

The Leicester BAP

2021 – 2031

Vision

A city that is rich in biodiversity with connected, diverse and high-quality habitats supporting and safeguarding local species and where local people are fully engaged in conservation

Urban wildlife mural on Grand Union Canal at Frog Island



BAP Aims



What is a BAP?

Biodiversity is the diversity, or variety, of plants, animals, and other living things.

A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a type of strategy, aiming to focus nature conservation work on those habitats and species that are most in need of help.

Why does nature need our help?

Across the world biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate and recent studies have produced worrying news about the current state of nature. Factors including land-use change, pollution, invasive species and climate change are all contributing to the growing ecological crisis.

Leicester City Council and its partners recognise the urgent need to work together to halt biodiversity loss and to put nature into recovery. Together we aim to ensure that nature will flourish across the city and allow both wildlife and people to thrive.



The Leicester BAP Aims:

To conserve and enhance a range of key habitats and species that characterise the city of Leicester, contributing to regional biodiversity whilst providing an attractive and sustainable natural environment in which to live, work, learn and enjoy.

- **Conserve and enhance wildlife habitats, increasing the biodiversity value of protected and priority sites**
- **Conserve protected and priority species, taking actions to help with their recovery**
- **Create and link green corridors to form Nature Recovery Networks**
- **Promoting wildlife conservation and restoration through the planning system**
- **Promote biodiversity conservation as a key element of sustainable development and adaptation to climate change**
- **Raise awareness of nature conservation and its importance with local communities and encourage active participation by all**



Strategic Goals

Strategic Ambitions:

- Manage at least **30%** of greenspace under Council control for wildlife by 2031
- Increase connectivity of greenspace across the city and beyond by **25%** through the establishment of interconnected Nature Recovery Networks by 2031
- Reduce the prevalence and incidence of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) by at least **50%** by 2031
- Reduce the overall use of pesticides across Council land by at least **50%** by 2031

Specific actions and targets delivered by the Council and our partners have been agreed to safeguard biodiversity as a whole, but especially target rare and vulnerable Priority Habitats and Priority Species. A number of key themes have emerged through the plan and include much needed public engagement to raise awareness of issues facing wildlife and to encourage proactive measures to overcome these.





Key themes

Partnership Working

– lies at the heart of the action plan and encourages all sections of the community to work together to achieve shared nature conservation goals

Biodiversity Net Gain

– used to mitigate biodiversity loss through the planning system and focus biodiversity enhancement at key strategic sites within the city. This will help to create new high-quality habitats, achieving an overall gain in biodiversity and establish a functioning Nature Recovery Network

Maintenance of Sites and Habitats

– to manage areas of greenspace effectively through targeted conservation management and a reduction in the use of pesticides across all council owned land

Public Engagement

– to raise awareness of urban biodiversity and its capacity to support a diverse range of species. Actively engage and encourage participation and responsibility for positive actions



Habitats



Example Actions include:

Allotments

- Host allotment wildlife recording events
- Promote wildlife friendly allotment gardening

Grasslands

- Create new areas of species-rich grassland
- Enhance sites with sustainable conservation grazing



Hedgerows

- Restore hedgerows to improve biodiversity value
- Create new hedgerows & create wildlife corridors

Parks

- Increase the size of roadside verge pollinator habitat



Rivers & Brooks

- Develop natural flood management schemes
- Re-naturalise & rewild urban watercourses

Wetlands

- Restore wetlands & improve pond management

Woodlands

- Increase native woodland cover for wildlife benefit



Species

Example Actions include:

Amphibians & Reptiles

- Establish at least a further 10 sites to support amphibians & reptile populations

Bats

- Survey & monitor bat boxes across the city to better inform conservation management

Black Redstart

- Create at least 20 brown/green roof sites across the city centre for Black Redstarts

Hedgehog

- Enhance hedgerows, improve connectivity & reduce pesticide use to help Hedgehogs

Peregrine Falcon

- Organise public events, targeting key audiences & stakeholder groups

Swift

- Review species data & update Species Alert Maps to help prioritise target areas for conservation work

Otter

- Improve rivers & bankside vegetation for Otters & target natural flood management projects

Water Vole

- Work with partners to link-up existing Water Vole populations & train volunteers in survey methods



Hedgehog - Wildstock



Otter - Wildstock



People & Wildlife



Leicester is home to a diverse range of wildlife species and habitats, making it one of the most nature-rich places in the County. Nature reserves and greenspaces such as the River Soar & Grand Union Canal, Aylestone Meadows and Watermead South are excellent places to visit to experience wildlife, and access the health and wellbeing benefits that the natural world has to offer.

Leicester city council is committed to working with the people of Leicester to protect and enhance biodiversity, put nature into recovery and secure sustainable healthy ecosystems for future generations.



Get involved with nature conservation within the city and visit:

www.leicester.gov.uk/promoting-biodiversity

Discover more about the Leicester BAP and view the full document at:

www.leicester.gov.uk/promoting-biodiversity

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