Biodiversity Projects

Maidstone's Biodiversity Strategy

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Phase 1: 2010 – 2014

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Overview & Introduction

1.1 In addition to supporting the actions of our partners Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) is committed to fulfilling our duty to biodiversity.

1.2 This document gives a more detailed summary of the planned projects for phase 1 of the LBAP (2010-2014) that will be:

1. Led by MBC
2. Are on MBC owned land
3. That MBC will look to financially support

1.3 This document includes summaries of general management/restoration/creation techniques for specific UK priority habitats that occur on MBC owned land.

1.4 The overall aim of the biodiversity projects described link to the key conservation objectives of the LBAP and are to;

- Protect and restore Maidstone Borough's semi-natural habitats through practical actions
- Increase biodiversity and wildlife within urban and rural areas
- Work with the Environment Agency and others to restore riparian and wetland habitats across Maidstone Borough
- Connect people to wildlife and promote life-long learning
- Raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and give an understanding to the techniques used to enhance biodiversity.
- Seek appropriate site protection via designation
- Collate data on biodiversity within the borough

1.5 The document highlights how these projects link in with the wider Maidstone Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

1.6 Estimates of costs are included within this document, however there a number of external funding opportunities for biodiversity and community based projects. The LBAP should seek to secure funding for biodiversity projects and increase community involvement as the success of the LBAP is highly dependent on both.

1.7 A funding strategy will be developed for the LBAP, which will estimate costs for meeting habitat targets and means of delivery, in addition to avenues for external funding for the projects summarised within this document.

1.8 In addition to external funding streams and capital bids funding via section 106 should be sought to implement key improvement and projects plans for priority sites identified within this document (section 3).

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Habitat management, restoration and creation techniques

Habitats that are important to Maidstone Borough Council

2.1 Maidstone Borough Council owns large areas of land across the borough which has been categorised using PPG17[28] methodology within the Maidstone's Green Space Strategy[20]. Using the most updated version of these data all natural and semi-natural open space that is under Maidstone Borough Council ownership has been examined alongside data on the different UK priority habitats in the borough.

2.2 Key natural and semi-natural sites containing UK priority habitats or expected to contain remnants of these habitats have been selected for improvement and project development to ensure a direct positive contribution can be made towards Maidstone's LBAP by the council.

2.3 The UK priority habitats found on MBC owned land are; Acid Grassland, Heathland, Meadow, Wet Woodland, Wood Pasture and Parkland, Deciduous Woodland and Ponds. Below are brief summaries explaining key management techniques that can be applied to these different habitats to enhance and conserve biodiversity.

2.4 It is expected that projects on MBC owned land will focus on implementing appropriate management techniques, increasing accessibility, and encourage community involvement and environmental stewardship.

Acid Grassland/Heathland Mosaic Techniques

2.5 Prevent tree encroachment; however a scattering of trees and shrubs of various ages is beneficial to all sorts of species, particularly insects and birds.

2.6 Removal of some trees from site when felled is recommended. Fallen boughs and other dead wood within open acid habitats may be important for a range of uncommon invertebrates and can provide a protected "nursery area" for some plant species such as common heather . 'Brash' such as branches and trunks left to rot down would enrich the soil and create an advantage for non-heathland species.

2.7 Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is a native plant which forms dense stands on many heathland sites and shades out less vigorous plants. The litter created by dead bracken forms a dense carpet, also inhibiting other plant growth. Whilst being an important part of a heathland flora in small quantities, large stands of dense bracken are undesirable and bracken growth should be limited on site.

2.8 The mosaic of different ages of acid grassland/heathland is optimum for biodiversity. Grazing is the optimum management tool for lowland acid grassland (including by wild rabbits), however, where this is not possible or rabbit populations are too small to be effective, mowing regimes

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may be effective. Rotation of mowing different areas should give the desired differing age structure. Removal of cuttings is essential to allow growth of the lesser plant species.

2.9 Many rare animals are found on heathland sites and management needs to also maintain habitats for these animals. This may in practice lead to conflicts between the management requirements of individual species and the need for overall successional management of the area. Balancing these two aims can be difficult and it may not be possible to maintain dense populations of a rare species in conjunction with long term management of the overall heathland/acid grassland, however a species rich site should be the ultimate aim of any land management applied.

2.10 Areas of heathland persist within woodland rides and glades on the sandy substrates prevalent across areas of the Borough (such as at Kings Wood). Some of these woodlands revert to heathland following coppicing work. Sectional rotation of coppicing if maintained would allow populations of heathland species to recover and subsequently thrive.

Lowland Meadows techniques

2.11 Ensure that no fertilizer has been used on site for a few years and the area is unlikely to be walked on/trampled.

2.12 The best method of establishing a meadow is by starting with on newly prepared bare ground and sowing of locally collected seeds. If a lawn already exists and contains fine-leaved grasses and a variety of meadow herbs it can provide the starting point for a meadow, and so floristic survey data is essential to assist in choosing the appropriate method for creation.

2.13 It is always best if trying to create a natural lowland meadow to use seed from a local natural source. Seed collection is simple and should be carried out between June and September to ensure a variety of plants which have different flowering times.

2.14 Aftercare of a Meadow will require hand-digging removal of certain species and protection of seedlings from slugs (using barriers/repellents). Fertilisers should not be used. New Meadow should be cut in the first year every time the height reaches between 10-15 cm and all cuttings should be removed from site.

2.15 From the second year on or for more established meadows cutting should start in late June until the end of August to a height of around 5 cm. Parts of the Meadow should be left uncut each year~~,~~ however, this part of the meadow should then be cut the following year. The area that is left uncut ensures that plants are available to allow completion of life-cycles and allow over-wintering by insects. Cuttings from areas that are cut between June and August should be left a few days to dry and turned occasionally to allow seeds, insects and small animals to escape and then the cuttings should be collected and removed from site so they do not smother and cause a build up of nutrients.

2.16 A useful and essential guide on wildflower meadow creation has been published by English Nature (now Natural England) in 2004 called "Wildflower meadows: how to create on in your garden"[38]. Habitat Management for Invertebrates: A Practical Handbook" by Peter Kirby ISBN

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1901930300 carries detailed management prescriptions for increasing biodiversity in lowland meadows.

Wet Woodland techniques

2.17 Coppice rotation of wet woodland areas which have been coppiced in the past should be performed at appropriate time intervals for the tree species.

