

Better Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 4th October 2011

Present: Richard Small (Chair) – Liverpool John Moores University
Tina Iball – WLBC, Environment
Lindsay Beaton – Wildlife Trust
Dominic Rigby – LCC, Environment
Jill Antrobus – WLBC, Environmental Health

1. Introductions and apologies

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Apologies had been received from:

Dave Dunlop – Wildlife Trust
Steve Kent, WLBC, Leisure
Tim Graham – Wildlife Trust
Laura Gee – WLBC, Housing
Pat Burgess – WLBC, Waste and Recycling
Pam Brandwood – Edge Hill University

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meetings were agreed to be a true record.

A letter of thanks has been sent to Groundwork Pennine Lancashire on behalf of the group. Groundwork has replied with interest in undertaking a further project in the near future, dependant on funding availability.

3. ETG Progress Updates

Please see Progress Report June 2011 to October 2011 for details of the progress made over this quarter.

4. Local Nature Partnership

The group had a brief discussion with regards to Local Nature Partnerships and Lancashire's bid to participate. TI to find further information, provided below.

TI

To aid the set up of LNP's DEFRA have set up a LNP Fund to support partnership development works in areas where no partnership currently exists and enable existing partnerships to aspire to become LNP's. A bid has been submitted to DEFRA, on behalf of Lancashire, by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Initial priorities in the bid are to develop a Lancashire wide service to offer advice on priority action, revitalise the Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy, build local partnerships with Natural Economy Northwest and Lancashire LEP over green economy developments, produce a new landscape scale delivery plan for Lancashire's BAP, enable volunteer and community involvement and integrate cross border issues into the delivery plan.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust has received a conditional offer of funding from DEFRA with an opportunity to fine tune the application and submit an amended budget proposal excluding activities that fall outside of the capacity building objectives. This is soon to be resubmitted.

Further information about LNP's and the Lancashire bid can be found here:

http://www.vsnw.org.uk/files/Publications/Briefing_64_Local_Nature_Partnerships_-_draft.doc

DR suggested that the West Lancs estuary and mosslands could be eligible as this would benefit significantly if groups worked together to link attractions and investigate linking sites for biodiversity e.g. the water vole network. TI to feedback on the success of the bid and future works.

TI

5. **Lancashire Environment Forum**

TI informed the group that the Lancashire Environment Forum has recently reformed and the first meeting had been held on the 22nd September 2011, chaired by John Wells from InBev.

The outcome of the meeting saw the forum have two main functions. Firstly to be an overarching strategic partnership for environmental issues and secondly as a broader network and information giving body. Suggested functions include the natural environment, water, energy and climate change and strategic planning and development. The group will also incorporate the Lancashire Climate Change Partnership. Relevant feedback from these meetings will be relayed back to the group.

6. **New Chair for the ETG**

RS informed the group of his plans to retire in the not too distant future and whilst his departure is not imminent, we need to consider a new chair for the group.

TI is to enquire of the formal procedure for appointing a new chair with the LSP Secretariat. Meanwhile, expressions of interest would be welcomed from Members, either for themselves or others.

TI

TI suggested that as the group normally meets as two sub groups for the natural and built environment, two chairs could be an option.

7. **Any Other Business**

No other items were raised.

8. **Date of next meeting**

TI to arrange electronically for Mid January

TI

Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

Progress Report February 2001 to June 2011

Natural Environment Sub Group

Action 1.b – Natural Environment Service

The efforts of the NES partnership has increased the number of Local Sites in Lancashire (Biological Heritage Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites) in positive management from 15% in 2009 to 26.3% as of March 2011, exceeding the annual target increase of 3%.

The Environment Agency (EA) has managed to secure funds for their contribution to the Local Records Centre over the next few years. DEFRA funding will be maintained at a reduced level.

Action 2.b - Mosslands

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust has provided consultation advice to the Planning Authority opposing the extension of further peat extraction at Simonswood Moss. They are currently seeking a meeting with LCC to ensure the damaging impact of carbon emissions from peat extraction is given serious consideration and to provide further advice with regards to alternative management and revision of aftercare proposals.

