

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN



Development and Implementation Strategy

Produced by the North East
Biodiversity Steering Group

February 2000

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SUMMARY

The experience gained during the pilot development phase of the North East Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) has been used to produce clear guidelines for the development and implementation of future action plans. This development and implementation strategy will primarily be used by Steering Group partners, other organisations and individuals involved in prioritising, writing, implementing and monitoring new action plans.

This document outlines the aims of the North East LBAP and provides a brief background to the development of the project. Mechanisms adopted by the Steering Group, for drafting and implementation of action plans are detailed (section 2). Effective communication, incorporating awareness raising has repeatedly been recognised as an essential component of the LBAP. The Awareness Raising Strategy (section 3) will run in parallel with the implementation of future action plans and will aim to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity to all sectors of the community.

North East priority habitats and species are listed in sections 4.0 and 5.0 respectively. Both national and local priorities for action, collectively termed North East Priority Habitats and Species, are included. These are the habitats and species that have been identified as most in need of conservation action. In order to manage the process of producing new action plans, the Steering Group intends to develop and release these North East priority action plans in batches. Whenever possible species will be considered within appropriate habitat action plans.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan

In North East Scotland action to protect and enhance biodiversity is being co-ordinated through the development and implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The North East LBAP is a locally driven process. It is developing as a result of the specific conditions and requirements of the diverse natural heritage and community in the North East. The North East LBAP is concerned with sustaining biodiversity across the whole of the former Grampian Region (now Moray, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire). This is an area with an outstanding variety of wildlife habitats and natural features of considerable importance both to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the local community.

The development of the LBAP has been guided by the North East LBAP Steering Group. The Steering Group is a partnership bringing together three local authorities, statutory and non-statutory agencies and independent representatives involved in management of biodiversity in the North East.

Aims of the North East LBAP Steering Group Partnership

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity of the North East through the development of effective, local, working partnerships.
- To ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action.
- To identify targets for biodiversity conservation appropriate to the local area, incorporating issues of local importance and reflecting the values of local people.
- To strengthen understanding of, support for and involvement in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the North East.
- To provide a focal point for information exchange to assist partnership development between those working in biodiversity conservation throughout the region.

1.2 Why produce a strategy?

This strategy has been produced to enable the future development and implementation of action plans. It uses the experience gained during the pilot process to establish an efficient mechanism for selection, writing and implementation of action plans.

The strategy;

- provides a clear set of objectives for the North East LBAP partnership, to which Steering Group agencies have pledged their commitment,
- uses the experiences of the first three years of the LBAP process in the North East to develop a realistic mechanism for taking the LBAP process forward, from setting priorities to implementation and monitoring,

- provides guidance for future Steering Group decisions, based on past experience,
- clearly sets out how the North East LBAP intends to respond to both national and local priorities for sustaining biodiversity,
- can be used to inform local organisations and individuals of the objectives and mechanisms for implementing the North East LBAP.

1.3 Who is the strategy for?

- Existing partner organisations and new or potential partners who may join the Steering Group as the LBAP develops.
- Members of the Steering Group, as a reference source and guide to decision making.
- Other regional LBAPs to provide information on the development of the biodiversity process in the North East.
- Authors and stakeholders involved in development and implementation of future plans, as a guide to plan writing and objective setting.
- Members of the community who wish to find out about the development and mechanism for implementation of the North East LBAP.

1.4 Putting the implementation strategy in context – A brief history of the North East LBAP

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan forms the national component of our commitment to the 'Convention on Biological Diversity' (Rio Earth Summit 1992). This commitment is to a large extent being fulfilled by LBAPs developing partnership working on the local level. Initially the North East was one of four pilot LBAPs being implemented in Scotland. Now every region is developing a LBAP and co-ordination between the regions is improving all the time. There are now UK Habitat and Species Action Plans (HAPs and SAPs) for the majority of priority habitats and species. These provide UK targets for sustaining biodiversity in a template to be adapted to suit local needs.

The North East LBAP Steering Group first met to begin to map out the local process for sustaining biodiversity in early 1997. Since then the process has involved many agencies and individuals acting together across the North East to develop action plans. As the first 10 action plans have now been published, an appropriate point has been reached to use this experience to outline a development and implementation strategy for the way forward.

2.0 KEY GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Partnership

Context

Planning for biodiversity is underpinned by the fundamental principle that the process needs to involve a wide range of sectors, organisations and individuals. The development of a working partnership is essential for the successful implementation of the objectives and targets in the UK Action Plan. It is also essential for effective action at the local level. With the partnership approach, joint ownership of the North East LBAP has evolved and has proved itself to be effective. The continuing partnership confirms the commitment and support of member organisation to the aims and mechanisms for delivering biodiversity outlined in this document.

Future Direction

- The partnership is dynamic and flexible and will evolve over time. New members (business community or agri/environment sector for example) may be invited to join the Steering Group Partnership as appropriate.
- Individual Steering Group members will aim to raise the priority of biodiversity within their own organisations, improving communications to ensure that the value of the LBAP process is widely recognised.
- Individual Steering Group members will aim to co-ordinate action internally to ensure implementation of actions their agency has agreed to.
- Individual Steering Group members will aim to encourage behaviours consistent with biodiversity conservation and sustainable development within their own organisations, taking action to effect changes within their organisations where current activities are damaging biodiversity.
- Member organisations will lead by taking a co-ordinating role in appropriate action plans.
- The LBAP partnership has a clear focus on the aims and will endeavour to ensure this focus is kept. An annual LBAP workshop has, therefore, been proposed for the partnership to re-focus ideas and review progress.

2.2 Sub-groups

Context

The Steering Group is supported by several sub-groups which look at specific issues of importance to biodiversity in the North East. Currently the sub-groups are concerned with habitats and species, raising public awareness, the urban environment and the Moray area. Since the set up of the North East LBAP the sub-group structure has been effective in relaying the priorities and opinions of local individuals to the Steering Group. Sub-groups are made up of interested individuals from a range of backgrounds and are open to all.

Future Direction

- The number and composition of the sub-groups is flexible and may alter in the future to meet the needs of group members and the Steering Group and to respond to new priorities.
- The Steering Group and sub-groups will continue to encourage wider community involvement in and input to the sub-groups.
- Sub-groups will continue to respond to the needs of the community, highlighting issues of local priority to the Steering Group, for consideration as the subject of local action plans or biodiversity projects.

- A Steering Group member is not required to chair each individual sub-group providing one or more members of the Steering Group sit on each sub-group to provide a two-way link.

