

B O R O U G H O F L U T O N



Nature Conservation Strategy

DECEMBER 1992

LUTON





Preface

This document has been prepared to assist in the action being taken to improve Nature Conservation within the Borough of Luton. It has been the subject of public consultation and has been modified to reflect the responses of local and national organisations and individuals.

The principles and proposals outlined in the Strategy will be incorporated into the Borough of Luton Local Plan currently under preparation. This document, however, contains more detailed advice in respect of nature conservation issues and will be used as a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications which come before the Borough Council as Local Planning Authority for the area.

It has been prepared with the assistance of specialist officers from the Borough Council's Department of Leisure and Amenities and an officer on secondment from English Nature. The assistance of the Wildlife Project (Luton and Dunstable) and other organisations from time to time is also gratefully acknowledged.

2nd December 1992

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Introduction

1.1 Urban areas like Luton are not usually associated with wildlife. In Luton's case, where the surrounding countryside is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the contrast between town and countryside can be very marked. However, wildlife can be found in all towns, not only at special sites such as Local Nature Reserves or sites of nature conservation interest, but in woods, parks, grass verges, gardens and abandoned land and buildings.

1.2 The Borough Council is directly involved in undertaking protection, maintenance and enhancement of the town's environment. In policy terms the Planning system, through statutory Local Plans and the Development Control process, guides the overall development of the town and encourages a positive attitude towards the environment. The Borough Council also manages land in its ownership. However, other bodies and individuals also have an important role to play whether this is through concern about the environment or through active participation in projects or in local environmental groups.

1.3 This document is a single subject based study which is intended to be used as a reference guide to assist the Borough Council, local organisations and individuals alike. It therefore includes policies relating to planning and other corporate activities of the Borough Council, as well as encouraging and commending where appropriate the involvement of groups such as the Wildlife Project. Reference should, therefore, be made to the Borough Council's four existing area Local Plans which provide the statutory framework. It is intended that this document will be used as a foundation upon which to base policies relating to nature conservation in the Borough of Luton Local Plan and will be used as additional advice on such issues.

1.4 Nature conservation is only one of many wider environmental issues, for example pollution or use of resources. All such environmental issues are interrelated, however, it is beyond the scope of this Strategy to consider all concerns and this is why a single subject approach has been taken. This approach does not ignore wider concerns but seeks to highlight one - nature conservation.

Why is Nature Conservation Important in Urban Areas?

1.5 Nature conservation is important for a number of reasons including the consideration of wildlife and geological features and providing wider benefits, such as the creation of a better environment. In addition there are economic benefits, because towns are both living and working environments. Urban nature conservation is about **wildlife and people living together**.

1.6 As the countryside comes under increasing pressure with the use of modern farming practices, for example use of pesticides and fertilisers and the loss of hedgerows, small pockets of wildlife habitats in urban areas are becoming increasingly important. The urban environment can provide a small scale representation of the wider countryside with a variety of habitats in a relatively small area. Within Luton a number of habitats exist which are locally and nationally scarce. Wetland is scarce throughout Bedfordshire and chalk grassland is nationally uncommon, however, most of Bedfordshire's chalk grassland is concentrated in the Luton area.

Economic Benefits:

1.7 The provision of a better environment through the sympathetic management of green space is of direct benefit to the local economy. It creates an image which is attractive to employers and employees already in the area and also helps to attract new investment to the town. It is, therefore, a subject of importance to the promotion of economic development. Nature Conservation also helps to enhance Luton's overall "sense of place" and attraction to visitors and tourism in general.

Community Benefits:

1.8 Nature conservation also has benefits for individuals and the local community. Individuals can take pleasure in viewing the natural world. Open spaces, in particular, provide amenity for local residents and any open space can have a dual role by also providing a wildlife habitat. Management of sites for nature conservation provides a way in which local communities can be involved in their own area and, therefore, begin to take pride in their environment. In addition, areas managed for nature conservation provide a valuable resource for education, not only for schools but also for individuals and groups in the community. In Luton, community involvement in nature conservation is particularly important. Work in encouraging public is being carried out by a number of local organisations, for example, the Luton and Dunstable Wildlife Project.

Environmental Benefits:

1.9 Green space environments within urban areas are of key ecological significance. Trees act as filters of dust, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, thus helping to reduce pollution. Areas of grass and planting can help to reduce problems of rapid rainwater run off which can otherwise create problems such as erosion. Carefully placed landscaping can also help to reduce the impact of development, both visually through screening and, if noise is a problem, through the abatement properties of planting.

1.10 Consideration at the local level of conservation issues is also important in much broader terms. Luton cannot be viewed in isolation from national or even global issues. These global issues include the loss of habitats, loss of species and the use of natural resources and pollution. Activity at the local level can be a small step both to arriving at an understanding of the problems and to becoming involved. It is all too easy to become distanced from such problems. By understanding nature conservation at local sites, the global issues can be put into a local context.

Why is Nature Conservation so important in Luton?

1.11 Habitats are still being lost at a local and national level and it is increasingly important to maintain and enhance the local environment that remains. There is a growing awareness by individuals, groups and local authorities that each has a role to perform as custodians of the environment. In national terms, Luton is amongst a growing number of Local Authorities which have produced nature conservation strategies.

1.12 Although nature conservation is important at a national level, there are a number of reasons specific to Luton which underline why a nature conservation strategy is needed to provide clear guidelines for the protection of the Borough's wildlife:

- (i) There is a need to establish the nature and extent of the town's remaining natural environmental resources, in a single document. The Borough Council, other bodies, for example the Wildlife Project and English Nature and individuals, such as the late Dr. Dony, a local botanist, have all identified key sites of wildlife interest.
- (ii) Within the Borough Council, there are a number of departments dealing with Nature Conservation issues. For example, management and maintenance of Borough Council owned sites lies with the Department of Leisure and Amenities and Recreation Services Committee, whilst the Department of Planning and Development and the Planning Committee prepare the statutory Local Plans which contain the long term policies relating to Nature Conservation that provide a framework for day to day development control decisions. This latter department also deals with applications for grant aid for certain conservation works, for example scrub clearance at Galley & Warden Hills. Other Borough Council departments are also involved as owners of land.

Several external groups, particularly the Wildlife Project, a local section of the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, are also active and undertaking work. The Wildlife Project has a remit to promote and enhance the natural environment of Luton and South Bedfordshire for the benefit of wildlife, people and future generations and to provide opportunities for community involvement in caring for their local environment. The Borough Council and the Wildlife Project work in partnership on a number of projects.

There is, therefore, a need for a single strategy which identifies overall aims and objectives and also priorities for action for all organisations and departments of the Council.

- (iii) There are several levels of policy currently in operation and these are outlined in further detail. Drawing these together within a single "subject" document is in itself useful. The Nature Conservation Strategy is, therefore, a unifying document bringing together issues of resource and environmental awareness, activities of organisations and individuals and a policy framework. The Strategy seeks to provide a consolidated approach to nature conservation issues in the Borough.

Details of the role and activities of the departments and organisations outlined above are contained in Appendix A.

Policy Framework

1.13 In compiling this document, particular account has been taken of the following:

- (1) National Guidance
- (2) Planning Policy: The County Structure Plan and the four existing Borough Council Local Plans;
- (3) The Borough Council's Corporate "Greening Strategy";
- (4) The Wildlife Project's (Luton & Dunstable) "Action Plan";
- (5) The County Council's "Bedfordshire's Countryside: A Strategy for Action";
- (6) English Nature's Bedfordshire Nature Conservation Strategy.

The background and context of these related documents may be summarised as follows:

(1) National Guidance

1.14 The Government provides guidance on environmental and, more particularly, nature conservation issues on a number of levels. The Government's approach to the environment is contained in "This Common Inheritance". More specific guidance on nature conservation issues is contained in Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note on Nature Conservation (currently in draft). As indicated previously nature conservation cannot be viewed in isolation and, therefore, more general guidance is contained in Policy Planning Guidance Note 1 "General Policy and Principles" and Policy Planning Guidance Note 12 "Development Plans and Regional Planning Guidance".

1.15 English Nature is a statutory body which achieves, enables and promotes nature conservation in England. The organisation provides advice and information on nature conservation issues and also works in partnership with a wide range of organisations including Government, representative bodies, agencies and voluntary organisations.

(2) Planning Policy

1.16 The County Structure Plan for Bedfordshire has recently been amended by the Secretary of State for the Environment and gives much greater weight to environmental concerns and particular significance to landscape and wildlife issues, particularly the protection of existing wildlife and landscape but also the creation of new habitats. For reference purposes the policies are outlined in Appendix B.

1.17 At the District level, four local plans exist which combine to cover the Borough. Those policies already relating to nature conservation are also outlined in Appendix C. A Borough wide Local Plan is already being prepared and the draft policy is also contained in Appendix C. This Nature Conservation Strategy gives additional guidance to that contained within the existing Statutory Local Plans and is intended to form part of the preliminary process of formulating the Borough wide Local Plan. Incorporation of relevant policies from the Nature Conservation Strategy into the Local Plan will ultimately give the Strategy much greater weight. After the adoption

of the Borough wide Local Plan, the Strategy will continue to provide additional information and guidance.

(3) The “Greening Strategy”

1.18 The Luton Greening Strategy and Action Plan was prepared by the Borough Council in 1989 and provides the Borough’s corporate approach to the “greening” of Luton. Whilst the Greening Strategy document deals with wider environmental issues, and is in essence an “umbrella” document, the importance of green spaces is highlighted in its “Green Plan” section. The document stresses the need:

“to protect, encourage and provide for wildlife as far as practicable in the urban area and its surrounds, undertaking further ecological surveys, protecting existing habitats and creating new local nature reserves as appropriate and in conjunction with the, (then) Nature Conservancy Council, Borough Council, and other interested organisations, to put forward a Nature Conservation Strategy for the Borough.”

The “Greening Strategy” is being implemented through a number of initiatives such as recycling programmes, environmental enhancement schemes and improvements in activities such as street cleansing. The Nature Conservation Strategy, therefore, also forms another element of the “Greening Strategy”.

(4) The Luton and Dunstable Wildlife Project Action Plan

1.19 The Wildlife Project is a charitable trust working within the voluntary sector which has an important role to play in nature conservation issues in the Borough. The Project has prepared an “Action Plan” for five key sites in the town which outlines programmes of action for these sites. The sites are Dallow Downs, Leagrave Marsh, Cowslip Meadow, Bradger’s Hill and the River Lea Corridor. The Action Plan promotes Luton’s natural heritage.

