield Park and Meadows	79.490
Cantersand Meadows & Gillhope Bank Wood Gill	5.147
Hellingly Cemetery	2.427
Long Wood and Wet Wood	26.193
Combe Wood	37.360
Boar's Head, Hodges and Cage Woods	26.391
Brown Knoll Farm Meadow	6.311
Fifty Acre Wood	38.749
Hadlow Down Churchyard	0.274
Monkyn Pin	2.599
Ninfield Reservoir	2.226
Popeswood Marsh	1.114
Pound and Furzefield Wood	14.717
Shortbridge Stream Meadow	1.843
Three Cups Corner Meadow	1.493
Rough Wood and Whites Wood	11.500
Beatons Wood	9.261
Blackstone Down	52.910
Bramble Grove	11.184
Clay, Ten Acre and Newbridge Woods	66.885
Friston Forest	730.470
Crane Down and Middle Brow	17.289
Dryad's Field	1.054
France and Short Bottom	32.438
Lakestreet Wood and Devil's Gill	12.560
Boarshead Rocks	1.872

Stonehouse Wood	13.695
Kiln Wood	3.980
Twenty Acre Wood	10.782
Huggets Wood	10.220
Oaken and Furlong Woods	31.980
Summersbrook Wood	26.835
Lake Wood	8.441
Tilton Down	5.222
Wilmington, Deep Dean and Ewe Dean	21.856
Willingdon and Home Bottom	22.174
Barn Field Meadow	4.280
Selwyns Wood Meadow	1.468
Snape House Meadow	1.448
Stephens Farm Meadow	0.876
Hawkenbury Farm Meadows	3.711
Hamsell Lake	2.112
Holden Wood	8.825
Butchers Wood	15.214
West Park	10.624
Courtland Wood	20.766
Hempstead Wood	9.836
Piltdown Common	80.221
Holtye Common	41.304
Crowborough Common	85.623
Plashett Park Lakes and Woodland	31.113
Lodge, Wet & Trebler's Woods	23.083

Appendix 1

Southern Part of Hadlow Deep Wood	10.243
Almonds Wood Complex	13.134
Wildings and Scocus Wood Complex	50.630
Cowden Wood Meadow	1.789
Meer's and Hornslodge Gill Complex	22.254
Rowland Wood Meadow	1.216
Clays Wood	102.481
Jarvis Brook Country Park	7.076
Crowborough Ghyll	33.913
The Warren and Broadwater Forest	243.784
Diplocks Wood	4.924
Entryhill Wood Complex	90.550
Mayfield College Playing Field and Gill	13.675
Bramble Cottage Meadow	2.042
Harrison's Rocks	5.506
Leyswood Rocks	4.729
Budlett's Common Rocks	1.753
Furnace Wood	35.436
Ridgewood Clay Pit	1.948
Bewl Water Reservoir	116.900
Green Wood	11.323
Sheffield Forest Complex	206.220
Combe Wood	53.060
Michelham Priory	7.377
Uckfield Cemetery	1.194
Highwoods Meadows	0.779

Chantlers Farm Meadows	14.190
Cranesden Gill Complex	11.801
Abbots & Wilmington Wood & Milton Hide S	369.680
Tilton Wood	22.561
Ludlay Coppice	9.423
Land at Isfield Church	8.651
Colesgrove Wood Complex	26.494
Jarvis's, Nobody's Wood & Park Wood Complex	112.761

Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)

RIGS are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Sites are again selected under locally-developed criteria, according to their value for education, scientific study, historical significance or aesthetic qualities. RIGS do not benefit from statutory protection. Instead they have equivalent status to local Wildlife Sites (SNCIs). Therefore, consideration of their importance is integral to the planning process and the weighing of this against other material planning considerations. The table below lists those RIGS located within Wealden. A map showing the location of RIGS in Wealden can be found in Appendix 4.