2.3 Supporting Understanding and Involvement

The key to a successful LBAP is the involvement of the local community in the widest sense and at all stages of development. The North East LBAP, although at times receiving criticism for not being sufficiently community based, has made a considerable effort to involve and include the priorities of the local community. In addition to a seminar and consultation on developing action plans, the main vehicle for community involvement has been through the sub-groups. Two closely linked components for encouraging understanding of and involvement in the LBAP are discussed below.

2.3.1 Awareness Raising – Through the Awareness Sub-group

Context

The Awareness sub-group has a key role in communication and education. In consultation with the Steering Group the sub-group has produced an Awareness Raising Strategy (3.0). This Strategy sets realistic priorities for supporting and encouraging community involvement in the local biodiversity process. The sub-group is now working towards implementing this strategy and ensuring that an effective awareness raising aspect is added to each new action plan endorsed by the Steering Group.

Future Direction

- All future plans will have an element of awareness raising included in the actions to meet objectives. Action for awareness raising will be drawn up in consultation with the Awareness sub-group.
- The sub-group will conduct a complimentary programme of awareness raising in addition to that already identified in action plans. This will support the implementation of new sets of action plans and raise awareness in key sectors of the community. Wherever possible projects will be developed with target audiences involved in action plan implementation.
- The Awareness sub-group will also develop projects with key sectors of the wider community, outside groups involved in current action plans. Work with schools and educational groups, for example, could bring considerable benefits for biodiversity.
- Awareness raising will be geared towards participation, experience and activity, extending opportunities for involvement.
- The sub-group will aim to support Steering Group members in promotion of biodiversity within their own organisations.

2.3.2 Wider Communication – Through the Steering Group and Sub-groups

Context

The Awareness sub-group has outlined a realistic and achievable Awareness Raising Strategy. The Strategy does not aim to tackle all the aspects of communication needed to run a successful LBAP. Broader communications issues, listed below, will be addressed through the Steering Group, other sub-groups and by the project co-ordinator.

Future Direction

- Encourage the local community, land users, landowners and land managers to consider and integrate action for biodiversity into all their activities.
- Encourage behaviours consistent with biodiversity conservation and sustainable development within member organisations and externally.
- Steering Group members will aim to integrate planning for biodiversity into other agency initiatives, including Structure and Local Plans and Indicative Forestry Strategies.
- Continue to raise the profile and strengthen the image of the LBAP as an effective and participatory local conservation initiative.
- Continue to encourage community participation in and ownership of the LBAP process, through sub-groups and action for specific plans.
- Encourage and support the development of appropriate community based BAPs on local issues.

2.4 North East Priority List

UK priority species and species of conservation concern found in the North East, were identified in the North East Scotland Biodiversity Audit. This includes species that are concentrated in the region, either in terms of range or numbers, or species for which a high proportion of the remaining sites in the UK are found in the North East. The Audit also provides a list of species not included on the UK list, which have been identified as locally important. Using the criteria given in the audit and discussion amongst experts a list of UK priority and locally important species which are most in need of conservation action, termed North East Priority Species, has been produced (5.0).

The Audit includes an assessment of broad and key habitats found in North East Scotland. Habitats are considered to be important where a large proportion of a habitat, or a particularly good representation of a habitat, is found in the area. UK and locally important habitats identified in the audit as most in need of conservation action are listed as North East Priority Habitats (4.0).

The Steering Group intends to support the development of action plans to incorporate all North East Priority Habitats. Wherever possible associated species will be considered in Habitat Action Plans (HAPs). Species Action Plans (SAPs) will also be produced for all priority species requiring consideration through an individual action plan.

2.4.1 Identifying Priorities

Context

As a result of consultation and reflection on the production of the first set of plans, the Steering Group intends to produce a more targeted set of plans in the future. These will address the protection of the identified priority habitats and species, reflecting the importance of the North East's natural environment in the national and local context. It is intended to develop and implement a series of linked action plans together. Each series will be selected from the North East Priority List.

Future Direction

- The Habitats and Species sub-group will propose priorities for future development of HAPs and SAPs for consideration and agreement by the Steering Group.
- When deciding future priorities, current initiatives and action already being undertaken will be considered to allow the development of complimentary and supportive action plans, where appropriate, and to avoid duplication.
- The long-term goal will be to implement action plans covering all habitats and species identified on the North East Priority List.

2.4.2 Improving Efficiency – Considering Species in their Habitat

Context

Experience from the development of single species action plans clearly shows that this is not the most efficient mechanism for implementation. For example, two species that both rely on riparian woodland for their habitat would benefit from one riparian woodland HAP. Addressing species as part of HAPs, whenever appropriate, will provide a more holistic habitats based approach.

Future Direction

- Move to a more habitats based approach to cover more than one issue in an action plan.
- Species potentially receiving protection from a HAP will be listed in HAPs with an outline of key threats to each species. The objectives of the HAP can then be developed to incorporate actions to mitigate identified threats to these species.
- Where appropriate, create multi-issue plans, for example, a farmland action plan would consider several different habitats and species, particularly priority listed birds.
- Individual species plans will still be required for many species, including some of those considered in HAPs. Species with a very limited range or occurring at only a few sites, for example, are likely to require individual HAPs.

2.5 Local Biodiversity Action Plans on Non-Priority Habitats and Species

Context

In the first stages of development of the North East LBAP, action plans put forward by the sub-groups were considered for development by the Steering Group. Priorities for future action have now been clarified in section 4.0 and 5.0. The conservation concerns of local people have been taken into account and are expressed on this North East Priority List. In some cases, however, local interest in the development of a particular action plan, which is not on the North East Priority List will need to be addressed. The Steering Group proposes the following mechanism for addressing the development of additional plans arising from local interest in the LBAP.

Future Direction

- Sub-groups will consider the merits of any proposed action plan, which is not identified on the North East Priority List (4.0 and 5.0), on an individual basis. Sub-groups will then report to the Steering Group with recommendations on whether a particular plan should be progressed as part of the LBAP. This should enable agreement on whether a particular plan should be taken forward by the Steering Group, before it has been written.
- If the Steering Group feel that a particular plan would form a worthwhile addition to the LBAP, then development will continue in the way described below (2.7).
- It is envisaged that the identification of priorities for the North East, when conveyed to the community through the sub-groups will considerably limit the number of action plans being written on subjects not on the LBAP Priority List. Provision will, however, be made for the Steering Group to consider the endorsement of non-North East priority plans every 6 months.
- Steering Group and sub-groups will encourage the development of local area action plans that address the identified priorities at specific sites.
- The Steering Group will endorse any action plan that its members feel is appropriate to be taken forward. Therefore, all action plans endorsed by the Steering Group will be taken forward for implementation, whether for North East priority habitats and species or local priority areas.
- In considering the merits of local area action plans it should be remembered that these will often include action for priority habitats and species within specific areas.

