

LONDON BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN – SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN AND PRIORITY SPECIES FOR ACTION (SUBJECT TO LONDON PLAN POLICY 3D.12)

1. Background

The *Greater London Authority Act 1999* requires the elected Mayor to produce a Spatial Development Strategy for London, called the London Plan. The first London Plan was published in February 2004. The Act (clause 334(5)) requires the London Plan to deal with matters of strategic importance only. The required content of the plan is set out in a government guidance note (Circular 1/2000).

The London Plan includes an important policy (3D.12) *Biodiversity and nature conservation*, which links to policies and proposals on approaches to strategic planning in the [Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy](#)¹. Policy 3D.12 contains the following statement;

“The Mayor will and boroughs should resist development that would have a significant adverse impact on the population or conservation status of protected species or priority species identified in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and borough BAPs. Appropriate policies for their protection and enhancement and to achieve the targets set out in BAPs, should be included in UDPs.”

This policy is employed by the Mayor of London when considering those larger planning applications referred to him for direction under the *Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2000*. Also the London Unitary Development Plans and, increasingly with time, the new Local Development Frameworks of the London Boroughs have to be in general conformity with the London Plan. It is through these local policies that most protection of priority species will occur. The planning protection for priority species should be equivalent to that applying to statutory protected species, although of course development planning can only provide protection from planning-related activities.

The London Biodiversity Partnership published its original Audit of habitats and species in 2000. This lists all habitats of interest in London, as these relate to the UK BAP. The Audit also lists some 300 species of conservation interest occurring in London. All of these could not practically be considered as priorities for conservation action in the London BAP. Importantly, the LBP has adopted a practical approach to species conservation, whereby action for species should be considered and incorporated within the action proposed for their relevant habitats whenever possible. Species Action Plans have been produced only for prioritised species that are not so conveniently habitat-specific.

Ecological survey has re-discovered and recorded many new species resident in Greater London since the Audit was first published. A review of our Species of Conservation Concern has been undertaken to consider these new findings and to identify BAP Priority Species to which the London Plan Policy 3D.12 would apply.

2. The evaluation process

¹*Connecting with London's nature, The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy*, GLA July 2000

2.1 Species of Conservation Concern in London

Not all of the criteria used for selecting species for the London Species Audit are of primary relevance to a list of species of conservation concern. For reasons explained in the Audit, a suite of species was selected to include: species that are relatively ubiquitous and therefore characteristic of London (ie. suitable as “flagships”); that are “culturally valued”; easy to monitor; and/or that are good indicators of their supportive habitats. None of these criteria is directly relevant to species’ conservation status.

Criteria for the selection of UK BAP² Species of Conservation Concern are as follows;

- Threatened endemic and other globally threatened species;
- Species where the UK has more than 25% of the world or appropriate biogeographical population;
- Species where the UK numbers or range have declined by more than 25% in the last 25 years;
- In some instances where the species is found in fewer than 15 ten km squares in the UK;
- Species listed for protection in the EU Birds or Habitats Directives, the Bern, Bonn or CITES Conventions, or under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*.

Data is deficient for rates of decline of many species groups locally. Adaptation of the UK SCC criteria to the Greater London regional context has involved the following;

- All UK SCC; nationally threatened (ie. Red Data listed); Nationally Scarce (Na, Nb, N); and (for birds) RSPB Red/Amber List species, with native or long-established naturalised populations occurring in Greater London;
- Species with native or long-established naturalised populations, which are rare³ in Greater London and are known to be in national or regional decline (as ascertained from national distribution atlases);
- Some further species that are known to have declined significantly in Greater London in recent years.

The list of Species of Conservation Concern in Greater London is presented as four taxonomically grouped spreadsheets, titled [Plants](#), [Fungi](#), [Vertebrates](#) and [Invertebrates](#). The list is not comprehensive in respect of the above criteria for some invertebrates and lower plants, for which presence in London and threat categories are less certain. The list should be viewed as the regional equivalent of the original UK BAP ‘long list’. From the list of Species of Conservation Concern in Greater London, our Priority BAP Species have been identified (see next).

2.2 Priority Species in London

Criteria for selection of UK BAP Priority Species are as follows;

- Species that are globally threatened;
- Species that are rapidly declining in the UK, ie. by more than 50% in the last 25 years.

In accordance with national guidance, London BAP Priority Species must include;

² The UK BAP; www.ukbap.org.uk

³ occurring in <5% (=20) of Greater London tetrads or equivalent

- All UK BAP Priority Species with native or long-established naturalised populations in Greater London.

Further species have been selected using the following criteria;

- Species for which Species Action Plans are currently being implemented in the London BAP;
- Nationally threatened (Red Data listed) species with native or long-established naturalised populations in Greater London;
- UK SCC and declining Nationally Scarce species with significant⁴ native or long-established naturalised populations within Greater London, (ie. for which a regional responsibility for conservation may be clearly demonstrated).
- Species with native or long-established naturalised populations that are known to have undergone a recent significant decline in Greater London, or for which Greater London holds the majority of the known UK population.