Table 6 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) located within Wealden District

Site Name	Area (Ha) within WDC boundary
Rocks Park, Uckfield, East Sussex	1.906
The Hermitage, High Hurstwood, Buxted, East Sussex	3.366
Lake Wood Rocks, Uckfield, East Sussex	3.237
Waldron Cutting, Tullaghmore, East Sussex	0.728
Hastingford Cutting, Hadlow Down, East Sussex	0.069
High Rocks, Frant, Tunbridge Wells, East Sussex	2.292
Harrison's Rocks, East Sussex	5.190
Eridge Rocks, Eridge Green, East Sussex	8.458

Glen Andred Rocks, Groombridge, East sussex	0.390
Rocks Wood, near Groombridge, East Sussex	5.944
Coastal section: Birling Gap, East Sussex	36.078
Coastal section: Hope Gap Steps-Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex	3.697
Coastal section: Seven Sisters, East Sussex	42.912
Coastal section: Belle Tout-Birling Gap, East Sussex	11.842

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

Habitats and Species

Habitats and species of principal importance

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities NERC Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. In total 56 habitat types are included on the list together with 943 different species[27].

The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers (including Local Authorities) in implementing their statutory duty under section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, when carrying out their functions. The Habitats and Species of principal importance are incorporated within the UK BAP list of priority habitats and species. Please see the section below on UK BAP habitats and species.

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodland is listed under Section 41, as being of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity in England. Ancient Woodland is important for its wildlife, its history and contribution to the landscape. Local Authorities have a vital role in ensuring its conservation through the planning system.

Wealden has one of the greatest concentrations of ancient woodland in the country, with around 3% of England's ancient woodlands found in this District. Woodland is therefore an integral part of the landscape characteristic of the area. Woodlands also contribute to the ecological, recreational and economic value of the District. Approximately two thirds of Wealden's woodlands are currently classified as ancient. Many of these woodlands are less than two hectares in size, often surrounding ancient disused historic features such as marl and iron pits, occupying narrow linear features such as gills, or surviving as field boundary shaws. Approximately 6% of the area of woodland in the District consists of small woods of less than two hectares.

27 A list of habitats and species of principal importance can be found at www.naturalengland.org.uk

The most common woodland type in Wealden District is lowland mixed deciduous woodland. Also found in the Weald are steep sided gyhll woodlands formed by streams which have cut into the underlying sandstone. These gyhll woodlands are ecologically important sites. Small patches of wet woodland are also common along-side streams and in low-lying areas. One or more of these woodland types can occur within a relatively small area of woodland.

Further information in relation to Wealden's Ancient Woodland can be found in the 'Weald Ancient Woodland Survey'[(28)]. A map showing Wealden's Ancient Woodland can be seen in Appendix 6.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats and Species

The UKBAP describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for the conservation of these resources, at National and devolved levels. The UK BAP list was updated in 2007 and now contains 1,149 species and 65 habitats. Targets for the BAP habitats have been set on a County level up until 2015. Species targets are currently being identified. These targets will follow national Species Action Plan objectives and they will be linked to guidance on the management of the associated habitats. Biodiversity reporting shows how the UKBAP has contributed to the UK's progress towards the significant reduction of biodiversity loss.

There are a number of BAP habitats present within Wealden District. The full list of identified habitats is as follows:

Table 7 Types of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats within Wealden District

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Lowland Heathland
Coastal Saltmarsh	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
Coastal Vegetated Shingle	Maritime Cliff and Slopes
Intertidal Chalk (previously Littoral Chalk)	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
Intertidal Mudflats	Reed beds
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	Saline Lagoons
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Traditional Orchards
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Wet Woodland
Lowland Fens	Wood-Pasture and Parkland

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

28 Weald Ancient Woodland Survey: Final Report 2006 www.highweald.org

It is also possible that further BAP habitats are present within Wealden but not currently recorded. The table below details a number of habitats and provides a figure for the area of the habitat within Wealden.

