

Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014 final report

All the actions within the plan are presented in the table below to facilitate reporting on the plan, as a whole. Most actions were completed, but some were found to be too ambitious for OBS, and were discontinued. Some actions were modified to make more achievable in the designated time-scale.

KEY	
	Complete
	Partially completed
	Discontinued
	Ongoing, no completion date set

#	Action	By When	By Whom	Comments
1	Carry out training for dormouse surveys and start surveying woodland and hedges for their presence.	2009Q1 Spring	OBS, HIOWWT	Completed with survey done 2009-2011, report at http://www.overton-biodiversity.org/resources/docs/dormouse-final.pdf .
2	Liaise with St Mary's churchwardens to instigate a management plan to maintain and improve glow worm numbers.	2009Q1 Spring	OBS	Completed.
3	Collate existing glow worm survey information and commence annual monitoring surveys.	2009Q2 Summer	OBS	Completed - Also surveys conducted 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Report at http://www.overton-biodiversity.org/resources/docs/glow-worm_report-2011.pdf .
4	Investigate the suitability of St Mary's churchyard for designation as a SINC (relict calcareous grassland and glow worm population).	2009Q2 Summer	OBS, HIOWWT, HCC	Completed - Survey conducted with HBIC report July 2010 and designation as SINC achieved.
5	Encourage development of the tree warden scheme within the village.	2009Q3 Autumn	OBS, OPC, BDBC	Completed: Adrian Lewis, David Cluett, Ken Towell
6	Work with Overton Recreation Centre to improve wildlife habitats and access to environmental facilities for groups such as scouts and guides.	2009Q3 Autumn	OBS, ORC	Completed - Bird and Bat boxes installed.
7	Set up a small nursery of young black poplar trees produced from cuttings to be available for planting in suitable locations within the parish.	2009Q4 Winter	OBS	Black Poplar "stock plants" established but subsequently died. Carry forward action to 2015-2019 BAP.
8	Liaise with Overton Garden Society to promote wildlife gardening.	2010Q1 Spring	OBS, Overton Garden Society	Little contact with OGS but David Beeson talk at 2010 AGM to promote wildlife-friendly gardening and member visit to Forest Edge gardens 20/06/2010.
9	Implement appropriate road verge cutting regimes with Hampshire County Council.	2010Q1 Spring	OBS	Verge surveys conducted 2013. No significant new areas found, so not taken further with HCC.
10	Raise awareness of bluebells as semi-ancient woodland indicator species	2010Q1 Spring	OBS	Completed.
11	Survey road verges and any associated banks for wildlife interest	2010Q2 Summer	OBS	Completed 2012/2013.
12	Work with Overton Recreation Centre to improve hedgerows at Town Meadow.	2010Q2 Summer	OBS, ORC	Some planting and regrowth has been achieved. No further actions by OBS considered necessary.
13	Identify and where possible arrange surveys of floodplain grazing marsh and fen areas to identify wildlife interest.	2010Q3 Autumn	OBS, HIOWWT	Land Use Map examined and updated. Note watervoles at Polhampton.
14	Seek SINC designation for appropriate roadside verges.	2010Q3 Autumn	OBS	Completed - no candidates identified
15	Raise awareness of local butterfly and moth species.	2010Q3 Autumn	OBS	Moth trapping evenings and butterfly conservation talk 12/01/2013. Summary of butterfly and moth sightings on website.
16	Organise hedge laying courses to improve availability of skilled volunteers within the community.	2010Q3 Autumn	OBS, HIOWWT	Completed 2012 Q1 based on Little Meadow hedge.
17	Encourage school, scouts and guides to make and put up dormouse boxes.	2011Q1 Spring	OBS	Discontinued. But see #22 below
18	Liaise with recreational landowners and managers to carry out wildlife surveys on their land e.g. Test Valley Golf Course – hedgerows and ponds.	2011Q1 Spring	OBS, HIOWWT	Completed for Town Meadow, HBIC survey date July 2010. TVGC hedgerow previously surveyed.
19	Identify and survey remaining areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland within the parish and identify candidates for SINC status.	2011 Q3 Autumn	OBS, HIOWWT	None identified as meeting criteria.
20	Identify hedgerows which would qualify for SINC status.	2011 Q3 Autumn	OBS, HIOWWT	None identified as meeting criteria.
21	Train volunteers to become licensed dormouse handlers.	2012Q2 Summer	OBS, HIOWWT	Too ambitious. Any box monitoring will be undertaken by a licensed handler.
22	Set up and monitor dormouse nest box survey area.	Summer 2012 and ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT	Nest boxes installed on Harrow Way. 19/6/13 survey found no activity.
23	Carry out butterfly and moth surveys to identify local species and habitats.	2012 Q3 Autumn	OBS.	Butterfly talk January 12 to stimulate interest. Garden Butterfly Sighting Record proforma produced and distributed at AGM March 2014. Summary of butterfly and moth sightings on website.
24	Approach landowners to carry out surveys of the conservation value of the wood pasture areas and parkland areas identified.	2013 Q2 Summer	OBS	Modify to "identify areas of wood pasture (opposite "Chalkies" on C29) and parkland" (possibly at Berrydown Court).

