



New Forest National Park

2015

Milford-on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan

Written by the Milford Conservation Volunteers in partnership with the Community Wildlife Plans Project and Milford-on-Sea Parish Council



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www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

1. Woodland flora
2. Orange Tip Butterfly

Preparation and Production of this Document

This document has been produced by the Milford Conservation Volunteers with support from the Community Wildlife Plans Project, New Forest Land Advice Service and New Forest National Park Authority.

Its production has taken two years from the point of the idea being discussed, agreed and supported by Milford-on-Sea Parish Council in 2012 to getting the first draft version available for consultation. The process has been lengthy for several reasons. There has been an important journey of determining what should be included in a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and what the community's own Milford-on-Sea BAP should look like, followed by much essential research into, and the bringing together of, the wealth of wildlife information available for Milford-on-Sea. There has been consultation with as many residents of Milford-on-Sea as possible to bring all this together into a readable, attractive and useful document that will help inform planning decisions and strategies for the future benefit of the wildlife and the part they play in amenity value we all enjoy.

Acknowledgements

Jenny Spenser has chaired the 'Milford Biodiversity Action Plan' steering group meetings since 2012 with steering group members being local wildlife enthusiasts Tony Locke, Hugh Corry, Keith Metcalf, Anne Jenks, Janet Miles and Peter Hutchings. The group has been driving forward work on this document over the last two years along with running community wildlife surveys and practical wildlife conservation events within the Parish.

The Milford Conservation Volunteers group has had many active 'wildlife champions' * for over twenty years carrying out numerous practical conservation tasks and wildlife surveys and many continue with these tasks. Support from Angela Peters from the Community Wildlife Plans Project (within the New Forest Land Advice Service) has helped provide technical expertise towards the production of this document and practical help in involving the local community.

Members of staff from the New Forest Land Advice Service (Julie Melin-Stubbs and Rhys



Morgan) and Georgianna Barnard (now with the Forestry Commission) have also contributed to the conservation advice in Milford-on-Sea. Several members of staff at the New Forest National Park Authority including Zoe Caals, Andy Bell, Jo Holmes, Tracy Weeks and Lucy Page have assisted in the production of the maps and graphics. Photographs used in the document have been supplied by the following people: Keith Metcalf, Anne Jenks, Angela Peters, Alan Sutton, Lucy Page.

All residents were invited and many attended, the various events, some made specific points on the Action Plans.

**A 'wildlife champion' is defined as a person who is furthering the cause of wildlife and leading a team to achieve the objective.*

Foreword



The community of Milford-on-Sea should be commended for the impressive way they have brought together this Biodiversity Action Plan with the support and guidance from the New Forest Land Advice Service

and the New Forest National Park Authority. The Plan makes an important contribution to our 'Growing the Forest' initiative, a local response to the government's priority to create bigger, better and more joined up areas for wildlife to make them more resilient for the future. This Plan will hopefully inspire new 'wildlife champions' to take up the baton of protecting Milford-on-Sea's special wildlife; enabling up-and-coming generations to continue to work to improve habitats both within and beyond the National Park boundary.

Alison Barnes
Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Milford-on-Sea is a wonderful place. As a naturalist it excites me to share in the exceptional quality of the wildlife that thrives where the Forest meets the coast. By creating a community wildlife Biodiversity

Action Plan, the people of Milford are showing their passion and commitment to ensure that this wildlife will flourish for generations to come. Pressures on fragile habitats have never been greater, yet the dedication of local people to their local area has never been stronger. I heartily commend and support the efforts of the community of Milford-on-Sea in caring for this remarkable place.

Clive Chatters
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Milford-on-Sea has a wealth of land suitable for our wonderful mix of wildlife. However, with such declines now being experienced both locally and nationally, it is brilliant to see

that there are volunteer champions prepared to put time and effort into preparing this Action Plan in order to allow us to play our small part in trying to protect and enhance our Milford-on-Sea habitats and species. We congratulate the MCV Steering Group in taking up the wildlife challenge and preparing this document.

Julian Davis
Chairman of Milford-on-Sea Parish Council



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1. Interpretation Board at Gate 12 entrance to Studland Meadow & Common
2. Oystercatchers flying over Sturt Pond

Acronyms used in this Action Plan

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	MoS PC	Milford-on-Sea Parish Council
BWARS	Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society	NF-BAP	New Forest – Biodiversity Action Plan
CWP	Community Wildlife Plan	NFDC	New Forest District Council
H-BAP	Hampshire – Biodiversity Action Plan	NF LAS	New Forest Land Advice Service
HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	NF NPA	New Forest National Park Authority
HIWWT	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	RVEI	Road Verges of Ecological Importance
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship	SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
MCV	Milford Conservation Volunteers	SMP	Shoreline Management Plans
MHW	Mean High Water	UK-BAP	United Kingdom - Biodiversity Action Plan
MLW	Mean Low Water		

Introduction

Under Section 40 of the October 2006 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (NERC); 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'.

Biodiversity conservation measures need to have regard to both designated sites and priority species and to wider species and habitats. Such habitats might include amongst others; public authority owned land, designated sites, nature reserves, buildings, school grounds, wetland and coastal sites, highways, rights of ways and farmland. Public authorities must also have regard to the conservation of biodiversity by incorporating biodiversity messages to land managers, businesses, other organisations and to the general public.

In implementing its duty, a public authority is likely to be able to show that it has;

- Identified and taken opportunities to integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas and functions, and ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced in line with current statutory obligations
- Raised awareness of staff and managers with regard to biodiversity issues
- Demonstrated a commitment and contribution to Biodiversity Action Plans, where appropriate and
- Demonstrated progress against key biodiversity indicators and targets



In August 2011, Milford-on-Sea Parish Council invited Milford Conservation Volunteers (MCV) to produce a Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for the parish. In June 2014 the Draft was completed and the public were consulted via two public awareness events held in the community centre and a full public consultation undertaken with the community. The views of all residents who participated have been taken into consideration and where appropriate included in this final Plan.

One major change from the original draft document is that we have now added actions for Marine & Coastal Ecology which were missing from the original draft document. These will be found under Chapter 15b to 'Conserve and Enhance Habitats'. Whilst we recognise that it is difficult to influence marine and coastal ecology in the broader sense in the Solent and Christchurch Bay, we have included some measures that if brought to fruition will help protect our coastal marine life.

Chapter 1

What is a Biodiversity Action Plan?

The UK was the first country to write its own Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) back in 1994 following the Convention on Biological Diversity in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 of which the UK is a signatory.

This plan outlined the 'priority' habitats and species that required action to stop the loss of biodiversity and actions that should be taken in order to achieve these aims. Subsequent country, regional, county and local BAPs were drawn up to guide local action to meet local targets. The Government's new biodiversity strategy **Biodiversity 2020** focuses on the importance of landscape-scale action not just for wildlife but to support the 'ecosystem services' that our countryside provides us with such as clean water and air and also helps us adapt to climate change. The term 'bigger, better and more joined-up' has been coined to describe this emphasis.

Public bodies, including Parish Councils have a responsibility for biodiversity as stated in the NERC Act 2006 (see Introduction Page 8 or go to www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/duty.aspx for further



information). This requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity duty'.

Before any 'Biodiversity Action Plan' was envisaged for Milford-on-Sea the village already had excellent credentials to begin survey work in the area. It already

had an Environment Group, formed over 20 years earlier and a Wildlife Recording Group approaching its 10th anniversary. (These groups subsequently amalgamated in December 2011). When the idea was first put to the village, the community had the existing network and much collected evidence already to hand to begin their own Plan.

Although in Milford-on-Sea the Plan is called a Biodiversity Action Plan (to streamline with national Biodiversity Action Plans) you may also have heard them called Community Wildlife Plans (CWPs) because other local communities have also been producing these within the New Forest area with support from the Community Wildlife Plans Project. Both are essentially a wildlife action plan that communities can take forward. The other New Forest area communities undertaking their own plans are Marchwood, Landford, Wellow, New Milton, Hordle, Godshill and Lymington & Pennington.

This Plan (BAP) is a toolkit that will help the village and its residents take practical conservation measures to increase their knowledge of what we have in Milford-on-Sea from our diverse habitats, present land ownership & management and all the associated flora and fauna. We hope the community will continue

1. MCV putting up raptor nesting box

2. Hedgehog

to build up information and knowledge through habitat mapping exercises and animal and plant surveys as well as talking to and learning from experts. Through this a joined up picture of the resource and joined up conservation actions will result in a robust habitat network for Milford-on-Sea's wildlife for the community to enjoy, now and in the future.

This is a Plan for all residents, for them to learn about their village wildlife, so they do what they can to help and get involved. Collectively the community can make the plan work as a living, forward thinking, celebration of what makes wildlife so important in Milford-on-Sea and especially a plan for making it even better.

We don't want to stop at our Parish boundaries though, as wildlife does not respect artificial boundaries drawn on maps. We will work with our neighbours to build resilient wildlife networks, a strategy that sits closely with the New Forest National Park Authority's 'Growing the Forest' objective to increase habitat connectivity within and beyond the boundaries of the National Park.

In the future the BAP will help to guide decisions taken locally about habitats and wildlife and will be updated to reflect the inevitable changes that occur.

This, our first version of the Milford-on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan, has been prepared by a keen group of active 'wildlife champions' with support and expertise from the New Forest Land Advice Service (NF LAS) and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT). We plan to review and update the BAP every few years to keep it fresh and inspire a new generation of 'wildlife champions' in Milford-on-Sea who will become the next custodians of our wildlife heritage.

Angela Peters
New Forest Land Advice
Service Community Wildlife
Plans Project New Forest
National Park Authority –
Wildlife & Conservation
Team



Chapter 2

Landscape Evolution

The landscape we see today in Milford-on-Sea is shaped by many things including underlying rocks, overlying soils, historical and recent land management practices, and natural processes such as climate and coastal erosion and deposition.

The British Geological Survey website www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html?src=topNav provides a 'Map Viewer' through which you can find lots of information about local geology.

The underlying bedrock, superficial geology and soils as well as historical and present day management dictate the types of habitat present today. The majority of Milford-on-Sea has underlying bedrock called the Headon and Osborne beds formed from clay, silt and sand. The coastal section of Milford-on-Sea to the south of the Solent Way has underlying bedrock of Becton Sand Formation and Chama Sand Formation, formed of sand, silt and clay. These sedimentary bedrocks were formed approximately 37 to 40 million years ago in the Paleogene Period, when the environment was dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas.

Superficial deposits on the coastal area between the Solent Way and the coast are tidal flat deposits of clay and silt, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The beach area is formed of Marine Beach Deposits of sand and gravel, which were formed up to 3 million years ago also in the Quaternary Period. The local environments were dominated by shorelines during these periods.

Coastal processes including erosion of the cliffs and movement of shingle at Hurst Spit have shaped Milford-on-Sea, as have present-day shoreline management practices such as the replenishment of Hurst Spit and the building of hard surfaces along Barton Cliff, which will continue to be ever-changing.

The historical use of the landscape is of interest in that it tells the story of how Milford-on-Sea village and farmland came to be as it is today. The collation of archaeological information and maps is being produced by a member of the Steering Group and will help illustrate how Milford-on-Sea has developed. This will be made available to interested parties once completed.



Climate development and Milford-on-Sea

We look at our weather day by day and season by season. Climate is our weather averaged over long periods of time usually many millions of years. These averages allow us to identify trends and to see how our climate is changing.

Climate change is slow and natural and is one of the many systems – physical, chemical and biological - which together make our living planet. Our understanding of the interplay of these processes is still developing. We know they work together in response to changing forces acting either from outside, such as sunspot activity, or from inside, such as movement of tectonic plates.



The pace of climate change can vary significantly: sometimes change is gradual and slow, such as the climate cooling over the last 60 million years to the present day; sometimes change is radical and fast. All the time our planet's processes are seeking to find a new balance. Fast and extreme climate change can lead to a radical rebalancing, for example the five or six major mass extinction events of the last 1200 million years, each killing an estimated 30-90% of life. These mass extinction events can be termed 'forcing events' leading to discontinuities in biological life.

The accelerating influence of humans on our climate over the last 350 years has contributed towards the emergence of a new forcing event. The balance of the Earth is being disturbed at a pace which, if not globally managed, is likely to lead to radical consequences.

Scientists are seeking to provide us with the knowledge and time to understand the situation. The risk is that climate change will become beyond our control and beyond what will sustain a large percentage of present biological life on Earth.

We might anticipate that over the next 100 years Milford-on-Sea will experience some significant changes:

- a rise in mean sea level will have a major impact on Milford on Sea: breaches of sea-defences will increase, including breaching of Hurst Spit, while the pace of cliff and coast retreat will increase.
- an increase in extreme weather, both wet and dry, will affect soil forms and the ability to sustain the carpet of flora and its associated fauna. Changes in groundwater and surface water may destroy or significantly alter local habitats.
- changes in air composition and quality will affect the way atmospheric systems support local habitats.
- changes in the range of species of flora and fauna will disturb food chains of dependency. Species populations will be stressed and isolated or be lost. Native and long naturalised species may find the new conditions intolerable while non-native species may thrive.

1. Woodland and Danes Stream
2. Pleasure Grounds woodland
3. Speckled wood butterfly in Pleasure Grounds
4. Wood anemone in cleared area of woodland

This is what the Meteorological Office says on their website:

'Earth is warming. Over the past 100 years Earth has warmed by about 0.75% C. Natural sources, such as tree rings and glaciers, as well as human records, show that climate has changed significantly over the past few hundred years. There was a relatively warm period in Europe during the 14th century, followed by a quite sudden change to cooler conditions in the 15th century. This extended into the 'Little Ice Age' of the 17th century, followed by a warming trend that has recently accelerated. The evidence for this recent warming comes largely from direct measurements of temperature. In the more temperate northern latitudes, winters are less severe than 30 years ago, with cold snaps generally being short-lived.

The ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1998 (as of July 2011). 2010 saw a relatively strong 'La Nina' but globally was still one of the warmest years on record'.

(La Nina is an ocean-atmospheric phenomenon that is the counterpart of 'El Nino')

In the life time of this Plan, climate change or climate forcing is likely to have short-term impacts due to extreme weather events and more recent increased

frequency e.g. 1987 hurricane, 1990 great storm and the St Valentine's Day gale in 2014. (Three major events in 27 years). In view of the severity and enormity of these storms the question we ask ourselves is, what can we do locally to help?

Our response to these climate changes is focused through the BAP Action H17 – **(See page 69)**.

Impacts of Navitus Bay Wind Park

The wind farm will be some 12 miles south of Milford-on-Sea. 194 turbines up to 650 feet tall are proposed. The Planning Inspectorate is currently (Jan 2015) examining the application. Onshore works will come in under the cliff at Taddiford Gap (just outside the parish boundary). The primary BAP Action shall be to monitor the development of the Wind Park. See BAP Action H18 **(Page-69)**.

Chapter 3

Habitats

Being located next to the coast, Milford probably has a more diverse array of habitat types than most other Parishes in the New Forest area. It has remained a small (but growing) rural village with many visitors coming to Milford-on-Sea each year to enjoy the beach, village and wildlife. (See Map (1) page 18).

Woodlands 10.9 account for just under 10% of the total area of Milford-on-Sea. The Parish has a number of important woodlands that have been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and/or Local Nature Reserves. These are all broad-leaved woodlands supporting a range of native trees, understorey and ground flora. Several of them are known to have non-native and often invasive species present which impact on the integrity of the woodland and the wildlife that it supports. 7/6

The Pleasure Grounds is owned and managed by Milford-on-Sea Parish Council with the help and guidance of the Land Advice Service and the three local conservation volunteer groups (Milford-on-Sea, New Forest



Area and Hampshire) and enjoyed by many who walk its footpaths that follow the meandering Danes Stream along its length. This woodland is a mixture of ancient and more recent semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with high canopy species such as Pedunculate Oak, Sycamore, Ash, Horse Chestnut and mature Alder specimens flanking the Danes Stream. Yew, Wild Cherry and Elm are also present in low numbers. Highly invasive Rhododendron Ponticum and Laurel are locally abundant throughout the woodland as well as the non-native Turkey Oak and Holm Oak. Stands of Hazel coppice form discrete stands, as does Aspen which is locally frequent as a result of its suckering habit. Understorey species include Holly which can be locally frequent, Silver Birch and a small amount of Downy Birch, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel. Grey Willow is locally abundant in damp areas, and the woodland has a rich ground flora, with many notable woodland species such as Sanicle, Hard Shield Fern, Wood Speedwell and Primrose. 2.7, 4/5



1. Cut Bridge at Sturt Pond
2. Yellow horned poppy
3. Little Robin
4. Brent geese over Sturt Pond (note the juvenile 3rd bird from left with no white neck marking)
5. Common Tern on Sturt Pond
6. Water sports on Mount Lake

A woodland compartment inventory (**see page 19**) was undertaken in spring 2014 by Georgie Barnard (Forestry Commission) at the request of the Parish Council, in relation to a proposed new woodland management plan being considered. An earlier SINC survey listed all species recorded in the woodland in 2000, with their abundance also noted. Non-native species such as Montbretia, bamboo and American Skunk Cabbage are the subject of on-going work by the MCV to eradicate and/or control these species.

Coastal Habitats account for around 20% of the land in the Parish of Milford-on-Sea, all of which are protected by national and in some cases international designations (see Chapter 4 for further information). The mudflats, saltmarsh and associated scrub and grassland of Keyhaven are nationally important for breeding and migratory birds such as Redshank, Curlew and Shelduck, as well as the specialist plants it supports such as Sea Purslane, Golden Samphire, Sea Thrift and Sea Campion. Hurst Spit, the shingle spit extending out into the Solent which protects the mudflats and saltmarsh, is an important site for Yellow-horned Poppy, Little Robin



and a small breeding population of Little Tern. Hordle Cliff supports yet another coastal habitat along this designated geological site.