1.20 The Action Plan is being used as the basis of a joint approach by the Project and the Borough Council on a number of initiatives.

(5) Bedfordshire’s Countryside

1.21 In 1990, the County Council prepared “Bedfordshire’s Countryside: A Strategy for Action”, a document outlining a policy framework for maintaining and enhancing the countryside. The relevant policies to this strategy are outlined in Appendix C. However two key policies should be highlighted, namely CM5, outlining the preparation of a Nature Conservation Strategy for the County and CM7, which refers to the setting up of the Luton and Dunstable Countryside Project dealing with issues in the urban fringe. These two policies have been implemented with the preparation of a County Strategy by English Nature and the setting up of the Luton & Dunstable Countryside Project to deal with issues relating to the urban fringe.

(6) Bedfordshire County Nature Conservation Strategy

1.22 A Nature Conservation Strategy for the County as a whole is under preparation by the English Nature and a consultation draft is expected shortly. This document stresses the importance of conserving and enhancing the County’s remaining habitats, together with the need to restore and create habitats and attempts to identify means by which such goals can be achieved. The County Strategy deals

in general with the entire spectrum of habitat types in Bedfordshire whilst the Luton Strategy deals more directly with urban problems, issues and initiatives. The County Strategy also outlines a number of priority areas for consideration and these include the Chalk Downland in the South of the County, of which there are several good examples within the Borough and in South Bedfordshire, but in Borough Council ownership.

Aims

1.23 The preceding sections have indicated the reasons why a Nature Conservation Strategy is needed and have given an outline of the background to the Strategy. The Aims of this Strategy are therefore as follows:

1. To identify and protect species and existing habitats and their associated flora and fauna and to ensure their correct management.
2. To identify and promote opportunities for enhancing the wildlife resource of existing areas and for the provision of additional wildlife habitats.
3. To protect and enhance a basic network of open space and linear habitats.
4. To identify and monitor the Borough's natural resources and the policy background to nature conservation in a single subject document and to provide a framework for the activities of the Borough Council, local groups and other organisations.
5. To generate interest in natural history and the environment and to encourage community involvement in the management, employment and creation of sites and to make areas of wildlife interest accessible to all people within the Borough.



Luton's Environment

2.1 The centre of Luton lies in a broad river valley near the headwaters of the River Lea, with the western and eastern fringes of the town spreading up the valley sides onto the surrounding chalk downland. Luton's natural environment consists of a varied range of wildlife habitats and public open space dispersed throughout the Borough. The habitats include the River Lea, and its associated wildlife, and substantial areas of chalk grassland that survive as remnants of the rolling Chiltern Hills. Other habitats include woodland, wetland, parkland, arable land and abandoned land, loosely interconnected by roadside verges, private gardens, cemeteries railway embankments and river corridors. Collectively, these habitats support a rich and diverse community of plants and animals.

2.2 The Borough of Luton covers an area of 4,336 hectares. Just over 13% (584 hectares) of this area is open space, of which more than half (331 hectares) can be regarded as important for wildlife nature conservation. A habitat survey of the Borough was carried out in 1988/89 by the Luton and Dunstable Wildlife Project. A survey of the flora of Luton, undertaken over the past four years by the late Dr John G. Dony, was published in 1991. The main habitat types that have been identified are listed in the following table and diagrams and are shown on the enclosed plan.

Table of habitat types in the Borough of Luton

| Habitat | Area (hectares) | % Luton Borough | % Open Space |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Cemetery | 10 | 0.2 | 2 |
| Grassland | 82 (129) | 1.9 | 14 |
| Open Water | 2 | 0.1 | 1 |
| Parkland | 125 | 2.9 | 21 |
| Riverside | 28 | 0.6 | 4 |
| Derelict Land | 32 | 0.7 | 5 |
| Wetland | 10 | 0.2 | 2 |
| Woodland | 42 (60) | 1.0 | 7 |
| Total Habitats | 331 (396) | 7.6 | 56 |
| Total Amenity Space | 253 | 5.8 | 44 |
| Total Open Space | 584 | 13.4 | 100.00 |
| Area Luton Borough | 4,336 | | |

(figures in brackets include sites or part sites outside Luton Borough but owned by the Borough Council)

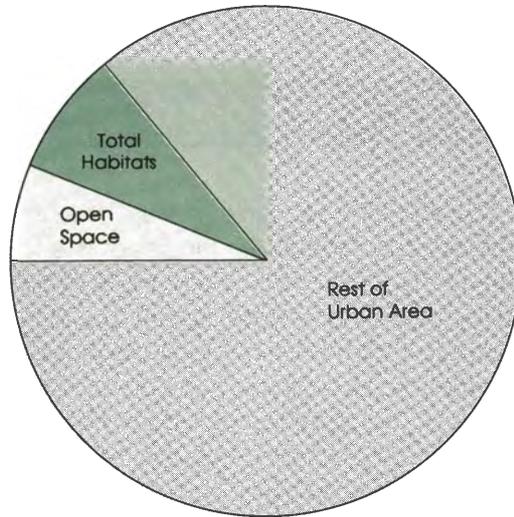


Fig. 1. Percentage area of habitat types in the Borough of Luton

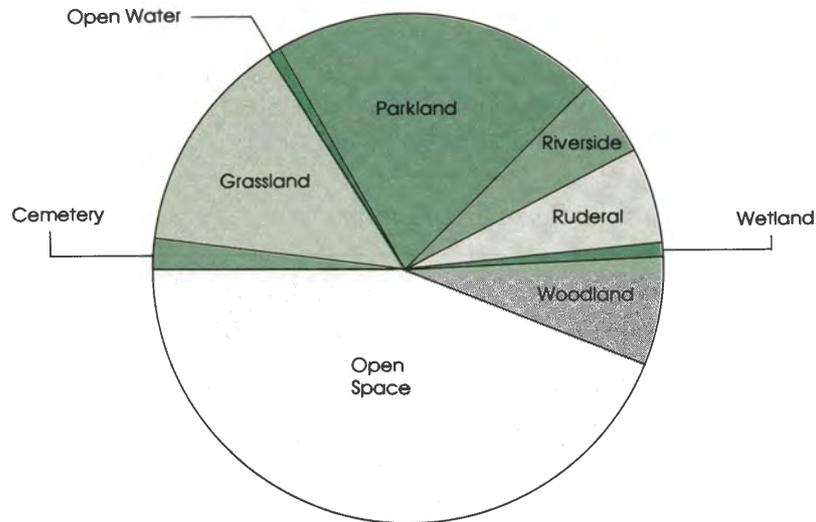


Fig. 2. Percentage area of habitat within open space in the Borough

Geology

2.3 Luton lies on the eastern part of the Chiltern dipslope, a ridge of chalk upland laid down some 120 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. The underlying rock-type in Luton is Middle Chalk, overlain in places by gravels, sands and clays deposited some 2 million years ago in the Pleistocene period. Dominant amongst these superficial deposits are the brickearths in the east of Luton, exploited in the 19th century by the local brick industry, and river gravels immediately adjacent to the River Lea.

Grassland

2.4 One of the dominant habitat types is chalk grassland, accounting for 82 hectares within the Borough. A further 47 hectares in Borough Council ownership lies immediately adjacent to but outside the Borough boundary at Galley and Warden Hills. This site supports numerous nationally and locally rare species, such as great pignut, which is a member of the parsley family, and purple milk-vetch.

2.5 Within the Borough, the main chalk grassland sites include Dallow Downs and Bradgers Hill. These sites consist largely of grassland with a number of small areas of woodland. Dallow Downs is a plant-rich site, with a variety of orchid species having been recorded, e.g., fragrant orchid, bee orchid, common-spotted orchid and common twayblade, together with typical chalk grassland species such as horseshoe vetch, kidney vetch, yellow-wort, common milkwort and pale toadflax. It also has the nationally rare great pignut, which is locally common in the Luton area. In the woodland area there occurs another local orchid, the white helleborine, together with other interesting species such as moschatel, yellow archangel, wild cherry and hornbeam.

2.6 The longest system of medieval strip lynchets in the county can be found at Bradgers Hill. Comprising areas of dense scrub and open chalk grassland, the site is currently being managed to further increase its areas of open chalk turf. Like many other similar sites in the area it has a good range of typical calcareous plant species including kidney vetch, horseshoe vetch, thyme, rockrose, common spotted orchid, bee orchid and great pignut.

Woodland

2.7 As with chalk grassland habitats, woodland in the Borough is particularly rich, accounting for 42 hectares with a further 18 hectares lying just outside the Borough boundary. This provides a valuable refuge not only for birds but also for larger animals, such as muntjac deer and foxes, and nationally declining groups such as bats. Bedfordshire, with less than 5% of its total area under woodland, is one of the least wooded counties in England. Luton's woodland habitats are thus an important element of the natural environment in Bedfordshire.

2.8 Bramingham Wood is the main area of woodland in Luton. This is a large ancient woodland site dominated by oak-ash coppice together with a large contribution of field maple. The shape and size of the wood does not appear to have altered at all, even from the earliest known map of Luton; surveyed by Jefferys in 1765. The wood is now being brought back into coppice management by the Woodland Trust as one of the UK's first Community Woodlands. Interesting plants include the local and uncommon moschatel and broad-leaved helleborine, together with lady fern, common twayblade and wood anemone.

2.9 Other areas of woodland in Luton include Rotten Corner Wood, Slaughter's Wood, Hay Wood and part of Waulud's Bank. Rotten Corner is an area of mixed deciduous woodland adjacent to Leagrave Marsh and bordering the River Lea. Along its margin with the River Lea is one of the few areas of alder carr in the north Chilterns, within which occurs one of only two natural examples of bay willow in Bedfordshire. Slaughter's Wood is a 4 hectare woodland comprising mainly oak and hornbeam, a woodland type which is reasonably common in neighbouring Hertfordshire, but rare in Bedfordshire. Hay Wood, which lies in the grounds of Stopsley Recreation Centre, is a small relic of what was formerly a larger woodland, and like some of the other small woodlands in Luton Borough, is possibly of ancient origin. On the south-eastern section of Waulud's Bank, a prehistoric monument east of Leagrave Marsh, is a coppice mainly of elm. This is the food plant of the white-letter hairstreak butterfly, an uncommon species, which in the past has been recorded from nearby Leagrave Common and which may still persist in this coppice.