Action 2.d – Brown Hare

The Brown Hare Conservation and Recording Project started in January 2011 and the first round of analysis of recorded sightings is underway.

Action 2.i – Mere Sands Wood

Revision of the nature reserves 5 year management plan is currently underway to establish the future priorities of the site in terms of both habitats and species and the role in which it plays in education and tourism.

Action 3.a – Water Vole

The NW water vole project has now finished its 3 year term but some water vole work is continuing at Hesketh Outmarsh. The findings have identified a water vole stronghold within the agricultural drainage ditch network of West Lancashire, and it is hoped this will help secure further funding for future plans to deliver habitat creation and develop corridors between isolated populations so they can breed and spread.

The Alt & Crossens river catchment in West Lancashire stood out as being of potential national importance. The area supports widespread water vole populations with high levels of connectivity between colonies. More information can be found at this link:

<http://www.lancswt.org.uk/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=159&cntnt01returnid=15>

Action 4.a – Salt Marsh

The salt marsh created at Hesketh West has developed salt marsh vegetation well, and is attracting a wide range of birds. The RSPB reserve is open to visitors and the managed realignment is working well. The RSPB have purchased an additional 52 hectares of land in Hesketh East with plans to create more salt marsh habitat, working in partnership with the Environment Agency.

Action 5.b – Lowland Grasslands

The Forever Meadows project is working on a number of sites in the West Lancashire constituency including Beacon Country Park, Tawd Valley Park, Hunters Hill Delph, Elmers Green Common and Clough, some privately owned sites, Haskayne Cuttings and Chapel Lane Fields owned by Parbold Parish Council.

These sites have/will be surveyed using rapid condition assessment providing baseline data to measure the success of any management options put in. The capital investment is to improve the condition of the sites and secure the long term positive management of them.

Action 7.b – School Grounds

Edge Hill University is utilising an overgrown, unused area to create a small area of woodland, providing a small natural habitat for wildlife. The University also do educational work with local schools and were recently visited by Westhead Lathom School to do a project on trees.

Built Environment Sub Group**Action 1.a – Recycling**

West Lancashire BC are currently undertaking changes to streamline the waste and recycling collection service. This will reduce the mileage undertaken by collection vehicles, reducing fuel consumption and associated emissions.

Action 2.b – Schools and Universities

Edge Hill University is progressing with their Carbon Management Plan. Recent actions include the implementation of sub metering to individual buildings, high efficiency boiler replacements, a solar PV installation and a reclaimed heat system from a server room.

Regular awareness raising events are also held to promote energy efficiency, financial well being (which includes reducing your energy bills), love food hate waste, car sharing and recycling.

**West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership
Environment Thematic Group**

Natural Environment Action Plan for West Lancashire

Introduction

This document has been produced by members of the Natural Environment sub-group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership. It aims to address some of the key issues affecting wildlife in the District of West Lancashire and to complement the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan.

The document is reviewed and updated quarterly, and builds upon the issues identified by partners during the development of an earlier Wildlife and Landscape Action Plan published in May 2002. The key issues identified are:

- The maintenance and enhancement of key habitats and species
- The influence of water management practices
- The impact of coastal changes and their management
- The fragmentation and isolation of habitats and elements of the landscape
- Increased public access to the countryside and green spaces
- The consideration of wildlife and landscape issues in land use planning
- Increased public awareness of biodiversity and the effects people's lifestyle choices have on the natural environment.

The impact of agricultural practices was also highlighted as a key issue in the 2002 Plan, though action points were not developed in previous issues of the Plan. Instead these relevant actions relating to agricultural practices have been incorporated within Section 2 (The maintenance and enhancement of key habitats and key species). The current update also includes a new section considering urban habitats. This fits with the development and launch of the Urban Habitat Plans by Lancashire's Biodiversity Partnership. While many urban biodiversity issues could fit

into sections 5 (fragmentation and isolation) and 6 (land use planning), its increasing relevance and the development of the habitat plans for Lancashire mean that they need separate consideration.