The principal area of wildlife interest in Milford's BAP is the land administered within the parish boundary. However, in the case of the coastline it includes all land down to Mean Low Water (MLW), plus several narrow creeks which do not drain (dry) at MLW, including Hawker's Lake, Keyhaven Lake and Mount Lake. Thus the description of wildlife focuses what is generally present on the foreshore (i.e. Mean High Water (MHW) to Mean Low Water. However, we also have wildlife of significance in the deeper areas of the Solent and Christchurch Bay.

Milford has two local Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) made up of the North Solent SMP and the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP. These provide a broad assessment of the long term risks associated with coastal pressure, in order to reduce these risks to people, and the developed, historic



and natural environment.' These plans indicate how shorelines might be managed through four types of possible action: 1) Hold the existing line of defence. 2) Advance the existing line of defence seawards. 3) Managed realignment and 4) No active intervention.

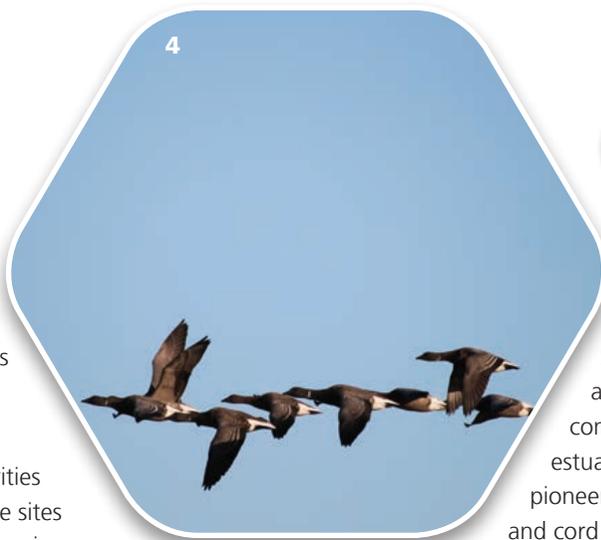
At Milford-on-Sea and Keyhaven there is a mix of these strategies. However, action depends on the availability of funding. There are of course implications for our wildlife in all of these measures.

Marine Ecology: The Solent has an array of marine wildlife, including; harbour seals, elusive seahorses, spoon worms and internationally scarce Eelgrass (also known as sea grass) beds (*Zostera marina*) eaten by

Brent Geese when the tides are out.

A strategic review of the risks from all ongoing activities within the European marine sites in the Solent was undertaken in 2010 by Natural England at the request of Defra. The remit was for Natural England to identify future management required to ensure site features are maintained at or restored to favourable condition. The Solent Maritime European marine site is a complex cluster of sites encompassing major estuarine systems. The Solent has the largest number of small estuaries in the tightest cluster anywhere in Great Britain and is located in one of only a few major sheltered channels in Europe. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their complex tidal regime, with long periods of tidal stand at high and low water.

Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive areas of estuarine flats, with intertidal areas often supporting Eelgrass and green algae, saltmarsh and natural shoreline transitions, such as drift line vegetation. Many of the intertidal areas within the Solent are important for a number of nesting, roosting and feeding birds.



Saltmarshes represent an extremely important component of Solent's estuarine ecology, including the pioneer Atlantic salt meadows and cord grass swards. Sub tidal sandbanks occur throughout the Solent, particularly in the large harbours, typically colonised by a burrowing fauna of worms, crustaceans, bivalve molluscs and echinoderms. Intertidal mudflat and sandbank communities form in most sheltered areas of the coast, usually where large quantities of silt derived from rivers are deposited in estuaries. These communities are dominated by microscopic diatoms to polychaete worms and bivalve molluscs.

Current Management: One of the aims of the European designations is to provide a stronghold for habitats and species through appropriate management measures, which is achieved by co-operation between the relevant authorities, landowners, industries and public who use the site. Milford-on-Sea BAP objectives will be to consider which activities are taking place in the Solent that has a detrimental bearing on its well-being e.g. does bait digging, kite surfing, spread of non-native Pacific Oyster, aggregate dredging,

water sports, recreational aircraft (e.g. microlites) unauthorised landings or boat discharges, litter, sewerage and oil spills onto our sea front beaches and into Sturt Pond or Mounts Lake have a detrimental effect, and to consider what protective actions might be put in place to help reduce such actions.

Ponds: The largest pond in the parish is Sturt Pond, which forms part of the SSSI. The pond is fed from Mount Lake (saline) at its south-eastern end and the Danes Stream (freshwater) at its northern end. Due to the mix of saline and freshwater the pond holds significant numbers of invertebrates and is well protected with conservation designations. The pond has a significant reedbed, which supports a number of birds synonymous with this type of habitat. Over the years it has been allowed to dry out hence the gradual





encroachment of reeds and silt build-up. There is a fine management balance to be found, which stops the reedbed developing into secondary woodland. The

silted areas (at low tides) provide superb feeding and roosting areas for significant numbers of winter waterfowl and waders.

Grasslands feature significantly in the Parish, as part of the farmed landscape. There are several agriculturally improved grasslands managed as grazing pasture for stock, which are an essential part of the landscape and although in general they are of a lower value to wildlife, some strategically located grasslands offer feeding sites for Brent Geese and other wildlife. There is a severe shortage of **semi-unimproved grassland** in the UK, which is why Studland Common is so important. It supports small but significant areas of calcareous, acid and neutral grasslands, for which the site is designated a SINC, and is a significant reason for the reintroduction of grazing. These grasslands support notable species such as Burnet Rose, Dyer's Greenweed, Devil's-bit

Scabious, Lousewort, Heath Grass and Wild Thyme as well as a scarce species of Eyebright.

Species rich meadows have declined significantly over the last 100 years. Any additional meadows found in the Parish will be recorded and in discussion with the landowner will be considered for inclusion in this Plan for conservation management.

The farmed landscape supports both permanent grassland as well as arable fields within the Parish. Some farmland in Milford-on-Sea has been entered into a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and some field margins are managed for wildlife associated with arable field margins such as scarce arable annual plants and farmland birds.

Although many **ancient hedgerow** boundaries have been lost over recent decades, Milford-on-Sea supports some, although these have not yet been



surveyed. These are precious remnants of an ancient landscape and often support hedgerows with important tree, scrub and wild flower species. Hedgerows are important wildlife corridors for a vast range of species from insects such as butterflies, through to small mammals such as voles, mice and bats, not forgetting important breeding and feeding areas for many birds. Sympathetic management of hedgerows is important if such wildlife habitat is to be retained. Simply flailing less frequently, laying the hedge, and not cutting it whilst the berries are still on are some practical ways of ensuring habitat is managed for wildlife. Where hedgerows have been lost, new hedgerows can be planted to restore valuable historically lost wildlife habitat and corridors.

Another valuable wildlife corridor, often found adjacent to hedgerows flanking roads, are **grassy verges** which can support unimproved valuable

grassland habitat, with wild flowers and essential passageways for a number of species such as butterflies, grasshoppers, bumblebees and small mammals.

Two important **rivers** run through the Parish of Milford-on-Sea, namely the Danes Stream and the Avon Water. There are also several smaller yet important brooks, including Lymore/Newlands Brook and Shackleford Brook.

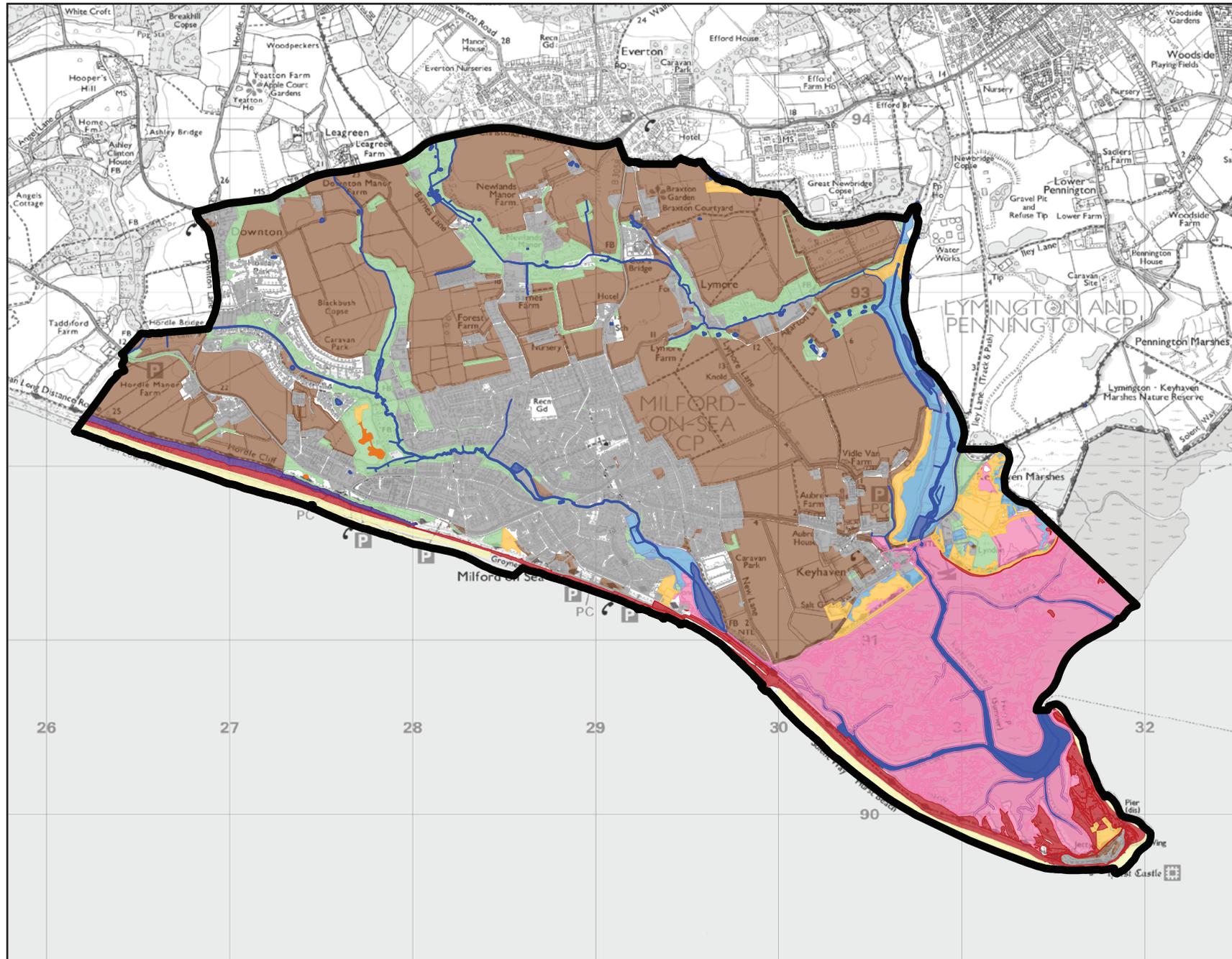
Sturt Pond is a tidal pond fed by saltwater tides from the Solent and by freshwater from the Danes Stream. The pond holds internationally important invertebrate communities and is managed by Hampshire County Council Countryside Service team, under a short-term lease from New Forest District Council who are the landowners. The site is a SSSI and Local Nature Reserve.

A recent survey has revealed a small remnant of old **heathland** at Sharvells Copse (part of the Pleasure Grounds Local Nature Reserve) and careful consideration needs to be given as to whether more could be done to return part of this area back to heathland, a valuable habitat not found anywhere else in the Parish.



1. Sturt Pond local nature reserve
2. Repaired footpath alongside Danes Stream
3. Species rich grassland at Studland Common
4. Barnes Bridge, a safer route to woodland
5. Volunteers renovating boggy footpath alongside Danes Stream

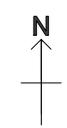
Map 1 Habitats of Milford-on-Sea



Credit: This map was developed from data from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, the Environment Agency and local knowledge

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Ordnance Survey 1000114703

- Parish boundary
- Farmland, grassland, arable
- Broadleaved woodland
- Acid grassland
- Neutral grassland
- Rivers, lakes and ponds
- Saltmarsh
- Maritime cliff and slope
- Reed bed and marsh
- Shingle above MHW
- Shingle below MHW
- Built-up areas



SCALE: 1:21000

Pleasure Grounds - Woodland Compartment Survey

Compart	Sub Compart	Est. Total Trees by Compart ment			Pedun culate	Silver					Monterey	Holm		Horse		
Lower Pleasure Grounds 2.064ha	465 trees per hectare	Est. = 960 trees	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
1	A		50	25				15						10		100%
1	B		50		10		10									100%
Upper Pleasure Grounds 11.056ha	650 trees per hectare	Est. = 7,186 trees														
2	A		60		10			10	20							100%
2	B		15	50	5		10			20						100%
2	C			80								15		5		100%
Sharvells Copse 2.064ha	825 trees per hectare	Est. = 1,703 trees														
3					15	35	10				20	20				100%
Total Hectares 22.104	Whole Pleasure Grounds	Est. = 9,849 trees														
Whole Woodland			84	26	7	6	5	4	8	8	8	8	8	2	1	100%

Additional Trees - Small Numbers: Cherry, Elder, Bay, Beech, Mountain Ash.

Chapter 4

Conservation Designations

Areas falling within statutory and non-statutory designations are relatively high within the Parish of Milford-on-Sea. Map 2 (page 22) illustrates these designations and they are described in more detail below.

At the eastern end of the Parish a small area of the coast is within the New Forest National Park, which gives it the highest level of protection recognised at national level. It confirms the importance of landscape and wildlife, including considerations that any new development should respect the special nature of the National Park.

This eastern part of the Parish is also very much covered by a series of statutory designations of both national and international interest, in particular for important coastal habitats. The saltmarshes, mudflats, Hurst Spit and the Sturt Pond locale fall within the Solent and Southampton Water RAMSAR site and much of this area is within the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation, and the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area. Similar coverage relates to a Site of Special Scientific Interest, namely Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary but which also extends as a narrow strip northward along the Avon Water. All of

these designations are in recognition of the international importance of these coastal habitats and particularly as saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats and the extensive shingle of Hurst Spit. These are most significant for wintering waders and wildfowl, but also for breeding birds, and certain rare and important plants and invertebrates.

A small area east of Keyhaven is also a Local Nature Reserve (Lymington-Keyhaven Marshes) which extends east into Lymington and Pennington. The western part of Rookcliff and all of Hordle Cliff forms the eastern extremity of the Highcliffe to Milford-on-Sea Site of Special Scientific Interest, which extends westwards along a narrow coastal strip ending at Highcliffe and is designated because of its special geology and rock formation. The Pleasure Grounds and Studland Common to the west of Milford-on-Sea village and Sturt Pond and reedbed to the east have also been designated as Local Nature Reserves.

The Hampshire County Council's non-statutory designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation sites (SINCs) are very extensive in the Parish. This designation recognises a site's value as natural or semi-natural habitat and its place in forming an important link in the network of high quality habitats species require to survive. A very large area between Milford-on-Sea

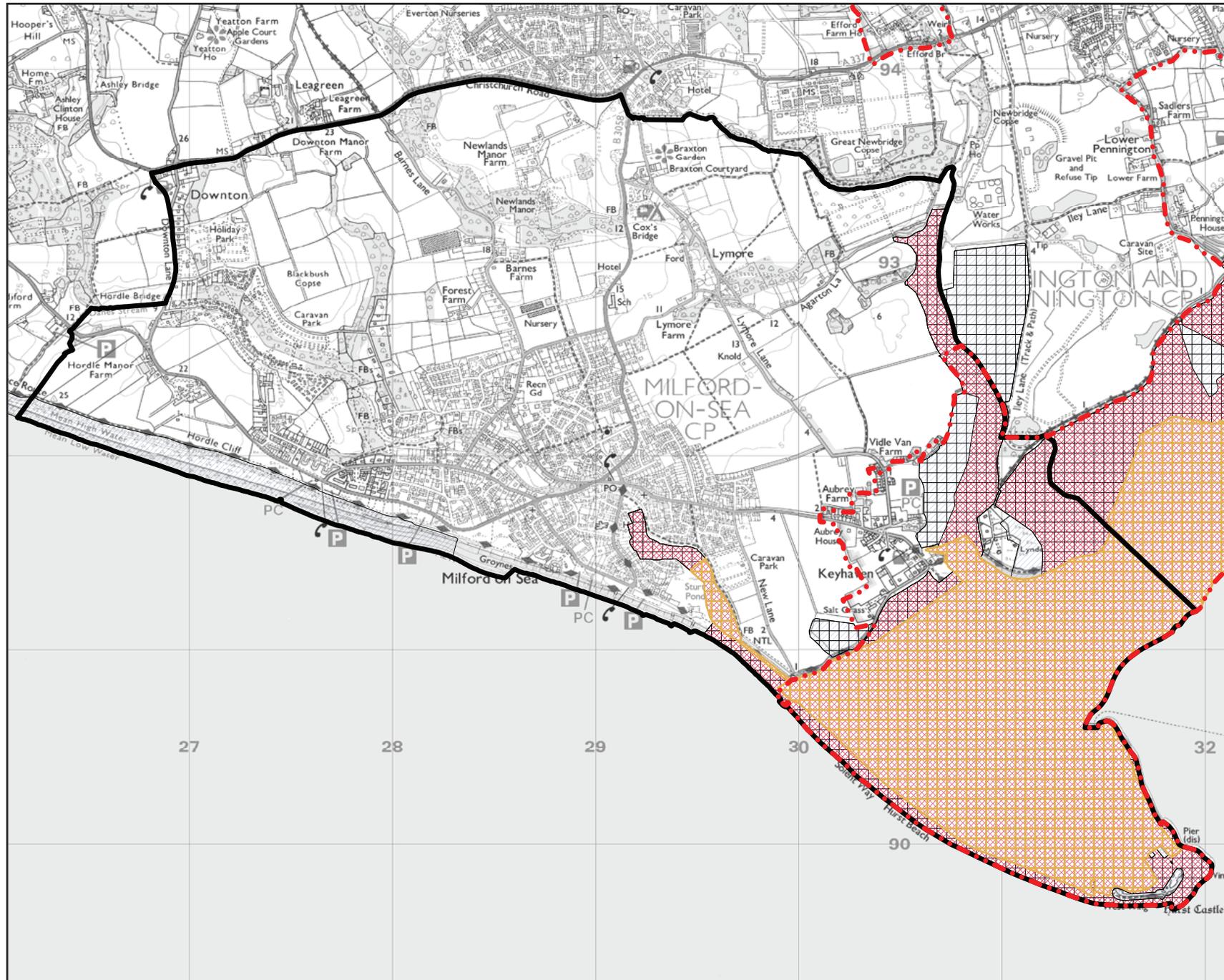
and Keyhaven, principally farmland, extending north to Agarton Lane and south to the sea is much the major site in the Parish.