Parks

2.10 Parkland areas make up the largest area of habitat within Luton, comprising 125 hectares. Many of these parkland areas, notably Stockwood Park and Wardown Park, are managed along traditional lines i.e., regular close cutting of grass, removal of dead or dying trees and formal planting of flowerbeds. However, they do provide an invaluable wildlife resource which is easily accessible to the public, giving the opportunity to see animals such as wild fowl and squirrels at close quarters. These areas also offer the greatest opportunities for habitat creation in under used areas of parkland.

Open water, riverside and wetland habitats

2.11 Wetland habitats in the Borough total 12 hectares and comprise two main areas of marshland, namely Leagrave Marsh and Cowslip Meadow, various lakes and ponds, and the open water and waters-edge areas of the River Lea and its tributaries. Wetland habitats are rare in Bedfordshire and are under serious threat nationally. These habitats in Luton, in particular the River Lea and its margins, are important 'linear habitats' which often link areas of grassland, woodland and parkland.

2.12 Cowslip Meadow is a fairly large area of wetland and grassland with a small stream running through it. It supports a good population of cowslips as well as the nationally rare, but locally common, great pignut. Probably the most important plant at this site, however, is the southern marsh orchid, a wetland orchid which is rare in Bedfordshire and nationally uncommon. The marsh also supports a number of amphibians including toad, common frog, smooth newt and great-crested newt. It also has kingfishers, and reputedly has had bearded tits, though this latter record requires confirmation.

2.13 Leagrave Marsh is a small but interesting area of wetland, subject to periodic flooding by the River Lea. A natural and highly unusual feature of this site is a small raised area of chalk grassland which occurs in the middle of the site. The marshland supports an interesting variety of wildlife, including almond willow (a local species in Bedfordshire), marsh horsetail, yellow iris, water forget-me-not, ragged robin and marsh marigold; kingfisher, various wildfowl, grass snake and common frog.

2.14 River margins, although not strictly wetland habitats, are often subject to periodic flooding and frequently support damp-loving communities of animals and plants that are intolerant of drier conditions. In Luton, river margins comprise 28 hectares, chiefly along the River Lea and its tributaries.

Derelict land

2.15 Derelict land is land which has been abandoned for one of many reasons. Unlike virtually all other types of habitat it provides an important refuge for communities of early colonising annual plant species, which complete their life-cycle within one season. Such habitats are usually herb-rich, fairly devoid of perennial grasses, and usually support fairly distinct and specialised insects. Whilst it is difficult, if not impossible to manage such habitats, they do often provide some of the richest wildlife areas within the urban environment and should not be underestimated in their contribution to the wildlife interest of the area. These areas can develop naturally into important habitats that financially cost little to create.

Cemeteries and churchyards

2.16 Luton has two main cemeteries and two churchyards which are of nature conservation interest. Totalling approximately 10 hectares they comprise Church Cemetery, the General Cemetery, Biscot Churchyard and Stopsley Churchyard. Such areas play a valuable part in urban conservation, offering not only quiet undisturbed areas for wildlife, but where little or no grounds maintenance is carried out, a variety of smaller habitats such as pockets of wild flowers between graves, or even the tombstones themselves, which may support rare and unusual lichens and mosses etc. A recent discovery at one cemetery in Luton has been a large and expanding population of the local, winter heliotrope, a species not recorded from any other site in the Borough.

Arable

2.17 Although surprising for an urban area, Luton does contain sizeable areas of arable land to the north-east of the town. Whilst much of this land may be relatively inhospitable to the majority of wildlife, it does offer a large area of ground for feeding and shelter, particularly for birds, mammals, ground insects and other invertebrates. Such areas also provide important corridors for the movement of wildlife, for example hedgerows, particularly when linking sites of nature conservation interest, and with set-a-side and headland management, can actually be used to encourage and promote wildlife.

Houses, private gardens and allotment land

2.18 This category of habitat is all too easily overlooked when considering wildlife conservation and habitat availability, largely because it is the most difficult to assess both in terms of area or quality. However, for urban conservation it is probably one of the most important types of habitat offering an infinite range of habitats, a huge range of plant species which may be used for food and shelter, and where ponds occur, often the only areas of standing water for frogs, toads and newts. Add to this the complex mosaic that is created by gardens and allotments, and it is easy to appreciate the importance of this type of habitat.

Commercial sites, roads and railways

2.19 This category includes disused areas in factory sites, roadside verges, railway cuttings and other similar areas. Like gardens and allotments they are difficult to assess in terms of size and quality, but in general may often be regarded as comprising areas that have been neglected for many years and consequently have a well established flora largely comprising perennial species, although there will be some overlap with more recently cleared areas as outlined in section 2.14 above. As well as having their own inherent wildlife interest, these areas undoubtedly play a very important role in providing routeways for the movement of wildlife around the town and should be maintained where possible.



The Nature Conservation Strategy

3.1 This Section outlines the policies of the Nature Conservation Strategy. An "Action Plan" for implementation of the policies is outlined in the following chapter. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the Nature Conservation Strategy Map.

General Statement

3.2 Nature conservation and the consideration of issues relating to the environment are of direct importance to the future well-being of Luton. The Borough Council has already identified a number of environmental issues in its "Greening Strategy" and has targetted implementation measures through the associated "Greening Action Plan". Particular encouragement has also been given to the participation and activity of other organisations, including other statutory bodies, community groups and individuals. A similar approach needs to be taken to nature conservation issues, therefore:

NC 1 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THAT NATURE CONSERVATION ISSUES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN ALL ASPECTS OF ITS ACTIVITY AND WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS TO GIVE EQUAL CONSIDERATION TO SUCH ISSUES.

3.3 Although nature conservation needs to be considered throughout the Borough Council's activities, there are specific areas of responsibility such as the planning process and management of land in its ownership, where a more pro-active role can be taken.

The Planning Process

3.4 The planning process has an important role to play in the protection and enhancement of the town's wildlife resources and townscape. In many cases, it takes the leading role providing the statutory basis for site protection and enhancement. An awareness of nature conservation is important in the preparation of Development Plans and other non statutory documents such as Development Briefs. Some habitats are irreplaceable and are of national significance and these are protected by other legislation. Statutory designations apply such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR). However, the nearest designated SSSI and LNR lies outside the Borough boundary at Galley and Warden Hills. Maintenance and protection of these sites is of key importance and will continue to be pursued through the Borough Council's ownership and through resisting development pressure within the Borough which may adversely affect these areas.

3.5 Within the Development Plan context, a number of key sites have already been identified as important. These have been identified as Prime Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and are shown on the attached Nature Conservation Strategy Map as well as in the Statutory Local Plans. PSNCI represent the top tier of wildlife sites outside the Site of Special Scientific Interest network and, therefore, represent sites of County wildlife importance. Together SSSI and PSNCI form the key areas for nature conservation within the County.

3.6 Clearly, whilst the Council would wish to protect important nature conservation sites from development there are occasions where development has to be permitted because of an overriding need. The definition of need will be different for each level of designation. Normally first tier sites such as SSSIs will only be developed in the case of an overriding national need and second tier sites such as PSNCI will only be developed in the case of an overriding regional need.

NC 2 THE COUNCIL WILL NOT GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR AN DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY DESTROY OR ADVERSELY AFFECT A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE OR A SITE OF CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE AS IDENTIFIED ON THE STRATEGY MAP UNLESS AN OVERRIDING NEED IS SHOWN.

Species Protection

3.7 Whilst the Borough Council has identified particular areas of nature conservation interest in the Borough, there are also particular species which are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, the Badger Act, 1991, and other legislation. The most likely protected species with which people will come into contact is bats and advice is available from the Bedfordshire Bat Group. Therefore:

NC 3 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL NOT GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON SPECIES PROTECTED BY LAW.

Green Network

3.8 Although a number of key sites have been identified on the Nature Conservation Strategy Map, the protection of the sites not only depends on their maintenance, but also on the provision of linkages to other sites and the wider countryside. Small isolated wildlife communities, even if protected, are more vulnerable than large areas. Linkages can be open spaces forming stepping stones or corridors such as road verges. Such links, whilst helping to maintain diversity, also encourage wildlife throughout the urban area. These sites can have both statutory and non-statutory designations.

3.9 The "Greening Strategy" contained a "Green Plan" in which key sites and corridors have been highlighted in broad brush form. In many cases the corridors and open areas are easily identified, but may need to be enhanced. Therefore, a basic "green network" based on the "Green Plan" and including open space, stepping stones and corridors has been identified on the Strategy Map. The green network includes those sites which have been designated as having known wildlife interest, interlinking corridors and other areas of land with actual or potential conservation value. Further corridors and sites are likely to be identified in the future and all sites will need to be monitored carefully.

3.10 Defining and safeguarding a green network will also help to ensure that local residents continue to enjoy access to open space for recreational and educational purposes close to their homes. In addition opportunities to enhance the ecological value of the green spaces and green linkages in the future will be safeguarded.

3.11 For the avoidance of doubt, there is not a presumption against development in all areas identified as part of the green network. However, where development is proposed, every effort will be made to encourage retention of existing trees, hedgerows and other natural features and it is recognised that new development may also offer opportunities for habitat creation or environmental enhancement of sites.

3.12 The River Lea and its tributaries, Houghton Brook and Lewsey Brook, are very important corridors. There is great scope for their enhancement for nature conservation purposes. The National Rivers Authority also recognises the importance of the river system for such purposes. Therefore:

NC 4 THE NETWORK OF STEPPING STONES AND GREEN LINKAGES SHOWN ON THE NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY MAP WILL NORMALLY BE PROTECTED FROM ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD SEVER OR DETRACT FROM THEIR PREDOMINANTLY OPEN NATURE AND THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE THE ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THESE AREAS TO INCREASE THEIR WILDLIFE INTEREST.

Development Criteria

3.13 Development Plans can protect particular sites, where they are identified. The system can also take a more pro-active part in enhancement of the landscape, in protection of existing features of interest such as hedgerows and through Tree Preservation Orders, and in appropriate cases, by encouraging developers to create new habitats or to use native species in landscaping schemes. Therefore:

NC 5 WHEN PROPOSING OR CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT, THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL IN GENERAL:

- (1) ENCOURAGE ALL DEVELOPERS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF NATURE CONSERVATION ISSUES IN PLANNING APPLICATIONS;
- (2) PROTECT EXISTING FEATURES SUCH AS TREES HEDGEROWS, WATER FEATURES AND AREAS OF SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION OR ,WHERE LOSS CANNOT BE PREVENTED, REQUIRE REPLACEMENT ELSEWHERE;
- (3) ENCOURAGE THE USE OF NATIVE LOCAL SPECIES IN LANDSCAPING SCHEMES IN APPROPRIATE CASES.