Table 8 Biodiversity habitats within Wealden

Biodiversity habitats	Area of habitat in Wealden (Ha)	% of Wealden
Ancient Woodland	11836.37	14.15
Chalk grassland	681.23	0.81
Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh	4248.91	5.08
Deciduous woodland	10685.59	12.78
Ghyll woodland	3644.65	4.36
Lowland dry acid grassland	142.23	0.17
Lowland heathland	1236.58	1.48
Lowland meadow	79.65	0.10
Notable road verge	5.69	0.01
Reedbed / fen	21.39	0.03
Traditional orchard	53.98	0.06
Vegetated shingle	13.72	0.02

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre for the purpose of Wealden District Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2009 / 2010 [29]. Please note that additional habitats exist in Wealden, however, survey work has not yet been undertaken.

Appendix 4 provides a collection of maps showing certain BAP habitats and other habitats which are locally distinctive and important to Wealden.

The following table shows information in relation to species found within Wealden. The distribution of BAP species within Wealden is also shown in Appendix 4.

29 Annual Monitoring report 2009 / 2010 www.wealden.gov.uk

Table 9 Known BAP species present within Wealden District

Species[30]	No. of records in East Sussex	No. of records in Wealden
Protected species	7375	3197
Rare species	32189	7600
BAP species	31576	5762
Invasive alien species	4921	2323
Black poplar	21	12
Saline lagoon	24	3
Marine SNCI	6	1
Ancient/Veteran trees[31]	2020	1126

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre for the purpose of Wealden District Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2009 / 2010. Please note that only one record per species per grid reference is identified.

In 2008 / 2009 there was an increase in the area classified as Ancient Woodland within Wealden of approximately 15 hectares compared to the previous year. This reflects the addition of one major area of Ancient Woodland at Seventeen Acre Gill (8ha) and several small additions such as Dicker Wood (0.8ha). For the year 2009 / 2010 the area of habitat classed as Ancient Woodland has again increased by 256 hectares[32].

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)

Outside designated sites biodiversity has continued to decline at a national scale. Traditionally, designated sites have been the focus for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. However, this has led to designated sites becoming isolated from the surrounding landscape and often being of less value for wildlife due to fragmentation. This in turn constrains significantly the ability of populations of species to recover from stress and or decline.

In order to halt biodiversity loss, the South East Biodiversity Strategy promotes looking beyond protecting individual designated sites and separate species and move to an integrated landscape approach to restore whole ecosystems. This approach has numerous benefits including reversing the current fragmented picture of ecosystems, reclaiming a healthy and functional environment, safeguarding the urban environment through flood protection and also assisting in climate regulation.

30 Does not include bat, bird or otter records
31 Information obtained from the Wealden Ancient Tree Project (2008 Data)
32 Changes in habitat extent may well be a reflection of improved datasets and should not be assumed to be habitat expansion or contraction.

To assist in this approach, the South East Biodiversity Forum has produced a map which identifies a number of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. The map is a core part of the South East Biodiversity Strategy and identifies the regional priority areas for the restoration and creation of BAP habitats.

There are a number of BOAs located within the District of Wealden which are considered to provide a major opportunity for seeking to reverse any decline in biodiversity and may offer opportunities for focusing resources in the future, including resources legitimately required as mitigation for development proposals. These are outlined below. A map showing the location of BOAs within Wealden and adjacent Local Authorities is presented in Appendix 6. BOAs also incorporate Wealden's Statutory designated sites. The purpose of this is to promote the spread of habitats and species of high biodiversity value to additional areas of the countryside.