2.18 Management should aim to retain some large trees and large coppice stools.

2.19 Log piles should be created on wet woodland sites to encourage associated decaying wood fauna.

2.20 Control of invasive species such as Indian balsam, rhododendron, laurel, Japanese knotweed. And giant Hogweed. They should be controlled by cutting and spraying with herbicides approved for use near water, preferably before substantial areas are colonised. Repeated applications may be required to deal with major infestations. Extreme care and vigilance over approved contractors only, must be adopted to prevent unwanted damage to native species.

2.21 The developing Invasive Species Policy and Monitoring Programme should address the problem of associated invasive species with wet woodland habitats.

2.22 The great majority of wet woods are even-aged. They either owe their origin to a single event which permitted natural regeneration (e.g. a change of land-use), or they were cut and allowed to regenerate without any attempt at systematic silviculture.

2.23 Photographic monitoring of the site is a good method to access management practices and plan future management.

2.24 A useful guide to the management of wet woodland produced by the Forestry Commission 'The Management of Semi-natural Woodlands: 8. Wet Woodlands' (2003) should be followed when writing and implementing management plans for such sites[38].

Wood Pasture and Parkland techniques

2.25 The priority for this type of habitat is to conserve the mature and ancient trees and the associated dead-wood niches that support the rare saproxylic fauna which includes some of the most threatened British invertebrates.

2.26 A major problem at many sites is that there is a gap in the age structure of trees, so recruitment of new pollards and large trees is vital if the specialist invertebrate fauna is to survive.

2.27 All old trees should be retained wherever possible.

2.28 Dead wood of all ages, both standing and fallen, should be retained.

2.29 Trees with sap runs resulting from wounds and damage such as that resulting from an attack by wood-boring beetles should be retained.

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2.30 Dead leaves and decaying vegetation should not be tidied away, but left undisturbed to provide potential breeding sites for invertebrate species.

2.31 Where Sycamore is present, it may be providing food for insects in the form of the honeydew secreted by aphids. Where Sycamore must be removed, this should be done sequentially over a long period (10 years) and the cut wood retained. Coppicing or pollarding should be considered instead of complete removal of the plant because the fermenting sap on the cut ends is an important microhabitat for invertebrates.

2.32 Open areas are essential in this habitat, providing sunny sheltered places for flowering plants and shrubs which produce the nectar and pollen required by adult flies and beetles whose larvae develop in dead wood. Suitable nectar sources include hawthorn, hogweed, cow parsley and elder. Low-level grazing (including by wild rabbits) and rotational cutting will ensure the habitat is maintained in a reasonably open state.

2.33 Wood pasture is a particularly suitable habitat for recreation as it is both aesthetically pleasing and also provides a variety of woodland, grassland and scrub habitats.

Lowland Deciduous Woodland techniques

2.34 Investigation on the implementation of a sustainable wood for fuel scheme in Maidstone borough is underway, so that funds could be used to manage MBC owned woodlands and increase biodiversity at the same time provide a sustainable fuel source.

2.35 Removal of all human activity within woodland will often result in the development of dark, dense woods and decrease the biodiversity of the habitat. However, in larger and remote inaccessible woodlands non-intervention areas can be preserved to allow natural woodland cycles to unfold. Grazing and browsing activity by larger wild animals will introduce structural diversity into unmanaged woodland.

2.36 Structural diversity such as scalloped edges, rides and glades within the woodland will increase biodiversity.

2.37 Canopies may be opened up by thinning to create glades. This will allow more light to reach the woodland floor. This in turn encourages the development of field and ground layers within the wood.

2.38 Coppicing is the process of cutting trees down, allowing the stumps to regenerate for a number of years (usually 7 - 25) and then harvesting the resulting stems. This gives the woodland a varying age structure and differing ecological conditions increase biodiversity. However, coppicing should not be introduced to woodland with no history of this management technique

2.39 Coppicing makes use of the natural regeneration properties of many tree species, including Oak, Hazel, Maple, Sweet Chestnut, Lime and Ash.

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2.40 Control of invasive species such as Indian balsam, rhododendron, laurel and Japanese knotweed. They should be controlled by cutting and spraying substantial areas are colonised. Repeated applications may be required to deal with major infestations. This process must be very closely monitored and only approved contractors used in order to prevent unwanted damage to other flora.

2.41 Dead wood stands and fallen timber should be left unless dangerous and woodpiles should be created as this habitat is essential for certain species.

2.42 Dead leaves and decaying vegetation should not be tidied away, but left undisturbed to provide potential breeding sites for invertebrates.

2.43 Where Sycamore is present, it may be providing food for insects in the form of the honeydew secreted by aphids. Where Sycamore must be removed, this should be done sequentially over a long period (10 years) and the cut wood retained. Coppicing or pollarding should be considered instead of complete removal of the plant because the fermenting sap on the cut ends is an important microhabitat for some species of invertebrate.

Pond techniques

2.44 Survey several times in the year as different species will be present and this will give a better indication on the overall biodiversity of the habitat.

2.45 The best time for pond management is late September and October.

2.46 Shallow ponds and groups of water bodies are more generally valuable to wildlife than deep solitary ones. Ponds support different assemblages of wildlife dependent upon their aspect, underlying substrates and geographic location. For example, shaded woodland ponds support different wildlife than water bodies in open habitats. The edge of a pond is more productive in biodiversity terms than open water and therefore the length and diversity of this habitat should be optimised in new water bodies through adoption of "armed ponds" or a sinuous outline.

2.47 During autumn, falling leaves should be skimmed off the pond surface before they sink and overload the nutrient balance of the pond. Winter freezing is a problem for many small pond creatures.

2.48 In late spring, the pond may be in danger of choking due to the occurrence of blanket weed and duckweed. Blanket weed and duckweed can be skimmed from the surface. When clearing out ponds, leave any plants and debris along the edge for a few days or so, before removing.

2.49 Remember that many animals that live in ponds use other habitats as well. Provide areas near ponds where amphibians and insects can hibernate or shelter - these include rotting log piles and rockeries.

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2.50 Algae blooms should not be a problem in a well-balanced pond, however if it should occur the most frequent method of controlling is to use barley straw. A chemical reaction between the straw and algae slows new algae growth, preventing replenishment of the old algae as it dies naturally.

2.51 Cutting back of vegetation if required, around the pond should be carried out in sections on annual rotation. Where possible leave areas of undisturbed vegetation right up to the water's edge and do not over-mow surrounds.