Building and Site Design

3.14 Through the planning system, the Borough Council encourages, as far as possible, the protection of existing features and use of native local plants in new landscaping. The planning system also offers an opportunity to encourage developers to think more innovatively in their approaches to conservation such as incorporating roof gardens, within densely developed parts of the urban area, the inclusion of natural open spaces within developments, or the design of stormwater drainage and balancing ponds for maximum conservation benefit. To assist developers the Borough Council will produce information notes on these matters. Therefore:

NC 6 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE ALL DEVELOPERS TO PROMOTE THE POSITIVE ENHANCEMENT OF SITES AND BUILDINGS FOR WILDLIFE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

Site Works

3.15 Where development takes place, there can also be wider environmental effects. Major projects, for example roads, can have impacts through spoil or soil dumps created by the works and areas of interest for nature conservation can be affected directly and indirectly. The need for after maintenance of major schemes must also be considered carefully to ensure that preliminary enhancement works are not wasted unnecessarily. Many features of more permanent nature conservation importance are also lost during works. With planning and careful forethought such losses can be avoided. Therefore:

NC 7 WHERE LARGE SCALE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS ARE PROPOSED, THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL LIAISE WITH APPROPRIATE BODIES TO SECURE THE PROTECTION, RETENTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING FEATURES OF NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE DURING DEVELOPMENT, SITE RESTORATION AND OTHER WORKS.

The River Lea

3.16 The River Lea and other waterways form an important wildlife habitat and also a significant feature of the townscape. However, through much of the town the River is in a concrete channel or culverted. It is, therefore, important that the channel is opened up and the environment of the River improved. The River is also an important recreational resource with the River Lea walk.

3.17 Opportunities to improve the River occur through the development process and also through management practices. In some locations the NRA has already undertaken conservation work where dredging has been programmed. A joint approach to such work and improvements to River margins is required.

NC 8 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RIVER LEA, INCLUDING OPENING UP OF CULVERTS AND CONCRETE CHANNELS.

Local Nature Reserves

3.18 Under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, the Borough Council can declare areas as Local Nature Reserves. Such areas offer enhanced opportunities for educational purposes, but more importantly they can be used by the local community for enjoyment and appreciation of nature. They must be managed for nature conservation purposes and have adopted management plans. These sites are, therefore, particularly important at the local level. Currently there are no Local Nature Reserves designated in the Borough. Given the statutory significance of this designation, the Borough Council will investigate the declaration of important sites, for example the prime sites, as Local Nature Reserves. Therefore:

NC 9 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH NATURE, USE POWERS AVAILABLE UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT, 1949, TO DECLARE STATUTORY LOCAL NATURE RESERVES AND INSTIGATE APPROPRIATE BYELAWS FOR THEIR PROTECTION.

Habitat Creation

3.19 Although the Borough Council can actively create habitats on its own land, opportunities often exist during the development and redevelopment of sites not only for the protection of key features of nature conservation interest but also in the active creation of new habitats. For example, a small ecological garden was created as part of the Bushmead development. This approach, together with sympathetic landscaping of new development, can help to create an enhanced environment, to the benefit of the whole community.

3.20 Opportunities for habitat creation also exist within other landscaping schemes and as activities for community groups and schools. The Borough Council recognises that it has an important role to play in the encouragement of such schemes.

3.21 The creation of new habitats will play an important role in the further development of the green network. Guidance on habitat creation is available to all interested persons from the Borough Council's Museum Service or from the Wildlife Project. Therefore:

NC 9 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK THE CREATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITATS PARTICULARLY WHERE THIS WILL ENHANCE STEPPING STONES AND LINKAGES AS IDENTIFIED ON THE NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY MAP.

Land Management

3.22 The Borough Council is a major landholder within the town. Through effective management, sites in the Borough Council's ownership are being enhanced for nature conservation purposes. On occasions this may mean making variations in cutting regimes or other management programmes. This does not mean that areas of parkland will be left to go wild and, on occasions some areas of high quality landscaping and cultivation are appropriate. The appropriateness of management regimes for nature conservation will continue to be considered carefully for each site and will be judged on issues such as usage and the proximity to other wildlife sites. This is particularly important for sites such as Galley and Warden Hills Local Nature Reserve where, as the owner of the land, the Borough Council has a statutory responsibility to manage the land for nature conservation purposes.

3.23 On important nature conservation sites, like Galley and Warden Hills, the Borough Council is already implementing a management plan. Plans for the Prime Sites in the Borough Council's ownership are being prepared by the Wildlife Trust and will be implemented. The Borough Council will encourage other landowners of Prime Sites to have Management Plans prepared.

3.24 Whilst management of important sites is of key significance, there is also needs to be appropriate action in respect of other areas, for example, highway verges, hedgerows and small open green spaces. Slight variations in cutting regimes could enhance the nature conservation interest of grass verges. Such activity would need to be accompanied by suitable interpretation and publicity.

3.25 In some cases, the sensitive management of open spaces and verges may require new habitats to be created to enhance the natural environment. This will still allow other opportunities to be provided for passive recreation as well as improving the general environment of the town.

3.26 Other managers of land in the Borough, for example, the statutory undertakers and the County Council, will also be encouraged to adopt similar working practices. Therefore:

NC 11 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ESTABLISH WORKING PRACTICES TO SYMPATHETICALLY MANAGE LAND FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND TO ENHANCE THE WILDLIFE INTEREST OF OPEN SPACE AND OTHER AREAS OF OPEN LAND IN ITS OWNERSHIP AND WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER LAND OWNERS AND MANAGERS TO ESTABLISH SIMILAR PRACTICES.

Access

3.27 People's ability to have access to open space and sites of nature conservation interest is an important issue in order that the benefits for both recreational and educational purposes can be realised. In some cases, access is difficult for physical reasons particularly for the elderly and disabled. At other sites the land could be in private ownership where access is restricted. In some instances access to sites needs to be managed carefully to avoid the pressures which can occur from over use or from inappropriate levels of access. In Luton it would not be appropriate to prevent access to those important sites in the Borough Council's ownership, but rather to encourage appropriate management. In particular areas problems, such as motorbike damage, do need to be considered.

3.28 Whilst many people with access to cars can visit open areas of countryside outside the Borough, having an area of open space close to where they live is also important. However, for other people areas of accessible open space in the Borough may be the only opportunity to enjoy the environmental, recreational and educational benefits. Therefore care needs to be taken to provide not only managed sites, whether with marked trails or managed areas, but also "natural" areas where habitats are left to develop and change in their own way.

3.29 Accessibility is not only about being able to gain physical access to sites but also in creating the confidence of non-users to feel that local green spaces and the wider countryside are available to them. It is easier to create "confidence" at local sites which act as stepping stones to the wider countryside. The Wildlife Project and the Borough Council have already undertaken work, in partnership, to improve ethnic community awareness of sites, particularly through the Communities Environment Group. The Countryside Commission has an important role in encouraging access to the countryside and this is why the commission supports the Wildlife Project and the Countryside Project.

3.30 Access may need to be restricted to some sites where, for example, there are nesting birds or plant species which may be easily damaged. This may be for a short period of time or from small areas. Explanatory material on why restricted access is being used will be provided. Therefore:

NC 12 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS, ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS ACCESS, INCLUDING WHERE POSSIBLE ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, TO SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION EXCEPT WHERE SUCH ACCESS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO NATURE CONSERVATION INTERESTS OR LAND USE OF THE SITE.

Community Involvement

3.31 It is very important that the local community is involved in the management, protection and enhancement of sites and also has an awareness of the importance of Luton's environment. Urban nature conservation is not only concerned with protecting wildlife but also about the local community enjoying sites and understanding them. Therefore community involvement in sites, whether this be to use the area for relaxation, play or education or to assist in their maintenance, is an essential element of the continued protection of sites.

3.32 Involvement in nature conservation issues can be on a number of levels. Communities may wish to create new habitats on small areas of land or to provide improved or increased access to existing sites. Individuals can also become involved by joining groups such as the Luton and Dunstable Conservation Volunteers, the Wildlife Project or by encouraging wildlife in back gardens through, for example, putting up bird boxes. The Wildlife Project and other groups also have an important role in encouraging community involvement in the town. Involvement does not have to be on a formal basis, for example, local residents may wish to form their own local group to help look after wildlife habitats close to their homes.

3.33 The help of individuals, local communities and voluntary groups is of vital importance. Giving their views on documents such as this Nature Conservation Strategy is also to be welcomed. Individuals and local groups can also be proactive in suggesting projects and initiatives to the Council and other organisations. Therefore:

NC 13 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS, SCHOOLS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NATURE CONSERVATION AND WILL, WHERE APPROPRIATE, LIAISE WITH SUCH INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS WHEN CONSIDERING NATURE CONSERVATION SCHEMES ON INDIVIDUAL SITES.

Interpretation and Publicity

3.34 Local communities and individuals can only become involved in nature conservation activities if they are aware of what is going on. This has to be achieved through good publicity. Information is also required where projects are being undertaken and this can be particularly important where management for nature conservation interest can easily be misunderstood and unnecessary complaints are then made.

3.35 People's awareness of the importance and interest of sites can be greatly enhanced by appropriate information. This could be in the form of leaflets or other interpretative material, for example, explanatory panels. Other activities could include guided walks. Many of these activities are currently undertaken by the Borough Council, the Wildlife Project, Bramingham Wood Volunteers and the Luton and Dunstable Countryside Project. The Borough Council supports these groups in their activities and has worked in partnership with the Wildlife Project on a number of initiatives.

3.36 Permanent exhibitions about wildlife are on display at Luton Museum and Art Gallery and the John Dony Field Centre at Bushmead. However there are also additional opportunities for temporary exhibitions at other venues. Further opportunities to improve interpretation include marked trails, for example at Stockwood Country Park.

