

APPENDIX 2 – Biodiversity resolution assessment (update)

NATURE & CLIMATE

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT	UPDATE DECEMBER 2023
NC1	Develop a Nature Recovery Network map to prioritise sites within the ecological network to provide a strategic base for the creation of a Nature Recovery Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derbyshire County Council have responsibility for LNRS and their anticipated Network Map will be incorporated in LNRS. County Council to lead; District Council to feed in as necessary. County Council to start 2023 but timescale not yet clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update
NC2	Increase space for wildlife and commit to the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and Green Team already active in parks/gardens – areas for wildlife, planting of shrubs suitable for pollinators etc. Installation of universal nesting boxes through home energy efficiency grant funded schemes e.g. homes in Matlock. Reduction in annual bedding by 75% over three years. Replaced by perennials Liaison with Trent Rivers Trust in Ashbourne recreation ground re Henmore Brook; potential further work with AshCom Hurst Farm Housing Estate Regeneration Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal nesting boxes to be installed at Matlock Town Hall as part of window replacement programme – December 2023 Community run social enterprise set up on Hurst Farm. Community Ranger and apprentice recruited who will now build a community volunteer group and start to undertake the first stages of management work on the woodland. Aim is to increase the health of the woodland and its habitats and linking in with surrounding habitats in the area, such as Lumsdale Woods. Work on Henmore Brook is programmed for summer/autumn 2024
NC3	Use the Nature Recovery Network map to inform the selection of Biodiversity Net Gain projects within the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See NC1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See NC1
NC4	Maintain a commitment to achieve a net-gain to biodiversity across all development, meeting the Environment Act requirement of 10% biodiversity net-gain, ensuring compliance with the most up to date scheme from Defra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council pays Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) to assess planning applications Discussions ongoing with both DWT and DCC regarding an enhanced service from Nov 2023. DWT have developed offer and put forward amended Service Level Agreement. DCC unclear about potential offer Propose to enter into agreement with either DWT or DCC to assess applications against BNG metric. All relevant applications to be treated according to Regulations One-off New Burdens Grant of £10,040 provided by Government to fund this initially; two further funding grants announced 1st March 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full update provided in report – summary below – Delayed implementation until January 2024 The District Council has extended the existing Service Level Agreement with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for the assessment of individual planning applications to include a specific assessment of BNG proposals to ensure they are ‘accurate, achievable and, where needed, off site measures have been identified’. Further one-off burdens funding has been received
NC5	Improve the landscape’s resilience to climate change, employing nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council-owned parcels of land along the Derwent have been identified as having potential for Natural Flood Management schemes in partnership with DWT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting updated land management plan from DWT for Rowsley Sidings site Through The Matlock and Upper Derwent Strategic Partnership (MUD) the Council has

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	the District, including carbon storage and sequestration, managing flood risk, improving water quality, and sustaining vital ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting has taken place in certain areas – Ashbourne (Feb 2023) – 170 trees planted on Fishpond Meadow (approx. 1,400 sqm) • Hurst Farm Housing Estate Regeneration Scheme • DWT seeking wider partnership agreements and funding to work in these areas under licence • DCC also have commitment to tree planting and are undertaking review of options for offsetting which includes sequestration • Also see NC2 	<p>supported a DWT bid to the DEFRA and Environment Agency - Natural Flood Risk Management Programme to implement natural flood management in the Upper Derwent Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWT also investigating possibility of including other smaller Council owned sites along the Derwent in bid to EA Natural Flood Management Programme • Hurst Farm – planning to install a natural swale system to capture run off and reduce flooding, as well as creating new habitat. A community tree seedling nursery is being set up as part of the community garden using seeds collected from the local woodland. The resulting trees will be used to replant after the required tree works in the Hurst Farm woodland.
NC6	After satisfying safety and visibility priorities, and building on the work of our Biodiversity Project, develop greenspace management regimes to maximise potential for biodiversity, carbon storage and sequestration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Biodiversity Verge Project – Ongoing, 48 sites in 2023 • Working with DCC on Pathfinder project with a proposed target of 50km of road verges managed for biodiversity • Linking with Natural England Wye Valley nature recovery project looking for verges that will form links to their wildlife sites • Hurst Farm Woodland Management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update is provided in the report • Hurst Farm social enterprise is working on updating the woodland management plan to create a yearly work plan to undertake with volunteers.
NC7	Carry out a carbon audit of DDDC countryside and open space sites to establish how carbon storage/sequestration could be improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See NC1 – Nature Recovery Network map will help identify any areas to be prioritised • Vision Derbyshire Sequestration Project is exploring options for ‘offsetting’ through sequestration • Potential to undertake an internal review of District Council land assets in future years, should resources be made available, using current knowledge and available data sets e.g. DEFRA Magic Mapping, Natural England green infrastructure to provide new recommendations for improving biodiversity and sequestration potential • Potential to investigate the potential of the District Council becoming involved in the DWT Wild Peak project as a landowner, should resources be made available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work with partners across Derbyshire authorities to explore options for carbon sequestration. Report provided to Climate Change Working Group for comments on options in October 2023 • Review of land assets (for BNG and/or sequestration) will likely form part of Biodiversity Action Plan
NC8	Adopt a peat-free policy for all council contracts and suppliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Procurement Policy already includes statement to this effect: We will ‘not purchase products for soil enrichment purposes that contain peat’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor for annual bedding plants plant currently uses 70% peat free compost Potential for guidance and training on use of policy and to commit to update relevant contracts at point of review 	
NC9	Aim to achieve 'favourable condition' on all council-managed protected and designated nature sites (e.g., SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest), LNRs (Local Nature Reserves), LWSs (Local Wildlife Sites)) by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rangers fully expect Natural England (NE) will give High Tor & Pic Tor a 'favourable condition' status following feedback from recent visit but Natural England haven't updated their information yet. Discussion being held with DWT condition of Local Wildlife Sites they manage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest visit feedback from NE '<i>impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the team and the work that has been undertaken under the agreement. The grasslands at High Tor in particular appear to be doing really well and it's great to see the monitoring results demonstrating improvement in species diversity. The calaminarian grassland is a really special habitat to be proud of.</i>' Awaiting confirmation of official status