2.6 Development of Action Plans

2.6.1 Plan Writing

Context

The development of the first stage of the North East LBAP identified some important points for consideration in writing future plans. A primary consideration is the need to engage stakeholders at an early stage in the evolution of action plans and the need to set clear objectives and targets which can be monitored.

Future Direction

- National Plans for the majority of habitats and species on the UK Priority Lists are now available and can be used as a starting point for identifying targets for action in the North East.
- Lead Partners responsible for co-ordinating national species action should be contacted at the time of drafting plans to allow co-ordination with other initiatives and gain support from the national and UK level.
- Plans will be written to clear guidelines (available from the LBAP Co-ordinator). This will not alter the format used in previous plans but will emphasise the importance of having clearly stated biological objectives and targets as well as work objectives and targets.
- Plans will be written in language accessible to a non-scientific audience.
- A summary of agreed objectives will appear at the beginning of each action plan.
- An element of monitoring and review should be included in all future plans.
- An element of awareness raising should be included in all future plans.
- Authors and/or stakeholder groups developing plans should be prepared to provide images to accompany plans on publication.
- Authors will be asked to write plans on behalf of the LBAP Steering Group. The stakeholder group setting objectives and actions will have final control over content (2.6.2) and the LBAP Steering Group will have final editorial control.

2.6.2 Consultation on Objectives

Context

During the development of the first stage of the LBAP, consultation with agencies identified as responsible for specific actions was carried out by sending a draft document out for comment, and then incorporating comments into the final version. This created several problems:

- Some agencies/stakeholders did not respond to consultation.
- Some agencies disagreed with proposed actions. Any disagreements were solved by a process of going back and forth from author to agency until agreement was reached. This lengthy process was facilitated by a short-term editing sub-group.
- For some action plans, clear measurable objectives and targets were not expressed. This may prove to be a considerable set back during implementation and proposed monitoring of plans.

Future consultation on objectives, targets and actions will be carried out during plan development and will involve meetings of stakeholder groups concerned with a specific action plan or set of related action plans.

Future Direction

- A designated sub-group member with expert knowledge of the habitat, habitat group or species being considered, will prepare a draft action plan using the relevant UK Action Plans as a starting point.
- Stakeholders (agencies, landowners representatives, voluntary groups, community representatives etc.) responsible for or concerned with implementation of the plan or set of plans, will meet to discuss and agree objectives, targets and actions. Stakeholder groups will review the feasibility and cost of implementation and integration of actions with other projects. Members will then have time to consider implementation and funding commitments and consult within their own organisations. Members will return to the stakeholder working group to confirm commitment to objectives, targets and actions, including funding commitments. This will result in an agreed list of quantified objectives for protection and enhancement of habitats and species. This process aims to gain firm commitment to implementation of action plans and encourage ownership of the plans by those responsible for implementation.
- Agencies and individuals will have responsibility for carrying out agreed actions to which they have committed, by incorporating action into work programmes.
- Writing a series of related action plans based around a broad habitat type, such as farmland, or one action plan covering a number of priority habitats, such as wetland, will enable several related habitats and species to be considered by agency representatives in one set of meetings.
- Future plans must be written as action plans with clear objectives, targets and timescales and agreed action to meet these objectives. If monitoring reports that objectives have not been met by implementation of actions then further actions need to be agreed to work towards achieving objectives.
- Plans should highlight any existing initiatives that can be used as a vehicle for implementation, including fund sources and projects already in operation.

2.6.3 Setting Objectives and Targets

Context

Local action plans aim to translate UK objectives and targets for priority habitats and species into effective local action. Targets will be expressed in terms of clear actions agreed by stakeholder groups to aim towards meeting objectives.

Future Direction

- Objectives will primarily be taken from UK Action Plans and translated to encompass local priorities for a species or habitat. These are key objectives which, if achieved, should provide a secure future for the habitat or species concerned (ie. best possible objectives).
- Targets may also be taken from national plans and translated into local measurable goals. Targets will be ambitious, also centred on the 'best' outcome for a habitat or species.
- Agreed actions with details of time scale, personnel and funding commitments will be set down in each plan.
- Most targets will require action at the local level some, however, will rely on the LBAP encouraging action at the national level. National level actions, which may not seem easily achievable through the local partnership, should not be discounted as influencing policies at the national level is often of key importance.
- All plans will contain targets to allow for monitoring of outcomes in terms of expansion of priority habitats or increase in priority species (ie. targets for biological objectives which allow for monitoring).
- Where UK objectives and targets prove to be unrealistic during implementation this should be highlighted to the Lead Partner concerned.

2.6.4 Consultation

Context

The consultation process used in developing the first stage of the LBAP was lengthy, inefficient and responses from some key stakeholders were not obtained. With relevant stakeholders being involved at an early stage in plan writing (2.6.2), consultation will be much more targeted than previously attempted, focussing on key interested parties, within the stakeholder groups, identified for each action plan.

Future Direction

- Ensure that consultation is targeted so that only plans of relevance to specific stakeholders are sent to them for comment.
- The project co-ordinator will follow up on consultation, particularly with organisations that have not replied.

2.7 Implementation

Context

The key to success of the LBAP is implementation of actions. To provide for effective implementation, plans have to be written in close consultation with the agencies and individuals who will be responsible for the necessary actions, as described above.

Future Direction

- The Steering Group realises that without successful implementation the process is completely ineffective.
- Steering Group members will aim to integrate planning for biodiversity into other agency initiatives, including Structure and Local Plans and Indicative Forestry Strategies.
- Steering Group members need to provide a lead and must ensure that their own organisations are fulfilling their commitment to each individual action plan.
- Agencies and individuals will have responsibility for carrying out agreed actions to which they have committed, by incorporating action into work programmes.
- Where appropriate a local lead body will be appointed to co-ordinate action and take each plan forward.
- Once stakeholders have agreed objectives, implementation will be initiated by encouraging dialogue and co-operation with local interests such as farmers and foresters, concerned with the management of specific sites. Where necessary working groups of the relevant agencies and individuals will be set up to progress implementation (2.8).
- The awareness raising strategy will support implementation.
- Implementation will be facilitated by the project co-ordinator and where appropriate, a suitable lead body.
- The local lead body (where appropriate) will be asked to report on progress for a specific plan, annually to the Steering Group (through the project co-ordinator).

