

Trafford's Biodiversity Action Plan



Habitat Action Plan

Semi Natural Broadleaved Woodland

Current Status.

In this Action Plan Semi Natural Broadleaved Woodland refers to ancient woodlands, secondary woodlands and plantations.

Ancient woodlands are regarded as the most important of the three woodland types, they have persisted in the landscape since the Middle Ages, from a date of approximately 1600AD.

National

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland is a UKBAP Priority Habitat. Woodlands are an important part of our natural heritage and often have rich and diverse plant and animal communities, many of which are unique to such sites.

Local

In Trafford there are 66 small woods, most are less than 2 hectares in area. Six are Ancient woodlands but due to their small size are not recorded at national level. The rest are small secondary woods with some recent plantations.

Planning Policy and Legislation

Brookheys Covert receives statutory protection as a SSSI.

22 woods are designated Sites of Biological Importance and 29 as Local Nature Conservation Sites. These are referred to in proposals ENV 8, 13 and 18 of the Trafford UDP and named in Appendices C, D and E.

Associated Species Action Plans

Bluebell
Bats
Bullfinch

Associated Habitat Action Plans

Ancient/
Species Rich
Hedgerows

Lowland
wood parks
and pasture

Roadside
verges

Character sites in Trafford

Rossmill Woods
Watch Hill
Coroners Wood
Brookheys Covert
Hogswood
Bentley & Tomfield Field Banks

Notable Species

Oak
Green Woodpecker
Sexton Beetles
Wood Anemone
Bluebell
Goldilocks Buttercup
Early Purple Orchid
Fungi

Current factors causing loss or decline in Trafford.

- Lack of controlled management or mis-management.
- Increase of urban development adjacent to woodlands without the provision of a buffer zone thus resulting in increased pressure from trampling, disturbance and pollution.
- Intentional damage and vandalism such as setting trees alight, fly tipping, chopping trees down and riding motorbikes through woodlands causing the habitat to deteriorate.
- Invasion by sycamore, rhododendron and other species, which are generally not native to woods, have led to changes in species composition.

Links to other BAPs for further information

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Cheshire Countdown

UK BAP

Objectives

- To identify all semi natural woodland sites in Trafford.
- To maintain the current area of woodland and prevent further losses and fragmentation.
- To extend and link fragmented woodlands without reducing the area of other valuable habitats and species.
- To restore degraded ancient woodlands and plantations in Trafford.
- To promote education and awareness in order to encourage responsible attitudes towards conserving woodlands.

Local Target

- Plot all updated survey data onto GIS by 2006.
- Maintain current area of woodland.
- Establish 5ha of woodland by 2009.
- Secure funding to restore Coroners Wood by 2006.
- Bring 10ha of woodland into management by 2009.
- Hold woodland activity days to teach woodland management skills and distribute leaflets to raise awareness of woodlands.

Current Action

- Applying statutory powers to protect sites. This includes the monitoring of planning applications and responding as necessary.
- Through Action for Nature the Nature Network is working to ensure that no woodland will be lost to future development.
- Working with partners such as RRF to plant new trees, create buffer zones and small woodlands as well as diversifying the ground flora through the woodland wildflower project.
- Providing general support and advice about grant aid and other sources of practical help.
- Continuing the development and support of Trafford's tree nursery promoting free trees and encouraging people to donate unwanted trees and native bluebell bulbs.
- Many of woodlands in Trafford are registered with the Woodland Grant Scheme.
- Implementing management plans for Broomwood Wood, Fairywell Wood, Brooks Drive and Woodheys Wood.
- Botanical survey of selected woodlands – April to July 2005.

Future Action

- Resurvey all Trafford Woodlands and update records from 1992.
- Write a Woodland Strategy for Trafford.
- Liaise with contractors and landowners where woodlands are to be managed to ensure that operations will not conflict with the needs of the wildlife or reduce the quality
- Programme how and where the woodland grant scheme money will be spent annually.

LBAP Implementers

National Trust

Shell

RRF

Trafford MBC

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Woodland Trust

FWAG

Local Conservation Groups

Friends Groups and members of the public

Landowners and managers

RECOrd

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