All the species and habitats that are explicitly referred to in this action plan are recognised in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as being amongst those under the greatest threat. Most are also the subject of action plans in the Lancashire BAP. They have been selected for inclusion in this action plan because they fall into at least one of the following categories:

- They are represented within the Borough and are declining in either population size or area or, in the case of habitats, declining in quality;
- The Borough either holds important populations of the species or areas of the habitats on a regional, national or international basis;
- The habitat or species is particularly characteristic of the Borough;
- The organisations that have contributed to this action plan are in a position to have a positive impact upon population size, habitat quality or extent, or awareness amongst the general public.

Arable farmland birds have been included here because a dramatic decline in the populations of many farmland bird species was observed from the mid 1970s and the proportion of land used for arable cropping in West Lancashire is well above the average for the county and the UK as a whole. Such species will of course benefit indirectly from actions included in the Habitat Action Plan for Arable Farmland within the Lancashire BAP.

Progress on all the actions contained in this Plan will be monitored and reported annually to the Environment Thematic Group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) by the Lancashire Biodiversity Manager, and then to the full West Lancashire LSP.

Many of the actions in the Plan contribute to actions contained in the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, and these are indicated with an asterisk. Progress on these particular actions will also be reported on the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS; www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk), which is a publicly accessible website.

This action plan will be updated every two years by organisations on the Environment Thematic Group along with other delivery partners.

Objective 1: To provide a system for sharing and storing ecological data throughout the county of Lancashire and develop services for Local Authorities to meet statutory obligations.

One of the most frequently-encountered barriers to the conservation of wildlife is a shortage of appropriate ecological data. Often it simply isn't possible to answer basic questions such as: What kinds of wildlife do we have? Where are they? Are populations increasing, stable or declining? Is habitat quality improving, unchanging or deteriorating? If the necessary information were readily available, it would enable wildlife enhancing schemes and projects to work more effectively, facilitate better-informed planning and policy decisions, and highlight both localised and wider threats and opportunities for species and habitats. It would also allow us to monitor the effects of our actions, adding to our understanding of what works and what doesn't.

General

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
1.a. LOCAL RECORD CENTRE <i>Maintain a county wide local record centre through the Lancashire Environment Recording Network (LERN)</i>	Secure a sustainable funding stream.	LCC, NE, TWT, EA, RSPB.		Sept' 2011
1.b.LANCASHIRE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE <i>Continue provision of the Lancashire Natural Environment Service to monitor BHS sites and increase the number in positive management</i>	Support delivery of Lancashire's Natural Environment Service and aid positive management of sites. Secure a sustainable funding stream.	LCC, WLBC, TWT, LBP		Sept' 2011

Objective 2: To maintain and enhance the quality, quantity and awareness of West Lancashire's key natural habitats and species.

Important wildlife sites are areas of land which are closest to their 'wild' state, where the influence of human activities has been minimal or where traditional farming and other sympathetic land management practices have survived. These sites support a rich variety of wild plants and animals. Other kinds of site that can have a high biodiversity value are those that have been developed in the past and are now derelict, neglected or underused, such as disused railway lines or urban 'wasteland'.

West Lancashire is a stronghold for a number of key habitats and species identified both nationally and locally in Biodiversity Action Plans. These habitats may suffer from inappropriate management or a lack of awareness of their benefit for wildlife, and basic information on species numbers and distribution is often lacking. However, this can be addressed through practical tasks, awareness raising activities, survey work and the promotion of advisory services.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
2.a BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE ISSUES <i>Attend or hold annual event to promote project work or issues in West Lancashire area.</i>	Attend West Lancashire Green Fayre or hold other event annually.	WLBC TWT		Annually
2.b. MOSSLANDS* <i>Promote and review opportunities to acquire and restore mossland sites in West Lancashire.</i>	Engage with Landowners to encourage take up of agri-environment grants. Provision of consultation advice to planning authorities.	WLBC EA TWT LCC		March 2012
2.c. ARABLE FARMLAND BIRDS (Lapwing, Grey Partridge, Barn Owl etc.)* <i>Promote and encourage the take up of measures to help farmland birds.</i>	Encourage arable landowners to join the Environmental Stewardship Scheme . 40% of land under Entry Level and 5% of land under Higher Level Agreement (% of total area of farmed land in West Lancs) with ELS/HLS management secured on 8 farms in West Lancashire.	FWAG NFU RSPB WWT NE		March 2012