Other significant tracts relate to the Upper Pleasure Grounds, Studland Common and Studland Meadow, part of Newlands Manor estate and the cliff-top at Rookcliff. Six other small parcels of woodland are also scattered elsewhere in the Parish. There may be other areas that could be eligible for designation as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the Parish. With landowner permission, field ecologists may be able to evaluate such sites and advice on land management will be obtained where it would be good to enhance wildlife opportunities.

Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) run a Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEI) project which designates stretches of valuable road verge habitat. HCC and HBIC advise on and works with Hampshire Highways (taking safety into consideration) to agree the most appropriate cutting regime for wildflowers to thrive in such locations. Milford-on-Sea currently does not have any designated RVEIs although some verges may qualify and will be pursued as to their suitability for designation.



Map 2 The Conservation Designations of Milford-on-Sea



New Forest National Park Authority
 Lymington Town Hall
 Avenue Road
 Lymington
 SO41 9ZG

Tel: 01590 646600
 Fax: 01590 646666

Date Printed: 21/01/2015

Credit: Data from Natural England has been adapted to produce this map

-  Parish boundary
-  National Park Boundary
-  Ramsar site
-  Special area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Area
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest

For further information about statutory designations in Milford-on-Sea please see www.magic.gov.uk



SCALE: 1:19000

Chapter 5

Conservation Designations

Milford-on-Sea Parish Council owns a number of sites throughout the Parish, much of which is already managed as recreational open space and for wildlife.

There are many other important sites (in public & private ownership) which also have specific conservation management plans in place and are included in the following land-bank schedule for Milford-on-Sea. Each is individually identified as to ownership and the type of management being undertaken. Map 3 (page 24) shows land in existing environmental stewardship, but many other sites are also within conservation management and it is a credit to these landowners that they have taken positive steps to look after this land for wildlife with all the amenity benefits that such management can bring.

Some areas of private land in Milford-on-Sea have been entered into Government funded 'agri-environment' schemes such as the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements and the Forestry Commission's – English Woodland Grant Scheme. These schemes provide grants to manage the land for both habitat and wildlife enhancements. See <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/> for an interactive map where you can see different agri-environment schemes. A two-

acre meadow and two-and-a-half hectare wildflower meadow in Keyhaven are both being managed under an Entry Level Stewardship scheme with Natural England. Both sites are in private ownership and therefore have no public access.

Other one-off grants are sometimes available for sites, particularly those of high nature conservation value such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and are given to landowners to help with their management, for example for the removal of non-native invasive species. The New Forest Land Advice Service and New Forest National Park Authority are able to assist in advising on the small funds that are available and may be able to help community groups apply for them.

Whilst much of Milford-on-Sea is already extremely well managed for wildlife, other suitable sites would benefit from being brought into conservation management. These smaller pockets of land could help bridge the gaps with important larger sites to help create the wildlife corridors across parish, district



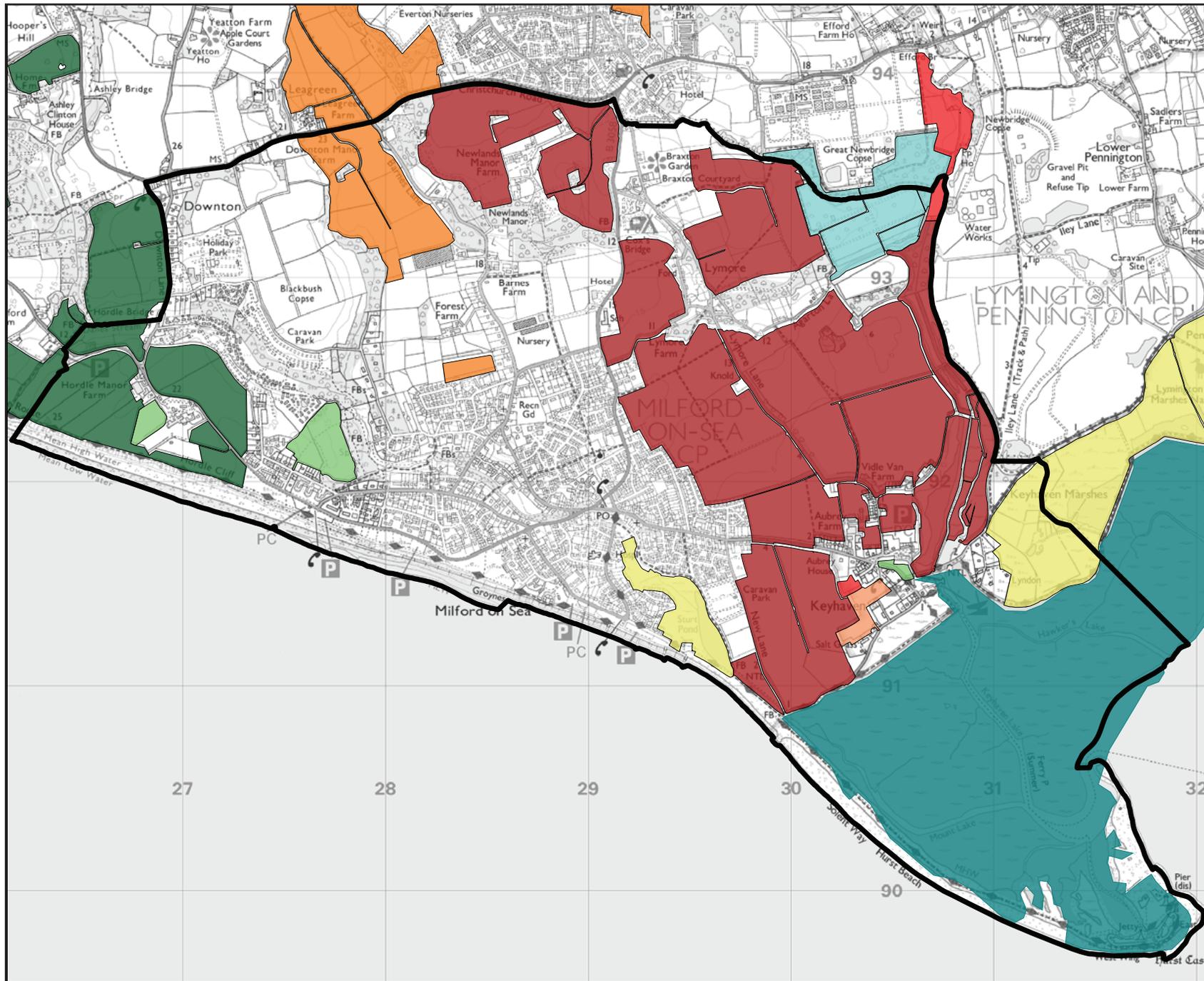
and National Park boundaries and provide an opportunity to allow free migration of flora and fauna along these new and enhanced habitat connections.

If any residents of Milford-on-Sea know of, or own a hidden treasured habitat that has been neglected and could be brought back into management to benefit wildlife both locally and beyond our boundaries, let someone at the Milford Conservation Volunteers know so that together we can explore the opportunity to bring it into suitable conservation management. The three Tables (pages 25-27) identify local authority-owned sites already in conservation management and privately-owned sites of wildlife or habitat interest. There is no public access to any of the privately-owned sites.



1. Simeon Morgan Farming – MCV guided tour of wildlife farming in Keyhaven
2. Great-spotted woodpecker being ringed

Map 3 Land Management in Milford-on-Sea



Credit: Data from Natural England and the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre has been adapted to produce this map

Date Printed: 19/01/2015

- Parish boundary
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Private landowner
- Private landowner
- Private landowner
- Keyhaven Meadow Co Ltd
- Lymington-Keyhaven (Hampshire County Council)
- Milford-On-Sea Parish Council
- Private landowner
- Private landowner



SCALE: 1:18000

Table (1) Parish Council-owned Sites

Site Reference	Site name	Type of Management Plan	Type of Management
1	Studland Meadow	Higher Level Stewardship	Grassland management – grazing and hay cut
2	Studland Common Nature Reserve	Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Agreement	Grassland management – scrub removal and control. Grazing
3	Studland Orchard adjoining Nature Reserve	Management plan written by New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS) and agreed by MoS PC	Community Orchard
4	Pleasure Grounds (including Barnes Copse and Sharvells Copse)	Woodland Management Plan being implemented	Re-introduction of coppicing, pollarding & thinning and removal of non-native invasive species and access management.
5	Centenary Copse	Milford Gardeners Club (MGC) agreement	MGC manage it as a “Community Wildlife Garden”
6	Village green	Grounds Maintenance Contract	Community Amenity Area
7	Recreation Ground (Barnes Lane)	Grounds Maintenance Contract	Grass and hedge-cutting
8	Carrington Lane Play Park Ground	Grounds Maintenance Contract	Grass and hedge-cutting
9	Kingfisher Walk	Amenity open Space	Grass and hedge-cutting
10	Swallow Drive & Grebe Close	Amenity open Space	Community Orchard Plan being developed. Grass and hedge- cutting
11	The Boltons	Amenity open Space	Grass and hedge cutting
12	Baskets Meadow	Higher Level Stewardship	Grassland management – grazing + Hedge reduction, re-fencing and replacement water supply and trough

Table (2) New Forest District Council-owned Sites

Site Reference	Site name	Type of Management Plan	Type of Management
13	Hordle Meadow (long term lease with MoS PC)	Higher Level Stewardship Agreement	Grassland management – grazing
14	Hordle Cliff top	Site management Plan	Vegetation management (scrub control)
15	Sturt Pond Nature Reserve	Site management plan. Managed by Hampshire County Council Countryside Service Team	Reed management, saltmarsh, scrape, amenity observation enhancements (pond rails & bird hide) and tern island development
16	Saltgrass Lane Saline Lagoon	Currently under Review	See 'Action Plan for Habitat'. Subject to approvals, saline reintroduction development

Table (3) Privately-owned sites

Site Reference	Site name or landowners name	Type of Management Plan	Type of Management
17	Keyhaven Farm land (J & D Edgar) (farmed by Simeon Morgan Farming)	Higher Level Stewardship Agreement	Wild bird seed strips; skylark plots; winter stubble; grassland management (grazing, wet grassland management)
18	Newlands Manor Wood	English Woodland Grant Scheme and control of Japanese Knotweed	Removal of non-native species and woodland management
19	Great Newbridge Copse - Terence Gage	Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Agreement	Woodland management
20	Saltgrass Lane Saline Lagoon	Currently under Review	See 'Action Plan for Habitat'. Subject to approvals, saline reintroduction development
21	The Old House Meadow	Unknown	Encourage discussions with owner, HIWWT & MCV regarding



Chapter 6

Opportunities for **improving habitat quality** and **connectivity**

The first five chapters of this Biodiversity Action Plan summarise the diversity of habitats, the existing statutory and non-statutory designations and an overview of land in Milford-on-Sea that has conservation management plans in place. As such, it can be seen that much of Milford-on-Sea has sympathetic management towards wildlife but there are further opportunities to safeguard and improve this habitat resource that could be explored.

Opportunities to improve habitats and connectivity in Milford-on-Sea are detailed in the Action Plans in Chapter 15 at the end of this Biodiversity Action Plan, but some key actions of interest are listed below:

- Ensure all woodland SINC sites are being managed sustainably for wildlife and local woodland produce e.g. wood-fuel and charcoal
- Support work linking landowners up to help make management more sustainable
- Tackle non-native invasive species on a Parish-wide scale, working with adjacent parishes as necessary where problems extend along habitat corridors such as streams, hedgerows and woodlands
- Survey and map hedgerows throughout the Parish and work with landowners to ensure future sympathetic management
- Ensure all non-woodland SINC sites have conservation management plans. NF LAS, working in partnership with MCV, can assist in this and may be able to help source funding and volunteers to deliver survey and management work
- Work with HBIC and Hampshire Highways Agency to survey and designate 'road verges of ecological importance' (RVEIs) within the Parish
- Encourage more residents to cooperate with neighbours to garden for wildlife
- Encourage younger residents to get involved with wildlife surveys and conservation management within the Parish

Chapter 7

Wildlife Gardening

Milford-on-Sea's residential gardens offer many opportunities for wildlife. Milford has a successful Gardeners' Club with around 150 members, which gives some indication as to the level of interest in gardening locally.

It is well known that gardens can provide important habitat for declining species, such as hedgehogs, butterflies and bumblebees, in a landscape that is continually under threat from development, pollution, over or under-management and climate change. The Milford Conservation Volunteers decided in 2012 that they would like to promote wildlife gardening as part of their Biodiversity Action Plan to all residents in order to help local wildlife.

To do this, an evaluation was undertaken in 2012 by Giles Darvill where owners and managers of a number of local gardens were contacted and site visits arranged. The purpose of the visits was to have informal chats with owners about managing their gardens, looking at the current level of value for wildlife, celebrating the good wildlife friendly gardens and sharing ideas about opportunities for improvements to their wildlife value. 25 gardens including residential gardens, care homes, the village



school, some businesses, communal gardens in closes and flats were visited in the pilot year of the initiative.

A significant observation that arose from the evaluation was that most of the dwellings, including those in the centre of the village, are no more than 400 yards (350 metres) from at least one significant area of common, woodland, cliff top or farmland, much of which is already managed for wildlife. This means there are good opportunities for linking wildlife corridors to these bigger sites.

The evaluation also discovered that out of the 25 gardens visited, most were maintained for aesthetics with few owners managing predominantly for wildlife, but several gardens had one or two good wildlife features such as ponds, dense hedges and bird feeding stations. Some also had hedgehog boxes, bird boxes and bug hotels.



The main reservations of the residents consulted about wildlife gardening are familiar, and include complaints from neighbours about untidiness, danger to children from ponds, infestations of dangerous insects, plagues of infectious rodents, rampancy of ivy, brambles and even Japanese Knotweed.

Some Key Species found in Milford-on-Sea Residential Gardens

Note: Where possible common names are used.

Following the garden visits, it was clear that some of the gardens in Milford-on-Sea support a number of important species. Some of the key species noted include bats at three properties, hedgehogs noted from six properties, stag beetles from seven gardens and fourteen species of bumblebees.

Seventeen species of birds were reported including Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Redwing, Fieldfare, Starling and Treecreeper as well as some less usual garden birds such as Linnet, Hobby, Merlin





and a Woodcock, frogs, newts, toads, Grass snake and Slow-worms.

Some trees and shrub species that were noted to be particularly valuable for wildlife during the visits include: Bullace

or 'Wild Plum' in two gardens which supported Bullfinches; *Elaeagnus ebingeii* shrub in one garden that provided nectar for bees in October; *Eucryphia glutina x nymanensis* in two gardens which proved excellent nectar sources for bees in mid-summer. Additionally a property near Keyhaven had native hedges planted with Wayfaring, Spindle and Hawthorn, all excellent for native wildlife.

Smaller noteworthy plants that were recorded during the pilot survey include the notable Autumn Lady's Tresses in two gardens and one shared lawn area. These are likely to have once been part of large species rich grasslands more extensive in the area and are important remnant populations. The survey also recorded Hairy Finger-grass outside the Thai Restaurant; bramble clumps in two gardens, which provide excellent nectaring sources for butterflies and other insects in the summer; cornflowers grown



exchanging wildlife friendly plants.

Such local enclaves may well be an important way forward, as a way of extending rich wildlife gardens further

through the Parish. MCV are keen to facilitate this expansion of 'Wildlife Hotspots' in the Parish as a good way of extending valuable wildlife habitat in the Parish and beyond. (See below).

Milford-on-Sea's Garden 'Wildlife Hotspots'

Areas so far identified as having such potential include:

- the Shorefield Way/Crescent/George Road/Wayside Close area, much of which has access to open fields making this possibly relevant to good sightings of reptiles and amphibians. Here a neighbourly initiative saw feline-persecuted slow worms on one patch relocated to a cat free garden.
- An inner village patch of Park Road/Close, Carrington Lane area has neighbours already making links for hedgehogs, ensuring safe feeding, provision of breeding boxes and access gaps under fences. Badgers also visit here from nearby

in one garden for cooking which is also good for insects and one of our rare arable plant species; a Figwort; and the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan species Green-winged Orchid in one garden. In a two-acre wild flower meadow in Keyhaven Yellow Rattle, fescue species, Knapweed, Wild Carrot, Corn Marigold and a tall trefoil species were all noted to be present. One lawn carefully tended for wild flowers supported Medick, Speedwell, Chickweed and Yarrow. It has been suggested that the lawn is a remnant of the original field in the Knowland Drive area. *Erysimum 'Bowles's Mauve'* in one garden provides flowers nearly all year round and is a useful nectar source for early and late nectaring insects. A pond in one garden supported native wetland species including Purple Loosestrife and Rosebay Willow Herb, both with colourful flowers.