2.52 Ponds should usually be allowed to develop their own flora through natural colonisation. However, in some environments planting may be required and only native species should be used. Suitable plants for a wildlife pond include:

- Edge and marsh plants - Water Mint, Yellow Flag Iris, Marsh Marigold, Brooklime, Rushes, Bogbean, Water Plantain.
- Shallow plants - Spearwort, Mare's Tail, Water Forget-me-not.
- Deep water plants - Water Crowfoot, Water Starwort, Water Milfoil, Hornwort, Willow Moss, and Curled Pondweed.
- Floating-leaved plants - White and Yellow Water lily, Floating Sweet-grass, Broad-leaved Pondweed, Water Soldier, Arrowhead.

2.53 Plants should be introduced slowly and monitored as plants will increase the rate of silting.

2.54 Control of invasive species is essential to the success of a pond habitat.

2.55 Fish should not be introduced to an established or new wildlife pond.

2.56 The Pond Conservation Trust publishes a range of advice on excavating new ponds and their maintenance.

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Biodiversity improvement and projects plan on our land

3.1 A number of sites and areas of land owned by MBC contain UK priority habitats or contain conditions suitable for UK priority habitat creation. These sites can be deemed priority sites for council led biodiversity action.

3.2 Some sites have been surveyed on ground in the last 5 years others require ground level data collection prior to developing improvement plans.

3.3 Table 1 summarises the current status of key sites that have been selected for Improvement and Project Plan (IPP) development and implementation in Phase 1 of LBAP (2010-2014).

Table 1 Current biodiversity status of priority MBC owned natural and semi-natural sites

Site Name	UK BAP Priority Habitat	Biodiversity Survey	Next Steps
Weavering Heath	Heathland Acid Grassland Woodland	Phase 1 completed 2006	Develop and implement IPP
TAVR site (due to be MBC land shortly)	Possible acid grassland Woodland Parkland	Underway in 2009 completion in 2010	Develop management recommendations Develop and Implement IPP Seek appropriate designation (LWS or/and LNR)
Whatman Natural Areas	None	Underway in 2009 completion in 2010	Develop and Implement IPP
Senacre Wood	Deciduous Woodland (Wet Woodland)	Full Phase 2 extended with management guidelines in 2008	Develop and Implement IPP
River Len	River Pond Deciduous woodland	Species lists ongoing	Maintain and refine management plan.

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	Wet woodland		
Mote Park	Standing Open Water Wet Woodland Wood Pasture and Parkland Pond	Conservation Plan Developed with KWT - 2008	Implement Conservation Plan ensuring all aspect of good management techniques for the different UK priority habitats have been considered and LBAP HAP objectives and targets are included within the plan Seek appropriate designation

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Site Name	UK BAP Priority Habitat	Biodiversity Survey	Next Steps
Dove Hill Woodland	Deciduous Woodland (Ancient)	2009. Completion in 2010	SWOT analysis Develop and Implement IPP Seek appropriate designation
Five Acres and Wents Wood	Deciduous Woodland (Ancient)	Tree Survey – 2007 Phase 1 – 2008	Develop and implement IPP Seek appropriate designation
Lime Tree Ponds	Ponds	None	Commission survey and SWOT analysis Develop and Implement IPP Seek appropriate designation
Poyntell Ponds	Ponds	None	Commission survey and SWOT analysis Develop and Implement IPP Seek appropriate designation
Palace Wood	Deciduous Woodland	Phase 1 – 2008	Develop and Implement IPP Seek appropriate Site Designation

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Weavering Heath Biodiversity Project

3.4 Weavering Heath was surveyed in 2006 and recommendations for the management of the natural area were suggested, in addition planned general parks improvements for the site have been made.

3.5 Currently the nature area in Weavering Heath is managed by implementing one conservation cut per year over part of the site with cuttings left in situ; additionally there is limited information on the importance of this area within the park

3.6 It is essential that issues raised within the original survey document are addressed and implemented for the successful restoration of gorse and broom scrub/heathland/acid grassland mosaic to UK BAP priority habitat standards at this site. It will take between 5-10 years to achieve a reasonable level of biodiversity at this site.

3.7 Key milestone stages and estimated costs can be seen in table 2.

Table 2 Key Milestones for the Weavering Heath Biodiversity Project

Ref	Date	Action	Costs
WH1	May 2010	Review and develop the current management plan for the site to create a Projects and Improvements Management Plan. Implement the above techniques within the plan for the site for the next 5 years (2010-2014).	Officer Time
WH2	June 2010	Consult local residents regarding the development of the natural area within Weavering Heath to meet UK BAP standards and look to develop a friends/volunteer group.	Officer Time
WH3	July 2010	Implement consultation feedback from local residents into the project and improvement plan.	
WH4	July 2010	Evaluate costs of any new maintenance techniques needed on site and determine whether these will be implemented by holding volunteer days or using internal contractors.	£2000 max spend across 4 years
WH5	August 2010	Consult grounds maintenance team to co-ordinate remaining management/maintenance for the area	Officer Time Current Grounds Maintenance Budget
WH6	Sept 2010	Interpretation Board: Explaining Management Techniques Used and Importance of the site	£1000

Total Costs = £3,000

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TAVR site Biodiversity Project

3.8 The TAVR site is a new site that MBC has gained and the site has been allocated as a possible Local Nature Reserve. This site is also called Sandling Park. Surveys are underway cataloguing the biodiversity of the site and so information needs to first be gathered to inform future management of the site. The invertebrate fauna at this site appears to be significant and vegetation structure is currently maintained through rabbit grazing.

3.9 This site is currently part of a section 106 agreement and so timings will depend on when the land is passed to appropriate ownership.

3.10 Key milestone stages and estimated costs can be seen in table 3.

Table 3 Key Milestones for the TAVR site Biodiversity Project

Ref	Date	Action	Costs
T1	May 2010	Continue site surveys on biodiversity/nature conservation. Seek expansion of the reserve to incorporate adjoining semi natural habitats.	£500
T2	June 2010	Write Projects and Improvements Management Plan based on survey data (2010-2015).	
T3	Nov 2010	Consult local communities on their views of the site and include within developing plans	
T4	Nov 2010	Evaluate costs of any maintenance techniques needed on site and determine whether these will be implemented by holding volunteer days or using MBS	Current Grounds Maintenance Budget
T5	Dec 2010	Look for external funding to implement projects and improvements management plan	
T6	2010-2015	Implement a volunteer day per year	£1000
T7	Jan 2010	Design and Erect Interpretation Board	£1000

Total Costs = £2,500

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Whatman Natural Areas Biodiversity Project

3.11 Currently the natural area designated as a meadow area at Whatman Park is managed by performing one conservation cut per year with cuttings left in situ; additionally there is limited information on the importance of this area within the park.

