



# Wild things counts down to 2010



'Wild things', the Biodiversity Action Plan Process for the Bath & North East Somerset Area, is moving into its second phase. This will focus on the implementation of a series of species and habitat action plans designed to contribute to the 2010 Global Biodiversity Challenge.

This challenge is to halt the loss of biodiversity – A massive challenge that needs action at every level of society.



BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET



The Wildthings partnership, led by Bath & North East Somerset Council, have produced the action plans in line with national guidance. They are about working together to deliver real action for wildlife, helping to safeguard wildlife of local, national and international importance.

Initially the species and habitats which we will be working on are:-

### Species

- All Bats
- Bath Asparagus
- Bee-fly
- Dormouse
- Great Crested Newt
- Water Vole
- White-clawed Crayfish

### Habitats

- Ancient and Species-rich hedgerows
- Post-industrial sites
- Species-rich Grasslands

They represent a tiny selection of our important wildlife, taken from the Wildthings Shortlist of Priority Species and Habitats, and were chosen according to:

- 1 their international, national or local conservation status
- 2 the opportunities which exist to make a real difference locally for their conservation status
- 3 the opportunities which arise for achieving wider benefits for the environment and people of B&NES.

The intention is to provide clear and achievable conservation targets which can be monitored annually. This will enable all those with an interest locally to work together on common goals. The aim is to help local action contribute effectively to the 2010 global challenge and make the most of limited resources. This process will be coordinated by the council through its support to Wildthings.

Annual work programmes will be produced for each action plan and these will help us to work together towards agreed targets and also to monitor our progress. Monitoring of these plans will be fed into BARS - the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System. New species and habitat action plans will be launched as resources allow.

### Working together

The plans are designed to be delivered in partnership through a variety of ways, including volunteer action, on-going initiatives and through new partnership projects. If you or your organization would like to get involved, or are already actively helping to conserve these species and habitats please do get in touch.





## The background

Wildthings is the biodiversity action plan process for the B&NES area. Biodiversity Action Planning is a global process that began back in 1992 when over 150 heads of state, including the UK government, signed the Biodiversity Convention. This came about in response to global declines of biodiversity, and committed those who signed up to put plans in place to safeguard and protect the biodiversity of their territories. This has led to the development of the 2010 Global Challenge to halt the loss of biodiversity.

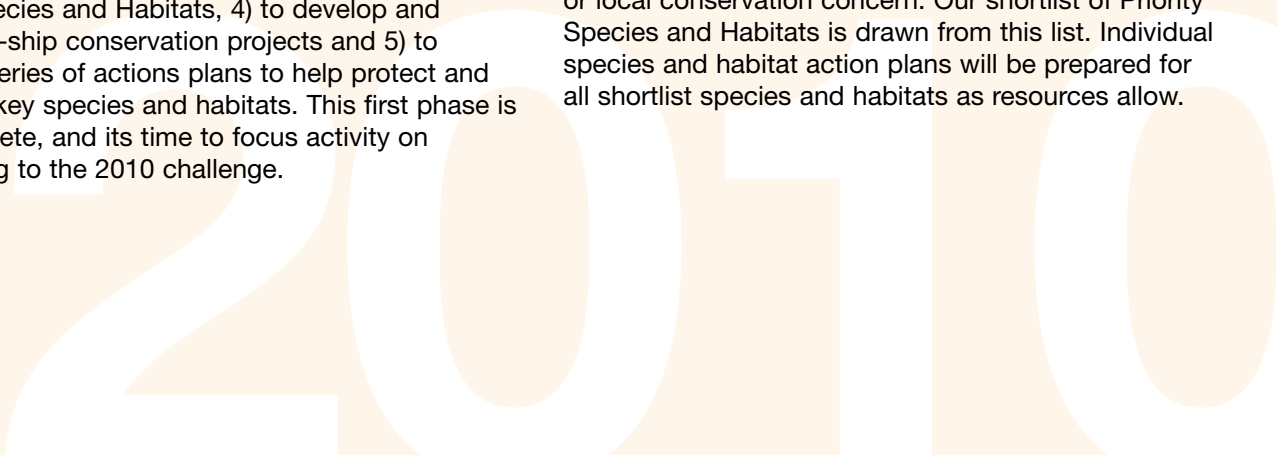
Within the UK the Biodiversity Convention has led to the production of National and Local biodiversity action plans and partnerships. The intention is to focus limited resources on those elements of our wildlife that are of greatest conservation concern, and to work together across all sectors of society efficiently, to both prevent and reverse national and local declines in biodiversity.

Phase one of Wildthings was launched back in November 2000 as part of this global process. The intentions were 1) to establish a working partnership for a local biodiversity action process, 2) to identify the most pressing issues affecting wildlife in the Bath and North East Somerset area, 3) to identify key species and habitats of greatest conservation concern – our Priority Species and Habitats, 4) to develop and launch flag-ship conservation projects and 5) to identify a series of actions plans to help protect and safeguard key species and habitats. This first phase is now complete, and its time to focus activity on contributing to the 2010 challenge.

## Wildthings achievements - Phase 1

- Wildthings partnership established
- Biodiversity issues identified through topic based action plans
- Web site launched
- List of Priority Species and Habitats established
- Dormouse surveys
- 3 Flagship projects launched – Batscapes; Wildspaces; Youth Web
- First tranche of Species and Habitat Action plans launched
- Designation of a series of Roadside Nature Reserves
- Great crested newt surveys
- Water vole and Crayfish surveys

Compiling the list of Priority Species and Habitats in B&NES has been a key Wildthings achievement. These are key species and habitats of particular importance to the Bath and North East Somerset area. They are essential components of local biodiversity. All of the species on the list are either of international, national or local conservation concern. Our shortlist of Priority Species and Habitats is drawn from this list. Individual species and habitat action plans will be prepared for all shortlist species and habitats as resources allow.





## Short List of Priority Species and Habitats

### Priority Species

- All Bat species
- Bath Asparagus
- Bee-fly
- Blue Carpenter Bee
- Chalkhill Blue Butterfly
- Dormouse
- Great Crested Newt
- Red Hemp-nettle
- Skylark
- Water Vole
- White-clawed Crayfish

### Priority Habitats

- Ancient and/or Species-rich Hedgerows
- Broadleaf Woodlands
- Post-industrial Sites
- Species-rich Arable Farmland
- Species-rich Grassland

## How to get involved

If you would like to get involved with Wildthings and help with any of the action plans please contact the Council Ecologist or have a look at the Wildthings Website: [www.wildthingsbap.org](http://www.wildthingsbap.org)

Contact details:  
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