25	Carry out further surveys to monitor the population of water voles.	2013Q3 Autumn	OBS	Survey Autumn 2014. Estimated number sharp decline on 2006. Schedule re-surveying into 2015-2019 BAP.
26	Identify and where possible arrange surveys of eutrophic standing water areas within the parish.	2013Q3 Autumn	OBS	Areas of eutrophic standing water identified (old watercress beds at Polhampton).
27	Identify and where possible arrange surveys of floodplain grazing marsh areas to identify wildlife interest and types of habitat.	2013Q3 Autumn	OBS, HIOWWT	Delete as repeat of 13.
28	Protect vulnerable hedgerow trees via TPOs if they meet the necessary criteria.	2014Q1 Spring amend to ongoing	OBS, BDBC	TPOs no longer preferred route to protect non-threatened trees.
29	Monitor kingfisher numbers and territories.	2014Q2 Summer	OBS, BTO	Alan Willis consulted about known kingfisher sightings / numbers Spring 2014 (not possible to identify numbers/territories due to flexible nature of kingfisher territories).
30	Monitor farmland bird numbers in selected locations comparing organically farmed and conventionally farmed areas.	2014Q4 Winter	OBS, BTO	Survey too ambitious for OBS members: insufficient resources and expertise.
31	Encourage the planting of new woodland adjacent to existing areas of mixed deciduous woodland and as linking belts between them.	Ongoing	OBS, FC, BDBC	If opportunity arises. (Laverstoke Estate/Environment Agency clearing grazing fen area September 2014).
32	Continue to identify "veteran" trees within the parish and apply for tree preservation orders on trees under threat if they meet the necessary criteria.	Ongoing	OBS	Tree Wardens to take forward, linked with 28. Recording of Ash for any signs of dieback Summer / Autumn 2013 and ongoing.
33	Raise awareness of eutrophic standing water areas and their value for wildlife with landowners and the public.	Ongoing	OBS	If opportunity arises. (Laverstoke Estate/Environment Agency clearing grazing fen area September 2014).
34	Promote the importance of the River Test and its associated habitats and species to landowners, borough and parish councillors, schools and community groups.	Ongoing	OBS	Results of first Watervole survey reported on OBS website at http://www.overton-biodiversity.org/resources/docs/water-vole-survey.pdf distributed to relevant landowners.
35	Help landowners to improve conservation status of the river by organising practical conservation work such as scrub removal.	Ongoing	OBS, BTCV	If requested.
36	Raise awareness of the issues associated with Himalayan Balsam and other non-native alien species and engage in practical conservation work to prevent spread.	Ongoing	OBS	Alison Cross talk on alien species, November 2014).
37	Help landowners to improve conservation status of the river by organising practical conservation work such as scrub removal.	Ongoing	OBS, BTCV	Mark as discontinued as repeat of #35.
38	Raise awareness of the importance of floodplain grazing marsh to wildlife conservation in the area.	Ongoing	OBS	If opportunity arises. (Laverstoke Estate/Environment Agency clearing grazing fen area September 2014).
39	Identify any areas of rare arable plants and encourage their conservation.	Ongoing	OBS, FWAG	Action if any identified.
40	Continue surveying hedgerows within the parish with a particular emphasis on hedgerows at risk and species rich or ancient hedgerows.	Ongoing	OBS	Top 5 biodiverse and 'at risk' hedgerows re-surveyed Spring / Summer 2014 to assess condition. One 'at risk' hedge lost to housing development. Repeat surveying to be built into 2015-2019 BAP.
41	Raise awareness of the importance of hedges in linking habitats together and for encouraging species such as dormice.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT	
42	Encourage and assist the planting of new hedgerows or renovating old ones particularly linking existing hedgerows and woodland and also in community areas such as Town Meadow.	Ongoing	OBS, HIOWWT, BDBC, FWAG	If appropriate. Town Meadow now OK.
43	Encourage the planting and maintenance of hedges within the village to improve urban habitats.	Ongoing	OBS, OPC	Little Meadow hedge laid Spring 2012.
44	Work with Overton Parish Council to maintain and improve the value for wildlife of their recreational areas.	Ongoing	OBS, OPC	Little Meadow maintenance and development.
45	Act as an information source for gardeners wishing to improve to encourage garden wildlife.	Ongoing	OBS	Respond to queries.
46	Continue to arrange visits to wildlife gardens.	Ongoing	OBS	Andover Down visit 20/6/2010.
47	Liaise with landowners, Environment Agency and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to encourage correct riverside bank management.	Ongoing	OBS, EA	Provide water vole report to new occupants of Old Rectory August 2014.
48	Encourage landowners to monitor the presence of mink and arrange for control where necessary.	Ongoing	OBS	No mink as otters spotted.
49	Raise public awareness of dormice and the need to preserve their habitats.	Ongoing	OBS	
50	Raise public awareness of kingfishers and their importance as a symbol of the health of the River Test.	Ongoing	OBS	Alan Willis talk 17/05/12.
51	Raise the awareness of the local community about the significance of the black poplar.	Ongoing	OBS	Black Poplar referred to in Fields and River walk leaflet and highlighted on numerous guided and bird walks.
52	Encourage the planting of black poplars in suitable sites within the river valley.	Ongoing	OBS	Young trees grown for cutting production but subsequently died.
53	Work with gardeners and landowners to improve habitats for butterflies and moths.	Ongoing	OBS	Butterfly talk January 2012 to stimulate interest. Moth trap evenings. Garden butterfly recording Spring / Summer 2014.