	Encourage farmers to join the Volunteer and Farmer Alliance Project (farmers grant access for volunteers to survey their land for birds).		
	Encourage farmers to join the Corn Bunting Project to use farming practices that benefit farmland bird assemblages, using Stewardship application.		
2.d. BROWN HARE* <i>Brown Hare Conservation and Recording Project.</i> <i>Develop a project to deliver habitat for Brown Hare conservation across wider region.</i>	Organise & deliver training for the annual formal Brown Hare survey. Encourage public participation in the Lancashire Brown Hare Survey to record Brown hare sightings (8 volunteers from West Lancs participating. 20 records from West Lancs submitted). Analyse the results from casual web-based recording of sightings. Deliver habitat for Brown hare conservation across the region.	TWT FWAG LCC BTO WLBC BAP Partners	March 2012
2.e. PURPLE RAMPING FUMITORY* <i>Investigate possible demonstration or reintroduction sites using seed produced through current projects.</i>	Identify potential sites identified and establish viable populations. Update associated section of the Lancashire BAP.	WWT LL NE	March 2012
2.f. GREAT CRESTED NEWTS <i>Investigate populations at Pond Close, Tarleton.</i>	Conduct population assessment. Completion and implementation of pond management plan.	WLBC LJMU	May/ June 2011 March 2012
2.g. INCREASE/ ENHANCE ACCESS - HUNTERS HILL <i>Designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) at Hunters Hill local nature conservation site.</i>	Implementation of the Hunters Hill Management Plan, as set out in the action plan timetable.	WLBC	March 2012

<p>2.h. INCREASE/ ENHANCE ACCESS - RIBBLE COAST & WETLANDS REGIONAL PARK <i>Increased provisions for visitors/ tourism.</i></p>	<p>Completion of Access Strategy.</p> <p>Improvements to the section from Martin Mere to Mere Sands Wood an MSW to Rufford station.</p>	<p>RCW partnership</p>	<p>Partners time</p> <p>Funding – bids pending</p>	<p>March 2012</p> <p>March 2012</p>
<p>2.i. MERE SANDS WOOD <i>Increased provisions for visitors/ tourism.</i></p>	<p>Improve education and interpretation facilities.</p> <p>Commence re-development of the visitor centre with improved visitor and educational facilities.</p> <p>Revision of the management plan, in consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>TWT</p>	<p>Funding</p>	<p>March 2012</p>
<p>2.j. DOUGLAS LINEAR PARK <i>Development of a linear park between Tarleton and Hesketh Bank.</i></p>	<p>Provide support for the development of a linear park.</p> <p>Complete the feasibility study and produce initial cost proposals and implementation plan e.g. access works, landownership etc.</p>	<p>Douglas Linear Park Partnership WLBC</p>	<p>Funding</p>	<p>March 2012</p>

Objective 3: To ensure that water and riparian habitat management practices are carried out that benefit both water quality and species that inhabit aquatic habitats.

The wetlands of West Lancashire include sites of regional, national and international importance, hosting a valuable wildlife resource. These wetlands form a landscape of distinctive character, formerly dominated by the historic Martin Mere. Thousands of kilometres of drainage ditch now criss-cross the District and form an important network, with the canal and river corridors linking these wetlands. Some sections of these networks are in poor condition and fragment the populations of the species which inhabit them. Many of the water habitats in West Lancashire are threatened by run-off and eutrophication, abstraction, in-filling and neglect.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
3.a. WATER VOLE* <u>NW England's Lowland Water Vole Project.</u> <i>Implement water vole friendly catchment management works.</i>	Habitat Management Workshop held annually. Advise landowners and managers of water bodies and watercourses in the project area (incl. Douglas and Mersey catchments) on water vole-friendly management practices when opportunities arise. Investigate BHS designation at appropriate agricultural ditches in West Lancashire. Continued training and volunteer support. Restore existing riparian and bankside habitat specifically for water voles at dedicated works within Alt Crossens and Douglas Catchments.	EA TWT FWAG UU BAP Partnerships	Funding	March 2012
3.b. DRAGONFLIES Support development and promotion of Atlas Survey of dragonflies in Lancashire.	Data available for several key sites in the borough.	TWT WWT Volunteers	Funding	March 2012

Objective 4: To undertake projects which support and enhance natural coastal systems and habitats across West Lancashire.