Table 10 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas within Wealden District

Site Name	BOA No.	Area (Hectares)
Lewes Brooks and the Ouse Valley	44	306.83
Seaford to Eastbourne Downs	45	5109.86
Mid Ouse Floodzone	47	49.72
Western Ouse Streams and Ashdown Forest	48	11723.86
River Uck and its Headwaters	49	5917.55
Cuckmere Ouse Watershed	50	363.66
Wilmington Woodlands and Watershed	51	688.42
Eastbourne Marshes	52	58.63
Pevensey Levels	53	4297.76
Medway, Ouse, Rother Watershed	54	1965.95
Eridge and Broadwater	55	1484.12
Pevensey, Rother, Cuckmere Watershed	56	1344.26
Rother, Brede and Tillingham Woods	59	963.72
Lower Cuckmere Reaches	61	58.14
Bewl Water	65	160.71
Cuckoo Trail Habitat Link	71	61.13
Heathfield Habitat Link	72	668.81

Pevensey & Cuckmere Valley Link	73	454.19
River Cuckmere Habitat Link	74	199.62
Wooton Manor Grasslands Link	75	344.24
Total BOA area for Wealden:		**36221.17**
Total BOA area for Sussex:		**133569.93**
% total BOA area in Wealden:		**27.12**

Source: Information obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

The South East Biodiversity Strategy outlines that the BOAs are a spatial representation of the BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint. Therefore, BOAs do not represent a statutory designation or a constraint on activities. They are the areas of greatest potential for the restoration and creation of UK BAP habitats and should be used to inform conservation strategies and spatial planning. It is not the aim of the Strategy for the whole area identified to be restored. Instead the aim is to protect existing habitats of biodiversity value, restore degraded habitats and where possible, create new habitats within the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

The Southeast Biodiversity Strategy emphasises that BOAs are not inclusive of all BAP habitats and neither do they include all the areas where a BAP habitat could exist. They are simply areas covering a range of habitat types allowing an ecosystem approach to conservation. Therefore, whilst BOAs are useful in directing conservation effort, they are not the only locations where biodiversity habitats can be conserved, enhanced, restored or indeed created.

Networks of Natural Habitats

Information on the above can be found in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy Green Infrastructure Background Paper.

Previously Developed Land (PDL)

Previously developed Land can provide rich habitats for biodiversity and can support a large number of wildflowers and animals. In accordance with the National Land Use Database[33] there are very few PDL sites within Wealden that have not been granted planning permission or earmarked for future development. Biodiversity should be preserved and built in to any development scheme on such land and where appropriate an early survey is critical to any successful progression of schemes .

33 Homes and Communities Agency www.homesand communities.co.uk

Appendix 1

Appendix 2

Table 11 Biodiversity legislation and National and Regional policy and guidance

Designation	Legal status	Recommended Government approach for the Core Strategy	The relationship between the Core Strategy and Subsequent DPDs
SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites	Statutory Designation Designation is legally protected by EC Habitats Directive: Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna 1992 as transposed into UK Law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 and 2007. The ultimate aim of the Habitats Directive is to "maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest" (Habitats Directive, Article 2(2)).	PPS9: Specific policy to protect these sites is not required due to their statutory protection. However, it may be necessary to cross refer to the statutory protection in the explanatory text of a policy. Circular: International sites in England are also designated as SSSI. Therefore, there is a duty for Local Authorities to further conserve and enhance these sites. Recommendation: The protection of these sites should be mentioned in the explanatory text only due to their statutory designation.	PPS9: Identify sites on proposals map
	Statutory Designation National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Section 35 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	Government policy for developments likely to have an adverse effect on SSSI is set out in PPS9. Guidance: The Core Strategy should not repeat this but it would be good practice to cross refer to it. Where impacts on SSSIs form a criterion within broader LDF policy. Circular: Local authorities have a duty to take reasonable steps to further conserve and enhance SSSIs.	PPS9: Identify sites on proposals map
SSSI	Statutory Designation Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.		