3.12 This area would benefit from more detailed prescriptions in the existing management plan for the natural area, however with limited information on the current biodiversity of this site; a floristic survey would aid a decision on whether the site should be cleared and seeded with locally collected meadow seeds or if the site would benefit from selective management and planting of specific species. This is now scheduled for 2010.

3.13 Key milestone stages and estimated costs can be seen in table 4.

Table 4 Key Milestones for Whatman Natural Areas Biodiversity Project

Ref	Date	Action	Costs
WA1	June 2010	Organise a floristic diversity Survey/s containing recommendations to improve the biodiversity	£500
WA2	October 2010	Develop the current management plan for this area of Whatman Park to include recommendations from the survey and the management techniques described above to naturalise and enhance vegetation structure and wildlife habitats. Formulate an Improvement and Projects Plan for this area.	
WA3	Oct 2010	Evaluate costs of any maintenance techniques needed on site and determine whether these will be implemented by holding volunteer days or using MBS	
WA4	Nov 2010	Erect information on boards explaining the improvements plans	No cost board already at site
WA5	March 2011-Sept 2011	Either depending on survey /management outcomes 1. Order meadow plugs/collect seed from site and selectively remove certain dominant species (soil scrape and seed would be most effective) 2. Collect seed from natural local lowland meadow site and prepare ground for sowing Implement in 2 phases: 1. Sept 2010 2. Sept 2011	£400 (2 days total) Plugs £5,000
WA6	Sept 2010/2011	Make final preparations on site and then plant/sow the meadow area	£400
WA7	Nov 2010	Contact local schools to introduce them to	

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		biodiversity and the importance of the meadow at Whatman Park	
WA8	Sept 2011 – March 2015	Continue to create and then maintain the meadow using appropriate techniques – arrange at least 2 volunteer days per year	£1200

Total Costs = £7,500 – Whatman Park Riverside Budget (if seed plugs), £2,500 if soil scrape and seeds.

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Senacre Wood Biodiversity Project

3.14 Senacre Wood has survey data and management recommendations which have been developed.

3.15 Future plans should be to encourage local community stewardship of the site and also secure sustainable funding resource for the management of the site in order to increase biodiversity and usage.

3.16 New Line Learning have been in contact regarding conservation projects they could be more involved with and it maybe that a partnership with young people on this project could help secure specific funding streams and meet key objectives within the LBAP.

3.17 Key milestone stages and estimated costs can be seen in table 5.

Table 5 Key Milestones for the Senacre Wood Biodiversity Project

Ref	Date	Action	Costs
S1	Nov 2010	Develop Improvement and projects Plan in accordance to management guidelines and survey data. Consult local community (customer survey). Establish Friends of Group.	Staff Time
S2	June 2011	Encourage the local schools to use the woodland site for educational purposes. Look to implement a young people task-force for the site and seek external funding to implement.	
S4	Oct 2011	Implement management plan of an appropriate coppice cycle glad and ride creation and improve accessibility/interpretation where required – depending on funding	£25,000 (seek external funding)
S5	Oct 2011	Improve accessibility and interpretation	£5000

Total Costs = £30,000 – Seek external funding
MBC financial input towards this project = £3300 (11% costs)

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River Len Biodiversity Project

3.18 Develop an Improvement and projects Plan link to key conservation objectives and habitat targets in the LBAP alongside current management prescriptions developed by the River Len LNR Management Committee.

3.19 Key milestone stages and estimated costs can be seen in table 6.

Table 6 Key Milestones for the River Len Biodiversity Project

Ref	Date	Action	Costs
RL1	June 2010	Develop and implement site management plan	£18,000 (10 years)
RL2	By April 2010	Seek appropriate designation of the site	
RL3	July 2010	Consult local communities and include feedback within the management plan	
RL4	2010-2015	Seek external funding	
RL5	2010-2015	Implement photographic monitoring of the wet woodland area to monitor management	
RL6	2010-2015	Ensure that species data collected is in a format that allows analysis for biodiversity index on site	
RL7	2010-2015	Organise volunteer days (1 per year)	
RL8	2010-2015	Arrange river surveys (including fish and invertebrates) to collate biodiversity data of this section of the river	Liaise with EA and Len Management Team. Liaise with Internal Drainage Board BAP plan.

Total Costs = £18,000– Seek external funding
MBC financial input towards this project = £2,000 (11% costs)

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Mote Park Improvement and Projects Plan

3.20 Mote Park currently received funding through the Lottery scheme and a detailed management and conservation plan has been developed which includes biodiversity enhancement recommendations.

The main focus of the biodiversity improvement and projects plan for this site are to work with the relevant officers involved in implementing the funding via the management and conservation plan to ensure that biodiversity consideration is a priority. Enhanced management of aquatic habitats within the park are one priority, including the naturalisation of connections to the River Len to allow movement of wildlife through the river system and lake. The naturalisation and re-introduction of vegetation to engineered sections of lake margins are also desirable. The impacts upon biodiversity of the current level of stocking with course fish needs to be examined.

3.21 Key biodiversity measures for this site are highlighted in table 7.

Table 7 Key Milestones for the Mote Park Improvement and Projects Plan

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
MP1	April 2010	Seek appropriate designation of Mote Park natural areas that are of UK BAP priority habitat status and where UK BAP priority species are present	KWT	Liaise with Mote Park Audience Development Officer
MP2	2011-2016	Ensure the following are implemented in the priority habitat areas of Mote Park and comments from KWT on the management of these areas are followed: Develop a Tree Planting and Monitoring Programme Ensure that a native tree planting programme for the next 5 years is formalised for Mote Park to ensure that trees of differing age structure persist in the future. Continue the tree planting programme in future years, reviewed at 5 year intervals. Create log piles within the wetland area Creation of a mosaic of habitats and	KWT/MBC	5 years – £15,000

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		microhabitats to increase species diversity e.g. invertebrate diversity. Examine the feasibility of grazing as a form of pasture management.		
MP3	2011-2016	Organise wildlife volunteer days and encourage wildlife monitoring and reporting.		
MP4	2011-2016	Hold wildlife events to raise the profile of biodiversity in Maidstone (1 event per year)		

Total Costs = £18,000 – Mote Park Lottery Bid

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Dove Hill Woods Improvement and Projects Plan

3.22 Currently no active management occurs at Four Oaks or Dove Hill woodland sites, in addition there is limited information on the current biodiversity of these sites.