The inherently dynamic nature of coastal systems, the impact of climate change on sea levels and the coincidental balancing by geological processes, all influence the internationally important Ribble Estuary and its marshes. Policy decisions regarding managed retreat, sea wall defences and tidal barriers will have a major impact on the marshes and mosslands immediately inland of these. Furthermore, loss of land and habitat on the coast could lead to a squeeze on land uses further inland.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
4.a. SALT MARSH* <i>Restoration of further arable land to salt marsh.</i>	Hectares restored.	RSPB EA NE RCW		March 2012

Objective 5: To identify suitable sites and initiate habitat creation projects, and to manage urban sites in ways that benefit wildlife.

The fragmentation of habitats (and therefore the species that inhabit them) can arise from a variety of causes, such as development, inappropriate land management or changes in land use. This has adverse effects on the continuity of landscape character and reduces the quality of habitats within it. Wet woodland provides vital stepping stones between many of the aquatic environments described in sections above, and supports populations of species important both locally and nationally. Some urban sites also have the potential to be beneficial for wildlife. If managed appropriately they can act as stepping stones for the movement of species within and between urban and more rural areas of the District.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
5.a. WOODLAND (WET)* <i>Identify sites and initiate restoration or creation.</i>	Woodland restored.	WWT TWT EA FC NE		March 2012
5.b. LOWLAND GRASSLAND* <i>Support the development of Forever Meadows Project to bring grassland sites into beneficial management within the Borough.</i>	Number of surveys conducted, management plans produced and successful management agreements in place.	TWT WLBC NE FWAG		March 2012
5.c. GORSE HILL NATURE RESERVE <i>Heathland and grassland restoration.</i>	Hectares of Heathland and grassland restored. Hectares of woodland established.	NWET		Ongoing
5.d. RUFFORD OLD HALL <i>Grassland restoration.</i>	Hectares of improved grassland brought into wet grassland management.	NT		Ongoing
5.e BURSCOUGH COMMUNITY WOODLAND <i>Creation of a community woodland at Platts Lane, Burscough.</i>	Conduct site investigations and, dependant on findings, produce a woodland design.	WLBC LCC Global Renewables	Findings of site investigations Funding	March 2012

Objective 6: Improve the quality of wildlife information available to planning authorities and raise awareness of applicants/ developers and planning case officers of the needs and protective legislation concerning particular species of wildlife.

Land use planning is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development and planning authorities are required to balance economic, social and environmental considerations when allocating land for particular kinds of development and when considering development proposals. Often, however, the needs of wildlife are in conflict with people’s need for development to provide employment or new homes (for example). At a local level, proper protection of wildlife species and habitats in land use planning relies on both strong local development policies (based on sufficient and up to date information concerning the distribution and status of wildlife in the area) and on the informed application of those policies at the development control stage to ensure that the best possible planning decision is made in each case. Greater awareness by applicants/developers, planning case officers and councillors of the sensitivity of particular habitats and species, and of the protection afforded by legislation, will help to minimise the adverse effects of development on wildlife whilst maximising opportunities for biodiversity gains.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
6.a. ECOLOGICAL GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPERS <i>Produce and make available guidance on ecological impacts of development proposals for developers and Local Planning Authority case officers.</i>	Development of Core Strategy incorporating biodiversity policies in line with National Planning Policy Framework.	WLBC and consultees		March 2012
6.b. RED SQUIRREL* <i>Adhere to the objectives of the red squirrel buffer zone i.e. planting guidelines etc.</i>	Buffer zone officially recognised by WLBC and principles applied to that part of the zone within West Lancs. Ongoing monitoring and recording of sightings.	WLBC LCC FC	Funding	March 2012
6.c. NEW AND BUILT STRUCTURES <i>Encourage the inclusion of biodiversity</i>	Encourage take up in relevant new developments. 1 case study development for	WLBC LCC	Resources of BAP	March 2012