2.8 Working Groups

Context

As the LBAP process develops and new priorities are taken forward there will be a requirement for the formation of working groups to progress action plan implementation.

Future Direction

- Stakeholder groups developing action plans will form the basis of working groups, maintaining the established commitment to development.
- Working groups should aim to develop a wider membership than stakeholder groups, encouraging participation from those carrying out actions on the ground, for example, local land owners, farmers, rangers etc.
- To tackle issues effectively the best possible facilitators should be used. For example, when setting up a series of farmland plans NFUS, SLF, FWAG and SAC would provide an effective vehicle to engage the farming community and should therefore be involved in a farmland working group to take forward these issues.

2.9 Monitoring

Context

For the majority of the local action plans already completed, monitoring can only be actions based. This will consist of ticking off actions when they have been completed, or recording that ongoing actions are being implemented. This is not effectively monitoring benefits to habitats and species and does not provide direct information on meeting objectives. For monitoring to move to be more outcome rather than action based, clear, measurable biological targets need to be set. The time involved in setting up and running effective monitoring programmes, however, should not be underestimated and the use of actions based monitoring, which can at least be completed, should not be discounted.

Future Direction

- The project co-ordinator has a key role in ensuring that agencies have carried out the actions agreed to, i.e. monitoring actions.
- Setting clear biological targets in terms of area and quality of habitats and numbers and distribution of species, will enable monitoring of benefits to habitats and species as opposed to monitoring of actions.

2.10 National Action - Feedback to the SBG and Lead Partners

Context

The LBAP has a continuing role in highlighting the need for support from Lead Partners and the Scottish Biodiversity Group (SBG), and in encouraging better communication between national and local levels in the biodiversity process.

Future Direction

- Continue to highlight to the SBG and to Lead Partners where national initiatives are not effective on a local level. This can be done through the project co-ordinator feeding back to the SBG co-ordinator or to relevant Lead Partners, or by Steering Group members who also sit on SBG sub-groups highlighting problems at this level.
- Continue to make contact and aim to improve communication between the LBAP and national level sub-groups and Lead Partners.

2.11 Standard Format Action Plan or Biodiversity Project ?

Context

For UK priority habitats and species the target is to adapt UK Action Plans to meet local needs for implementation. This will create a formal action plan to accepted structure for North East Action Plans. The standard action plan may not easily lend itself to other biodiversity priorities such as awareness raising or specific area plans. The structure of plans should, therefore, be flexible allowing for an appropriate format for area or community plans and for biodiversity projects such as 'business and biodiversity' to be developed.

Future Direction

- Allow for development of biodiversity projects
- Development of these projects will include a clear statement of objectives and a clear timetable for proposed action, but may be written in a shorter and more accessible format than a standard action plan.

2.12 Overlap with the Cairngorms LBAP

Context

The areas covered by the North East and Cairngorms LBAPs overlap in parts. This overlap is viewed as an opportunity to co-ordinate and compliment action. There is, however, a need to clarify the relationship between the two LBAPs to avoid confusion and overlap of effort as action plans are implemented and to establish who is doing what.

Future Direction

- The North East and Cairngorms LBAP Steering Groups will remain informed of each others actions, through the relevant project officers and concurrent Steering Group members.
- As each LBAP develops, consultation on objectives will be carried out. This will result in each LBAP having input to and endorsing the objectives of the other, for each specific plan or set of plans. The overriding objectives of the two projects will, therefore, be complimentary.
- It is likely that one LBAP will develop a particular plan before the other, hence taking a lead on a specific issue in the area of overlap.
- Considering the resources available in the Cairngorms, the North East LBAP considers it is realistic for the Cairngorms LBAP to take a lead in the area of overlap wherever possible, on the basis that the North East has the opportunity to comment on and have input to objective setting. It would also seem appropriate for the Cairngorms to lead on action plans for which they have a large coverage in comparison to that in the North East, such as, the Montane zone.

3.0 NORTH EAST LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AWARENESS RAISING STRATEGY

3.1 Summary

Biodiversity is an essential part of all our lives. This is the resource upon which individuals, communities, nations and future generations depend. As the global population continues to expand, mounting pressure is placed on our valuable natural resources and biodiversity is increasingly threatened. With continuing urbanisation and rapid technological development our lives seem to become increasingly removed from the natural world. The need to raise the profile of 'the variety of life', to increase awareness of our links to and reliance on this vast but threatened resource, is clear.

Biodiversity is not just for agencies working in nature conservation, but is an essential part of all our lives. Action to protect biodiversity must be taken on all levels, by government and voluntary agencies working together in partnership and by individuals getting involved in local action for biodiversity and making significant changes to their lifestyles. This process has to involve the widest possible range of people working on all levels, towards the common goal of protecting biodiversity and moving to achieve sustainable development. Raising awareness and communicating the important messages of biodiversity conservation to encourage local participation and ownership of biodiversity projects is a key part of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

This strategy sets out the framework for awareness raising, developed by the North East Awareness sub-group and endorsed by the Steering Group. It details the aim, and key actions to be carried out and co-ordinated by the sub-group. Providing a focus for future actions, this strategy identifies target audiences and provides a mechanism for the development of innovative awareness raising projects.

Primary Aim of the Awareness Sub-Group

To strengthen understanding of, support for, and involvement in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the North East.

3.2 Why Protect Biodiversity?

The underlying reasons for protecting biodiversity are compelling. We are part of biodiversity and depend on it for our quality of life. Biodiversity supports us; it is vital for our survival and our wellbeing and is a key measure of the health of our planet. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity is central to achieving sustainable development. The challenge is to 'meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Rio Earth Summit 1992). Some of the key messages to be communicated through awareness raising are outlined below:

- Biodiversity is a central requirement in all our lives. This is the resource on which our physical and mental wellbeing relies. Our economy, health and very survival depends on the buffering, filtering and recycling functions that the natural environment provides.
- Biodiversity is a natural storehouse of variation, which holds immense unknown value for the future. Although humans rely on relatively few species for their food, many other species provide valuable medicines and resources for industry. Only a tiny proportion of living species have ever been explored for their potential.
- Biodiversity is of great economic importance. All farm crops are descendants of wild organisms. Fruit crops rely on the many insects that pollinate their flowers. The fishing industry relies on the harvest of the natural biodiversity of our rivers and seas. Tourism relies on the natural wildlife habitats the North East has to offer.
- Biodiversity moulds the landscape, shaping and enriching the unique scenic quality of the North East. It softens the artificial life of urban areas and gives wild places their distinctive character, providing us with areas for recreation and wild places to enjoy.
- All living things are continually adapting to survive in changing environments. This continued adaptation, as living things evolve, will become impossible if biodiversity is depleted. The genetic resources represented in biodiversity are the key to adapting to a rate of environmental change which is faster now than ever before.