3.23 Action for these sites should aim to collect and use survey data to inform management/maintenance plans for these sites. Initial surveys conducted in 2009, more scheduled fro 2010.

3.24 It is likely that tree works to create rides and glades will be needed at both sites to increase light levels into the woodland and in turn increase ground level biodiversity, and so it is essential that a sustainable or initial funding resource for this work is secured.

3.25 Community involvement and encouraging environmental stewardship of these sites is important for biodiversity monitoring and education. Involvement of the local community and in particular schools in future events/volunteer days should be encouraged. The need for such recording/monitoring system to be set up as determined by Steering Group.

3.26 The actions in table 8 highlight the key steps to realising the biodiversity potential of these sites.

Table 8 Key Milestones for the Dove Hill Woods Improvement and Projects Plan

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
DH1	Summer 2010	Perform comprehensive survey/s on site to monitor current condition and biodiversity. Complete a SWOT analysis on biodiversity value.	MVCP	£3,000
DH2	Summer 2010	Write improvement and projects plan to increase the biodiversity and community value of these sites based on SWOT analysis and survey data. Estimate costs for implementation.	Officer Time	
DH3	Summer 2010	Review and obtain a funding source for initial management as a UK BAP priority habitat and a community open space.	Officer Time	
DH4	Summer 2011	Seek appropriate designation for sites	Officer Time	

Total Costs = £3,000

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Five Acres and Wents Wood Improvement and Projects Plan

3.28 This is an ancient woodland site located adjacent to a larger ancient woodland local wildlife site within an urban area and is vital in connecting people to the natural environment and creating a larger connected habitat network across the borough.

3.29 The overall biodiversity project for the site is to develop a community woodland site, whereby local communities would recreationally visit the site and in turn monitor species, hold picnics and use the woodland for educational purposes.

3.30 The proposals in table 9 are the key components of the improvement and projects plan for this site and are dependent on the availability of funding.

Table 9 Key components of Five Acres and Wents Wood Improvement and projects plan

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
FW1	June 2010	Using information from a recent habitat survey, tree management plan and techniques described above write an improvements and project plan for the site to increase biodiversity. Estimate costs for this plan.	Officer Time	
FW2	June 2010	Consult local community on proposals (survey)		
FW3	Summer 2010	Seek designation as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	KWT	
FW4	Summer 2010	Obtain approval from Kent Biodiversity Partnership on the plan ensuring it is appropriate to qualify as a managed site according to NI 197	Kent Biodiversity Partnership	
FW5	Summer 2010	Develop the community woodland biodiversity project and apply for funding for its initial creation		
FW6	Winter 2010 - 2026	Implement management of creating glades and coppice cycles to increase biodiversity		£20,000 over 16 years.
FW7	Winter 2010	Develop appropriate pedestrian access routes through the woodland		£5000
FW8	Winter 2010	Place interpretation boards on site explaining management techniques used and biodiversity value		£2000

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FW9	2011-2015	Volunteer days (1 per year)	MVCP	£800
FW10	Summer 2011	Woodland Opening Event: Teddy Bears Picnic and Wildlife Walk	Marketing	£1000
FW11	2011-2015	Hold regular wildlife recording events with local schools	MVCP	£2000

Total Costs = £15,800
Approximate 11% Cost = £2,000

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Lime Trees Open Space and Poyntell Ponds Improvement and Projects Plan

3.31 MBC ponds have not yet been surveyed.

3.32 The overall aim of this project is to gather information on the current biodiversity of some of MBC owned ponds and develop management and improvement plans implementing the management techniques described previously.

3.33 It is hoped that the project will encourage environmental stewardship within the local community.

3.34 Table 10 highlights the key steps in the ponds improvement and projects plan.

Table 10 Key actions for the ponds improvement and projects plan

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
PP1	Summer 2011	Carry out detailed surveys of the 3 ponds in April, June and August. Conduct SWOT analysis on the biodiversity survey results.	MVCP EA	£3000
PP2	October 2011	Examine data and write a improvement and management plan for these ponds to enhance biodiversity and investigate associated costs		Staff time.
PP3	October 2011	Consult with the existing local community groups on the planned management to encourage environmental stewardship.		
PP4	October 2011	Look to seek funding to implement biodiversity improvements via community involvement	MVCP	
PP4	2011-2015	Implement improvement and management plan		

Total Cost = £3000

Biodiversity Projects

Palace Wood Improvement and Projects Plan

3.35 Palace wood was surveyed in 2008 and was found to be of local biodiversity value in that it provided a place for recreation and learning.

3.36 The woodland is isolated from other natural habitats and so limited potential for biodiversity, however plays a vital role in connecting people to nature.

3.37 This site falls into a recent section 106 contribution and it is hoped that funding for this project will be allocated from this developer contribution.

3.38 Table 11 highlights the key steps in the Palace Wood improvement and projects plan

Table 11 Key actions for Palace Wood improvement and projects plan

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
PP1	Summer 2010	Examine data and write a improvement and management plan for palace wood to enhance biodiversity, connect people with nature and investigate associated costs		
PP2	October 2010	Introduce low level coppice cycle and ride creation to allow access and remove garden plant species		£8000
PP3	October 2010	Create new circular walk		£5000
PP4	October 2010	Erect interpretation boards		£1000
PP5	October 2010	Erect bat boxes		£400
PP6	2010-2014	Look to work with local schools to organise wildlife walk and monitoring		£1000
PP7	Summer 2011	Consult local community (including schools) planned projects and improvement plan encourage environmental stewardship		
PP8	2010-2015	Look to seek funding to implement biodiversity improvements via community involvement		
PP9	2010-2015	Implement improvement and management plan		

Total Cost = £16,000

Biodiversity Projects

Working towards good biodiversity management – protecting and enhancing biodiversity reservoirs within urban areas project

3.39 In addition to the key sites identified for Improvement and Project plans there are a number of smaller sites that are considered natural and semi natural habitat across the borough that MBC own.