		LDDs must be prepared in accordance with this duty. Recommendation: The protection of these sites should be mentioned in the explanatory text only due to their statutory designation.	
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Local statutory designation. S21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.	Sites are usually owned by Local Authorities of which they have a duty to protect and manage. PPS9: Criteria based policies should be established in LDDs against which proposals for development will be judged. Distinguish between policies for nationally important sites. Guidance: It would be good practice to include a strategy for local sites which would include a positive proposal for protection and enhancement. Recommendation: Include a criteria based policy for local sites to protect, conserve and enhance these sites.	Guidance: Identify local sites within site allocations DPD so that they appear on the adopted proposals map. A site specific policy should be included within the Strategic Sites DPD / Delivery and site allocations DPD.
RIGS	Local (Regional) non-statutory designation (originally RIGS were established by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990). PPS9: Regional and local sites have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall biodiversity targets	PPS9: Criteria based policies should be established in LDDs against which proposals for development will be judged. Distinguish between policies for nationally important sites. Recommendation: Separate part of policy for regional / local sites.	PPS9: Identify sites within Site specific allocations DPD so that they appear on the proposals map
Local Wildlife Sites (SNCI)	Local (County Wide) Non-Statutory designation	PPS9: Criteria based policies should be established in LDDs against which proposals	Guidance: Identify local sites within site allocations

	Defined in local plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.	for development will be judged. Distinguish between policies for nationally important sites. Guidance: It would be good practice to include a strategy for local sites which would include a positive proposal for protection and enhancement and how a local authority will work with landowners and developers of these sites. Recommendation: Include a criteria based policy for local sites to protect, conserve and enhance these sites.	DPD so that they appear on the adopted proposals map. A site specific policy should be included within the Strategic Sites DPD / Delivery and site allocations DPD.
Ancient woodland	Non Statutory National designation Many areas of Ancient Woodland also fall into the types listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 as being a habitat of Principal Importance, or are a BAP Priority Habitat type (see below).	PPS9: Sets out Government policy for developments likely to have an adverse effect on Ancient woodland. Through policies in plans Ancient woodland should be conserved and enhanced. Recommendation: This can be undertaken either in Core strategy or subsequent DPDs. It can also form part of green infrastructure planning in respect of networks of green space.	Recommendation: Ancient woodland to form part of green infrastructure planning. Therefore, specific requirements can be outlined within Strategic Sites DPD / Delivery and site allocations DPD.
Legally Protected Species	Statutory Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Habitats Regulations. Furthermore, some animals are protected under their own legislation	PPS9: Specific policies should not be included in LDDs.	
UK BAP Priority Habitats and species	Habitats of national (international) importance (see annex).	PPS9: Conserve and enhance and identify opportunities to add to these priority habitats. (See BOAs)	Recommendation: To make specific mention within Core Strategy

	65 habitats and 1,149 species	Guidance: It would be good practice to consider protection for areas where priority BAP species are most likely to occur and develop guidelines for protecting and enhancing populations of species to assist in the location and design of development. NB. The majority of these habitats are also identified as habitats and species of principal importance (see below).	policy. The purpose will be to form an overarching policy and will set the scene for future DPDs in relation to biodiversity and networks.
Section 41 Habitats and Species of principal importance	Section 74 CROW Act 2000 as updated by Section 41 NERC Act 2006. 56 habitat types and 949 different species. These habitats and species are also identified within the BAP list as above.	PPS9: Sets out government policy, however, through policies in plans LA's should protect, conserve and identify opportunities to enhance habitats and species. Guidance: As above for UK BAP habitats and species. This would compliment PPS9.	As above for UK BAP priority habitats and species.
Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)	Non-Statutory Regional and Local designation Biodiversity Opportunity Areas are the priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats. This is a spatial representation of the BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas do not include all the BAP habitat in the District, nor do they include all the areas where BAP habitat could exist.	PPS9: Plan policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of biodiversity / geological features within the design of development. PPS9: Identify areas / sites for the restoration or creation of new priority habitats which contribute to regional targets, and support this restoration through appropriate policies. Guidance: It would be good practice to consider protection for areas where priority BAP species are most likely to occur and develop guidelines for protecting and enhancing populations of species to	Recommendation: To make specific mention within Core Strategy policy. The purpose will be to form an overarching policy and will set the scene for future DPDs in relation to biodiversity and networks.