As we continue to develop and consume resources at an alarming rate, we are destroying and damaging our living heritage as a result. Damaged biodiversity cannot be restored overnight, and sometimes not at all. The UK has lost over 100 species this century and many more have declined in number, range or both. Once common species, such as the lapwing, skylark, song thrush, brown hare and water vole are now in dramatic decline and need all the help they can get if they are to be protected from losing further ground. The UK breeding population of skylark, for example, fell by 54% in the two decades to 1991 and continues to decline dramatically (DETR 1998).

It is not just species that are declining; many important habitats are also under threat. Lowland raised bogs, for example, are one of the UK priority listed habitats found in the North East. This habitat has declined to only 11% of its former extent in Scotland. Many remaining raised bogs are now so small and their hydrology is so disturbed that they do not function to their full ecological potential, with only a limited growth of bog mosses and little accumulation of peat.

We must act now to prevent further decline in species and habitats and to protect our natural wealth for the future. If we do not act, we will hand on to our successors a planet that is markedly poorer than the one we were privileged to inherit.

3.3 Action to Raise Awareness

Effectively communicating the importance of biodiversity in all our lives is central to encouraging community support for and participation in local action to protect biodiversity.

3.3.1 Why produce an awareness raising strategy?

- To guide and focus the process of awareness raising in the North East.
- To target key audiences and co-ordinate activity with the production of new action plans.
- To co-ordinate the communication and awareness raising activities of the North East Steering Group and the sub-groups.
- To inform the Scottish Biodiversity Group (SBG) and other regional LBAPs of the activities of the North East Awareness sub-group.
- To increase our understanding of the current levels of awareness in different sectors of the local community, and so provide a baseline to work from.

3.3.2 Who is the awareness raising strategy for?

- Members of the Awareness sub-group to guide future awareness raising activities.
- Members of the Steering Group and other sub-groups, to clearly identify the area of responsibility that the Awareness sub-group have adopted, and consequently highlight communications activities, which remain in the remit of the Steering Group (LBAP Development and Implementation Strategy 2.3.2).
- Members of the SBG and other regional LBAPs for information.

3.3.3 Putting the North East awareness raising strategy in context

The Awareness sub-group has been actively involved in raising awareness of and encouraging participation in the North East LBAP for three years. The group has an action-orientated approach based on the experiences and knowledge that group members offer. Activities to date include biodiversity events, guided walks and talks, the production of a leaflet and an information sheet, distribution of biodiversity posters and teachers notes to all local schools and the development of a web site. The group is committed to continuing its work and has identified that a clear framework is needed within which to target and prioritise their efforts.

Although a national strategy for communication and awareness raising has not yet been produced, the SBG recognise that 'increasing the general awareness and understanding of biodiversity in society is at the root of the success of the biodiversity process' (SBG Public Awareness, Involvement and Education sub-group, 1997). The Awareness sub-group has developed this strategy using their own ideas and resources and hope it will be of use to other regional LBAPs and the SBG in the future.

This is not a complete communications programme for the North East LBAP. Other sub-groups and the Steering Group in particular, have a key role in improving communications, at all levels, to forward the development of the LBAP. The Awareness sub-group has limited resources and must be realistic in setting targets. This strategy, therefore, forms part of a wider communications role, shared by all members of the Steering Group and all those involved in the LBAP process (LBAP Development and Implementation Strategy 2.3.2).

The Awareness sub-group is made up of a diverse collection of committed individuals. The diversity of the group is one of its key strengths, bringing people with a broad range of experiences and knowledge of different local communities together. It is this diversity of experience that makes the group suited to its function of developing awareness raising activities and materials and engaging a range of audiences. The group will continue to promote a wider awareness of biodiversity and to extend practical opportunities for more people to be involved.

3.4 Aims and Key Actions

3.4.1 Primary Aim

To strengthen community understanding of, support for, and involvement in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the North East.

3.4.2 Key Actions

Strengthen understanding and support and extend practical opportunities for participation

- Identify and prioritise audiences and target action, initially, towards high priority audiences.
- Develop innovative awareness raising projects and activities with target audiences. When developing projects consider the need to complement awareness raising activities for individual action plans.
- Identify and highlight examples of good practice to act as sites for demonstration and education.
- Gather local opinions and perceptions and monitor the effectiveness of awareness raising projects. Modify activities to incorporate local needs and ideas and improve effectiveness.

Support action plan development and implementation

- Ensure awareness raising is effectively addressed in every local action plan implemented. This will be achieved through consultation with the Awareness sub-group, during development of actions for awareness raising.
- Develop projects with audiences involved in specific action plans, to encourage participation and create local ownership. These projects will be planned to complement awareness raising actions identified in specific action plans.

Provide information and publicity

- Provide an information exchange network and source of contacts for those interested in biodiversity (locally) and the work of the LBAP (locally and nationally in Scotland)
- Create and utilise opportunities to obtain positive local media coverage for local biodiversity projects, encourage the SBG to continue to generate media coverage at the national level.

3.5 Targeting Awareness Raising Activities

3.5.1 Relating awareness raising projects to action plans

The Steering Group has identified the need for an awareness raising component to be included in every new action plan produced. The Awareness sub-group will be consulted on and have input to this component in action plans. The sub-group will not carry out these identified awareness raising activities for each action plan. It will be the task of local lead agencies to secure funding and personnel needed to carry out action plan specific awareness raising activities.

Wherever possible target audiences identified for Awareness sub-group projects will be chosen to complement the priorities identified for new action plans. Developing awareness raising projects with the farming and land owning communities, are obvious examples where the sub-group will support the implementation of specific action plans.

In addition to complementing the implementation of action plans, the sub-group has a clear role in raising the awareness of key sectors of the wider community to encourage local participation in the LBAP. Projects will be developed with target audiences outside those that are the subject of current action plans, particularly where there is believed to be considerable benefit from this action, for example, projects with gardeners and garden centres.

The Awareness sub-group relies on the input and efforts of volunteers and will continue to respond to priorities identified by the group members as being of local importance. Effective communication between all sub-groups and the Steering Group will allow the Awareness sub-group to have an effective input to awareness raising for individual plans. Being conscious of action already ongoing, the sub-group will be able to support and complement awareness raising for specific action plans.