3.40 These sites should be examined alongside current maintenance plans. Appropriate measures to enhance biodiversity should be taken and documented via an Improvement and Projects Plan.

3.41 These sites are not key priority sites. However, the role of these sites in creating habitat reservoirs; in particular for invertebrates and birds within urban areas is significant.

3.42 Improvement and projects plans for these sites are not likely to require significant action. However these measures should be documented, implemented and monitored to ensure sustainability and protection of these sites now and in the future.

3.43 Such sites that should be considered for such action include:

- Fant & Tovil Open Space
- Gleneagle Drive
- Lombardy Drive and Alkham Road
- Foxden Drive
- Land Next to Tesco's
- Gore Court Road
- Upper Fulling Pits

(note: this is not a complete list)

3.44 This project will be implemented gradually during phase 1 of the LBAP and is dependent on biodiversity monitoring of land to inform appropriate management techniques.

Biodiversity Projects

Biodiversity monitoring of MBC owned land to inform management

3.45 A number of MBC owned sites have been surveyed and SWOT analysis on biodiversity undertaken to inform improvement and projects plans.

3.46 There are still a number of sites that require this data collection prior to developing improvement and projects plans.

3.47 Table 12 outlines the key actions in collating biodiversity data on MBC owned land

Table 12 Key actions for biodiversity monitoring of MBC owned land

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
SB1	April 2010	Develop a survey plan – listing remaining natural sites to survey in order of importance/urgency over the next three years		
SB2	Autumn 2010	Create a survey database to ensure all survey data is stored and accessible. Share knowledge of data base to relevant external and internal partners		
SB3	May 2010-Sept 2013	Commission surveys	MVCP	£500 per year for 3 years

Biodiversity Projects

Maidstone Borough Council led biodiversity research projects

Investigate Wood for Fuel: Sustainable Woodland Management Project for Maidstone

4.1 Examine the feasibility of using wood from our woodland as fuel to encourage further funding for woodland management to increase biodiversity by the application of coppice cycles and creation of glades.

4.2 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has been investigating a wood for fuel scheme and so it is possible that this could be a joint project with other local authorities on the boundary of MBC.

4.3 Key partnership organisations are linking with the sustainable communities' strategy climate change partnership.

4.4 It is key that this is examined early in the LBAP implementation as the success of a number of the improvement and projects plan for woodland priority sites depend on finding long term funding to manage.

4.5 This research project needs to be completed before December 2010.

Pond monitoring in the Low Weald to inform future biodiversity projects

5.1 Investigate and work in partnership to obtain funding for the excavation of new ponds in the Low Weald area of the Borough plus a research monitoring programme of all ponds in the Low Weald.

5.2 The Low Weald has a high number of ponds, however little data is available on their biodiversity.

5.3 This project will require working across authority boundaries and work with private land owners.

5.4 The time plan for this project is as follows:

1. Develop partnership with key local authorities and relevant organisations – April 2010
2. Scope project, delivery mechanisms and estimate costs in partnership – April 2011
3. Look to secure funding to implement – April 2012
4. Work alongside Pond Conservation Trust "Million Ponds Project" to achieve delivery.

Invasive Plant Species Policy and Monitoring Project

6.1 Invasive plant species are a real problem for biodiversity. Currently management of invasive plant species on council owned land is on a reactive basis.

6.2 The aim of this project is to review current control measures used, the national framework, current legislation, the range of possible invasive plant species currently present in the borough, and future threats from invasive flora due to climate change in order to:

Biodiversity Projects

1. Write an invasive non-native invasive plant species policy ensuring that:
    a) Non-native invasive species definition for the borough is appropriate with consideration of predicted change in species natural range through climate change.
    b) All current methods of control are summarised.
    c) Costs of current measures to control non-native invasive plant species are included.
    d) New technologies and control methods available are summarised.
    e) National and local policy frameworks and legislation on non-native invasive plant species are examined and local relevance is explained.
    f) Maidstone Borough Council to publicise and explain their standard planning conditions on use of native plant species.

2. The policy should lead to the development of a monitoring programme for non-native invasive plant species presence and control measures in the borough using GIS. This data collection will allow us to examine the following;
    a) Long-term cost effectiveness of measures taken
    b) The spread of non-native invasive species

    This will assist in adjust policy and control measures to delivery best-value control.

3. Investigate funding resources available to local authorities for control of non-native invasive plant species
4. Link to National Invasive Species Forum.

6.3 This research project should take approximately 13 weeks of officer time to develop and implement.

6.4 This should be completed before the end of 2011.

Rare Tree and Shrub Restoration Project

7.1 A pilot project to restore and expand historic native tree and shrub coverage across the Borough. Propagation from cuttings, seed and other methods would be utilised – building on experience gleaned at Boxley Warren LNR and the Lynch Bank, Detling where native box, juniper and small-leaved lime is being restored to the landscape.

7.2 Declining tree and shrub species found (or formerly found) within Maidstone Borough include box, juniper, small-leaved lime, large-leaved lime, aspen, black poplar, gorse, broom, sweet gale and crab apple. All these species could be the focus of a propagation project to provide local provenance tree and shrub stock for re-introduction projects across the Borough.

Biodiversity Projects

Developing cross-team biodiversity policies and protocols to ensure delivery across council directorates

Biodiversity Planning Protocol and Guidance Development

7.6 Develop the current GIS biodiversity data into a biodiversity spatial toolkit and guidance protocol

7.7 Ensure biodiversity toolkit and guidance protocol is available to all team members and Development Control (DC).

7.8 Explain the biodiversity toolkit and guidance to Development Control by holding two short workshops.

7.9 The biodiversity planning protocol should take approximately 4 weeks of officer time to develop.

7.10 This project should be completed by December 2010.

Biodiversity Performance Indicator Development

7.11 By examining the eight available local performance indicators (LPI) available on Biodiversity that have been developed by the Audit Office and the Improvement and Development Agency a review will be undertaken to see which of the LPI could be developed to monitor the success of the Maidstone LBAP.

7.12 The work will result in a Biodiversity KPI or collection of KPI with associated target/s to be identified within the Strategic Plan and reported annually to monitor the success of the LBAP at a strategic level.

7.13 Progress on timing on this means that the indicator/s should be developed and adopted within the Strategic Plan (2010-2011) before the adoption of the LBAP.