Therefore:

- NC 14** THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS AND OTHERS, CONTINUE TO PUBLICISE AND PROMOTE NATURE CONSERVATION THROUGH A VARIETY OF INTERPRETATIVE TECHNIQUES INCLUDING LEAFLETS, EXHIBITIONS, ON SITE EXPLANATORY PANELS, GUIDED WALKS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

Resources and Implementation

3.37 As with any policy document it is the implementation of the policies through projects, programmes and initiatives that is most important. The following chapter highlights more specific proposals for implementation which must be seen as part of an on-going programme that will be monitored and reviewed.

3.38 The Borough Council, through the "Greening Strategy and Action Plan", will support the setting up of a Nature Conservation Advisory Group. The Environmental Forum has already been established for the purpose of improving co-ordination and use of scarce financial resources and specialist skills.

3.39 Many of the programmes and initiatives outlined in the Action Plan will require only small changes in working practices or can be accommodated within existing revenue resources. Where additional funding may be required this will need to be considered by the Borough Council at the appropriate time.

Therefore:

- NC 15** THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SET UP AN ADVISORY GROUP TO GUIDE AND IMPLEMENT THE NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND WILL, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, ALLOCATE A BUDGET FOR NATURE CONSERVATION. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICIES WILL BE MONITORED AND PROGRESS REVIEWED REGULARLY.



Action Plan

4.1 The policies contained in the Nature Conservation Strategy are intended to provide a framework for the protection and enhancement of Luton's natural environment. The policies themselves are, therefore, a useful reference tool providing guidance to those people, both individuals and community groups, who are interested in Nature Conservation or who wish to take such issues into account when undertaking development or management of land in the Borough. However, the Strategy can only be successful if it has a supporting programme of initiatives and action in the form of more specific proposals. This is what the "Action Plan" chapter deals with.

4.2 Community groups and individuals have a most important role to play in the implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy and in the general enhancement of the town, however, this role has not been identified within this chapter. The activities of the Wildlife Project have been included because of the partnership work with the Council. Some opportunities for individuals to become involved are outlined in the following chapter entitled "What Can I Do?".

4.3 The Strategy has stressed the need for co-operation and co-ordination between Council departments, local organisations and statutory bodies and this is the starting point for the "Action Plan". The Action Plan defines a number of programmes and initiatives for action indicating the type of activity, for example working procedures or monitoring, the priority for implementation and the actors involved. The Action Plan does not provide an exhaustive list of action and essentially forms a base point from which further programmes will develop. Over time it is likely that priorities will alter and, therefore, the Action Plan will need to be reviewed regularly.

4.4 The process of implementation falls into a number of categories, which outline key areas of activity. For the purposes of the "Action Plan" these have been defined as:

| | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| W | - | Working procedures |
| M | - | Management techniques |
| P | - | Projects and initiatives |
| C | - | Consultation and information |
| Mon | - | Monitoring and review |

The role of departments and organisations in implementing the Action Plan will vary. These have been identified in the Action Plan. An indication of the role of each department and organisation is contained in Appendix A. In many cases more than one organisation / department will be involved. The following organisational keys apply:

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| PL | - | Planning Division, Luton Borough Council |
| LA | - | Leisure and Amenities Department, Luton Borough Council |
| EH | - | Environmental Health Division, Luton Borough Council |
| Eng | - | Engineers Division, Luton Borough Council |
| ES | - | Environmental Strategy Group of Officers (Luton Borough Council) |
| All | - | All Departments |
| ENat | - | English Nature |
| WP | - | Wildlife Project |
| CoCo | - | Countryside Commission |
| NRA | - | National Rivers Authority |

Proposal priorities

A priority designation has been given to each action area. The Council believes that all the action points are achievable, however, priorities have been given to those areas which need to be actioned quickly to assist the implementation of the Strategy, particularly those to introduce good working procedures.

- * **Low priority**
- ** **Medium priority**
- *** **High priority**

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n | |
|-----|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| (1) | Where feasible, environmental programmes outlined in the Borough Council's associated Greening Strategy "Action Plan" will be used to incorporate measures to promote nature conservation. Such measures could include use of native species or plants attractive to wildlife in suitable planting schemes. | P | *** | ES/ALL |
| (2) | The Borough Council will continue the provision of resources, including grant aid, for projects and initiatives in support of the Nature Conservation Strategy under the provision of the relevant Acts. | P | *** | ES |
| (3) | Procedures will be devised to ensure that Nature Conservation issues are taken into account throughout the planning process, including the preparation of local plans, development briefs and in the consideration of planning applications. Such procedures will include the need, where appropriate, to consult groups such as English Nature and the Wildlife Project and the use, in | | | |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n | |
|-----|--|----------|-------|-------------------|
| | appropriate circumstances, of conditions and agreements requiring the protection and enhancement of features of wildlife interest and will take account of the "Green Network". The procedure and relevant materials such as maps will be provided to all relevant bodies and departments. | W | *** | PL |
| (4) | Notes for the guidance of developers on issues relating to nature conservation will be prepared. Items on which guidance will be given will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Protection of existing features of nature conservation interest in development. * Use of native species in landscaping schemes. * Habitat creation in new development. * Innovative approaches to nature conservation in building design. <p>Wherever relevant the Borough Council will encourage developers to adopt the guidance outlined.</p> | W | *** | PL |
| (5) | Where major development or new road proposals are being considered, or work is being undertaken the Borough Council will monitor carefully the effect on wildlife. Where such works are programmed to take place the Borough Council will ensure that the procedures outlined in (3) will be followed. | W | ** | PL/WP |
| (6) | A programme of monitoring and review of the "Green Network" will be introduced. The review programme will identify new habitats and the possibilities for further enhancement of the green network including the provision of new habitats through planning of new developments and through management procedures. | Mon | ** | PL/WP/LA |
| (7) | The Borough Council will seek the advice and assistance of the NRA with regard to enhancement of the River Lea. | P | ** | PL/LA/ W3/INRA |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|------|---|----------|---------------|
| (8) | Encouragement will be given to landowners to enter into Management agreements with the Borough Council to safeguard the ecological value of the land. Where required or requested such management schemes will need to be based on management plans prepared by the Borough Council's Museum Service and the Wildlife Project. | M | * PL/LA/ WP |
| (9) | The following Prime Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (PSNCI) as identified on the strategy map will be declared as Local Nature Reserves at the earliest opportunity: Leagrave Marsh Bradgers Hill (with Hay Wood) Dallow Down (to include Winsdon Hill and Bluebell Wood) Cowslip Meadow Great and Little Bramingham Woods Slaughters Wood Full consultation with English Nature will be undertaken on each site. Management plans will be prepared, which outline the site management requirement and scope for use for educational and other purposes, as well as the involvement of the local community based on the survey data collected. | P | *** PL/LA/ WP |
| (10) | Management groups will be formed for each Local Nature Reserve involving local community organisations as outlined in the Wildlife Project's "Community Nature Parks" concept. | M | ** WP/LA |
| (11) | The Borough Council will continue to seek further opportunities for the creation of Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) on land within the Borough and will consider purchase of land for this purpose, if necessary using its powers of compulsory purchase to secure potential LNR's from damage or destruction. | P | * PL/LA |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (12) Interpretative material, including interpretative panels and leaflets will be prepared for all Local Nature Reserves and other sites. | C | ** | LA/WP |
| (13) A programme of review of all open spaces with Nature Conservation interest will be undertaken to evaluate accessibility and if works are needed such works will be supported where it will not be to the detriment of the Nature Conservation interest of the sites concerned. Full account will be taken of the needs of emergency services, the general public and those with special needs. | P | * | LA/WP |
| (14) Where sites are in private ownership the Borough Council will encourage landowners to enter into formal access agreements. | M | * | PL/LA/WP |
| (15) Where the green network extends into the wider countryside and beyond the Borough boundaries, the Borough Council will liaise with other local authorities, landowners and conservation bodies to ensure the green network is not separated from its wildlife hinterland. | W | * | PL |
| (16) The Borough Council will seek to develop an integrated approach to nature conservation wherever possible on the basis of suites of sites in conjunction with neighbouring authorities, landowners and tenants. Potential suites of sites include the South Bedfordshire chalklands and the River Lea Valley (with tributaries). | W | * | PL |
| (17) A programme of review of all areas of the Borough will be undertaken to assess those areas where wildlife interest is poor. In those areas identified opportunities will be taken to create additional habitats through development and improve land management. | P | *** | PL/LA/WP |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (18) The involvement of voluntary bodies, such as the Luton and Dunstable Conservation Volunteers and local community groups, in managing and developing local Nature Reserves and other areas of wildlife interest will be encouraged. | P | ** | PL/LA/WP |
| (19) Local Nature Reserves will be promoted as sites for educational work. Educational material for these sites will be prepared for use by teachers, students and school children. | C | ** | WP/LA |
| (20) The Borough Council will to ensure that all Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Prime Sites of Nature Conservation Importance will be managed in accordance with the best interests of the wildlife of the site where they are in Borough Council ownership. | M | *** | LA |
| (21) A review of management of all Borough Council owned land will be undertaken to ascertain whether more sympathetic regimes could be introduced, particularly on land within the green network, roadside verges and in public parks. | M | *** | LA |
| (22) Where practices for more sympathetic management of Borough Council owned land have been identified these will be introduced as soon as possible. | M | *** | LA |
| (23) Management practices on roadside verges will be reviewed and regimes to encourage wildlife interest will be introduced including habitat creation. | M | *** | LA/Eng |
| (24) Where land in the Borough Council's ownership is already being managed for nature conservation purposes the Borough Council will indicate to the public the management being undertaken. | C | *** | LA |
| (25) A survey of hedgerows will be undertaken and management requirements which may include coppicing, hedgelaying and new planting will be specified. Important | | | |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n | |
|------|---|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| | hedgerows exist at Leagrave, Lewsey, Dallow, Bushmead, Newlands Road and Lime Avenue, but derelict hedgerows exist in many other places. | M/Mon | *** | PL/LA/WP |
| (26) | The importance of Cemeteries and Churchyards as semi-natural habitats in built-up areas will be given particular recognition. The Borough Council will liaise with Church bodies, to ensure that management of these is sympathetic to wildlife, particularly the older burial grounds with more mature habitats. | M | ** | LA/WP |
| (27) | The Borough Council will liaise with bodies such as English Nature and the Wildlife Project to ensure that land management policies are supported by professional organisations concerned with nature conservation, even where they have no formal role. | M/C | *** | PL/LA/WP/EN |
| (28) | The Borough Council will, in co-operation with other organisations encourage landowners to adopt agricultural and forestry practices of benefit to nature conservation, and to take advantage of schemes and grants available to enhance conservation. These may include Countryside Stewardship, Countryside Premium Set-Aside, the Shell Better Britain Campaign. | M | * | LA/ENat WP/Co/Co |
| (29) | Where necessary, training will be provided for Borough Council Officers employed to manage land sympathetically for nature conservation purposes. | M | * | LA |
| (30) | A review of the Borough Council's use of herbicides, insecticides and pesticides will be undertaken. | M | ** | LA/EH |
| (31) | The use of peat alternatives will be investigated and, where appropriate, alternatives are found the use of peat will be phased out. | M | ** | LA |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| (32) The Borough Council will continue the programme of implementing composting of waste garden materials. | M | * | LA |
| (33) The Borough Council will ensure that, where appropriate, certain habitats are managed to retain "natural" elements of landscape. These areas will be identified and interpretation material provided. | M | * | LA |
| (34) The Borough Council will undertake schemes for habitat creation in areas in Borough Council ownership and will encourage other landowners to create new habitats where opportunities occur. | P/M | * | WP/LA |
| (35) The Borough Council will continue to develop the ecological garden at the John Dony Field Centre as an example of small scale habitat creation. | P | ** | LA |
| (36) The use of the John Dony Field Centre as an educational and community resource to learn about habitat creation will be encouraged. | P/C | ** | LA |
| (37) The Borough Council will provide advice to Landowners and tenants, where required, on the creation of areas of new wildlife habitat on their land, such as planting new native hedgerows, natural trees and creation of new grassland. | C | * | LA/PL |
| (38) The Borough Council will seek opportunities for enhancement of aquatic habitats within its ownership, such as Farley Fish Pond, London Road Pond and Wardown Lake, and will give encouragement to private landowners to create and enhance aquatic habitats on their land. | P | ** | LA/PL |
| (39) Management programmes for aquatic habitats will be prepared and implemented, including the River Lea. | M | * | LA/WP |