<i>elements into new developments (e.g. bat tiles, swallow eaves, green roofs, living walls and rain gardens).</i>	locally relevant best practice (to be delivered through Urban BAP Update).	TWT RSPB	Partnership
6.d. NEW AND BUILT STRUCTURES <i>Enforce appropriate management, survey and mitigation for nesting birds and bats in existing buildings and conversions.</i>	Develop a Green Infrastructure Policy within the Core Strategy. Follow best practice in terms of planning application and enforcement.	WLBC LCC	March 2012

Objective 7: Improve the quality of wildlife information available to Local Authorities and relevant groups in urban areas to promote the conservation of urban biodiversity and manage urban habitats for wildlife and people together with promoting wider adoption of biodiversity elements into the designed landscape.

Urban areas can hold significant sites for biodiversity conservation, and are particularly important due to the fact they are the areas in which most of the public interact with their natural environment. This also adds impetus through potential interaction of the BAP with education, greater access to the public, and in policy and planning agendas. Significant community work and benefits to wider agendas, such as sustainable communities, identity and place, health and well-being, can be made through biodiversity work in urban areas. Many actions may fall between sections 5, 6, and 7, and where this may happen it is intended that actions be included in the section that covers the major elements of the action. For example small number of sites may be managed for conservation and included in section 7, until this action develops to aiming to counteract isolation and fragmentation specifically, when it would move to section 5.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional Upon	Timescale
7.a. PARKS AND GREENSPACE <i>Promote the management for, and integration of, biodiversity within parks and urban green spaces. Manage and create urban wildflower meadows in relevant areas.</i>	Support events for parks/greenspace management and biodiversity. Inclusion of green infrastructure within Local Development Framework. Coronation Park wildflower meadow managed to maximise biodiversity.	WLBC TWT GS LCC LBP		March 2012
7.b. SCHOOL GROUNDS <i>Promote maintenance and creation of wildlife areas for biodiversity and education.</i>	Minimum of 1 school annually.	TWT WLBC LCC		March 2012
7.c. COMMUNITY WOODLAND AND ORCHARDS <i>Monitor and assess contribution of Traditional Orchard site to urban biodiversity.</i>	Survey and monitoring of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve. Aid creation of community woodland	NWET WLBC LCC		March 2011

	and orchards.			
	Orchard at Scutchers Acres, Burscough		LTWiGS grant	Sept 2011.
7.d. ALLOTMENTS <i>Support development of community schemes and promote to local residents.</i>	Improve provision of community food growing initiatives.	WLWG WLBC		March 2012
	Improve management of existing sites e.g. water provision, access etc.			
7.e. GREEN PARTNERSHIP AWARDS <i>Support for community environmental projects.</i>	Encourage community support. Financial support and technical advice for 10 community environmental projects annually.	LCC WLBC	Applications	March 2012

Abbreviations of Partners

ARGNM	The Amphibian and Reptile Group for North Merseyside
ARGSL	The Amphibian and Reptile Group for South Lancashire
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BW	British Waterways
EA	Environment Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GLW+W	Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan
GPL	Groundwork Pennine Lancashire
GS	GreenSpace
LCC	Lancashire County Council
LL	Landlife
LRF	Lancashire Rural Futures
LJMU	Liverpool John Moores University
MBC	Mersey Basin Campaign
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NT	National Trust
NWET	North West Ecological Trust
RCW	Ribble Coast & Wetlands Regional Park
PCs	Parish Councils
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
TWT	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside
WLBC	West Lancashire Borough Council
WLEN	West Lancashire Environmental Network
WWT	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

**West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership
Environment Thematic Group**

Built Environment Action Plan for West Lancashire District

Introduction

This document has been produced by members of the Environment Thematic Group of the West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership. It aims to address some of the key issues related to the built environment and communities of the borough of West Lancashire and to complement the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy, at a local level.