Milford-on-Sea's 'Wildlife Enclaves'

The surveys concluded that within the Parish there are actually groupings where gardeners are already sharing expertise, re-homing creatures to more favourable habitats, encouraging use of and

farmland, and have been reported to co-exist with hedgehogs, possible because both are fed by residents: however, during 2013 Hedgehogs have not been observed.

- An area around the Parish church with its associated footpaths shows promise as an important wildlife link and there are ongoing discussions about this within the church community. Some of the footpath hedgerows are being improved by residents with useful species such as ivy and bramble.
- In gardens on lower Barnes Lane and Glebefields there have been good sightings of insects and reptiles, linked to wetland by the Dane Stream. This may be an area for transporting toads after breeding, as lower Barnes Lane constitutes a survival hazard.
- The Woodland Way/Oaktree Court/Whitby Road area is beginning to have contact amongst neighbours, with the sharing of plants. Some gardens here benefit from proximity to the Pleasure Grounds and the Danes Stream.

- Lymore and Keyhaven are special areas which have several highly motivated wildlife gardeners/farmers, making a significant contribution to the biodiversity of these adjacent locations.
- There is also scope for focus on specific mini-enclaves – school, care homes, churches, etc.

Promoting Wildlife Gardening in Milford-on-Sea

In 2012 and 2013 publicity about wildlife gardening took place through one talk, one stand at a gardening event and a series of articles in the MCV newsletter, the Village Voice magazine and the Milford blog and aimed to promote wildlife gardening in Milford-on-Sea. This action led to a number of enquires to the MCV for advice.

The pilot study surmised that continual and gentle encouragement to neighbouring gardeners about the benefits of wildlife gardening would help build confidence and change habits over time. Useful literature and references will also be made available to help embed this knowledge and so provide a shift in local gardening behaviour.

MCV has recently published a leaflet on wildlife gardening, delivered to every household in Milford-on-Sea. A more face to face promotion of wildlife gardening in Milford-on-Sea is planned.

A more detailed summary of actions to promote wildlife gardening in Milford-on-Sea can be found in the Action Plan on **(page 73)**

1. Autumn lady's-tresses in Pleasure Grounds
2. Slow worm (juvenile)
3. Painted lady butterfly





Chapter 8

Important Priority Species found in Milford-on-Sea

To enable us to put things into perspective regarding priority species in Milford-on-Sea, it is to some extent important to understand things in the wider context. We have the Solent, Christchurch Bay and the Isle of Wight to our south and the New Forest to our north.

Both provide us with unrivalled opportunities to see and observe a wide variety of local wildlife. Milford-on-Sea falls within the New Forest District and New Forest National Park in the County of Hampshire, one of the richest counties for wildlife in the UK.

There are several ways of looking at the priority of important species found in Milford-on-Sea and in this chapter we try to identify their importance from national, county and local perspectives and conclude with a List of Important Priority Species the community wish to see retained or enhanced within the Parish.

What defines a 'priority species' to us, the community in Milford-on-Sea?

Numbers alone of a particular species can be meaningful or meaningless. For example, a nationally scarce single plant specimen found isolated in woodlands in the Pleasure Grounds might be of considerable interest and importance for Hampshire or even nationally, whereas a nationally rare bird passing through Milford-on-Sea on passage migration, will probably mean very little, other than for the lucky person who happened to see it pass through the parish! On the other hand, some common Milford-on-Sea species might carry little weight on a national or county scale, but seen or recorded here in Milford-on-Sea might be seen by the community as extremely important in terms of the enjoyment they bring when sighted, or the perceived health and well-being benefits the observer gains from the experience. Therefore, we have looked very closely at trying to take into consideration the importance from as wide a perspective as possible, but ultimately these priority species will be those that the community most

treasure and wish to have protected or enhanced through careful conservation management. 1/4

Those species we consider we have the ability to influence or enhance their numbers, or simply provide protection for them, have been included in our Parish Biodiversity Action Plan list of 'Important Priority Species' (**page 40**). But first, let's have a brief look at the National, County and New Forest position on what they consider important in their respective Biodiversity Action Plans.



1. Large honey bee
2. Female Kingfisher (note orange of lower bill)

The United Kingdom – Biodiversity Action Plan (UK-BAP)

Between 1995 and 1999 some 577 individual species were identified as being the most threatened in the UK and would require positive conservation measures. These were included in the first United Kingdom – Biodiversity Action Plan (UK-BAP). In 2007, following a two-year review, the number of species considered needing protection rose from 577 to 1150.

This revised priority list covered many taxonomic groups e.g. birds, fish, fungi, terrestrial mammals, terrestrial invertebrates, vascular and non-vascular plants and marine species. Where appropriate, many of these 1150 species have been carried through into the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (H-BAP) which was put together by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), funded by Hampshire County Council.



The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (H-BAP)

In 2011 there were 493 species listed in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan of which 69 were considered extinct, probably extinct or vagrants. Of the remaining 424 species, 178 were also UK Priority Species.

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre considered that without further resources, it would

be unrealistic to attempt to report on all of these and narrowed the 424 species down to 50 that they wished to monitor to be able to gain an overall assessment of the changes in species status in Hampshire.

HBIC were assisted in reducing the overall number of species down to 50 by various statutory agencies, local authorities and species recording groups in Hampshire. Of the eventual 50 species selected, 30 are also UK Priority Species, The Hampshire 50 have a bias towards vascular plants, birds and lepidoptera (a large order of insects that include butterflies & moths), which are sensitive indicators of environmental change and were also used by Government agencies and various non-government organisations.

The selected species cover a broad range of taxonomic groups and are representative of the various habitat types present in Hampshire, covering both rural and urban areas and with relevance to all local authority areas.

The selection criteria of the individual species for Hampshire were derived with the following eight conditions in mind:

- 1.** Individual species must be on the Hampshire Notables list
- 2.** Must be representative of a wide range of taxonomic groups
- 3.** Species should be representative of the UK Priority Habitats in Hampshire
- 4.** Species chosen should have a reasonable distribution (i.e. not from just 1 or 2 sites)
- 5.** A significant proportion of species chosen should be found in each District
- 6.** Species chosen should be sensitive to change (i.e. through planning, management, climate etc.)

- 7.** Species selected are primarily those for which good data exists and can be obtained either annually, or through periodic (e.g. 3/5-year) survey programmes, or species for which a programme could be initiated to obtain data on a regular basis
- 8.** A good number of selected species should be flagship species with wide public interest

In the total of 50 Hampshire species, there are a number common to Milford-on-Sea Parish. Some are present, others present and breeding or for winged animals, might simply be passage migrants.

All 50 Hampshire species and their trends between 2001 and 2011 are shown below, with those considered in 2012 to be in decline highlighted.

Ten-year Population Trends of Hampshire's 50 Notable Species

1. Stag beetle

Common Name	Scientific	Group	2001 - 2011 Trend Assessed 2012
Great-crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	Amphibian	Decline
Brown-banded Carder Bee	Bombus humilis	Bee	Increase
Stag Beetle	Lucanus cervus	Beetle	Stable
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Bird	Stable
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Branta b. bernicla	Bird	Decline
Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaea	Bird	Stable
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	Bird	Increase
Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	Bird	Decline
Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra	Bird	Decline
Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix	Bird	Stable
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bird	Stable
Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	Bird	Decline
Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata	Bird	Decline
Redshank	Tringa totanus	Bird	Stable
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	Bird	Decline
Silver-washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia	Butterfly	Stable
Small Blue	Cupido minimus	Butterfly	Decline
Duke of Burgundy	Hamearis lucina	Butterfly	Decline
Silver-spotted Skipper	Hesperia comma	Butterfly	Fluctuating
Chalkhill Blue	Lysandra coridon	Butterfly	Fluctuating
Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus	Butterfly	Stable
Lagoon Sand Shrimp	Gammarus insensibilis	Crustacean	Unknown
Southern Damselfly	Coenagrion mercuriale	Dragonfly	Stable
Hornet Robberfly	Asilus crabroniformis	Fly	Stable
Divided Sedge	Carex divisa	Flw Plant	Stable
Chamomile	Chamaemelum nobile	Flw Plant	Stable

Common Name	Scientific	Group	2001 - 2011 Trend Assessed 2012
Green flowering Helleborine	Epipactis phyllanthes	Flw Plant	Decline
Marsh Gentian	Gentiana pneumonanthe	Flw Plant	Fluctuating
Juniper	Juniperus communis	Flw Plant	Decline
Corn Gromwell	Lithospermum arvense	Flw Plant	Decline
Green-winged Orchid	Anacamptis morio	Flw Plant	Decline
Small Fleabane	Pulicaria vulgaris	Flw Plant	Fluctuating
Narrow-leaved Lungwort	Pulmonaria longifolia	Flw Plant	Decline
River Water-dropwort	Oenanthe fluviatilis	Flw Plant	Decline
Bastard Toadflax	Thesium humifusum	Flw Plant	Stable
Eelgrass	Zostera marina	Flw Plant	Stable
Nail Fungus	Poronia punctata	Fungi	Stable
Gomphocerippus rufus	Rufous Grasshopper	Grasshopper	Unknown
Arvicola terrestris	Water Vole	Mammal	Stable
Eptesicus serotinus	Serotine Bat	Mammal	Stable
Lepus europaeus	Brown Hare	Mammal	Stable
Muscardinus avellanarius	Dormouse	Mammal	Stable
Vertigo moulinsiana	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail	Molluscs	Stable
Apoda limacodes	Festoon	Moth	Stable
Catocala promissa	Light-crimson Underwing	Moth	Stable
Hemaris fuciformis	Broad-bordered Bee Hawk	Moth	Fluctuating
Hypena rostralis	Buttoned Snout	Moth	Stable
Minoa murinata	Drab Looper	Moth	Stable
Shargacucullia lychnitis	Striped Lychnis	Moth	Stable
Coronella austriaca	Smooth Snake	Reptile	Unknown



New Forest – Biodiversity Action Plan (NF-BAP)

In September 2012, NFDC and the National Park collaborated in producing a joint Biodiversity Action Plan for the New Forest. This took the form of a more strategic approach without detail of individual species or habitats and has worked under the 'Growing the Forest' Partnership banner.

The Plan expressed the desire to help facilitate partnership working and a vision for biodiversity in the local context, to coordinate action and provide an evidence base to inform action, thus identifying priorities for delivery and opportunities for joint projects.

The strategy has been to demonstrate a track record for delivering productive partnerships in the enhancement of biodiversity in the New Forest. Part of this work has involved the setting up of the New Forest – Land Advice Service and the Wildlife and Conservation Management Team under the guidance of Julie Melin-Stubbs. Julie has been working with

a small team of staff to bring various projects together across the Forest. The Milford Conservation Volunteers and Milford-on-Sea Parish Council has benefitted from this partnership by having Angela Peters - Project Officer on the Community Wildlife Plan Project - working closely with the Council and the conservation volunteers who are leading the Milford-on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan.

The NF-BAP has also been at the forefront of developing the annual BioBlitz and the Landscape Scale, Non-native Invasive Plant and PondScapes projects. The NF-BAP has, via the New Forest – Land Advice Service team, been responsible for securing thousands of pounds of Higher Level Stewardship funding for various conservation projects around the Forest and on a more local basis, paved the way for Milford-on-Sea Parish Council and Simeon Morgan Farming to enter into funded conservation schemes in Milford-on-Sea and Keyhaven worth thousands of pounds towards looking after Milford-on-Sea's wildlife.



Milford-on-Sea - Biodiversity Action Plan (MoS-BAP) Important Priority Species

In looking at the wider importance of wildlife species at National, County and New Forest level, a picture has naturally emerged.

We can take some of the species in danger in the bigger picture and bring these into local focus. We have had regard to other aspects of the wildlife scene in our Parish, including species that have been constant which we do not want to lose even though they may presently be around in significant numbers e.g. dark-bellied Brent Goose recorded by Col. Peter Hawker 200 years ago.

What wildlife do we most treasure? What wildlife has been lost that could be encouraged to return? What would be great to have back, but might be restricted by factors beyond our control? Should we do what the County Council did by restricting the number of species we think we should monitor and protect? Or, should we simply say, let's include them all as it would be great to have species like Pyramidal Orchid once again gracing the grounds of the Churchyard, or Green-winged

Orchid, Nightjar, Lesser Whitethroat, Yellowhammer and Nightingale back to Studland Common or to see Lesser-spotted Woodpecker or Redstart nesting in the Pleasure Grounds woodlands? All are important factors upon which we have now consulted with our community, so that you have a say in what is important to you.

To gain knowledge of what residents saw as important to them, we conducted an early survey of people's favourite species group, habitat, nature reserve and their individual favourite Milford species. The results from these can be found on **page 41**.

The number of completed returns were:

Completed Survey Forms	119
Support	118
Against	1
Offers of help to develop BAP Action Plans.....	48

This relatively small number of returns from the community who attended the public Wildlife Events and Wildlife Forum meetings suggests there was overwhelming support for our Biodiversity Action Plan. Every comment has been considered by the Steering Group and appropriate amendments made to the final document and Action Plans.

1. Female banded demoiselle, Danes Stream
2. Dartford Warbler in Gorse
3. Helleborine in the Pleasure Grounds

Survey summary ranking of favourite Species groups – Habitats – Reserves & local species

Favourite Species Groups:

1. Birds
2. Wild flowers
3. Mammals
4. Amphibians , Freshwater Fish, Invertebrates & Marine Life
5. Reptiles

Favourite Nature Reserves:

1. Pleasure Grounds
2. Studland Common
3. Cliff top
4. Keyhaven
5. Sturt Pond

Favourite Habitats:

1. Woodlands
2. Hedgerows
3. Marine
4. Coastal and Freshwater
5. Heathland, Parkland & Semi-natural Grassland
6. Farmland
7. Reed, Fen & Marshland
8. Meadows
9. Wetlands

Favourite Local Species:

1. Blackbird
2. Bluebell
3. Swallow
4. Brent Goose, Bumblebees, Kingfisher, Oak & Robin
5. All Tits



After deliberation, we decided to include the list (see page 42) of Priority Species in our Milford-on-Sea – Biodiversity Action Plan.

Most will probably be seen by the community as species that are important to protect locally and wherever practical, try to enhance. The 83 wildlife species are those the BAP Steering Group think should be protected and or enhanced. We are also continuing to seek advice from all flora and fauna County Recorders, who are far more knowledgeable, but we have also used our local knowledge to ensure that these species are included in this document, even though Nationally, County-wide or New Forest-wide they may not necessarily be endangered.

Each of the Milford-on-Sea Priority Species are worthy of inclusion in our local wildlife scene and should form the flagship species we wish to continue to see in Milford. However, there are other Hampshire Notable species that are not shown in Milford's priority list, yet are also worthy of protecting. Where a Hampshire notable species is not included in the Milford list and there is a realistic possibility that these might be

encouraged to return, consideration will be given to adding these to Milford's priority list e.g. Nightjar – have been recorded in recent years passing through Milford at Studland Common, Green flowering Helleborine in the Pleasure Grounds, Green-winged Orchid in private garden/s and Pyramidal Orchid in the grounds of All Saints Church.