| | Activity | Priority | Org'n |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (40) The Borough Council will seek to create new chalk grassland on areas adjacent to existing prime sites for example adjoining Galley and Warden Hills, Bradgers Hill and the Dallow Downs. Programme of action will be prepared and will be the subject of further consultations as appropriate. | P | * | LA |
| (41) The Borough Council will provide suitable structures for mammals and birds to nest, roost and hibernate in suitable locations. These would include bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog shelters, etc. and will encourage community involvement in such activity. | P | * | LA |
| (42) The Borough Council, in co-operation with other authorities, will maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way and permissive paths to allow easy access to and across sites of wildlife importance. | P/C | * | Eng/LA |
| (43) Where works are carried out to publicly useable paths the sensitivity of sites and natural aesthetic value will be taken into account. | M | * | Eng/LA |
| (44) The Borough Council will liaise with neighbouring authorities and other bodies to ensure that the footpath / bridleway network into the wider countryside, beyond the Borough boundaries is maintained. | C | * | Eng/PL/LA |
| (45) The Borough Council will encourage the County Council to seek access agreements with private landowners to allow public enjoyment of private land with wildlife interest. | C | ** | LA/PL |
| (46) The Borough Council will create new neighbourhood wildlife areas to allow local people access to wildlife habitat in easy reach of their homes. | M/P | ** | PL/LA |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (47) The Council will encourage projects to develop and enhance all aspects of nature conservation in the Borough that involve all sections of the community. Financial support will continue to be given to local organisations to survey and manage areas of wildlife importance for their conservation value in justifiable cases. | P/C/M | ** | WP/PL/LA |
| (48) The Borough Council will provide support financially wherever possible to the undertakings of local practical conservation groups, such as the Luton and Dunstable Conservation Volunteers and the Wildlife Projects Midweek Team to carry out practical work (e.g. scrub management, hedgerow maintenance and planting), particularly on local Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Prime Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. | P/M | * | WP/LA/PL |
| (49) The Council will continue to provide advice and financial assistance, where available and expertise where necessary to voluntary organisations and community groups wishing to carry out practical work on sites of importance. | C | ** | PL/LA |
| (50) The Borough Council will support the setting up of resident and community groups to maintain local wildlife sites. | C | ** | PL/LA/WP |
| (51) Local people will be consulted, wherever possible, with regard to major projects affecting their local wildlife area, such as Local Nature Reserve declaration, fencing or large scale habitat modification (e.g. scrub management) which would noticeably alter the appearance of the site. | C | ** | PL/LA/WP |
| (52) The Borough Council will support the development of community groups and the Communities Environment Group (CEG). | P | ** | PL/LA/WP |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| (53) The Borough Council will support opportunities for individual volunteers to take part in recording elements of nature conservation interest. Opportunities for wardening and monitoring of wildlife sites will be explored. Examples will include botanical and invertebrate surveys, reporting vandalism or damage to sites, and recording the effects of management regimes, etc. | Mon | ** | PL/LA/WP |
| (54) The Borough Council will provide information and encourage individuals to undertake management of their own land for conservation (e.g. wildlife gardening and domestic pond creation). | C | * | PL/LA |
| (55) The Borough Council will ensure that all relevant Officers and Members are provided with information to ensure that the implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy can proceed smoothly at all levels of the Council. Where necessary training will be provided. | C | *** | ALL |
| (56) The Borough Council will liaise with bodies such as English Nature and the Wildlife Trust. This should include survey data, species lists and other relevant materials. An information network will be established to ensure that information is circulated. | C | *** | PL/LA/WP/ENat |
| (57) The Borough Council will support measures to promote the general principles of wildlife conservation and the natural conservation resources of the district to all interested parties. | C | ** | PL/LA |
| (58) The Borough Council will provide educational opportunities on wildlife topics at the John Dony Field Centre and elsewhere by promoting and giving talks, lectures, seminars, presentations and guided walks as appropriate. | C | * | PL/LA |

| | Activity Area | Priority | Org'n |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (59) The Borough Council will produce and support the production of material to promote nature conservation in the Borough. Information on local wildlife areas, in the form of hand-outs, leaflets, posters and trail guides both in-house and by other local organisations may be appropriate. | C | ** | LA/PL/WP |
| (60) In published material the Council will seek to ensure the protection of rare and vulnerable species by not revealing specific details of the location of such species. | C | *** | LA/PL/WP |
| (61) Information will be made available on the network of public paths and other means of access to the wildlife sites and the wider countryside in liaison with the Countryside Project. | C | * | PL/LA/Eng |
| (62) The Borough Council will support projects and initiatives to increase education on the environment and the appreciation of conservation. | C | * | ALL |



What can I do?

5.1 Improving Luton's environment, particularly for Nature Conservation can only be achieved through the involvement of individuals who can do a lot to help protect and enhance our local environment for wildlife. This section gives you an idea of some of the activities in which you could take part. It can only be a "taster" and, therefore, a list of useful contacts and further information is available as Appendix F.

Make your views known

5.2 The period of public consultation on documents such as this Nature Conservation Strategy and the proposed Borough of Luton Local Plan offers individuals an important opportunity to make their views known to the Council. Such consultation periods are not only for objections or criticisms to be put to the Borough Council but are also a chance to show support for the Borough Council's activities and proposals.

5.3 If anyone is concerned about certain works being undertaken, for example felling of trees, please contact the Planning Division or the Leisure and Amenities Department. Often the Borough Council only becomes aware of problems when people complain or at least make the Borough Council aware of what is going on in the town.

Join Local Groups

5.4 There are many different local organisations concerned with wildlife and the environment. They are always eager to encourage newcomers and their activities range from indoor talks and meetings to practical conservation work. A list of local organisations, the type of work they undertake and some contact names are shown in Appendix F. Some areas of the town such as Bramingham and Bradger's Hill already have active local organisations which help to look after wildlife habitats. Other groups will soon be set up to cover other nature areas in the town such as Leagrave Common, Dallow Downs and Cowslip Meadow.

Leisure and Wildlife

5.5 Leisure time is often one of the occasions when individuals come into contact with the local environment and wildlife. Being considerate when using parks and the countryside is important and can be a way in which individuals can help to improve the local environment. There are a number of things that you can do:

- (i) Follow the Country Code.
- (ii) Think carefully about disturbance to wildlife. Many hobbies that individuals enjoy can have an impact on wildlife. When you go fishing don't leave nylon line where birds could be caught in it. If you enjoy flying model aircraft, avoid areas near nesting birds in the breeding season. Avoid digging holes in grassland when metal detecting, there could be rare orchids growing. Enjoy your hobby but think of any consequences to wildlife.

Gardening for Wildlife

5.6 Helping to introduce wildlife into individual gardens is one of the most useful ways of encouraging nature conservation in the town. This does not necessarily mean that your garden should be left to go wild as there are many other ways of encouraging wildlife. Some examples of what could be undertaken are shown here.

- (i) *Make a pond.* Ponds are important habitats for aquatic plants, amphibians and invertebrates. In Luton there are very few large ponds. Therefore, informal ponds in your own garden can make an important contribution to nature conservation. Frogs and toads that may be attracted to private gardens will eat slugs.
- (ii) *Build boxes for birds and other animals.* Nesting boxes for tits, owls and other birds can be built and sited in your own garden. You can also build bat boxes and boxes for hedgehogs to hibernate in.
- (iii) *Plant native species of shrubs and flowers.* Native species support more insect life than ornamental or cultivated varieties, therefore, more birds will be attracted to your garden. Avoid ornamental conifers and plant native broadleaved trees and shrubs instead.
- (iv) *Plant species with a good food supply for animal life.* Many species are nectar rich and will attract butterflies and bees. Buddleia and Ice Plant are good examples. Other species can be grown for their berries to provide food for birds and small mammals through the winter.
- (v) *Reduce your use of chemicals in the garden.* Although you may wish to get rid of weeds and pests, chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides can be harmful to other species which are not pests. Try to use as few chemicals as possible. It is possible to attract pest eating species to your garden by using particular plants.
- (vi) *Avoid using Peat.* Peat bogs are a declining resource. By avoiding use of peat you will be protecting wildlife many miles away.
- (vii) *Don't be too tidy in the garden.* Dead leaves, twigs and branches will rot down naturally and provide homes for many insects and other invertebrates. Try not to destroy these micro-habitats.