The document is reviewed and updated quarterly, and builds upon the aims identified by partners during the development of earlier Environment Thematic Group action plans. These are:

- The reduction of pollution to air, land and water.
- To reduce the amount of waste generated and the amount of which goes to landfill.
- To encourage and support local businesses and individuals to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change and encourage a low carbon, sustainable future.
- To ensure the Borough is well adapted to the risks that the changing climate may pose.
- To raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues

Objective 1: To reduce pollution to air, land and water. To reduce the amount of waste generated and increase recycling and composting. To improve street cleanliness.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
1.a. RECYCLING Increase recycling and composting of household waste.	Increase the percentage of waste that is recycled or composted.	WLBC, Lancashire Waste Partnership		March 2012
1.b. AIR QUALITY Improve air quality to achieve National air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide.	Implement air quality action plan in partnership with stakeholders.	WLBC LCC PCT GMPTE		March 2012
1.c. FLY-TIPPING Reduce fly-tipping and littering	5 prosecutions for fly-tipping 20 interviews in relation to fly-tipping incidents 50 fixed penalty notices for littering/bin bags. 12 talks delivered in schools.	WLBC	Staff resources	March 2012
1.d. NOISE Reduce noise pollution	75 installations of noise monitoring equipment. 40 out of hours visits in relation to noise.	WLBC		March 2012

Objective 2: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change and encourage a low carbon future. To adapt to the risks posed by a changing climate at a local level.

Action	Measure	Partners	Conditional upon	Timescale
2.a. ENERGY EFFICIENCY Reduce carbon emissions related to Council operations	Year on year reduction in CO ₂ emissions to meet the overall reduction target of a 25% reduction from 2006/07 baseline by 2020.	WLBC		March 2012
2.b. SCHOOLS/ UNIVERSITIES Work in partnership with schools, colleges and universities to reduce energy use and CO ₂ emissions.	Carbon savings from delivery of energy efficiency/ low carbon projects.	LCC WLBC Edge Hill University		March 2012
2.c. COMMUNITIES Work in partnership with Parish Councils and community groups to reduce energy use and CO ₂ emissions.	Engage with community groups and Parish Councils to advise on energy saving initiatives.	WLBC		March 2012
2.d. BUSINESSES Work in partnership with West Lancashire businesses to reduce energy use and CO ₂ emissions.	Engage with businesses to advise on energy saving initiatives and signpost to advisory services. Encourage SME's to join the Lancashire Resource Efficiency Club .	WLBC		March 2012
2.e. WEST LANCASHIRE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY Develop a West Lancashire specific action plan for actions to reduce CO ₂ emissions borough wide.	Engage with stakeholders to develop a West Lancashire Sustainability Strategy and co-ordinate Borough wide action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work towards a low carbon economy.	All partners, lead by WLBC.		March 2012

2.f. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION Develop climate change adaptation plans to address the risks to local communities.	Finalise the comprehensive assessment and action plan to minimise the Councils vulnerabilities to climate change and share with interested parties. Engage with businesses and encourage consideration of their own vulnerabilities.	WLBC, LCC	Dec 2011
2.g. RENEWABLE ENERGY Develop a Renewable Energy Policy for West Lancashire.	Utilise the findings from the Renewable Energy Capacity Study to influence renewable energy developments through the Local Development Framework. Investigate the potential for a district heating scheme at larger residential development sites. Establish the Community Energy Fund through development of pilot renewable projects on Council buildings.	WLBC	March 2012
2.h. ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ FUEL POVERTY Reduce fuel poverty and increase affordable warmth.	Provide advice and guidance to residents on energy efficiency in the home. Promote the take up of Warm Front and discount insulation scheme . Aid the implementation of a Lancashire fuel poverty referral scheme. Investigate the Council's role in delivery of the Green Deal.	WLBC, LCC, PCT.	March 2012