3.5.2 Resources

The Awareness sub-group is wholly dependent on the commitment of group members who volunteer their time. The group does not have a budget and relies on the effort and resources that sub-group members and Steering Group agencies can contribute. Most actions, therefore, need to be of relatively low cost in terms other than volunteer time. Projects will be geared towards participation, experience and activity and with a substantial volunteer input, costs will be kept fairly low. There will, however, be projects for which external funds will need to be sought.

3.6 Target Audiences for Awareness Raising

The Awareness sub-group has identified sectors of the community (listed below) to be targeted for specific biodiversity awareness raising projects.

3.6.1 Priority audiences

Farmers/Landowners
 Gardeners and Garden Centres
 Schools/Educators – primarily through school grounds projects
 Youth Groups (scouts, guides, youth clubs etc.)
 Local Media (television, radio, newspapers, magazines) – ongoing contact with the media will be developed.
 Community Groups
 Local Business
 Golfers and Course Managers
 Urban Population
 Over 50's Groups
 Groups involved in Countryside Sports and Pursuits
 Supermarkets and Shops
 Opinion Makers (champions, media, activists)
 Policy Makers (MSPs, Councillors etc.)
 Users of the Marine Environment
 Travelling Population (vehicle users, pedestrians)
 Anglers

3.6.2 Prioritising Audiences

The awareness sub-group intends to target audiences from the priority list above. In deciding which audience to target, at which stage in the process, a number of factors will be considered:

1. The potential a particular audience has to make positive changes for biodiversity in the North East.
2. The scale of the awareness raising task for each particular audience.
Although each of the audience groups identified could play a considerable role in sustaining the biodiversity of the North East, the Awareness sub-group agrees that it is important to set realistic and achievable targets for the awareness raising campaign. The sub-group will, therefore, concentrate their efforts on a single audience at a time.
3. The level at which a particular issues should be tackled.
The group believes that raising the awareness of MSPs to biodiversity issues, for example, is primarily a task for the SBG at the national level. Similarly it was felt that working with schools and education establishments would centre around developing wildlife gardens, leaving integration with the curriculum to be tackled at the national (Scottish) level. The role of the North East Steering Group in highlighting issues of importance at the national level, through the SBG should also be noted.
4. Support for the development of future action plans.
Priority audiences will be selected to provide additional support for awareness raising projects associated with ongoing action plans.

3.7 Implementation of the Awareness Raising Strategy

The strategy has identified target audiences for the development of awareness raising projects. The Awareness sub-group intends to work with each of these audiences in turn. Wherever possible projects will be related to current action plans being developed.

When developing an awareness raising project the following steps will be undertaken:

1. Identify objectives for awareness raising
2. Set clear targets and time scales for achieving objectives
3. Identify and implement specific actions to achieve objectives
4. Monitor the success of actions in meeting objectives and review

3.7.1 Implementation Example

One of the key audiences identified by the Awareness sub-group is the farming community. A project for raising awareness within the farming community might encompass the following example as one of its elements:

Objective: To raise awareness of the importance of farmland for the protection of local biodiversity.

Target and Time Scale: To involve 30 farmers, not already subscribing to agri-environment schemes, in biodiversity related projects by 2002.

Actions

- Gather opinions and ideas from the farming community and involve representatives in development of events and projects.
- Organise biodiversity events including farm walks, visits to demonstration sites and seminars. Where possible, tie these activities into existing agricultural events.
- Produce/distribute information on free, low cost, or money saving measures that are of benefit to wildlife on farms.
- Work closely with recognised agricultural advisors (FWAG and SAC).
- Monitor the number of farmers involved and review project actions to achieve targets.

3.7.2 Monitoring

Monitoring the success of specific awareness raising activities requires clear measurable targets to be set for each objective. In more general terms monitoring will also include:

- Recording the number of media articles generated
- Recording the number of requests for information from members of the community not previously involved in the LBAP process
- Recording the number of visitors to the web site
- Repeating a standard questionnaire with a sample of a specific audience before and after an awareness raising project

Awareness raising actions should continually be modified to respond to the results of monitoring.

3.8 Conclusion

This document provides the strategic framework for awareness raising on which the sub-group will base its activities. The sub-group will have an input to the awareness raising component developed for each new action plan. Awareness raising projects will be run to support the implementation of new action plans and to encourage the involvement of key sectors of the community.

Awareness raising will continue to be a central part of the development of the LBAP. This is the key to gaining the understanding, support and involvement of the community for the protection of the rich biodiversity of the North East.

This strategy for awareness raising was prepared by the North East LBAP Awareness Sub-group

4.0 North East LBAP Priority Habitats List		
Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats and Locally Important Habitats		
Habitat Type	North East Priority Habitat (Includes UK and Local Priorities)	Local Habitat Action Plan (HAP) (Developed or for future development)
WETLAND and WATER HABITATS		
Key	Raised bog	Raised Bog HAP
Broad	Fen, Carr, Marsh, Swamp and Reedbed	Wetland HAP
Key	Reedbeds	Wetland HAP
Key	Fens	Wetland HAP
Key	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Wetland HAP
Key	Wet Woodland	Riparian and Wet Woodland HAP
Locally Important	Riparian Woodland	Riparian and Wet Woodland HAP
Broad	Rivers and Burns	Rivers and Burns HAP
Key	Mesotrophic Lochs	Mesotrophic Lochs HAP
Locally Important	Ponds	Ponds HAP
Key	Blanket bog	Blanket Bog HAP
WOODLAND HABITATS		
Key	Lowland Wood Pastures and Parkland Trees	Lowland Wood Pastures and Parkland Trees HAP
Locally Important	Scrub	Considered in Farmland and Heathland HAPs
Key	Upland Oakwood	Broadleaved Woodland HAP
Locally Important	Birch Woodland	Broadleaved Woodland HAP
Key	Native Pine Woodland	Pine Woodland HAP
Key	Planted Coniferous Woodland	Pine Woodland HAP
GRASSLAND HABITAT		
Key	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Species Rich Grassland HAP
Key	Lowland Meadows(neutral grassland)	Species Rich Grassland HAP
Key	Lowland Calcareous Grasslands	Species Rich Grassland HAP
Key	Maritime Cliff and Slope	Species Rich Grassland HAP
Key	Upland Calcareous Grassland	Upland Species Rich Grassland HAP