- (viii) *Create a garden compost heap.* All organic matter from the kitchen and garden can be added to a heap to rot down and enrich the soil later on. The heap itself will provide a habitat (and even a hibernation place for hedgehogs). Remember that any extra waste in the dustbin will be likely to end up in a landfill site and many of our abandoned quarries, which are important wildlife sites in themselves, are being considered as landfill sites.
- (ix) *Consider the safety of wildlife in your garden.* Empty jars, bottles and other containers can be death traps for birds and mammals. Keep potentially hazardous objects indoors or in the shed.
- (x) *Mow your lawn less frequently.* If flowers and grasses flower and seed then there is more food for birds and insects - and less work for you! You could create a small area of meadow in your garden, with an annual autumn haycut, and a summers worth of enjoyment of wild flowers growing in your piece of natural grassland.
- (xi) *Encourage bats.* Don't be concerned when there are bats around your garden. Get advice from the Bedfordshire Bat Group if you think there are bats in your roof space.

APPENDIX A

ROLE AND ACTIVITY OF ORGANISATIONS AND BOROUGH COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING:

The Planning Division deals with a broad range of issues from preparation of development plans and consideration of planning application to implementation of the Borough Council's Greening Strategy and Action Plan.

Planning Division
Town Hall
Luton LU1 2BQ
Tel: 0582 31291

ENGINEERING SERVICES:

Highway and highway verge maintenance and maintaining public rights of way.

Engineering Services
Town Hall
Luton LU1 2BQ
Tel: 0582 31291

DEPARTMENT OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

PARKS:

Maintenance of parks and public open spaces.

Department of Leisure
and Amenities
Wardown House
Wardown Park
Luton LU2 7HA
Tel: 0582 30131

MUSEUM SERVICE:

Provision of information on natural history including the John Dony Field Centre and management of the Galley and Warden Hills Local Natural Reserve.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

Recycling and pollution monitoring are amongst some of the responsibilities of the Environmental Health Department.

Environmental Services
Town Hall
Luton LU1 2BQ
Tel: 0582 31291

ENGLISH NATURE

To promote the conservation of England's wildlife and natural features, working directly and through others.

Conservation Officer,
Bedfordshire English Nature
Ham Lane House
Ham Lane
Peterborough PE2 5UR
Tel: 0733 391100

WILDLIFE PROJECT

The Wildlife Project is a section of the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, which is a registered charity. The Project, in particular, seeks to encourage community involvement in the environment.

The Old Methodist Chapel
47 High Town Road
Luton LU2 0BW
Tel: 0582 481851

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council deals with a number of environmental issues through the Greenspace Initiative including planning and access to the countryside. In particular the County Council, together with the Countryside Commission has established the Luton and Dunstable Countryside Project.

Luton and Dunstable
Countryside Project
Houghton Regis Library
Bedford Square
Houghton Regis
Beds LU5 5ES
Tel: 0582 861070

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN - APPROVED 1992 BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LANDSCAPE AND WILDLIFE

POLICY 5

The local planning authorities will seek to conserve and enhance the character of Bedfordshire's countryside. In particular its historic landscape features, wildlife habitats, watercourses and visually attractive areas, by:-

- (i) resisting developments which will adversely affect the above features;
- (ii) ensuring that developments in the countryside are designed to a high standard;
- (iii) pursuing opportunities especially those presented by development proposals to create new wildlife habitats, new landscapes (especially woodlands), new recreation areas (such as pocket parks) and greater public access;
- (iv) by the implementation of a Countryside Strategy and Greenspace Programme, focussing particularly on the Countryside Priority Areas of the Marston Vale, Luton/ Dunstable Urban Fringe, Ivel Valley and principle road and rail corridors.

POLICY 6

The local planning authorities, in exercising control over development on the periphery of towns and villages will seek to:-

- (i) prevent developments which will visually intrude into the surrounding countryside and open space;
- (ii) secure action to improve the visual quality of urban edges, principally by extensive landscaping.

There will be a presumption against the development of land enclosed by new roads and bypasses in areas designated as Green Belt or in areas designated as open space in a district or local plan.

POLICY 7

The local planning authorities will take positive action to secure conservation of the countryside, including:

- (i) entering into management agreements to secure the conservation of features;
- (ii) acquiring selected sites of particular importance to Bedfordshire's countryside to ensure their conservation;
- (iii) designating appropriate sites as Local Nature Reserves;
- (iv) encouraging the establishment of non-statutory nature reserves on other land of natural history interest.

POLICY 8

The local planning authorities will seek to retain and increase the proportion of woodland and hedgerows in the county, by:-

- (i) increasing planting, including on local authority land;
- (ii) seeking to retain and increase tree and hedgerow cover when considering development proposals.

POLICY 11

There will be a general presumption against all development which may destroy or adversely affect National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or other areas of significant known wildlife value.

APPENDIX C

BOROUGH OF LUTON - NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH LOCAL PLAN ADOPTED 1990

POLICY 43: Conservation

To prevent any deterioration in the environment, proposals that involve the unsympathetic alteration or demolition of listed buildings or removal of trees protected by a tree preservation order will normally be refused and where protected trees are dead, dying or dangerous, their replacement will be sought. A long term tree planting strategy will be produced by the Borough Council for the Borough as a whole.

POLICY 43A: Urban Nature Conservation

The Borough Council recognises the importance and opportunities for urban nature conservation in Luton and will seek to support and encourage the protection and enhancement of sites of wildlife interest through appropriate management, opportunities to create new wildlife sites, and will consider the designation of local nature reserves where appropriate.

DRAFT POLICY FROM MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BOROUGH OF LUTON LOCAL PLAN FEBRUARY 1993

E7 NATURE CONSERVATION

ALL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WILL BE EXPECTED TO ACCORD WITH THE PRINCIPLE ESTABLISHED IN THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY. THE STRATEGY'S POLICIES ARE ATTACHED AS SCHEDULE 1 TO THIS CHAPTER. IN PARTICULAR THE COUNCIL WILL:

(A)

- (i) NOT GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY DESTROY OR ADVERSELY AFFECT A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE OR A SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE UNLESS AN OVERRIDING NEED IS SHOWN;*
- (ii) NOT GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON A SPECIES PROTECTED BY LAW;*
- (iii) PROTECT THE GREEN NETWORK, AS SHOWN ON THE NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY, FROM DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD SEVER OR DETRACT FROM ITS PREDOMINANTLY OPEN CHARACTER.*

(B)

WHEN PROPOSING OR CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, INCLUDING LARGE SCALE CIVIL ENGINEERING, THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK:

- (i) TO SECURE THE PROTECTION, RETENTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING FEATURES OF NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE DURING WORKS, SITE RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT;*
- (ii) THE USE OF NATIVE LOCAL SPECIES IN LANDSCAPING;*
- (iii) THE POSITIVE ENHANCEMENT OF SITES AND BUILDINGS FOR WILDLIFE INCLUDING HABITAT CREATION AND INNOVATIVE BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN;*
- (iv) THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RIVER LEA INCLUDING OPENING UP CULVERTS AND THE REMOVAL OF CONCRETE CHANNELS.*

BEDFORDSHIRE'S COUNTRYSIDE - APPROVED 1990 BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- CM2** The County Council will seek to develop closer working relationships with the District Councils on countryside enhancement measures, and particularly on the implementation of District Plan policies.
- CM5** An Action Plan for a Nature Conservation in Bedfordshire will be prepared by the Nature Conservancy Council, the County Council, the District Councils and other bodies.
- CM7** The County Council, in conjunction with the Countryside Commission, Nature Conservancy Council and the appropriate District Council's will establish a Luton-Dunstable urban fringe project, and appoint project staff to initiate management work.

Other relevant policies:

CM3 CM17 CE2 CE6 CR10 CV1

APPENDIX E

| Habitat Type | Site Name | Grid Ref | Area (ha) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cemetery | Church Cemetery | TL 102212 | 5.0 |
| Cemetery | General Cemetery | TL 085210 | 4.0 |
| Cemetery | Biscot Cemetery | TL 076238 | 1.0 |
| | | | 10.0 |
| Grassland | Fallowfield | TL 081240 | 4.5 |
| Grassland | Cowslip Meadow | TL 082247 | 6.5 |
| Grassland | Waulud's Bank | TL 061245 | 7.0 |
| Grassland | Winsdon Hill | TL 080210 | 18.0 |
| Grassland | Dallow Road Hill | TL 070214 | 28.0 |
| Grassland | Bradgers Hill | TL 097243 | 10.0 |
| Grassland | Galley & Warden Hills | TL 090266 | 46.5* |
| Grassland | Little Galley Hill | TL 096270 | 1.0* |
| Grassland | near Chatton Close | TL 124227 | 2.0 |
| Grassland | near Newlands Farm | TL 090190 | 6.0 |
| | | | 82.0 (129.5) |
| Open Water | Bramingham Wood (3 ponds) | TL 068259 | 0.5 |
| Open Water | Stockwood Park (2 ponds) | TL 088195 | 0.5 |
| Open Water | Wardown Park (lake) | TL 088226 | 1.0 |
| | | | 2.0 |
| Parkland | Peoples Park | TL 093225 | 6.0 |
| Parkland | Wardown Park | TL 088225 | 20.0 |
| Parkland | Stockwood Park incl. golf course | TL 088195 | 99.0 |
| | | | 125.0 |
| Riverside | R Lea Water Courses | TL 060247 | 1.0 |
| Riverside | Bramingham Rd - Icknield | TL 068243 | 8.0 |
| Riverside | Icknield Way - Bancroft Road | TL 075244 | 10.0 |
| Riverside | Fallowfield | TL 080241 | 0.5 |
| Riverside | New Bedford Road | TL 087233 | 9.0 |
| | | | 28.5 |