Using these criteria the following list of London BAP Priority Species has been identified;

LONDON BAP PRIORITY SPECIES		UK BAP Priority	UK SCC	UK RDB/L	UK Scarce	LSAP current
Vascular plants						
Autumn squill	<i>Scilla autumnalis</i>				●	
Black poplar	<i>Populus nigra betulifolia</i>					●
Chalk eyebright	<i>Euphrasia pseudokerneri</i>				●	
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>		●			
Copse-bindweed	<i>Fallopia dumetorum</i>				●	
Creeping marshwort	<i>Apium repens</i>	●		●		
Cut-grass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	●		●		
Dwarf milkwort	<i>Polygala amarella</i>			●		
Early gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>	●			●	
Greater yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>		●	●		
Green-flowered helleborine	<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>				●	
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	●				
Lesser calamint	<i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>				●	
Man orchid	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>				●	
Marsh sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>				●	
Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>					●
Mudwort	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>				●	
Narrow-leaved water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>				●	
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	●		●		
River water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fluviatilis</i>		●			
Slender bedstraw	<i>Galium pumilum</i>				●	
Tower mustard	<i>Arabis glabra</i>	●		●		●

⁴ for example: the only population within its 10km grid square; a population at the edge of a declining species' UK range; a constituent of an isolated UK population; an exceptionally strong core area population

Wall bedstraw	<i>Galium parisiense</i>				●	
Lower plants						
Veilwort (a liverwort)	<i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>	●		●		
Fungi						
Bear cockleshell	<i>Lentinellus ursinus</i>		●	●		
Crimson bolete	<i>Rubinoboletus rubinus</i>			●		
Hedgehog fungus	<i>Hericium erinaceum</i>	●		●		
Oak polypore	<i>Buglossoporus pulvinus</i>	●		●		
Olive earthtongue	<i>Microglossum olivaceum</i>	●		●		
Pink waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</i>	●		●		
Tiered tooth	<i>Hericium cirrhatum</i>			●		
tooth fungi (grouped)	<i>Hydnellum, Phellodon</i> spp.	●		●		
Zoned rosette	<i>Podoscypha multizonata</i>			●		
Invertebrates						
Chalkhill blue (butterfly)	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>		●			
Dark green fritillary (butterfly)	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>		●			
Heath fritillary (butterfly)	<i>Melicta athalia</i>	●		●		
Small blue (butterfly)	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		●			
Balsam carpet (moth)	<i>Xanthorhoe biriviata</i>			●		
Buttoned snout (moth)	<i>Hypena rostralis</i>	●			●	
Double line (moth)	<i>Mythimnia turca</i>	●			●	
Four-spotted (moth)	<i>Tyta luctuosa</i>	●		●		
Pale shining brown (moth)	<i>Polia bombycina</i>	●				
Star-wort (moth)	<i>Cucullia asteris</i>		●		●	
Toadflax brocade (moth)	<i>Calophasia lunula</i>	●		●		
Scarce emerald damselfly	<i>Lestes dryas</i>		●	●		
a cardinal click beetle	<i>Ampedus cardinalis</i>		●	●		
a click beetle	<i>Elater ferrugineus</i>	●		●		
Stag beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	●			●	●
Brown-banded carder bee	<i>Bombus humilis</i>	●				●
Shrill carder bee	<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	●			●	
Five-banded digger wasp	<i>Cerceris quinquefasciata</i>	●		●		
Southern wood ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>	●				
a cranefly	<i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i>	●				
Hornet robber-fly	<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	●			●	
a picture-winged fly	<i>Dorycera graminum</i>	●		●		
Depressed river mussel	<i>Pseudanodonta complanata</i>	●			●	
Desmoulin's whorl-snail	<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	●			●	
German hairy snail	<i>Perforatella rubiginosa</i>			●		
Swollen spire snail	<i>Pseudamnicola confusa</i>			●		
Two-lipped door snail	<i>Laciniaria biplicata</i>			●		
Birds				Red	Amber	
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellata</i>	●		●		
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>		●		●	●
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	●		●		
Corn bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	●		●		
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		●	●		
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					●

Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	●		●		
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			●		●
Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			●		
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	●		●		
Marsh tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>		●	●		
Marsh warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	●		●		
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		●		●	●
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	●		●		
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		●		●	●
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	●		●		
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	●		●		
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	●		●		
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			●		
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	●		●		
Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	●		●		
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		●	●		
Reptiles, Amphibians, Mammals & Fish						
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>		●			●
Common lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>					●
Grass snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		●			●
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		●			●
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	●				
Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	●				
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>		●			●
Common dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	●				
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	●				●
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>		●			●
Leisler's bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>		●		●	●
Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>		●	●		●
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>		●			●
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>		●			●
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	●				
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>		●		●	●
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	[●]				●
Water vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	●				●
Whiskered & Brandt's bats	<i>Myotis mystacinus, M.brandtii</i>		●			●
Twaite shad	<i>Allosa phallax</i>	●				
Smelt	<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>		●			

3. References

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