Habitat Type	North East Priority Habitat (Includes UK and Local Priorities)	Local Habitat Action Plan (HAP) (Developed or for future development)
Key	Upland Hay Meadow	Upland Species Rich Grassland HAP
Locally Important	Serpentine Grassland & Heath	Upland Species Rich Grassland HAP
FARMLAND		
Broad	Boundary Features	Field Margins and Boundary Habitats HAP
Key	Cereal Field Margins	Field Margins and Boundary Habitats HAP
Broad/Locally Important	Arable/ Cultivated Farmland	Farmland HAP
HEATHLAND and UPLAND		
Key	Upland Heathland	Heathland HAP
Key	Lowland Heathland	Heathland HAP
Locally Important	Coastal Heath and Scrub	Heathland HAP
Key	Maritime Cliff and Slope	Heathland HAP
Broad	Montane (alpine and subalpine types)	Montane HAP
URBAN		
Broad	Urban	Urban Action Plan
COASTAL and MARINE		
Key	Maritime Cliff and Slope	Considered in Heathland and Species Rich Grassland HAPs
Locally Important	Coastal Scrub	Considered in Heathland and Farmland HAPs
Key	Coastal Sand Dune	Coastal Sand Dunes HAP
Key	Coastal Vegetated Shingle	Coastal Vegetated Shingle HAP
Key	Coastal Saltmarsh	Intertidal HAP
Key	Mudflats	Intertidal HAP
Key	Seagrass Beds	Intertidal HAP
Key	Sheltered Muddy Gravel	Intertidal HAP
Key	Saline Lagoons	Saline Lagoons HAP
Key	Sublittoral Sands and Gravels	Sublittoral HAP
Key	Mud in Deep Water	Sublittoral HAP

North East Scotland Biodiversity

5.0 North East LBAP Priority Species List		
Including UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species and Locally Important Species		
Group	Scientific name	Common name
UK PRIORITY SPECIES		
Vertebrates		
Mammal	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	water vole
Mammal	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	brown hare
Mammal	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European otter
Mammal	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbour porpoise
Mammal	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	pipistrelle bat
Mammal	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	red squirrel
Mammal	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	bottlenose dolphin
Bird	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	skylark
Bird	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	linnet
Bird	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	reed bunting
Bird	<i>Loxia scotica</i>	Scottish crossbill
Bird	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	common scoter
Bird	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	corn bunting
Bird	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	spotted flycatcher
Bird	<i>Passer montanus</i>	tree sparrow
Bird	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	grey partridge
Bird	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	bullfinch
Bird	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	black grouse
Bird	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	capercaillie
Bird	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	song thrush
Amphibian	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	great crested newt
Invertebrates		
Ant	<i>Formica aquilonia</i>	Scottish wood ant
Ant	<i>Formica exsecta</i>	narrow-headed ant
Ant	<i>Formica lugubris</i>	hairy wood ant
Bee	<i>Bombus distinguendus</i>	great yellow bumble bee
Beetle	<i>Crytocephalus decemmaculatus</i>	a leaf beetle
Beetle	<i>Dyschirius angustatus</i>	a ground beetle
Butterfly	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>	northern brown argus
Butterfly	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	pearl-bordered fritillary
Fly	<i>Blera fallax</i>	a hoverfly
Fly	<i>Hammerschmidtia ferruginea</i>	a hoverfly
Fly	<i>Metasyrphus lapponicus</i>	a hoverfly
Fly	<i>Lipsothrix ecucullata</i>	a crane fly
Fly	<i>Rhabdomastix hilaris</i>	a crane fly
Fly	<i>Thereva lunulata</i>	a stiletto fly
Mollusc	<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	a freshwater pearl mussel
Mollusc	<i>Atrina fragilis</i>	fan mussel

North East Scotland Biodiversity

Group	Scientific name	Common name
Mollusc	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	horse mussel
Moth	<i>Epione paralellaria</i>	dark bordered beauty
Moth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>	narrow-bordered bee hawk
Moth	<i>Noctua orbona</i>	lunar yellow underwing
Moth	<i>Paradiarsia sobrina</i>	cousin German
Moth	<i>Semiothisa carbonaria</i>	netted mountain
Moth	<i>Xestia alpicola alpina</i>	northern dart
Moth	<i>Xylena exsoleta</i>	sword grass
Stonefly	<i>Brachyptera putata</i>	a stonefly
Plants		
Fungi	<i>Sarcodon imbricatum</i>	threatened hydnelloid fungi (14 species)
Lichen	<i>Alectoria ochroleuca</i>	alpine sulphur-tresses
Lichen	<i>Bacidia incompta</i>	a lichen
Lichen	<i>Bellemeria alpina</i>	a lichen
Lichen	<i>Caloplaca luteoalba</i>	orange-fruited elm-lichen
Lichen	<i>Cladonia botrytes</i>	stump lichen
Lichen	<i>Gyalecta ulmi</i>	Elm's gyalecta
Lichen	<i>Hypogymnia intestiniformis</i>	a lichen
Lichen	<i>Opegrapha paraxanthodes</i>	a lichen
Liverwort	<i>Marsupella stableri (M. boeckii)</i>	stabler's rustwort
Moss	<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	green shield moss
Moss	<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>	slender green feather-moss
Moss	<i>Andreaea frigida</i>	icy rock moss
Moss	<i>Bryum calophyllum</i>	matted bryum
Moss	<i>Bryum uliginosum</i>	cernuous bryum
Moss	<i>Bryum warneum</i>	sea bryum
Moss	<i>Orthotrichum obtusifolium</i>	blunt-leaved bristle-moss
Moss	<i>Orthotrichum pallens</i>	a moss
Vascular Plant	<i>Athyrium flexile</i>	Newman's lady-fern
Vascular Plant	<i>Cochlearia micacea</i>	mountain scurvy-grass
Vascular Plant	<i>Cochlearia scotica</i>	Scottish scurvy-grass
Vascular Plant	<i>Euphrasia rotundifolia</i>	an eyebright
Vascular Plant	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	juniper
Vascular Plant	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	twinflower
Vascular Plant	<i>Luronium natans</i>	floating water plantain
Vascular Plant	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	marsh clubmoss
Vascular Plant	<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	small cow-wheat
Vascular Plant	<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	pillwort
Vascular Plant	<i>Potamogeton compressus</i>	grass-wrack pondweed
Vascular Plant	<i>Salix lanata</i>	woolly willow
Vascular Plant	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	yellow marsh saxifrage
Vascular Plant	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	shepherd's needle
Vascular Plant	<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly

