Magellan Way Local Wildlife Site



What are Local Wildlife Sites and why are they so important?

Local Wildlife Sites are sites with 'substantive nature conservation value'. They are defined areas, identified and selected locally for their nature conservation value, based on important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species that have a national, regional and importantly, a local context.
Found on both public and private land, Local Wildlife Sites vary in size and shape from small ponds and copses and linear features such as hedgerows, road verges and water courses to much larger areas of habitat such as ancient woodlands, heaths, wetlands and grassland. Collectively, they play a critical role in the conservation of the UK's natural heritage by providing essential wildlife refuges in their own right and by acting as stepping stones, corridors and buffer zones to link and protect other site networks and the open spaces of our towns and countryside.

While many are private, and or out of reach - the very existence of this network of thousands of areas of natural habitat across the country, contributes to the wildlife we find in our gardens, parks and other public natural spaces. As changes in land-use have eroded and fragmented the wildlife-rich expanse of habitats that once covered the country, these places offer vital havens for a wealth of wildlife.

No matter how rich in wildlife they are on their own, these sites are not enough to sustain wildlife populations indefinitely. The Natural Environment White Paper 2011: 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature' stated that 'By 2020, we want to achieve an overall improvement in the status of our wildlife. Over time, we plan to have 90% of priority wildlife habitats in recovering or favourable condition.

What are the constraints limiting landowner advice?
No, or limited funding was identified as the most common constraint restricting the ability of partnerships to liaise with landowners (81% of partnerships). This is followed by lack of time (74% of partnerships), and equally, the availability of staff/volunteers. To a lesser degree but still significant; not knowing the landowner (51% of partnerships), irregular contact with landowners (43% of partnerships) and lack of incentives (30% of partnerships) were also considered to be constraints by a number of partnerships.

What are the main threats to the loss and/or damage of Local Wildlife Sites?
The two biggest perceived threats to Local Wildlife Sites is lack of management (44 partnerships) and inappropriate management (39 partnerships). Development is also seen as a major threat to sites in more than half (30) of the Local Wildlife Site partnership areas. All regions regard lack of management and inappropriate management as a threat and 100% of the partnerships in five out of eight regions concurred that lack of management is perceived to be a threat. Development was perceived as a threat in all regions, but was a particular concern in the North West, the East Midlands and Eastern regions where 80% or more of the partnerships expressed concern.

Are there site de-selection procedures?
The majority of partnerships, have a procedure for the de-selection of sites where the nature conservation interest has deteriorated to such an extent that they no longer qualify as Local Wildlife Sites.

above: current situation with extensive reed thatch
below: reduction in pond surface area over time









north

1:1250 site location

sheet 1

RIBA Chartered Practice

This line measures 200mm in length when printed correctly

Project:
Proposed Dwelling
Pond, off Magellan Way
Spalding

Client:
Mr & Mrs J Retchless

Title:
Site Location Plan and Site Description

Revision Details:
site location plan added

Issue Date: 04-04-17

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