Milford-on-Sea Important Priority Species

(Survey Rankings) **Highlighted** = Some of Hampshire's Notable Species

Survey Positions	Common Name	Group	Survey Positions	Common Name	Group	Survey Positions	Common Name	Group
1	Bullfinch	Bird	4	Brown Hare	Mammal	5	Large Tortoiseshell	Butterfly
1	Stag Beetle	Beetles	4	Coal Tit	Bird	5	Little Egret	Bird
2	Bluebell (English)	Wildflower	4	Common Toad	Amphibian	5	Oystercatcher	Bird
2	Common Frog	Amphibian	4	Curlew	Bird	5	Peacock	Butterfly
2	House Martin	Bird	4	Dartford Warbler	Bird	5	Pedunculate Oak	Tree
2	Kingfisher	Bird	4	Glanville Fritillary	Butterfly	5	Primrose	Wildflower
2	Otter	Mammal	4	Great-crested Grebe	Bird	5	Redshank	Bird
2	Skylark	Bird	4	Great-spotted Woodpecker	Bird	5	Sand Martin	Bird
2	Song Thrush	Bird	4	Linnet	Bird	5	Silver-washed	Butterfly
2	Tawny Owl	Bird	4	Marsh Tit	Bird	5	Slow-worm	Reptile
2	Treecreeper	Bird	4	Orange Tip	Butterfly	5	Small Blue	Butterfly
3	Barn Owl	Bird	4	Peregrine	Bird	5	Swallow	Bird
3	Bar-tailed Godwit	Bird	4	Stonechat	Bird	5	Swift	Bird
3	Common Carder Bee	Bee	4	Wall	Butterfly	5	Turnstone	Bird
3	Common Tern	Bird	4	Water Shrew	Mammal	5	Wood Anemone	Wildflower
3	Hedgehog	Mammal	4	Yellowhammer	Bird	6	Comma	Butterfly
3	Lapwing	Bird	5	Badger	Mammal	6	Dingy Skipper	Butterfly
3	Little Tern	Bird	5	Brent Goose	Bird	6	Dormouse	Mammal
3	Long-tailed Tit	Bird	5	Burnet Rose	Wildflower	6	Field Maple	Tree
3	Marbled White	Butterfly	5	Corn Bunting	Bird	6	Grass Snake	Reptile
3	Nightingale	Bird	5	Emperor Dragonfly	Dragonfly	6	Marsh Marigold	Wildflower
3	Nuthatch	Bird	5	Fieldfare	Bird	6	Meadow Brown	Butterfly
3	Speckled Wood	Butterfly	5	Garden Tiger Moth	Moth	6	Mediterranean Gull	Bird
3	Tree Bumblebee	Bee	5	Golden-ringed Dragonfly	Dragonfly	6	Sea Trout	Fish
3	Water Vole	Mammal	5	Greenshank	Bird	6	Small Tortoiseshell	Butterfly
3	Yellow-horned Poppy	Wildflower	5	Hazel	Tree	6	Spindle	Tree
4	Alder	Tree	5	Holly Blue	Butterfly	6	Thyme	Wildflower
4	Brimstone	Butterfly	5	Kestrel	Bird			

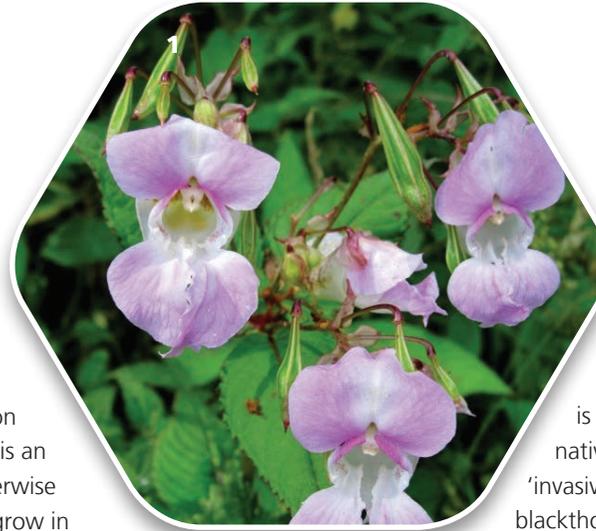
Chapter 9

Non-native invasive species

In Chapter 8 we looked at species important in Milford-on-Sea due to their wildlife value. In this Chapter we look at those species it is important to remove or at least contain due to their adverse impact on native wildlife.

In order to preserve important species in Milford-on-Sea it is necessary to ensure that the habitat is present and in good order for them to survive and increase. To this end we must recognise and, where necessary, take action to remove invasive species which threaten the survival of native wildlife.

So what do we understand by the term 'non-native invasive species'? The basic understanding is any non-native animal or plant that can spread and cause damage to the environment, the economy, our health or the way we live. If we allow these to spread, some of these could cause the loss of native species not only in Milford-on-Sea but countrywide. The introduction and spread of non-native invasive species is one of the major threats to British wildlife. For example in our freshwater systems Signal Crayfish have a significant impact on our native White-clawed Crayfish. As such there are legal obligations on landowners to manage many of these non-native invasive species.



The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended) lists non-native invasive species on Schedule 9 for which it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause those species to grow in the wild (plants). Section 14 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 prohibits the release of any animal species that is "not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain in a wild state" and specifically those listed in Schedule 9 Part 1. (See www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=67 for full details)

Plantlife, a leading wildflower conservation charity, lists species that it would also like to see on Schedule 9 because they see them as causing a threat to native wildflowers. Several of those on the list are known to be present in Milford-on-Sea. Plantlife's list can be found at www.plantlife.org.uk/uploads/documents/Invasives_and_the_law.pdf

The important word is 'invasive' as many species are considered 'non-native' because they have been introduced but may not cause significant impact to our native wildlife. The Little Owl is an example and

actually adds something to our natural heritage.

Equally, the word 'non-native' is important because some native species can be considered 'invasive' if unmanaged. For example blackthorn, gorse and willow grow quickly and can soon dominate areas

of grassland or heathland and outcompete valuable species. They are in themselves very important components of our native habitats such as those on Studland Common and the cliff-top, providing food, shelter and nest sites for birds and insects. Through management by cutting and grazing this scrub will maintain its balance in the habitat.

Data has been collated over the last few years by Tony Locke, Hugh Corry, Anne Jenks and Keith Metcalf of the MCV on the locations of non-native invasive plants in and around Milford-on-Sea. This is really helping to build up a picture of the problem so that management work can continue to be addressed. The surveys are not yet complete and further areas should be surveyed such as the cliff top and other coastal areas in order to help ensure management of these species can be implemented.

Table (1) Non-native Invasive Species listed in Schedule 9, Part 1 and 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, that are known to be present in Milford-on-Sea.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Population
Acacia, False	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Private Gardens & Upper Pleasure Grounds	Not known
Alexanders, Perfoliate	<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Lower Pleasure Grounds	1 dense area
Balsam, Himalayan	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Danes Stream and elsewhere	Small area on river
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Mainly in private gardens.	
Cotoneaster, Himalayan	<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Studland Common	Scattered plants
Garlic, three Cornered	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Widespread, including Pleasure Grounds	Small areas
Hyacinth, Water	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Private gardens in Studland Drive and others	Extent unknown
Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Western and Eastern end of Pleasure Grounds and elsewhere	Small areas due to it being controlled
Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	Scattered locations	Small areas
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Pleasure Grounds	Extensive areas
Goose, Canada	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>	E.g. Ancient Highway Pond & Sturt Pond	>383
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Recorded along Danes Stream	Unknown
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Possible sitings	Unknown

Table (2) Non-native Plants that are problematic in Milford-on-Sea's Nature Reserves including species that Plantlife believes should also be added to Schedule 9 and other garden escapes.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Known Population
Bamboo	Sasa/ Pseudosasa species	Several sites Upper & Lower Pleasure Grounds	Average clumps One large clump. One area rear of private garden. Other small areas
Berberis	Berberis	S.E. Studland Common One rear of Whitby Road	Small areas
Winter Heliotrope	Petasites fragrans	P.Gs rear of Ramnor House, North edge Barnes Copse & Lymore Valley	Small areas
Gaultheria	Gaultheria shallon	Sharvell's Copse East & West and Gardens	Very large area
Holm Oak	Quercus ilex	Upper PGs, Studland Common and Sharvells Copse East	Widespread
Portugal Laurel	Prunus lusitanica	Upper PGs, Sharvells Copse East and Rear of Studland Drive	Several locations
Norway Maple	Acer platanoides	Upper PGs	Scattered
Russian Vine	Fallopia Baldschuanica	Upper PGs rear of Whitby Road	One area
American Skunk Cabbage	Lysichiton Americanus	Upper PGs towards Shorefield Holiday Park Damp areas nr. MEG bridge	40 plants and spreading
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	Upper & Lower PGs	Widespread
Turkey Oak	Quercus cerris	Upper PGs	Scattered



Table (3) Non-native Invasive Species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) or Plantlife's list of invasive non-native plants that they wish to see added to the Schedule.

These have not yet been recorded in Milford-on-Sea but may be present or a threat as they are known to be in nearby towns and villages.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Nearest Location
Cotoneaster, entire Leaved	<i>Cotoneaster integrifolius</i>	To be checked
Cotoneaster, hollyberry	<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	To be checked
Cotoneaster, small Leaved	<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	To be checked
Fern, Water	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Known from ponds in Purbeck, Dorset
Fig, Hottentot	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	To be checked
Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Known from the New Forest area and along Avon Water
Leek, few flowered	<i>Allium paradoxum</i>	To be checked
Parrots Feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Known from ponds in Lymington
Primrose, floating water	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	
Primrose, water	<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	Barton-on-Sea (golf club)
Primrose, water	<i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i>	
Rhubarb, Giant	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Marchwood streams, New Forest
Rose, Japanese	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	
Stonecrop, Australian Swamp (also known as New Zealand Pygmy weed)	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Known in the New Forest ponds and a pond in Lymington
Waterweed, curly	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	To be checked
Waterweeds	All waterweeds of the genus <i>Elodea</i>	Ponds in Lymington
Yellow Archangel, variegated	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>Argentatum</i>	Woodlands in New Milton, Barton-on-Sea and Hordle

1. Caption for Dragon fly photo to go here

Species listed in Table (1) should be managed with the aim of eradication from nature reserves and public open spaces in Milford-on-Sea. Species listed in Table (2) should also be managed. Residents should be vigilant for species listed in Table (3).

Members of the Milford-on-Sea community should look out for species listed in Table (3) and if they suspect a species to be present, should inform MCV who can begin to validate the record through the links they have with experts and local contacts. The only way to keep a constant watch is by regular surveying.

Information about non-native invasive species likely to be found locally will be made available to the public. Residents should be encouraged to check

their gardens for non-native invasive species and to watch out for such plants in the wider Milford-on-Sea area. Advice on how to carefully dispose of unwanted invasive species, i.e. by composting them, burning them or putting them in NFDC's Green Bag collection service, will also be made readily available. Some species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are best treated in situ as their removal from site require licencing as they are classed as 'controlled waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.



Chapter 10

Tree Diseases

This chapter covers some of the diseases affecting trees and shrubs in Britain. The information (produced in 2014) has been taken primarily from the Royal Forestry Society, founded in 1881.

All trees are susceptible. Trees need a good supply of light, water, carbon dioxide and nutrients for optimum growth. Trees lacking in any one of these can put them under stress and may then not have the energy for important defences and become vulnerable to disease. It is sometimes difficult to diagnose the original cause of disease as the problems are often complex and cumulative e.g. a tree could first become weakened by drought and only then become a victim of a fungal attack.

Tree diseases occurring in Britain are summarised below:

Fungal Decay

Brown rot allows the decayed wood to crack in a brick-like form, timber value is lost and the trees might become brittle and unstable, whilst white rot attacks all parts of the wood, turning it into a pale spongy mass. Fungal diseases are often detected only once the fruiting body of the fungus is visible, by which time it may be too late to act.

However, not all fungi damage trees. Some species of fungi have a mutual beneficial (symbiotic) relationship with trees in that the fungi obtain energy from the tree sugars and the tree benefits from the absorption of additional nitrogen and phosphorus due to the fungal action in the soil.

Bacterial and Viral Infections

Oak decline is a complex disorder or syndrome in which bacteria, along with other damaging agents such as insect infestation or weather damage, interact to bring about a serious decline in tree condition. Acute oak decline affects mature oaks and bacteria is thought to cause symptoms of stem bleeding where dark sticky fluid oozes from cracks in the trunk. Both of Britain's native oak species – Pedunculate Oak and Sessile Oak – are affected.

Chronic oak decline may take many years to kill a tree, with early symptoms including foliage deterioration; leaves being smaller than normal and pale or yellowish. Death of twigs and branches follow.

Two important notifiable diseases in Britain today are 'sudden oak death' caused by the pathogen **Phytophthora ramorum** and 'red band needle

blight' caused by the fungus **Dothistroma septosporum** which affects Corsican Pine.

Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is caused by a fungus called **Chalara fraxinea**. The disease causes stem lesions, leaf loss and crown dieback. **Chalara** was first confirmed in the UK in February 2012, when it was found on young imported trees from Europe. Forest scientists now believe that the disease has spread by natural means such as spores being carried in the wind.

The disease is being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures and the RFS offer the following advice:

- Frequent inspections of ash trees, especially those planted during the past few years
- Exercising good plant hygiene – by cleaning and disinfecting footwear, tools and vehicles when moving between woodland sites
- Make yourself familiar with the symptoms of **Chalara** and
- Reporting any suspected cases immediately to Forest Research

The MCV is currently implementing a new **AshTag** scheme on five Ash trees in the woodlands so that these trees can be closely monitored. Details of the tagged trees will be circulated so that all residents can participate in the monitoring of these trees.

Sudden Oak Death

It appears that British oaks are not as susceptible as USA trees. However, the non-native *Rhododendron ponticum* is host to the fungus organism *Phytophthora ramorum*, which has been implicated as a causal agent in sudden oak death. In 2009, it was found to be infecting and killing large numbers of Japanese Larch in South West England. Counties currently affected include Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, West Sussex and Surrey.

Red Band Needle Blight

This causes needle defoliation which in severe cases may kill trees. Over the past two decades the incidences of this disease have increased dramatically in Britain. It is thought that due to increased rainfall during spring and summer and warmer spring temperatures, this is encouraging spore dispersal and infection. Climate change may also increase outbreaks if warmer trends continue.

Tree picture to go here

Chapter 11

Sharing wildlife expertise in the community and getting involved

1. Moth survey event, Studland Common
2. Invertebrate survey on Studland Common
3. MCV member studying fungi on Studland Common
4. Blue tit being ringed

'Wildlife champions' can help each other learn more about wildlife in their local area by sharing their knowledge informally or calling on local experts to run workshops. MCV can help coordinate such activities. Local or national wildlife organisations run structured surveys that volunteers can take part in such as butterfly transects and breeding bird surveys. Training and support is often offered as part of the volunteering experience.

A list of the organisations can be found in the Appendix.

At a level beyond their own 'patches', residents can get involved in conservation work in the Parish nature reserves with the Milford Conservation Volunteers, or support the unobtrusive campaigns of the Gardeners' Club (e.g. their Centenary Wildlife Garden). You can also link up with experts in local wildlife conservation organisations such as the Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) or Wildlife Trust, or national bodies such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, and the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust.

As residents get more confident they might wish to start doing their own monitoring, e.g. of local fields and woods, and submit wildlife sightings on Living Record (**see Chapter 12**) and to the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. To find out more, contact one of the MCV members (**see page 87**).

Local wildlife champions may eventually want to lead guided walks and informal workshops, through MCV, to help spread knowledge and understanding to others.



Chapter 12

Surveying, recording and monitoring wildlife

The Milford-on-Sea Wildlife Recording Group had been recording wildlife for a number of years building up valuable data on bird, butterfly and flora species in particular.

Between October 2012 and May 2014 the Community Wildlife Plans Project worked with the Milford Conservation Volunteers (MCV) and ran a number of wildlife survey workshops and a BioBlitz. The objectives were to help get the local community of Milford-on-Sea involved in wildlife recording. The benefits of Milford-on-Sea having its own BAP have also been promoted to the local community through talks, walks and wildlife events.

The project has been able to provide wildlife survey equipment to enable the local community to carry out wildlife surveys in Milford-on-Sea. The Milford Conservation Volunteers now have their own moth trap, specimen pots and moth identification references, 'Duet' bat detector and the BatScan software to identify bat calls, as well as access to pond nets and trays. The group plan to use these with the community in future years to survey wildlife in their local area. Through the project, the group has also been introduced to a number of Hampshire and Dorset based experts who are specialists in subjects such as

moths, wildflowers, ponds, bugs and bats. The group plans to get the support of these experts to help train more local wildlife champions in Milford-on-Sea to undertake wildlife surveys so they can find out more about wildlife in their local area.

There are many wildlife charities and organisations promoting on-line recording of wildlife sightings, in order to add to the bigger picture of how British wildlife is faring. Locally in Hampshire, the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and the Community Wildlife Plans Project has been working with Adrian Bicker, the developer of 'Living Record' to make on-line wildlife recording by members of the public easier and more efficient. So, rather than using an array of websites to submit wildlife data, Living Record is a website that can be used by all. Records will first go to a County Recorder who will 'verify' the record, before it gets logged officially with HBIC who then share data to national recording schemes, and local authorities and Parish councils.

In 2013 MCV adopted Living Record as the on-line wildlife mapping tool to help the community map wildlife in Milford-on-Sea. Through the CWP project, this recording scheme has been tailored to the needs of specific community groups and projects. In Milford-on-Sea every parcel of land owned by Milford-on-Sea



Parish Council has been added to the system so that it has a visible boundary on the system. These boundaries make it easier for local residents signed up to Living Record to record their sightings on public open spaces at the same

time adding to the county wildlife database. Training was delivered through the project to enable local residents to use the system to manage their own wildlife records and to view Milford's wildlife data.