PEOPLE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT	UPDATE DECEMBER 2023
PH1	<p>Improve access to nature by following the Natural England 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance</p> <p>Regard will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with high levels of physical health problems. Areas with high levels of mental health problems. Areas where the amount and quality of accessible natural greenspace is below Natural England's targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of District Council sites already achieve 'Green Flag' award for accessible green space Work as part of Hurst Farm Housing Estate Regeneration Project is likely to be key in supporting areas with highest levels of physical and mental health problems and where access to greenspace is more difficult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications for three Green Flags will be submitted by January 2024 Hurst Farm - following recruitment of a Countryside Ranger and apprentice, work has started to run activities around the woodland, community gardening and dry-stone walling engaging local residents.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT	UPDATE DECEMBER 2023
SP1	Embed nature's recovery into all strategic plans, including the Local Plan, and all policy areas, not just those directly related to the environment. Ensure the LNRS is well understood across the authority and complements other relevant plans and strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already embedded in Local Plan but review will extend to address BNG requirements Potential for a briefing on the future LNRS, linked to the wider training in SP3. Delivered by DCC or author of LNRS (subject to cost) Potential for Staff Briefing on Biodiversity Duty (nil cost) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local plan review ongoing, BNG requirements to be addressed Await LRNS progress Nature recovery and linking in with wider Matlock's existing nature sites is key to the Heritage Lottery funding received and forms integral part of the long term strategy of developing the Hurst Farm project

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing need to identify other plans & strategies when reviewed as opportunity to incorporate biodiversity where appropriate 	
SP2	Integrate the targets, objectives, and outcomes of this motion, i.e. the biodiversity strategy and action plan, with those outlined in the Derbyshire Dales Carbon Reduction Plan, to ensure measures to tackle climate issues do not contravene the principles of enhancing biodiversity. Wherever possible, the council will invest in nature-based solutions to climate change to tackle the nature crisis and climate emergency together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged that the approved 'Climate change strategy and action plan' does not take a nature-based approach; its pathway to net zero is largely technology-led At Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan review point (2025?) – ensure nature-based solutions are reviewed and considered, including role of offsetting/sequestration in meeting net zero commitments Biodiversity impacts of decisions taken by Council are not formally considered; potential to incorporate high-level biodiversity impact assessments (where appropriate) into committee reports by modifying the climate change impact assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion ongoing as to future direction of climate change strategy Biodiversity Action Plan will review how best to integrate both themes of work Biodiversity impacts now considered alongside climate change impacts on all decision-making reports. Officer guidance provided – further training to be identified through Biodiversity Action Plan.
SP3	Provide training and resources for councillors and council employees about the ecological emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of ecological emergency (links to climate emergency) are touched upon in carbon literacy course that senior leaders and some Councillors have undertaken Potential for all Councillors/Senior Leaders to complete Local Government Association e-Learning module 'Biodiversity for Councils' (nil cost) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be included in Biodiversity Action Plan

COLLABORATION, MONITORING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT	UPDATE DECEMBER 2023
CM1	Identify a council employee as the designated lead for coordinating council operations in relation to the ecological emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Derbyshire District Council advertised for an ecology officer at £38K plus on costs; were unable to recruit as ecologists are in demand from private practice at higher salaries Currently considered that the only practical and affordable way forward is to join with other councils in a partnership service as proposed by DWT and DCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update

OTHER ACTIVITIES

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REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT	UPDATE DECEMBER 2023
OT1	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust SLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently costs £14,823 each year. Is this cost sustainable given MTFP? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional BNG one off burdens money received
OT2	High Tor, Pic Tor, Lovers Walk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing role of Clean and Green Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update
OT3	Tree Strategy & Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work by Tree Officer and contractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently manage the risk that trees present in terms of personal harm or property damage. This involves felling or pruning of trees as necessary. Generally aim to plant at least 1 replacement for every tree removed in the same place. Timber resulting from the works is mostly left on site where this is appropriate, in the form of wood chip, lengths of timber left on the ground or in habitat piles. We also retain standing stems approx. 1-3m tall. This wood will provide valuable resource and habitat for wildlife as it decomposes. Ash dieback is killing many trees in our District and we are currently planning to remove severely affected trees. Recent surveys have indicated that approx. 550 ash trees should be removed which are located in higher risk locations.
OT4	Glyphosate reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject of separate report to Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In wider report