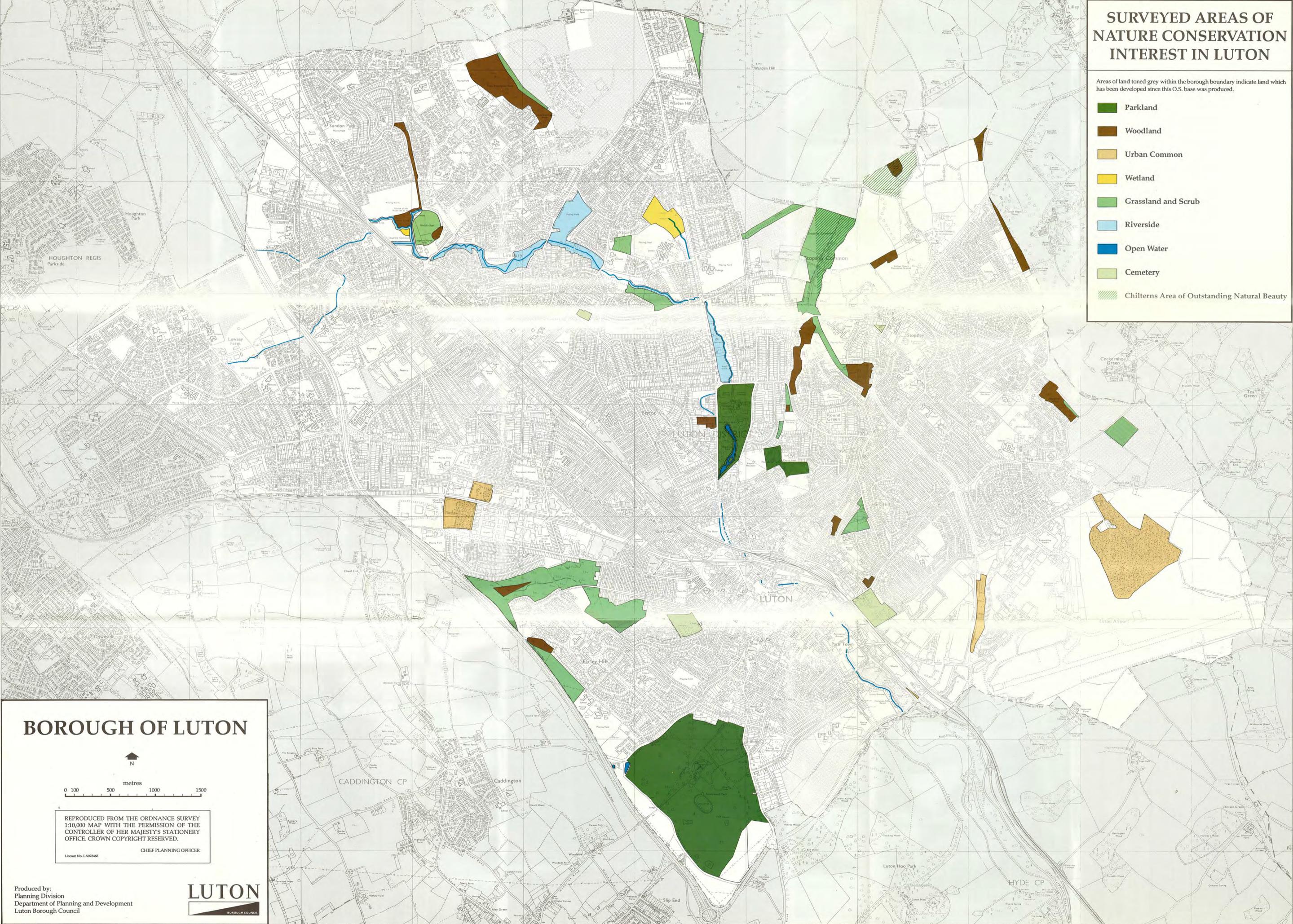
| Habitat Type | Site Name | Grid Ref. | Area (ha) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Ruderal | Wigmore Park | TL 125218 | 25.0 |
| Ruderal | Chaul End Crossing (south) | TL 064220 | 2.0 |
| Ruderal | Chaul End Crossing (north) | TL 066222 | 1.0 |
| Ruderal | near Eaton Green Rd | TL 111212 | 4.0 |
| Ruderal | Gipsy Lane | TL 105204 | 0.5 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 32.5 |
| Wetland | Cowslip Meadow | TL 084244 | 1.5 |
| Wetland | Leagrave Marsh | TL 059245 | 1.5 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 3.0 |
| Woodland | Elm Coppice, Waulud's Bank | TL 062245 | 0.5 |
| Woodland | Rotten Corner | TL 059246 | 1.5 |
| Woodland | Bramingham Wood | TL 068259 | 17.5 |
| Woodland | Kidney Wood | TL 093193 | 7.0* |
| Woodland | Slaughters Wood | TL 118230 | 4.0 |
| Woodland | Bluebell Wood | TL 027208 | 2.0 |
| Woodland | Whitehill Wood | TL 103257 | 4.0* |
| Woodland | Upshott Wood | TL 103251 | 1.0 |
| Woodland | Hay Wood | TL 102243 | 0.5 |
| Woodland | Oaket Wood | TL 111254 | 1.0 |
| Woodland | Oaket Wood | TL 112233 | 0.5* |
| Woodland | The Chase, Mixes Hill Road | TL 100233 | 2.0 |
| Woodland | Ave. of beeches from Well Head | TL 061248 | 1.5 |
| Woodland | Dray's Ditches | TL 082265 | 1.0 |
| Woodland | Runley Wood | TL 070213 | 2.0 |
| Woodland | Great Hayes Wood | TL 114245 | 3.0 |
| Woodland | Great Hayes Wood | TL 113248 | 6.0* |
| Woodland | near Netherfield Spring | TL 134213 | 0.5 |
| Woodland | near Netherfield Spring | TL 135213 | 0.5* |
| Woodland | near Crawley Green Rd | TL 101214 | 1.0 |
| Woodland | near Pomfret Ave. | TL 098220 | 1.0 |
| Woodland | Bradgers Hill (south) | TL 095236 | 2.0 |
| Woodland | 'Croda' Wood, Bath Road | TL 086228 | 1.0 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 43.0 (61.0) |

N.B. * site or part-site not within Luton Borough boundary.

SURVEYED AREAS OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST IN LUTON

Areas of land toned grey within the borough boundary indicate land which has been developed since this O.S. base was produced.

-  Parkland
-  Woodland
-  Urban Common
-  Wetland
-  Grassland and Scrub
-  Riverside
-  Open Water
-  Cemetery
-  Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



BOROUGH OF LUTON



0 100 500 1000 1500
metres

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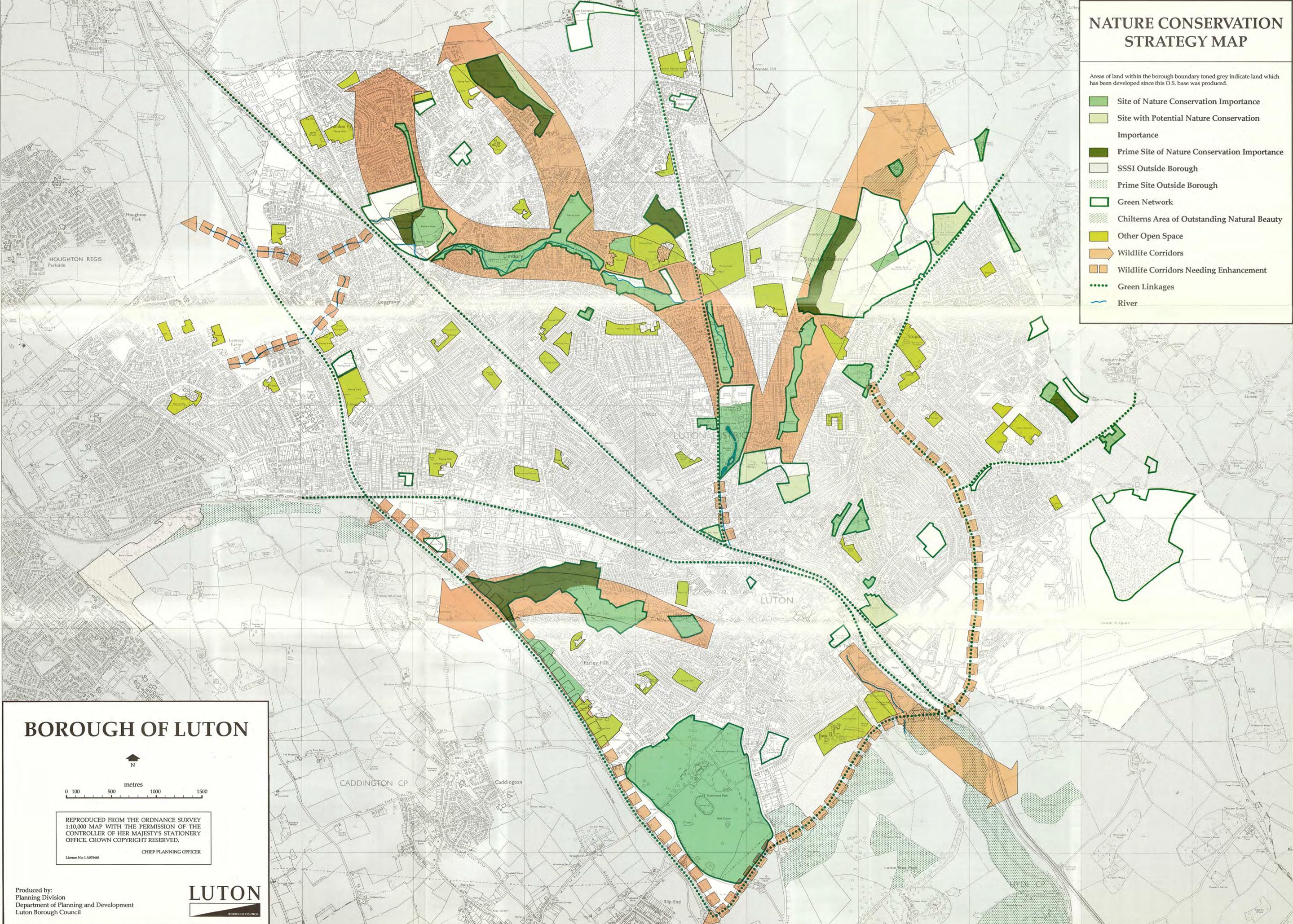
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Luton Borough Council



NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY MAP

Areas of land within the borough boundary toned grey indicate land which has been developed since this O.S. base was produced.

- Site of Nature Conservation Importance
- Site with Potential Nature Conservation Importance
- Prime Site of Nature Conservation Importance
- SSSI Outside Borough
- Prime Site Outside Borough
- Green Network
- Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Other Open Space
- Wildlife Corridors
- Wildlife Corridors Needing Enhancement
- Green Linkages
- River



BOROUGH OF LUTON



0 100 500 1000 1500
metres

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