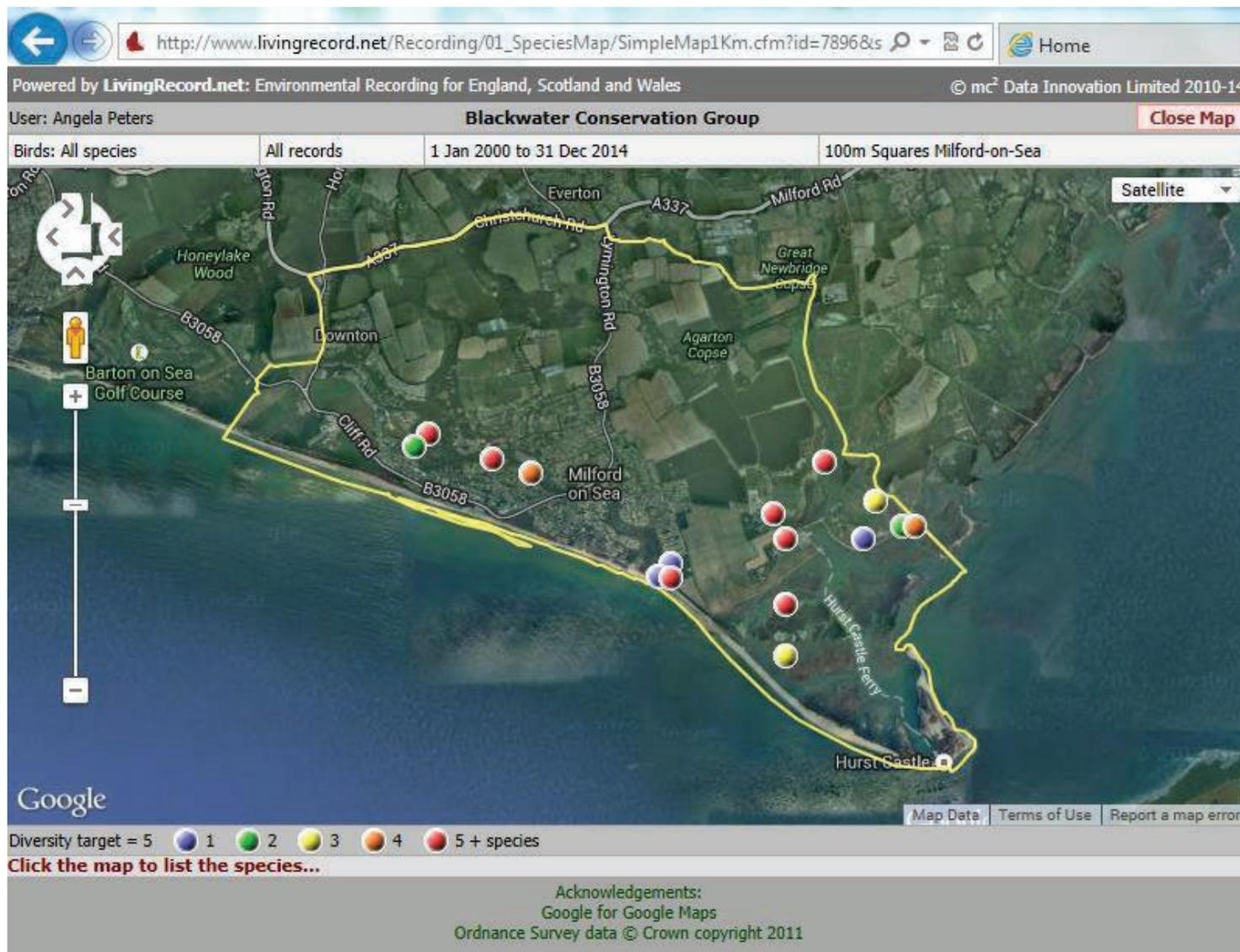
Living Record can be used by anyone who sets up a free on-line account at www.livingrecord.net to record wildlife. Groups can be set up that can look at distribution maps for species and taxonomic groups recorded in their local areas. Further user guide information and details of how to get started can be found in the Appendices of this report (**see page 75**).

If you are unfamiliar with or have no internet access for Living Record or its process, MCV has appointed Peter Hutchings as Wildlife Recorder. Please submit your wildlife records to Peter by E-mail to: peter_hutchings@hotmail.com.

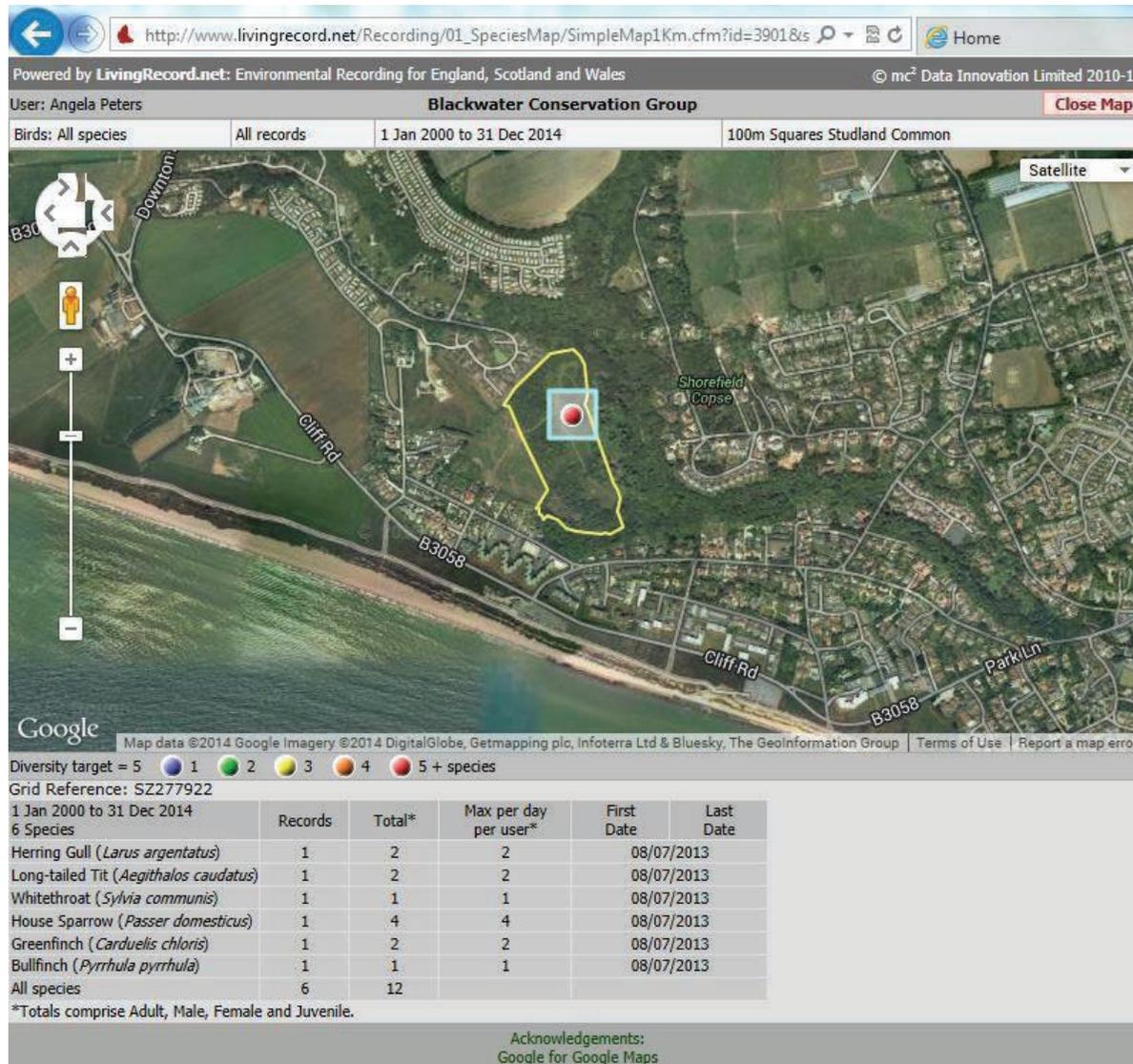


Example: Living Record showing Birds Recorded in Milford-on-Sea in April 2014

1. Wild flower survey at Studland Common



Example: Living Record showing Birds Recorded at Studland Common on 8th July 2013



Training and support on Living Record can be facilitated by the New Forest Land Advice Service and MCV

In addition to this, MCV have devised their own A4 wildlife recording form (see page 79) for people who prefer paper based recording forms to use to submit their records to the group.

Further information about the types of wildlife survey workshops and surveys being carried out in Milford-on-Sea can be found in the Appendix. 5/4

Future workshops and events

Please see www.milfordcv.org.uk for further information about all future wildlife survey workshops and events.







Chapter 13

Milford-on-Sea's Biodiversity Action Plan and The Future

A great deal of effort went into the production of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan. Therefore, to have reached this stage many thanks are necessary.

To the Community Wildlife Plans project officer, New Forest Land Advice Service, the New Forest National Park Authority, Milford Conservation Volunteers and Milford-on-Sea Parish Council but the Plan does not end here. Milford-on-Sea will still need a BAP Steering Committee, who will continue to deliver, monitor and develop the Plan, carrying out the agreed actions and following up further survey work.

It is envisaged that this Plan will run over a five year time scale with the Steering Committee regularly meeting to update the completed Actions. From this new ideas and programmes will emerge and it is hoped that in five years all the shorter term actions will be complete. In the longer term (10-20 years) it will be decided whether a new Action Plan is needed or whether the present actions can be fulfilled within the framework of today's Plan.

The Group will need to carry on engaging with residents, who we hope will be a very big part of the Plan's future. Communication about the work of the BAP and MCV is essential in order to bring

the community along with them. News and events will be communicated in the Village Voice, the MCV website and other media in order to keep local people informed. MCV will continue to run regular events which will be advertised locally.

Our future aim is to continue to help inspire and lead in the setting up of Wildlife Champion groups dedicated to a specific habitat and/or species enhancement, whose information will be fed back into the overall Plan.

Whilst the production of the BAP has been part sponsored by the provision of a Community Wildlife Plans Officer supported by members of the Milford Conservation Volunteers, in the future it might be necessary to seek grants, awards and sponsorship to enable some Actions to be fulfilled.



1. Studland Common
2. Burnet rose on Studland Common

Chapter 14

Public Consultation 2012 – 2014 Summary

Over the past twenty-four months, the Steering Group has been actively encouraging community interest in the production of Milford-on-Sea's Biodiversity Action Plan through a number of public engagement forums, workshops and events. It has also produced several publications, some of which have been delivered to every household. The following is a summary of these public consultation exercises.

Biodiversity Action Plan Related Publications & Promotions

The following publications were produced by members of the Steering Group to encourage interest in the BAP project:

- 1,000 Printed Website and Biodiversity Action Plan cards
- 3,000 Printed Garden For Wildlife leaflets (hand-delivered to every Milford-on-Sea & Keyhaven household)

- 3,000 Printed Biodiversity Action Plan 'awareness-flyers' (hand-delivered to every Milford-on-Sea & Keyhaven household)
- March 2014 Newsletter featuring the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan
- A children's bed-time story booklet promoting Milford-on-Sea wildlife & biodiversity
- Newcomers Supper – promoting Biodiversity Action Plan
- First Wildlife Survey – seeking community views on Important Milford-on-Sea Species (Food Week)
- Second Wildlife Survey – seeking community views on their top-five Milford-on-Sea habitats, species groups, nature reserves and species (Plant Fair)

Wildlife Forum

Six Wildlife Forum events have taken place, starting in 2012 when the Steering Group wrote to every Milford-on-Sea community group and association telling them about our project and inviting them to send a representative to the Forum events. The take up of this invite to groups and associations was small but several interested residents attended were happy

to share their ideas at the Forum, including those interested in learning more about wildlife gardening, bumblebees and wildlife photography.

Mapping

The workgroups started mapping the various wildlife areas of interest throughout the Parish. Attendees looked at the various habitat types around the Parish and at what land was already under some form of stewardship or conservation management. A picture quickly emerged, which has formed the basis of each of our three maps contained in this draft publication, although we needed expert help and assistance from Angela Peters and the New Forest National Park Authority's IT & Graphics team to complete these.

Wildlife Surveys:

Bumblebees

Prior to the Community Wildlife Plans Project extensive wildlife surveys were undertaken in the Parish including in 2011 a survey of bumblebees in the nature reserves and some private gardens. This was carried out by bumblebee enthusiast Giles Darvill with support from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

1. Knapweed on Studland Common
2. Bluebells
3. Poplar hawkmoth
4. Bioblitz 2013 at the Pleasure Grounds
5. Puff-ball fungi

Wildflower and Habitat Surveys

A woodland survey workshop was held at the end of April 2013 to help give people botanical identification skills so they can record and map woodland plants including non-native invasive species that require eradication or control. Eight local residents attended the workshop in the Milford Parish Council owned Pleasure Grounds, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserve. This woodland is important for a number of ancient woodland plant species including Wood Speedwell, Sanicle, Woodruff, Pignut and Wood Anemone.

A meadow survey workshop was held in June at Milford-on-Sea Parish Council's Studland Common and Meadow. Attendees learnt how to identify a number of wildflowers such as Dyer's Greenweed, Eyebright, Burnet Rose and Heath Milkwort. Residents have been enthused and are using the skills learned to do their own long term monitoring in and around the village.

Milford-on-Sea has a number of road verges that are important wildlife corridors. In 2013 a wildflower survey was carried out on one of Milford-on-Sea's road verges by a field ecologist from the Hampshire Biodiversity

Information Centre (HBIC). Species such as Dog Violet, Primrose, Wood Avens, Barren Strawberry were noted and a report is being produced by HBIC which will present the value of the site for wildlife. If considered important, we shall pursue designation of this and other verge sites.

Conservation champion Hugh Corry has been collating data on habitat and land use over the last few years around Milford-on-Sea. Large scale hand drawn maps have been produced with a wealth of information about the Parish, and a project is being planned to digitise this information to supplement existing habitat maps later in the project.

Wildlife champion Tony Locke, already a keen birder, was inspired by the botanical workshops, and has continued to collect further wildflower records for Milford-on-Sea in 2013 and 2014.

BioBlitz

On the 7th and 8th of June 2013, MCV and the project ran a two day BioBlitz held at a variety of sites across Milford-on-Sea which involved free survey workshops. Six workshops were held over the two days, led by experts and included bird surveys pond surveys, moth trapping, bat surveys and invertebrate

surveys. Around 165 species of birds, flowers, bats, moths and other insects were recorded during the 24 hour period and around 34 people took part across the weekend. A highlight was catching a fleeting glimpse of the Wall Brown butterfly, which has its Hampshire stronghold in Milford-on-Sea's coastal stretches, as well as attracting a Poplar Hawkmoth in the 'moth trap' and hearing Soprano Pipistrelle bats on the bat detectors feeding at various locations.





1. Dormouse
2. MCV at village green 'Wildlife Gardening event
3. Common pipistrelle
4. Redshank in Sturt Pond 'scrape'



Dormouse survey

Volunteers led by Jenny Spenser and licensed Dormouse handler Sam Munslow, have been checking Dormouse nest tubes at Great Newbridge Copse to see if they can find out if dormice are using the site. Unfortunately no signs of dormice have been found through the surveys, and so new sites in Milford-on-Sea are being sought for surveys planned in the hope that the rare dormouse is found. Studland Common, managed by Milford-on-Sea Parish Council may be next on the list for a survey of this type, if approved by the Council.

Bird surveys

Local residents and conservationists Keith Metcalf and Tony Locke are very active locally recording birds in and around Milford-on-Sea. Breeding bird surveys have been taking place at the Parish Council owned Pleasure Grounds woodland and Hordle clifftop. Bird survey workshops were held during the 2013 Milford-on-Sea BioBlitz to help local residents learn more about the bird species in their local area. Additionally in the winter 2013/14 Tony Locke did a mortality survey of seabirds that were washed up along the coast in Milford-on-Sea as a result of stormy weather.

Milford-on-Sea is important for many resident and migratory birds including Brent Geese, Redshank and Cetti's Warbler.

Bat surveys

During the BioBlitz bat survey, experts explained the lifecycle and ecology of bats and showed people how to survey them using bat detectors. A walk to survey bats from Sturt Pond to the village and back again was productive with several Soprano Pipistrelles being heard on the bat detectors feeding by the bridge at Sturt Pond as well as at the bridge by the Smugglers pub. A number of bats were feeding on the lee-side of the shingle ridge by the car park as well, a site that many would overlook as being of any importance to bats. Further bat surveys are planned with the new bat detecting equipment made available to the MCV through the CWP project in 2013. Sop pip bat

Summary of Community Engagement and Consultation

As can be read in the above chapter, there was a considerable amount of community engagement, including two village green events at Food Week and May Fair and two community 'Wildlife Engagement Events held on the 21st & 23rd June in the Village Hall where the first full Draft of our Biodiversity Action Plan was officially launched to the community for consultation.

Further consultation also took place at other village events during summer 2014 where we presented the BAP in our 'Green MCV Gazebo'. However there will inevitably be members of the community whom we have been unable to reach and hope we will have the opportunity to meet at future events.

Our thanks to all those who provided feedback during the consultation exercise. This has been used to inform the final Action Plans for Milford-on-Sea, which are presented below.



Action Plans (2015 to 2020)

The Milford Conservation Volunteers commitment to the project will be to continue to conduct regular wildlife surveys, practical conservation work and try to engage with all sections of the community, especially the young people of the village. We will also review the Plan on a regular basis so that new ideas can be considered and where there is consensus; try to bring each of the Actions for Wildlife projects to a successful conclusion.

The plans seek to identify what needs to be done to conserve and enhance Milford's important habitats and species. In order to do this, we first need to know what we have. To that end, our first Action Plan addresses the surveying and monitoring of our wildlife. We are fortunate that for some species we have some good quality records which cover long periods of time. For other species we will need to start from scratch. This Action Plan will continue throughout the period of the BAP.

The information gathered in the first Action Plan will be used to develop detailed actions and initiatives in respect of the habitats and species found in Milford. However we have already identified a number of actions to conserve and enhance our habitats and

species. We can proceed with these without waiting for all the results from future surveys.

The actions identified to conserve and enhance Milford's habitats focus on restoration and sustainable management for some habitats.

As a seaside parish, we have marine and coastal habitats including marshland, which we also need to safeguard.

Special attention is being given to identifying suitable sites to be developed for specific habitats such as wild flower meadows and orchards.

While over 80 Important Priority Species have been identified, it may be expected that as the surveying proceeds this list may change to reflect what species are found. Moreover, those who are implementing the National and Hampshire BAPs will no doubt alert us to any threats and opportunities in respect of individual species. Meanwhile actions have been identified to create appropriate habitats for certain vulnerable species as well as controlling or eradicating non-native invasive species. Further actions will be identified as results from the survey and monitoring work are reviewed.

In addition to these core Action Plans, two more focused Action Plans have been identified: one addresses wildlife gardening and the other concentrates on access and learning.

There are between one and two thousand gardens in Milford. Gardens represent an opportunity for individuals to participate in the conservation and enhancement of habitats. Guidance will be offered and those who really 'get the bug' may wish to help in habitats beyond their garden fence.

Access to many of the wildlife sites needs improving so that as many people as possible are able to enjoy the local habitats and wildlife. In addition, engaging the next generations in the wonder of wildlife will serve to establish the principles of biodiversity for the years to come.