		assist in the location and design of development.	
Important networks of habitats	Non-Statutory	PPS9: Maintain networks of natural habitats by avoiding or repairing the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through policies in plans. Such networks should be protected and where possible strengthened or integrated. Recommendation: Deal with this aspect under Green Infrastructure policy.	Recommendation: Make specific mention of networks within a Core strategy policy to set the overarching scene for future DPDs. Networks should be identified within Strategic Sites DPD and subsequent DPDs.
Previously Developed Land (PDL)	Non-Statutory	Guidance: LDF should not repeat PPS9 as a policy. PPS9: Aim to retain biodiversity interest within development. Guidance: Consider the presence of brownfield land when considering allocating sites for development and the content of criteria based policies.	It would be good practice to identify the value of PDL for biodiversity within an SPD or development brief.

Appendix 2

Appendix 3

The Environment Agency has asked for the following comments to be translated into nature conservation policy/policies within the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF)

- Explanation of the link between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development;
- Reference to UK and Sussex Biodiversity Action Plans;
- Policy for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of important UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species plus other habitats and species in development sites and areas;
- Retention of existing valuable ecological features and enhancements is stressed;
- New development must not detrimentally impact natural biodiversity resources and should result in a net increase in biodiversity;
- Inclusion of a local site/area policy that identifies the extent and quality of existing habitats (links within and outside the District) and physical process which they depend and the species they support. The policy should propose improvements in the quality and the extent of these habitats, as part of development. The connectivity of these habitats must be protected and enhanced. The policy should aim to enhance connectivity and avoid fragmentation of habitats. Therefore green infrastructure should be considered alongside other infrastructure requirements;
- Climate change and its affects on species and habitats, designated sites and biodiversity needs to be addressed;
- PPS 9 requires the identification of areas suitable for habitat creation/restoration and enhancement within the LDF;
- Ancient woodland and ghyll woodland is important in Wealden. Development proposed in areas of ghyll woodland may be inappropriate or may require large buffer areas to protect habitats from hydrological changes, human and pet disturbances; and
- The adoption of a green network will help to meet several of the requirements and should form one of the spatial policies. This approach involves recognising, improving and increasing natural green areas, their functions and connections between them, This may include floodplain storage and improvement of water resources and quality as well as meeting biodiversity targets. The concern of the Environment Agency is the retention of watercourses with associated floodplains and wetlands and the creation of such features. These will form an integral part of the multifunction green network. Including this policy and laying out the delivery of this approach is strongly recommended to deliver the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, PPS9, PPS25 and NMR4 of the South East Plan.

This adoption of a green network is also recommended by the Sussex Environment Partnership and Natural England support proposals to enhance connectivity between existing habitats by appropriate landscape scale and design and habitat creation and the protection and enhancement of wildlife corridors. It is stated that Brownfield sites as well as Greenfield sites are often rich in biodiversity and often harbour protected species.

Natural England comment that more detailed information in relation to baseline data is required with acknowledgement of and proximity to SSSI required in relation to some options. Suggested baseline information includes:

- AONB boundary
- Protected species survey
- Ancient woodland and other BAP habitats
- Location of local wildlife sites
- Location of statutorily protected sites
- Habitat networks
- Full ecological survey of habitats and species

In addition it is stated that landscape schemes should use native species and site selection should include a clear policy to preserve and enhance biodiversity.

Other respondents commenting in relation to biodiversity agreed to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity and meeting targets in the East Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan. It is also considered that the amount of woodland needs to be increased and that a more detailed nature conservation survey may be required as part of the Core Strategy evidence base.