North East Scotland Biodiversity

Group	Scientific name	Common name
Vascular Plant	<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Killarney fern
UK SPECIES of CONSERVATION CONCERN		
Vertebrates		
Mammal	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's bat
Mammal	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	water shrew
Bird	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	tree pipit
Bird	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle
Bird	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	goldeneye
Bird	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	lesser redpoll
Bird	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	twite
Bird	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	dotterel
Bird	<i>Circus cyaeus</i>	hen harrier
Bird	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	yellowhammer
Bird	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	kestrel
Bird	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	snipe
Bird	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	grasshopper warbler
Bird	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	curlew
Bird	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	bearded tit
Bird	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	crested tit
Bird	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	snow bunting
Bird	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	golden plover
Bird	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Slavonian grebe
Bird	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	spotted crane
Bird	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	water rail
Bird	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	eider
Bird	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	little tern
Bird	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	common tern
Bird	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	arctic tern
Bird	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich tern
Bird	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	redshank
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i>	barn owl
Bird	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	lapwing
Amphibian	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	common toad
Amphibian	<i>Triturus helveticus</i>	palmate newt
Reptile	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	slow-worm
Reptile	<i>Vipera berus</i>	adder
Fish	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	river lamprey
Fish	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	brook lamprey
Fish	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea lamprey
Fish	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic salmon
Fish	<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>	arctic charr
Invertebrates		
Butterfly	<i>Boloria selene</i>	small pearl bordered fritillary

North East Scotland Biodiversity

Group	Scientific name	Common name
Butterfly	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	large heath
Butterfly	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	small blue
Damsel/Dragonfly	<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>	northern blue damselfly
Fly	<i>Laphria flava</i>	a robberfly
Moth	<i>Endromis versicolora</i>	Kentish glory
Moth	<i>Zygaena exulans subochracea</i>	Scotch burnet
Spider Group	<i>Dipoena torva</i>	a spider
Plants		
Lichen	<i>Cladonia mitis</i>	a lichen
Lichen	<i>Cladonia stricta</i>	upright mountain-cladonia
Lichen	<i>Collema dichotomum</i>	river jelly lichen
Lichen	<i>Parmelia subargentifera</i>	pale edged shield lichen
Liverwort	<i>Gymnomitrium apiculatum</i>	pointed frostwort
Vascular Plant	<i>Cicerbita alpina</i>	alpine sow-thistle
Vascular Plant	<i>Cystopteris dickieana</i>	Dickie's bladder fern
Vascular Plant	<i>Diphasiastrum issleri</i>	Issleri's clubmoss
Vascular Plant	<i>Erigeron borealis</i>	Alpine fleabane
Vascular Plant	<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	one-flowered wintergreen
Vascular Plant	<i>Sagina boydii</i>	Boyd's pearlwort
Vascular Plant	<i>Sagina saginoides</i>	Alpine pearlwort
Vascular Plant	<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	tufted saxifrage
Vascular Plant	<i>Zostera marina</i>	seagrass
LOCALLY IMPORTANT SPECIES		
Vertebrates		
Bird	<i>Lagopus mutus</i>	Ptarmigan
Invertebrates		
Beetle	<i>Ampedus tristis</i>	
Beetle	<i>Cercyon alpinus</i>	
Beetle	<i>Chrysanthia nigricornis</i>	
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Catoptria permutatella</i>	
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	dingy skipper
Mollusc	<i>Vertigo alpestris</i>	
Mollusc	<i>Vertigo pulsilla</i>	
Spider	<i>Lepthyphantes insignis</i>	
Plants		
Fungi	<i>Laccaria maritima</i>	
Fungi	<i>Suillus flavidus</i>	
Fungi	<i>Tricholoma caligatum</i>	
Algae	<i>Fucus distichus edentatus</i>	
Lichen	<i>Anaptychia ciliaris ciliaris</i>	
Lichen	<i>Bacidia igniarii</i>	
Lichen	<i>Bacidia subincompta</i>	
Lichen	<i>Biatora efflorescens</i>	

North East Scotland Biodiversity

Group	Scientific name	Common name
Lichen	<i>Calicium parvum</i>	
Lichen	<i>Catinaria neuschildii</i>	
Lichen	<i>Cetraria pinastri</i>	
Lichen	<i>Chaenotheca laevigata</i>	
Lichen	<i>Chaenotheca xyloxena</i>	
Lichen	<i>Cladonia cenotea</i>	
Lichen	<i>Cladonia maxima</i>	
Lichen	<i>Cladonia uncialis uncialis</i>	
Lichen	<i>Hypocenomyce xanthococca</i>	
Lichen	<i>Hypogymnia farinacea</i>	
Lichen	<i>Lecidea botryosa</i>	
Lichen	<i>Leptogium saturninum</i>	
Lichen	<i>Micarea contexta</i>	
Lichen	<i>Parmelia septentrionalis</i>	
Lichen	<i>Peltigera malacea</i>	
Lichen	<i>Pseudephebe minuscula</i>	
Lichen	<i>Rinodina degeliana</i>	
Lichen	<i>Sagiolechia protuberans</i>	
Lichen	<i>Toninia coelestina</i>	
Lichen	<i>Toninia cumulata</i>	
Liverworts/Mosses	<i>Cryptothallus mirabilis</i>	
Liverworts/Mosses	<i>Dicranum spurium</i>	
Vascular plants	<i>Arctostaphylos alpinus</i>	mountain bearberry
Vascular plants	<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	forked spleenwort
Vascular plants	<i>Astragalus alpinus</i>	Alpine milk-vetch
Vascular plants	<i>Carex lachenalii</i>	hare's-foot sedge
Vascular plants	<i>Carex norvegica</i>	close-headed alpine-sedge
Vascular plants	<i>Carex rariflora</i>	mountain bog-sedge
Vascular plants	<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	coral-root orchid
Vascular plants	<i>Corynephorus canescens</i>	grey hairgrass
Vascular plants	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	mountain avens
Vascular plants	<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	dark-red helleborine
Vascular plants	<i>Gnaphalium norvegicum</i>	Highland cudweed
Vascular plants	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	sea pea
Vascular plants	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	oyster plant
Vascular plants	<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	round-leaved wintergreen
Vascular plants	<i>Ranunculus reptans</i>	creeping spearwort
Vascular plants	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	wych elm

Abbreviations

LBAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan

FWAG – Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

HAP – Habitat Action Plan

SAP – Species Action Plan

NFUS – National Farmers Union of Scotland

SAC – Scottish Agricultural College

SLF – Scottish Landowners Federation

SBG - Scottish Biodiversity Group