The Milford on Sea Biodiversity Action Plan is about to enter its implementation phase. This will require a new Steering Group to decide priorities, set up working groups, plan how each action will be taken forward, assign tasks, secure funding where necessary, provide feedback to the community and to act as contact for specialist groups and experts as well as neighbouring bodies.

If you would like to participate in one or more of the actions below please contact us (**see page 87**).

**Jenny Spenser
Jenny Spenser Chair
Milford-on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan –
Steering Group**



15A Action Plan: Survey and Monitor Wildlife

The Action Plan helps us to know what species we have in which habitats. We are fortunate that for some species we have some good quality records which cover long periods of time. For other species we will need to start from scratch. This Action Plan will continue throughout the period of the BAP.

In addition to the specific actions below, we shall need to review the list of Important Priority Species to identify in which habitats they will be found and to ensure they are all covered by the surveys. Over time the list will change. Sometimes the survey and

monitoring work will reveal that a species we might expect to find in a particular habitat is absent. An assessment will then be required to decide if the habitat needs special management in order to encourage the occurrence of that species. In this way the output of the survey and monitoring becomes the input for the habitats action plan.

The following table summarises some suggested survey and monitoring work that could take place in Milford-on-Sea by members of the local community, supported by MCV, specialist groups and experts.

Action Plan Ref:	Taxonomic groups/subject to be surveyed	Survey method	Specialist groups and experts to be consulted	Principal time of year	Site
SM1	Dormice – Licenced handlers – supported by volunteers	Nest tube inspection for presence/absence	Hampshire Mammal Group & Jenny Spenser (MCV)	March to October	Pleasure Grounds and Studland Common
SM2	Birds	Breeding bird survey	Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS)	March to July	Pleasure Grounds, Studland Common, Hordle Cliff top and Hurst Spit
SM3	Birds	Spring seabird surveys	Marc Moody & Alan Lewis	April and May	Milford Shelter (next to the Needles Eye Café) and Hurst Spit
SM4	Birds	Winter bird surveys	HOS	September to March	Coastal and farmland sites

Action Plan Ref:	Taxonomic groups/subject to be surveyed	Survey method	Specialist groups and experts to be consulted	Principal time of year	Site
SM1	Water quality testing on the Danes Stream & Sturt Pond	pH, Conductivity and Phosphate testing kits	NF Land Advice Service (NF LAS) / Environment Agency	All year round	Danes Stream and Sturt Pond
SM2	Road verge surveys	HBIC Road verge survey method	HBIC and NF LAS	April to September	Lymington Road, Barnes Lane and Lymore Lane
SM3	Hedgerow surveys	Standard hedgerow survey method	HBIC/ NF LAS	Year round	Farmland
SM4	Bat surveys	Bat transects with bat detectors; Emergence surveys	Hampshire Bat Group and NF LAS	April to September	Public open spaces. Buildings where permission for survey agreed
SM5	Butterflies	Species records; butterfly transects	Butterfly Conservation	April to September	Studland Common, Meadow & Orchard, plus Pleasure Grounds & Cliff top
SM6	Moths	Light 'trap' and other	Hampshire Moth Group, local enthusiasts	March to October	Sturt Pond, Studland Common, Meadow & Orchard + PGs
SM7	Reptiles and amphibians	Pond surveys and monitoring, tinning surveys and monitoring	Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust & Pond Conservation	March to October	Public open spaces, gardens, private land as agreed with landowners and Hordle Cliff top
SM8	Plants	Monitor rare/scarce species & habitats	Hampshire Flora Group	April to September	Whole Parish

Action Plan Ref:	Taxonomic groups/subject to be surveyed	Survey method	Specialist groups and experts to be consulted	Principal time of year	Site
SM13	Fungi	Species recording	Hampshire Fungi Recording Group	July to November (depending on species and season)	Pleasure Grounds, including Sharvells Copse
SM14	Small mammals	Longworth traps, pellet analysis. Sightings (mink, water vole, otter) on rivers & streams	HHampshire Mammal Group	April to September	Sites with landowner permission
SM15	Specialist invertebrates such as bees, wasps and ants	Specialist survey techniques	Buglife, Bees, wasps and ants recording society (BWARS) and other specialist groups	April to September	Sites with landowner permission
SM16	Unimproved Habitats	Detailed surveys of unmapped habitat	HBIC and volunteers	April to September	Sites of interest that may be of SINC standard. Seek landowner permission
SM17	Habitats	Ongoing monitoring, including priority species	BHbic and volunteers	April to September	Sites with landowners permission
SM18	Historical land management	Research historical maps and aerial photography	NF NPA, County and local archaeologists	Any time	Parish

15B Action Plan: Conserve and enhance habitats

A number of actions to conserve and enhance our habitats have already been identified so that we can proceed without waiting for all the results from the surveys. The actions focus on restoration and sustainable management for some habitats, including marine and coastal. Attention is being given to identifying suitable sites to be developed for specific habitats such as wild flower meadows and orchards.

Naturally, once an action has been completed, surveying and monitoring of the specific habitat will be required in order to gauge the success of the initiative. In some cases action standards will be necessary so that we can judge what success should "look like."

Action Plan Ref:	Objectives	Methods/Project type	Support available
H1	Bring all SINC woodlands into sustainable management to enhance habitat condition	Engage with landowners and get management plans in place, obtain grants to assist management such as coppicing where necessary. Involve MCV volunteers	NF LAS
H2	Identify other suitable land that may be eligible for SINC status or the new environmental stewardship scheme (when launched in 2016) or other forms of conservation management	Engage with landowners	NF LAS
H3	Restore heathland habitat	Consult with MoS PC on restoring small area of lowland heathland habitat on east & west side of Blackbush Road	NF LAS
H4	Create or restore three traditional community orchards	Seek old or disused orchards in the Parish and agree suitable management plans with landowners	NF LAS

Action Plan Ref:	Objectives	Methods/Project type	Support available
H5	Increase area of field margins for wildlife in accessible areas (suggest 500m length)	Liaise with landowners, agree locations	NF LAS
H6	Designate 100m of road verge as 'Road Verge of Ecological Importance' (RVEI) to ensure its protection.	Liaise with HBIC and Highways	NF LAS
H7	Provide more habitat for invertebrates e.g beetles on farmland	Create 25m of 'beetle-banks'	MCV
H8	River, stream and brook restoration	Assess feasibility of enhancing local rivers, streams & brooks for wildlife, together with regular pollution checks	NR LAS and Environment Agency
H9	Ensure new water course from Downton Manor Farm that will flow into the Danes Stream & the creation of a new permissive footpath on completion of gravel extraction are carried out responsibly, sensitively and effectively.	Consult with landowners (New Milton Sand & Ballast, Shorefield Country Park & Parish Council) through whose land the stream will run	NF LAS
H10	Volunteers to be more involved in the vegetation management plan for Hordle Cliff (SSSI)	Liaise with Natural England & MoS PC regarding management and volunteer involvement in removal of non-natives e.g. Holm Oak	NF LAS
H11	Restore traditional hedgerow management	Work with landowners to help restore or re-create 1,000m of hedgerows	NF LAS

Action Plan Ref:	Objectives	Methods/Project type	Support available
H12	Encourage suitable habitat management of scrub & streams for species like; Nightingale, Stonechat, Dartford Warbler and Water Vole & other species that have previously bred in Milford-on-Sea	Liaise with landowners regarding encouraging scrub and native species understorey at appropriate sites such as the Pleasure Grounds, Studland Common and cliff top and for mammals along the Danes Stream and local brooks	NFDC, NF LAS
H13	Identify suitable land for creating wildflower meadows, using local provenance (seed) only	Engage with landowners and put conservation management practices in place	NF LAS
H14	Work with Marine Ecologist Champion to agree what might be practical to help look after the Solent and Christchurch Bay	Form MCV working group with specialist inclusion.	Wildlife Champ. & MCV
H15	Marshland, including saltmarsh and saline lagoons to be protected however small.	Form MCV working group with specialist inclusion.	Wildlife Champ. & MCV
H16	Extend protected 'saltmarsh area' at Sturt Pond to north east of The Marine Restaurant and Hurst Depot.	Reposition or provide new post & wire stock fence to secure more saltmarsh.	Work with Pete Durnell – HCC
H17	Where possible ensure that Milford's habitats are in good condition by conserving and enhancing them so that robust populations of key species may continue to withstand adverse impacts of climate change.	Monitor and act wherever possible by linking up habitats (e.g. wildlife corridors) to maintain habitats in a healthy and natural state condition.	Government, NFNPA, HCC, MoSPC, EA, NE, MCV et al.
H18	Where feasible, negate 'on land' impact of Navitus Bay Wind Park	Monitor	HCC & NFDC

15C Action Plan: Conserve and enhance species

Our consultation has resulted in the identification of 83 Important Priority Species. We may expect that as the surveying proceeds this list may change to reflect what species are found.

As habitats are enhanced as a result of our actions we may expect to see more species. Moreover, those who are implementing the National and Hampshire BAPs will no doubt alert us to any threats and opportunities in respect of individual species. Meanwhile actions have been identified to create appropriate habitats for certain vulnerable species.

Of great importance is the control or eradication of non-native invasive species. This work will have a high priority as many of these species represent a clear threat to our habitats.

Further actions on species will be identified as results from the survey and monitoring work are reviewed.

Action Plan Ref:	Objectives	Methods/Project type	Support available
S1	Enhance and create further Skylark breeding habitat	Survey existing Skylark breeding population. Create additional Skylark plots in suitable locations e.g. Studland Meadow & farmland and better inform public	MCV
S2	Enhance and create further Barn Owl breeding sites	Make and install five Barn Owl nest boxes & place in suitable farmland & open space locations	NF LAS
S3	Save injured wildlife through the provision of a Milford-on-Sea Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary	Consider suitable rural covered site (e.g. unused farm building) where injured/homeless wildlife can be cared for by trained volunteers. Use Mousehole Wild Bird Hospital & Sanctuary as a management template.	MCV

Action Plan Ref:	Objectives	Methods/Project type	Support available
S4	Enhance and create further habitat for butterflies, bees and bugs	Identify woodland & grassland sites that with appropriate ride & glade management would provide more suitable habitat for key invertebrate species.	MCV
S5	Provide 'bamboo-type' Mini- Beast homes for gardens	Make and distribute 100 to residents, residential care homes	MCV
S6	Protect and enhance orchid areas a bottom of Hordle Cliff	Work with landowners to protect orchids for as long as possible	MCV
S7	Map all invasive non-native species present in Milford-on-Sea, starting with Schedule 9 species	Train local residents to recognise key invasive non-native species, map and report them. Work with neighbouring communities to help eradicate, especially along adjoining streams	NF LAS and other local experts
S8	Map all invasive non-native species present in Milford-on-Sea, starting with Schedule 9 species	Put mechanism in place for records to be given to MCV representatives who can advise on action	MCV
S9	Raise awareness of invasive species in Milford-on-Sea community	Produce booklet with information about invasive native (e.g. Ragwort sp.) and non-native species	MCV & NF LAS
S10	Raise awareness of invasive species in Milford-on-Sea community	Run workshops to teach people how to identify invasive non-native species and the procedure for control and eradication	NF LAS + MCV
S11	Engage local residents in manual control of invasive non-native species in the Parish on Parish land and private land where landowners seek assistance	Ensure appropriate methods are used (and disposal licences sought as necessary)	NF LAS and New Forest non-native plants project may be able to assist financially or assist with grant app.

15D Action Plan: Support and enhance wildlife gardening

There are between one and two thousand gardens in Milford. Gardens represent an opportunity for individuals to participate in the conservation and enhancement of habitats. Guidance will be offered and those who really “get the bug” may wish to help in habitats beyond their garden fence.

Action Plan Ref:	Objectives	Methods/Project type	Support available
WG1	Encourage more people to garden with wildlife in mind	Discuss with neighbours	MCV
WG2		Share information from internet via e-newsletters	MCV
WG3		Regular articles in the Village Voice and reports in the Lymington Times	MCV
WG4		Encourage home owners and schools to erect 10 bat boxes	MCV
WG5	Offer a ‘helpline’ to local residents	Produce ‘wildlife gardening champions’ contact list	MCV
WG6	Ongoing promotion of “flagship” species & habitats for limited periods of time for publicity e.g. ‘encourage bumblebees’; ‘how to build a pond’	Newsletter articles; leaflet drops	MCV
WG7	Create a central community wildlife garden.	Centenary Copse Wildlife Garden	Gardeners’ Club
WG8	Provide wildlife friendly garden plants to local residents	Pot up, nurture and distribute 500 wildlife-friendly nectar plants through a parish-wide plant swap	MoS Gardeners’ Club & MCV
WG9	Create mini wildlife corridors between neighbouring properties	To allow small animals (e.g. Hedgehogs) to pass between	MCV

15E Action Plan: Support and enhance wildlife gardening

Access to many of our wildlife sites needs improving so that as many people as possible may enjoy the local habitats and wildlife. In addition, engaging the next generations in the wonder of wildlife will serve to establish the principles of biodiversity for the future.

Action Plan Ref:	Objective	Action	Notes
EA1	Increase accessibility for birdwatching along the Avon Water	Liaise with landowners to establish a permit controlled birdwatching site	This is private land so permission would need to be sought and agreement negotiated
EA2	Increase visibility of terns to local residents and visitors by encouraging breeding sites (e.g. tern islands) at Sturt Pond, Avon Water or Saltgrass Lane lagoons	Liaise with HCC Countryside Team to progress project	(Also fits within Species Action Plan)
EA3	Increase wildlife photography opportunities in Milford-on-Sea	Construct concealed/covered viewing area close to and overlooking Sturt Pond for dedicated wildlife photographers	MCV
EA4	Construct concealed/covered viewing area close to and overlooking Sturt Pond for dedicated wildlife photographers	Enhance footpath between Sea Road car park and New Lane (crabbing bridge) on the Solent Way Footpath by raising existing gravel footpath or consider long- term boardwalk along the lower lying sections, currently prone to regular flooding	Seek permission from Natural England and NFDC landowner and funding potential sources
EA5	Follow through Sturt Pond management aspiration to create a viewing-platform for wildlife watching and pond-dipping facility	Construct a concealed short boardwalk through reeds at Sturt Pond off the Solent Way footpath, with viewing platform looking up-channel and children's pond- dipping area	Seek permission from Natural England and NFDC landowner and funding potential sources

Action Plan Ref:	Objective	Action	Notes
EA6	Enhance woodland seating	Replace existing concrete-ended seats with wooden seats in keeping with woodland environment	MCV in consultation with MoS PC
EA7	Enhance conservation education	Engage with youth group associations and schools to secure the young conservationist custodians of the future	MCV
EA8	Eliminate dog fouling in public open spaces and nature reserves	Enhance bye-laws against irresponsible dog ownership in public open spaces and local nature reserves. Use experienced dog-warden volunteers to cover Milford's treasured amenity land. Increase number of waste bins & signage that all bins can accept wrapped dog waste.	MCV in consultation with landowners and NFDC
EA9	Increase numbers and enhance existing wildlife ponds	Locate suitable ponds and seek landowners permission to enhance	Private land – permission from landowners would need to be sought
EA10	Enhance beach, cliff & Hurst Spit	By regular litter-picks	MCV
EA11	Manage concerns of users at grazing areas open to the public	Hold conducted walks with grazier and MCV conservation officers	Hold conducted walks with grazier and MCV conservation officers
EA12	Make access gates accessible for buggy and wheelchair users	Rework turning areas and gravelled standing areas to accommodate standard size buggies	Parish Council and MCV
EA13	Provide advice to residents as to suitable positions for bird & bat boxes and feeding stations	Produce hand-out leaflet and distribute via website and shops	MCV
EA14	Produce summary version of each 'development plan' as they are agreed	Produce booklet	MCV

Appendix 1

Useful wildlife websites and recording organisations

Species recording groups	Web site	Phone number
Butterfly Conservation (BC)	http://butterfly-conservation.org	01929 400209
BC Hampshire branch	www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk	01929 400209
Hampshire Moth Group	www.hantsmoths.org.uk	01264 354944 (07713 255901)
Non-native species secretariat	www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm	No telephone number available
Bat Conservation Trust	www.bats.org.uk	0845 1300228
Wessex Bryology Group	www.wsbrc.org.uk	01380 725670 x 253
Hampshire Bat Group	www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk	No telephone number available
Ancient Tree Hunt Woodland Trust	www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/ancienttrees www.woodlandtrust.org.uk	
Living Record	www.livingrecord.net	No telephone number available
Hampshire Flora Group	www.hantsplants.org.uk	No telephone number available
Botanical Society for Britain and Ireland	www.bsbi.org.uk	No telephone number available
Hampshire Fungi Recording Group	www.hampshirefungi.org.uk	01794 522192 (Stuart Skeats)
Habitats		
The Orchard Network	www.orchardnetwork.org.uk	No telephone number available
Hedgelink	www.hedgelink.org.uk	0845 6003078
The Freshwater Habitats Trust	www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk	01865 483249
ARC-Trust	www.arc-trust.org	01202 391319

Species recording groups	Web site	Phone number
The Woodland Trust	www.woodlandtrust.org.uk	01929 400209
Marine Conservation Society	www.mcsuk.org	01989 566017
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	www.hiwwt.org.uk	01489 774446
Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)	www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic	01962 832322
Magic Map	http://magic.defra.gov.uk/	No telephone number available
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	http://jncc.defra.gov.uk	01733 562626
Natural England	www.naturalengland.org.uk	0845 6003078
Other Organisations		
New Forest National Park Authority	www.newforestnpa.gov.uk	01590 646600
New Forest Land Advice Service	www.newforestnpa.gov.uk	01590 646600
Forestry Commission	www.forestry.gov.uk	0117 9066000
Milford-on-Sea Parish Council	www.milfordpc.org.uk	01590 644410
Local Groups and Associations		
Milford Conservation Volunteers	www.milfordcv.org.uk	07771 918449
Milford Gardeners' Club	www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk	
New Forest Area Conservation Volunteers	www.newforestacv.org	No telephone number available
Hampshire Conservation Volunteers	hcv.hampshire.org.uk	023 8039 7928

Appendix 2

How to get started

LivingRecord.net

Online Environmental Recording

Living Record makes it quick and easy to record the wildlife that you see.

