



New Forest National Park

Milford-on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan

2015

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



This project was supported by New Forest RDPE (Leader)



www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

This project is supported by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) for which Defra is the Managing Authority, part funded (or financed) by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

Preparation and Production of this Document

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

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

Acknowledgements

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

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

Members of staff from the New Forest Land Advice Service (Julie Melin-Stubbs and Rhys Morgan) and Georgianna Barnard (now with the

Woodland flora



Forestry Commission) have also contributed to the conservation advice in Milford-on-Sea. Several members of staff at the New Forest National Park Authority including Zoe Caals, Andy Bell, Jo Holmes, Tracy Weeks and Lucy Page have assisted in the production of the maps and graphics. Photographs used in the document have been supplied by the following people: Keith Metcalf, Anne Jenks, Angela Peters, Gary Palmer, Alan Sutton, Nik Knight, Victoria Freke, RPS Group PLC, Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat, Lucy Page and Mike Read (2005) www.mikeread.co.uk.

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

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

Foreword



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

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

Alison Barnes
Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

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

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

Clive Chatters
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



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

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

Julian Davis
Chairman of Milford-on-Sea Parish Council



Orange Tip
Butterfly

Contents

	2	Preparation and Production of this Document and Acknowledgements		Chapter 6	31	Opportunities for Improving Habitat Quality and Connectivity
	3	Foreword		Chapter 7	32	Wildlife Gardening
	4	Contents		Chapter 8	35	Important Priority Species Found in Milford-on-Sea
	6	Acronyms used in this Action Plan		36	36	United Kingdom (UK-BAP) and Hampshire (H-BAP) – Biodiversity Action Plans
	7	Introduction		38	38	Ten-year Population Trends of Hampshire’s 50 Notable Species
Chapter 1	8	What is a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)?		40	40	New Forest – Biodiversity Action Plan (NF-BAP)
Chapter 2	10	Landscape Evolution		41	41	Milford-on-Sea – Biodiversity Action Plan (MoS-BAP)
Chapter 3	13	Habitats		42	42	Survey Summary Ranking of Favourite Species Groups, Habitats, Reserves and Local Species
	18	Map (1) Habitats		44	44	Important Priority Species for Milford-on-Sea
	20	Woodland Compartment Inventory (April 2014)		Chapter 9	45	Non-Native Invasive Species
Chapter 4	21	Conservation Designations		46	46	Table (1) Non-Native Invasive Schedule 12 Species known to be present
	22	Map (2) Conservation Designations		47	47	Table (2) Non-Native Invasive Species - Known to be problematic
Chapter 5	25	Land Ownership and Management		48	48	Table (3) Non-Native Invasive Species – Not yet recorded but known to be nearby
	26	Map (3) Land Management				
	28	Table (1) Parish Council-owned Sites				
	29	Table (2) New Forest District Council (NFDC) – owned Sites				
		Table (3) Privately-owned Sites				

Chapter	10	50	Tree Diseases
Chapter	11	52	Sharing Wildlife Expertise in the Community and Getting Involved
Chapter	12	53	Surveying, Recording and Monitoring Wildlife
		54	Examples of Living Record – Species’ Records
Chapter	13	56	Milford-on-Sea’s Biodiversity Action Plan and The Future
Chapter	14	57	Public Consultation 2012 – 2014 Summary
Chapter	15	62	Action Plans (2015 – 2020)
		64	15A Survey & Monitor Wildlife
		67	15B Conserve & Enhance Habitats
		70	15C Conserve & Enhance Species
		72	15D Support & Enhance Wildlife Gardening
		73	15E Enhance Access to Wildlife Sites for Community Enjoyment and Wildlife Benefits

Appendices	1	75	Useful Wildlife Websites and Recording Organisations
	2	77	Living Record – How to get started
	3	78	Living Record – Wildlife Recording Form
	4	79	Wildlife and The Law
	5	80	Permissions for Wildlife Surveying on Milford-on-Sea Parish Council-owned land
	6	81	Wildlife Gardening Initiative – Gardening for Bumblebees
	7	82	Recommended Wildlife Field Guides and Reference Books
	8	86	Biodiversity Action Plan – Steering Group Contact Details
		88	How to contact us

Acronyms used in this Action Plan

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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



Interpretation Board at Gate 12 entrance to Studland Meadow & Common



Oystercatchers flying over Sturt Pond

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

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

Chapter 1

What is a **Biodiversity Action Plan**?

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

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

Public bodies, including Parish Councils have a responsibility for biodiversity as stated in the NERC Act 2006 (see Introduction Page 7 or go to www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/duty.aspx for further



MCV putting up raptor nesting box

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

Before any 'Biodiversity Action Plan' was envisaged for Milford-on-Sea the village already had excellent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Hedgehog

Chapter 2

Landscape Evolution

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

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

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

Hurst Lighthouse, Solent and farmland



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

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

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

Climate development and Milford-on-Sea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is what the Meteorological Office says on their website:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impacts of Navitus Bay Wind Park

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