7.14 It is expected that 3 days of officer time will be required annually to report on this indicator.

Organic Allotment Plan

7.15 Work with the Allotment Committee to ensure that any future allotment site is organic.

7.16 Encourage biodiversity enhancement measures at allotment sites including compost heaps and wood piles.

7.17 Implement via the Allotment Strategy currently being developed.

Biodiversity Projects

7.18 This will take 2 weeks of officer time to develop and implement. It is expected that this should be delivered before 2014.

Introduce biodiversity concepts to Landscape and Conservation Planning

7.19 Work with the Landscape and Conservation team produce a summary document on biodiversity and PPG9 with respect to planning applications and highlighting areas where they could mitigate the application of biodiversity enhancements.

7.20 It is expected the summary biodiversity planning fact sheet should be used in conjunction with the biodiversity toolkit and protocol guidance to assist with processing of planning applications processing to meet all biodiversity duties.

7.21 This work should take 2 weeks of officer time and should be developed before December 2010

Biodiversity Projects

Encouraging and connecting people to wildlife within the Urban Area of Maidstone

8.1 There are specific projects aimed at encouraging wildlife within Maidstone's urban areas, raising awareness of biodiversity and measuring progress towards enhancing biodiversity on our land holdings; these projects are:

1. Biodiversity Communication Plan
2. Bird-feeder Scheme
3. Insect Box Scheme
4. Local Nature Reserve Development

Biodiversity Communication Plan

8.2 Develop links with the community and communicate the importance of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

8.3 Key actions ensuring community awareness of biodiversity can be seen in table 13

Table 13 Key actions to ensure community awareness of biodiversity in the borough

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
WPL1	April 2010	Create a LBAP summary leaflet and posters to send to schools, parish councils and interested customers explaining the LBAP and how they can become more involved		£1000
WPL2	May 2010	Develop a LBAP webpage which will contain all LBAP documentation, links to partner organisation websites, upcoming events, progress on projects and contact details		
WPL3	May 2010	Formalise agreements with Maidstone Museum for at least 2 workshops/presentations on natural history to be held each year		
WPL4	Jan 2011	Organise school visits to discuss biodiversity including wildlife walks.		

Biodiversity Projects

		Ensure that the National Curriculum is crossed reference when designing school visits.		
WPL5	2010-2015	Include a biodiversity update in the borough green section of local newspaper annually.		
WPL6	2010-2015	Arrange wildlife events and volunteer days	MVCP	£1000 per year

Costs = £6000

Bird-feeder Scheme

8.4 Feeding birds with wild bird food is a critical source of food for birds during the breeding season and the winter months. With the recent changes in climate producing unseasonable weather birds are always under pressure to find food.

8.5 This project will target 10 schools within urban areas of Maidstone and introduce these schools to wildlife with a presentation on biodiversity linked to the national curriculum, a bird-feeder making exercise, an initial supply of bird food and a bird-spotters poster.

8.6 The bird-feeders are made with old plastic bottles and so this educational day will also encourage the re-using of waste materials.

8.7 Key actions for the bird feeder project can be seen in table 14

Table 14 Key actions for the bird feeder project

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
BF1	Jan 2011	Contact schools and seek participation in the biodiversity educational day		
BF2	Jan 201	Order bird-feeder recycle making kit, bird food and bird identifying posters		£400
BF3	2011-2012	Visit schools		

Total Costs = £400

Biodiversity Projects

Woodpile and Insect Box Scheme

8.8 Insect boxes provide additional habitats for insects such as solitary bees and also are excellent for over-wintering Ladybirds and Lacewings. Woodpiles create a range of niches for a diverse assemblage of invertebrates and other wildlife

8.9 Woodpiles should be placed in partial shade while insect boxes should be placed in a sheltered spot, preferably to catch the morning sun.

8.10 This project aims to enhance biodiversity in our parks and open spaces and the key actions to implement can be seen in table 15.

Table 15 Key actions to implement insect box project

Ref	Date	Action	Key Partner/s	Costs
IB1	May 2011	Examine and find suitable parks and open space sites where the woodpiles and insect boxes can be placed		
IB2	May 2011	Order insect boxes. Describe the locations for woodpiles and insect boxes to be placed with the grounds maintenance team		£500
IB3	May 2011	Erect insect boxes		

Total Cost = £500

Local Nature Reserve Working Group and Action Plan

8.11 There has been considerable debate on the current status of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designated sites within the borough and little progress has been made to develop and plan for appropriate provision of accessible natural open space in the borough. A target for designation the number of new Local Nature Reserves per annum should be set

8.12 This developmental project will work with planning policy, legal and property teams to form a Local Nature Reserve working group to ensure development of this process to meet current and future standards via the development of a Local Nature Reserve designation plan.

8. 13 The Local Nature Reserve designation plan should examine the following:

1. Current designated sites
2. Proposals for future designated sites
3. Area of LNR designation required in the future to ensure standards are met

Biodiversity Projects

8.14 It is hoped that the formation of cross-directorate working group will allow for strategic planning and the inclusion of LNR provision and targets to be set within the council's Strategic Plan in 2010 with an associated key performance indicator.

8. 15 The working group should be developed by May 2010 and action plan developed by December 2010.

Biodiversity Projects

Biodiversity projects already supported by MBC

9.1 A number of biodiversity projects are already funded by MBC, these include:

1. Free-Tree Scheme
2. Pond/Tree Warden Scheme
3. Bird box scheme
4. Invertebrate box scheme
5. Native planting conditions for new developments
6. Cordwood retention conditions for new developments
7. Biodiversity site management plan conditions for new developments
8. Swift Brick, herptile hibernacula and bat box informatives and conditions for all suitable new developments
9. Cordwood arising from MBC tree surgery is left in situ or taken to River Len LNR to provide a habitat for saproxylic organisms

Free Tree Scheme

9.2 The free tree scheme has been supported by MBC since 2005.

9.3 The Kent Free Tree Schemes offers up to 25 trees completely free of charge to individuals within the Maidstone Borough.

9.4 The overall aim of this project is to plant 10,000 trees in Maidstone by 2010. (Target was reached in 2009).

Pond/Tree Warden Scheme

9.5 MBC has supported the pond and tree warden scheme run by BTCV for several years through the Community Development Section.