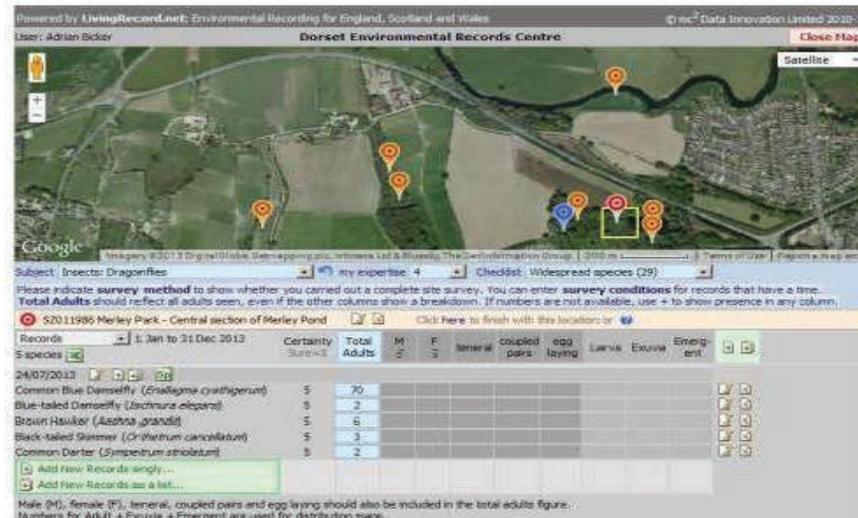
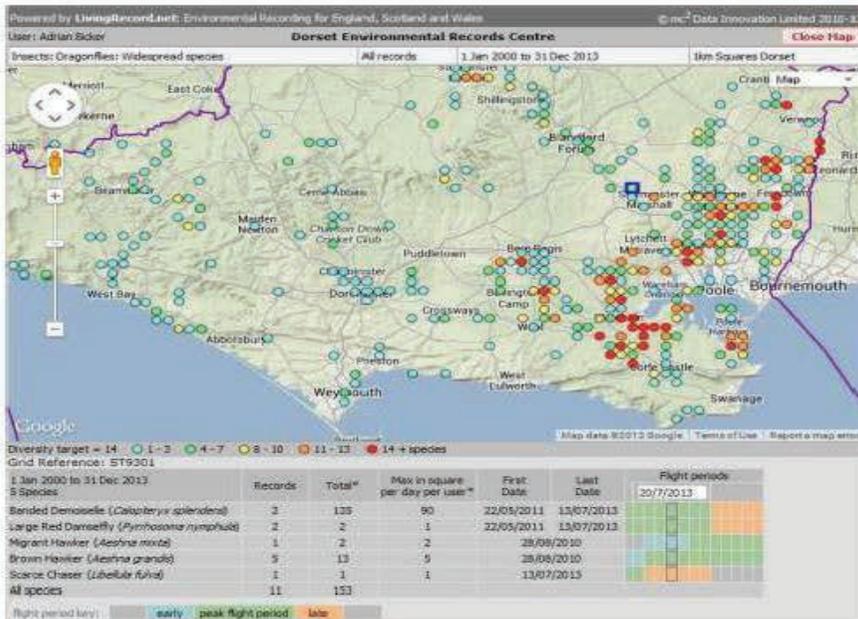
Living Record provides you with your own personal records system and access to a range of shared distribution maps that summarise all the records entered.

Local experts can check the records online and pass these verified records on to Local Record Centres and National Recording Schemes.

Your records form part of the big picture which is used nationally and locally to understand species distribution and population trends, to identify key sites and to develop conservation plans.

Distribution maps are provided to reward, inform and inspire recording activity.

Click the grid squares on 1km and 10km maps to display a summary of the species recorded.



You can place your own location markers on the map then select a marker and add records. Just reselect the marker to display, review, correct or delete existing records. Each marker can have records for many subjects, from amphibians to vascular plants.

What do I need?

A computer with a broadband connection and web browser software. Ten minutes to learn how to add location markers and records.

How do I start?

'Join' www.LivingRecord.net from the home page. This needs only your name, email address and post code. The local expert may need to email you to ask about your records. The post code is used to centre the map and is not retained.

Where are my records stored?

On a server in a data centre in London. You can download all your records as Excel files if you want an extra backup of your data.

Quick – Easy – Accurate – Fun – Rewarding

Try it today!

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Appendix 3

Milford Conservation Volunteers

Living Record – Wildlife Recording Form

Date: Recorder/Observer: Contact details:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Six Figure Grid Reference	Abundance	Comments

Please submit this form to: **peter_hutchings@hotmail.com** or post to:
Peter Hutchings, MCV Wildlife Recorder, 40 Carrington Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0RB

Appendix 4

Wildlife and the law

In a short summary it is easy to oversimplify issues, which can lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation. It is therefore important to seek definitive guidance in relation to specific problems by going directly to Natural England's website at: www.naturalengland.org.uk where legislation is contained in a number of key Acts and Amendments. The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and its subsequent amendments consolidate existing national legislation to implement the 1979 Bern Convention i.e. The Convention on the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

Birds and Eggs - The Act makes it an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild birds
- take, damage or destroy a nest being used or being built
- take, or destroy an egg of any wild bird
- sell or advertise for sale any wild bird or its eggs
- simply to have a wild bird egg collection, unless you can prove that it came to you by lawful means e.g. an heirloom collected before modern law was put in place

Other Animals - Intentionally or recklessly to:

- kill, injure or take any wild animal listed in Schedule 5
- prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or
- intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places

Vascular Plants, bryophytes, lichens or fungi

- to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any wild plant listed in Schedule 8 or
- any seed or spore attached to any such plant, unless an authorised person to intentionally or recklessly uproot any plant not included in Schedule 8
- to sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8

Problem Species - Pest species that can be controlled under a General Licence

- allows owners and occupiers of land, or people with permission from them to take action against specific species if they are causing a serious threat to commercial activities, public health or public safety

Appendix 5

Permissions for wildlife surveys on Milford-on-Sea Parish Council-owned land

The following Parish Council-owned land has full public access:

- The Pleasure Grounds (Upper and Lower)
- Sharvells Copse (East and West)
- Barnes Copse
- Studland Common (Cattle grazing at various times of the year)
- Studland Meadow (Cattle grazing at various times of the year)
- Studland Orchard (Cattle grazing at various times of the year)
- Hordle Meadow (Cattle and/or Ponies grazing at various times of the year)
- Swallow Drive, Grebe Close and Kingfisher Walk – Public Open Spaces

Should you wish to carry out any personal survey works on any Parish Council-owned land that does not come under the Milford- on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan project, you should **contact the Parish Clerk (01590) 644410** to obtain permission from the Council.

You will need to carry out a full risk assessment appertaining to the type of survey you are carrying out and submit this in writing to the Parish Clerk prior to any survey work taking place.

Dog Walkers: Dogs under their owner's full control are welcome to use all of these spaces, but must pick up if their dogs have fouled the land. Securely tied bags can be placed in any of the dog or general waste bins around the Parish. Please do not throw filled bags into the hedgerows or undergrowth remember, contractors and volunteers enter these areas to manage the grounds.

The following Parish Council owned or leased land does not have public access:

Baskets Meadow - Keyhaven

Appendix 6

Wildlife Gardening Initiative - Gardening for Bumblebees

The loss of natural habitat through development and intensification of farming over the last 70 years or so has meant that many insect species, including bumblebees, have lost former nectar supplies and nesting sites that would have been much more widespread in the British countryside.

Gardens provide a valuable resource for bumblebees and can play an important role in the survival of several bee species in the UK.

Bumblebees respond quickly and hearteningly to careful conservation measures which are easily within the range of almost any gardener. These measures include the provision of appropriate food plants from February to October and habitats for nesting and hibernation.

During 2011 Milford-on-Sea Parish Council encouraged one local naturalist and bumblebee enthusiast to undertake a summer survey of bumblebees on Studland Common and adjacent woodland including Sharvells Copse, Sturt Pond paddock and a field in the middle of Keyhaven. The surveyor was also at that time doing a monthly transect survey of the Keyhaven Nature Reserve (partly outside the Parish) for a national conservation body (the Bumblebee Conservation Trust).

The surveyor's private garden happens to be located in the middle of the Studland patches, so it was decided to include this in the survey and thereby to enable a

preliminary comparison between bumblebees in the garden and in all the other above habitats.

During 2012 and 2013 further occasional surveys were undertaken to look for further species.

All 14 of the bumblebee species quite commonly found in this part of southern England were found in the Parish and Keyhaven Nature Reserve. None of the rarer species were seen, but this may have been due to lack of observer experience.

These 14 species were:

- The six most common social bumblebee species: Buff-tailed, White-tailed, Red-tailed, Early, Common Carder and Garden Bumblebees
 - Tree Bumblebee, first found in the UK in 2001 in the New Forest and now spreading northwards to Scotland.
 - The Heath Bumble-bee. This is common in parts of the New Forest but was not seen in the village survey during 2011.
- There was one sighting in the garden during 2013, complete with pollen bags which indicate that it was not a stray but part of an active colony. Another sighting was made that year in the Keyhaven Nature Reserve.
- Six of the so-called Cuckoo Bumblebee species, which are parasitic on social bumblebees and often resemble their host. These were Gypsy, Southern, Barbet's, Field, Forest and Red-tailed.

Of the 14 different bumblebee species observed during the survey, 11 were being attracted into the observer's medium sized garden. This garden was being carefully but not exhaustively provided with pollen and nectar rich plants from February to October. The three species absent in the garden were three of the cuckoo species: this may have been due to their relative scarcity in all locations, but several cuckoo species prefer bramble flowers when they are on display which were present in other locations but not in this garden.

It can reasonably be assumed that many other gardens were being frequented by these species, especially during months when bumblebees find it easier to find food in flower rich gardens than in woodlands which have fewer flowers after the spring.

Bumblebee nests were found in this garden in three recent years: white tailed on two separate years, both below shelving at the back on the floor of the sturdy brick garage; Buff-tailed in one year underground in the soil but destroyed by badgers. These are habitats found widely in gardens with no effort on the part of the gardener. In fact the garage habitat was favoured by the bumblebee thanks to the clutter of previous year's leaves that had blown in and were used for nesting material.



Appendix 7

Recommended Wildlife Field Guides & Reference Books

Birds			ISBN
Hampshire Ornithological Society	Hampshire Bird Annual Reports		Not applicable
Collins Pocket Guide	Birds of Britain & Europe with North Africa and the Middle East	Heinzel, Fitter & Parslow	0 00 219894 0
Collins	A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain & Europe	Peterson, Mountfort & Hollom	0 00 212020 8
Dorling Kindersley	RSPB Birds of Britain and Europe	Rob Hume	13 978 1 40530 753 6
Crossley Books	The Crossley ID Guide Britain & Ireland	Richard Crossley and Dominic Couzens	978 0 691 15194 6
Collins Bird Guide	Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney	Dan Zetterström and Peter J. Grant	978 0 007 449026
Wildflowers			
Black's Nature Guides	Wild Flowers of Britain and Europe	Margot and Roland Spohn (in flower colour order)	978 1 4081 0153 7
Collins	Complete Guide to British Wild Flowers	Paul Sterry (in family order)	978 0 00 723684 8
Mitchell Beazley	Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers	Pater Moore	1 85732 773 X
Collins Flower Guide		David Streeter, Christina Hart-Davies, Audrey Hardcastle, Felicity Cole & Lizzie Harper	978 0 007 183890
The Wildflower key		Francis Rose and Clare O'Reilly	10 0723 251754
Wild Guides Ltd	Flowers of the Forest: Plants and People in the New Forest National Park	Clive Chatters	978 1 903657 19 5

Trees & Woodland			ISBN
Mitchell Beazley	Pocket Guide to Trees	Keith Rushforth	1 84000 269 7
Woodland Trust	The Handbook of Native Trees and Shrubs	Charlotte de la Bedoyere	1 84330 6060 9
Collins	Trees of Britain & Northern Europe	A Mitchell	0 00 219213 6
Crowood Press	Woodland Management A Practical Guide	Chris Starr	1 86126 789 4
Mitchell Beazley	The Wood Fire Handbook – The Complete Guide to a Perfect Fire	Vincent Thurkettle	978 1 84533 670 7
Mosses & Liverworts			
Collins	Mosses & Liverworts	Ron Porley and Nick Hodgetts	0 00 717400 4
Grasses, Ferns, Mosses & Lichens			
Colour Identification Guide to the Grasses, Sedges, Rushes & Ferns of the British Isles and North Western Europe.		Francis Rose - (13 Nov 1989)	978 0670 806881
Collins Pocket Guide	Grasses, Sedges, Rushes & Ferns of Britain & Northern Europe	Fitter, Fitter and Farrer	978 0002 191289
Macmillan	Grasses, Ferns, Mosses & Lichens of Great Britain & Ireland	Roger Phillips	0 330 25959 8
Bryophytes			
Pisces	Atlas of the Bryophytes of South Hampshire	R C Stern	978 1 874357 41 4
Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland: A Field Guide		Ian D.M. Atherton, Sam Bosanquet & Mark Lawley	0 521 54672 9

Appendix 7

Recommended Wildlife Field Guides & Reference Books

Mushrooms, Fungi & Toadstools			ISBN
Black's Nature Guides	Mushrooms & Toadstools of Britain and Europe	Andreas Gminder & Tanja Bohning	978 1 4081 0156 8
Dorling Kindersley	Pocket Book Fungi	Shelley Evans & Geoffrey Kibby	0 7513 3696 3
Roger Phillips	Mushrooms		0 330 442376
Butterflies			
Butterfly Conservation	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly & Moth Annual Reports		Not applicable
Wild Guides Ltd	Britain's Butterflies – A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain & Ireland	Newland & Still	978 1 903657 30 0
Mitchell Beazley	The Pocket Guide to Butterflies of Britain & Europe	Whalley & Lewington	1 84000 272 7
Guide to the Butterflies of Britain (Field Studies Council Occasional Publications)		Bebbington & Lewington	185 1538488
Dragonflies & Damselflies			
British Wildlife	Field Guide to the Dragonflies & Damselflies of Great Britain & Ireland	Brooks & Lewington	0 9531399 0 5
Nature Bureau	The Dragonflies of Hampshire	John Taverner, Steve Cham, Alan Hold et al.	1 874357 26 9
Bumblebees			
Field Guide to the Bumblebees of Great Britain & Ireland		Edwards & Jenner	978 095497 1 3 11

Moths			ISBN
British Wildlife	Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland	Waring, Townsend & Lewington	0 9531399 1 3
Bats			
A Guide to British Bats (FSC Guide)		Kate Jones and Jon Russ	978 1851 538751
Mammals			
Collins	Field Guide – Mammals – Britain & Europe	David Macdonald & Priscilla Barrett	0 00 219779 0
Insects			
Pisces Publications	A Photographic Guide to Insects of the New Forest & Surrounding Area	Paul D Brock	978 874357 46 9
Collins Pocket Guide	Insects of Britain and Western Europe	Michael Chinery	978 0002 191371
Animal Tracks and Signs			
Oxford University Press	Animal Tracks & Signs	Preben Bang and Preben Dahlstrom	978 0 19 929997 3
Helm ID Guides	Tracks & Signs of the Birds of Britain and Europe	Brown, Ferguson, Lawrence & Lees	0 7136 5382 5

Appendix 8

Biodiversity Action Plan - Steering Group Contact Details

1. Common blue Butterflies
2. Elephant hawk moth, Studland Common moth survey
3. Footpath renovation
4. Wildlife champions of the future
5. Curlew on field near Avon Water

Name	Telephone	Mobile	E-mail
Jenny Spenser – Chair of Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group	644489	07760 827864	jspenser@talktalk.net
Anne Jenks – Chairman of Milford Conservation Volunteers	644316	07851 789835	anne.jenks@talktalk.net
Tony Locke – Vice Chairman of Milford Conservation Volunteers	643400	07530 127628	Not available
Hugh Corry – Woodland Conservationist – HCV & MCV	02380 397928		Not available
Peter Hutchings – Biodiversity Action Plan – Steering Group	644050		peter_hutchings@hotmail.com
Janet Miles – MCV & BAP Secretary	641829		milconvol@btinternet.com
Keith Metcalf – Conservation Officer of Milford Conservation Volunteers	645825	07771 918449	keithmetcalf@btinternet.com
Angela Peters - Community Wildlife Plans - New Forest Land Advice Service	646654		angela.peters@nflandadvice.org.uk



How to contact us

For more information about how to get involved in wildlife surveys and conservation in Wellow contact:

The clerk to **Wellow Parish Council**:

Wellow Parish Council, The Parish Office, Village Hall, Buttons Lane, West Wellow, Hampshire, SO51 6BR, telephone 01794 323275 or email wellowparish@btconnect.com

Community Wildlife Plans project on 01590 646600, communitywildlifeplans@nflandadvice.org.uk
or visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

New Forest Land Advice Service on 01590 646696

New Forest National Park Authority on 01590 646600, enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk
or visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

You can download this report from our website: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

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