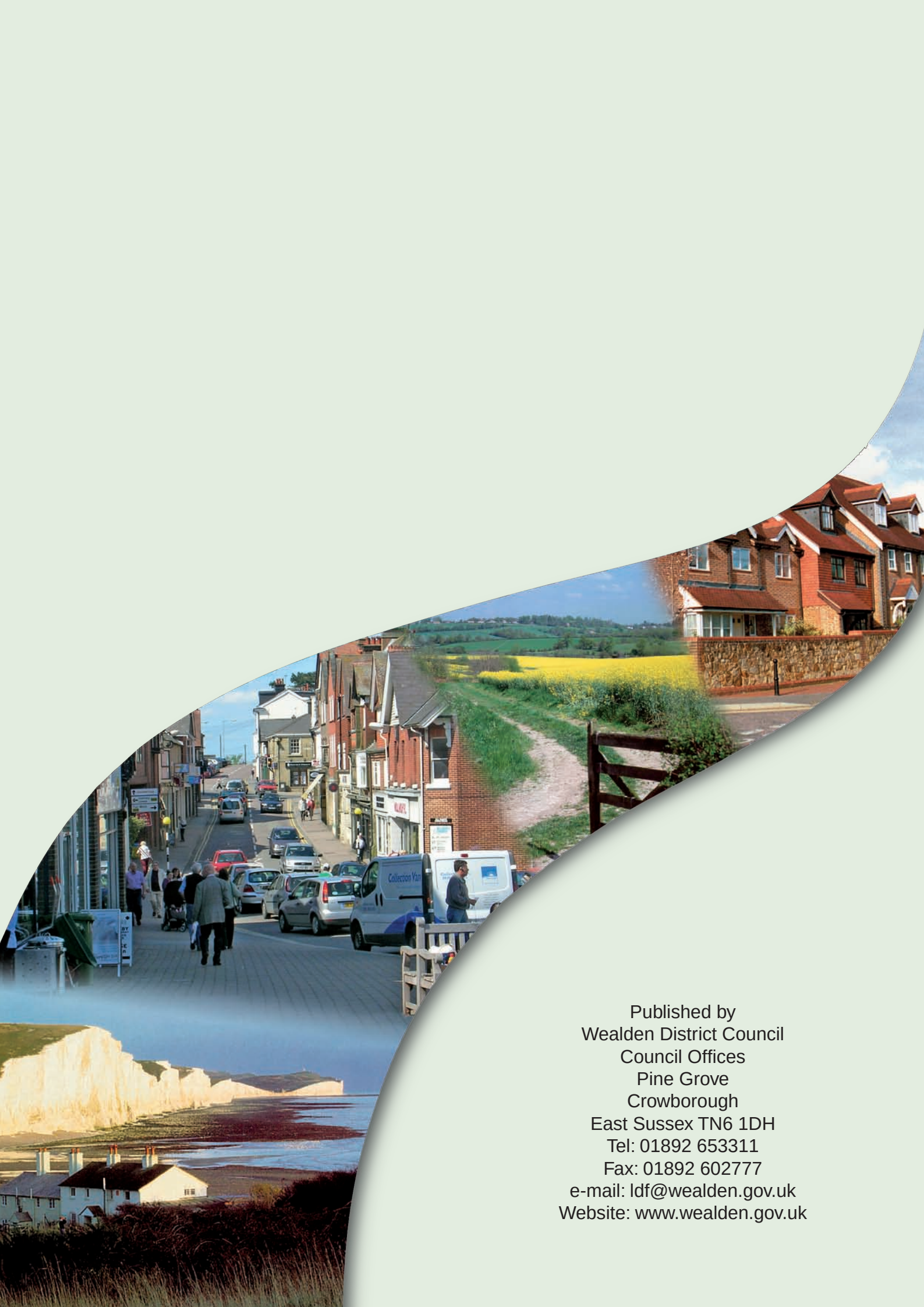
It is considered that wildlife is important to Wealden's landscape and wildlife should be allowed to operate and move after development has taken place.

The issues of pollution was also raised in relation to the car to home ratio. The RSPB supports the use of Appropriate Assessment of the LDF as required under the Habitats Directive.

Appendix 4

To view the Biodiversity Maps in this Appendix please click here

Appendix 4



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