Bird Box Scheme

9.6 A number of bird boxes have been erected within our parks and open spaces in the last two years in partnership with MVCP. More than thirty sites throughout the borough have been selected and bird boxes targeting a variety of species, erected.

Biodiversity Projects

Biodiversity Projects

Secure support for partnership organisations led key projects

10.1 MBC should seek to support in kind and financially when possible, partner led projects that deliver key objectives within the LBAP.

10.2 Priority to partnership led projects will be given to those that focus on priority habitats that are not extensively covered via stewardship schemes or when there is a significant lack of data on the condition of these habitats in the borough.

10.3 Projects that MBC should seek to financially contribute towards in Phase 1 of the LBAP are:

1. Orchards for Everyone
2. Ponds on the Downs
3. Wildlife on the Downs
4. Kent Habitat Survey and Monitoring
5. Pond Conservation Trust's Million Ponds Project.

Orchards for Everyone

10.4 The Orchards for Everyone project is run by KCC Countryside Management Partnerships (CMPs) and proposes a holistic approach to the regeneration of the landscape and rural economy. It focuses on restoration/creation of community orchard sites, management plan development and sustainable end-uses for the fruit.

10.5 The project was initially funded from 2006 until 2008 and so far the project has generated a useful GIS map layer highlighting the location of traditional orchards in Maidstone, developed a community orchard in Lenham and raised the profile of traditional orchards as an important habitat for biodiversity.

10.6 Future extension (additional 5 years) for the project will look to examine genetic mapping, heritage mapping, develop a centre for information exchange and an orchards trust.

10.7 It is hoped that MBC will contribute £10,000 towards this project

Ponds on the Downs

10.8 The Ponds on the Downs project aims are as follows and will focus on the North Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 2010-2011:

- Survey ponds for protected flora and fauna and record using GIS format
- Assess areas for the potential of pond creation
- Produce summary notes on targets and management for the landowner
- Share the data collected using KMBRC

Biodiversity Projects

- Write a summary report to raise awareness of ponds in the landscape and their biodiversity value

10.9 It is hoped that MBC will give £3000 financial support towards this project.

Wildlife on the Downs

10.10 Wildlife on the Downs is a project that will deliver a series of events on the North Downs and encourage a greater understanding and engagement of communities with the Natural Environment.

10.11 A minimum of 15 events will be held within the Maidstone Borough during the course of this project (2010-2011).

10.12 It is hoped that MBC will support £1500 towards this project.

Kent Habitat Survey/Monitoring and Planning Toolkit Project

10.13 The Kent Habitat Survey was last conducted in 2003. To assess changes in habitat use and also have the most up-to-date data on UK priority habitat distribution is essential if connectivity of habitats via creation and enhancement schemes is to be addressed at a local, regional and national level.

10.14 The project is likely to start in 2010 and take three years to complete and it is hoped that data will be available to use in MBC Land Allocations Development Plan Document.

10.15 This project will be supported across 3 teams within the council including Planning Policy, Development Control, and Parks and Leisure. Total financial support given to the project will be £12,000.

Biodiversity Projects

LBAP Implementation Costs to MBC for 2010-2014

11.1 A summary of estimated costs to implement the LBAP, not including officer time can be seen in Table 1. The minimum funding required to implement core projects highlighted in this document for five years is approximately £40,000, however funding required is not distributed evenly across years with more funds required in earlier than latter years.

11.2 The amount of funding required has been kept to a minimum and one of the aims of the LBAP is to work in partnership to secure funding resources to enhance biodiversity in the borough at key locations.

11.3 External funding available for biodiversity projects requires a percentage contribution from one of the main partners. It is hoped that if external funds can be found to expand on the skeleton projects outlined in this document some of the budget will be used to support external funding to enable larger biodiversity projects to be implemented.

11.4 In addition to the costs outlined in Table 1 the LBAP will also need officer time to act as Biodiversity Lead for the LBAP. It is expected that this will be approximately 50% of a full-time officer for the 5 years.

11.5 The LBAP is an action within the GSS and correlates to a large proportion of the Green Space Strategy (GSS)[18] Phase 3. Due to the correlated interests of the GSS Phase 3 and LBAP it is expected that the officer leading on the LBAP will also:

1) Work and lead on the remaining actions within the GSS Phase 3
2) Reviewing the current GSS and examining the need for a new GSS action plan
3) Co-ordinating the GSS and the LBAP with the developing:
    a) Green Infrastructure Strategy
    b) Land Allocations DPD
    c) Open Spaces DPD
    d) Landscape Character Assessments

11.6 During the review period for the LBAP which will take approximately 3-6 months in 2014 it is expected that the officer will need to work full-time to review the action plan and then prepare phase 2 of the LBAP (2014-2019). This will utilise information on successes from Phase 1, new legislation and policy, will look to continue projects, and should include any new externally and internally collected data when developing objectives, targets and action plans.

Biodiversity Projects

Table 16 Summary of Estimated Costs to MBC to Implement LBAP projects

Project	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Funded entirely by MBC					
Weavering Heath					
TAVR Nature Area	£500				**£500**
Dove Hill Woods					
Ponds Project	£3,000				**£3,000**
Biodiversity Monitoring	£500	£500	£500	£500	**£2,000**
Communication Plan					
Bird Feeder scheme					
Insect Box scheme					
Events and MBC staff volunteer days	0	£750	£750	£750	**£2,250**
Whatman Park Lowland Meadow Area	£500	£1,600	£400		**£2,500**
Part Funded by MBC - Look for external funding sources					
Senacre Wood	0	140	0	0	**0**
River Len Nature Reserve	0	140	0	0	**0**
Five Acres and Wents Wood	0	137	0	0	**0**
Already Funded by MBC					
Free Tree Scheme					**£0**
Pond and Tree Warden Scheme					**£0**
Bird Nesting Box Scheme					**£0**
Partner led projects to be supported financially					
Orchards for Everyone	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	**£8,000**
Ponds on the Downs	£1,000	£1,000			**£2,000**
Wildlife on the Downs	£500	£500			**£1,000**

Biodiversity Projects

Kent Habitat Survey	£1,333	£1,333			**£2,666**

Minimum funding required to implement LBAP	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**MBC Total 2011-13**
	£9,333 Already committed	£8,100	£3,650	£3,250	£15,000
Funded by another project stream within MBC					
Mote Park					**£15,000**
Developer Contributions					
Palace Wood					**£16,000**
Working towards good biodiversity management					

Biodiversity Projects