

Deadline for return – 18 August 2009 (Quarter 1 Performance Report)

Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

LAA Priority: Targeted conservation and enhancement of Devon’s biodiversity and geology (LAA8)

Lead Contact: Sarah Jennings

RAG Status: Green (delete as appropriate)

Delivery Board Recommendations *(Please list any decisions/actions required on the part of the Delivery Board)*

Delivery Board are asked to:

Summary Statement:

Progress made against delivery plan for all targets. Not able to give an update on likelihood of meeting target for NI197 at this stage in the year.

Figures for 2008/9 have been amended – see below.

Performance Indicators – National and Local – Data for 2008/09 amended to include County Geological Sites and updated date for County Wildlife Sites

Code	Title	+/- (see 1 below)	Year	Annual Target	Status (see 2 below)	Improvement (see 3 below)	Actual to Date	Officer Notes
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management had been or is being implemented	+	08/09	3% increase	Well above target	↑	5% increase	See notes below table

Target = 3% increase in sites in positive management.

Original 2007/8 baseline: 550 of 2002 local sites known to be in +ve management = 27.5%
 Work carried out during 2008/9 has led to increased knowledge of Local Sites. We now know that 858 of the 2209 Local Sites were in +ve management before 2008/9. (Number of Local Sites has increased due largely to designation of sites on Dartmoor)

Revised baseline: 858 of 2209 sites = 39% in +ve management

In 2008/9 102 sites were brought into +ve management = 960 of 2209 sites = 44% in +ve management

This means that in 2008/9 we saw an increase in sites in +ve management of 5%.

1. + equals higher figures are better and – equals lower figures are better
2. **No Data/Well Below Target/Below Target/On Target/Above Target/Well Above Target**
3. Improved Performance ↑ Worse Performance ↓ Unchanged ↔

Key Milestones (Last Quarter – Quarter 1 09/10, ends 30 June 09)

	Description	Date	Outputs expected	Achieved/missed
1.	Target A1 - Consultation on the Strategic Nature Area profiles to be carried out in 2009/10 and profiles placed on the SW Biodiversity website. Profiles in key areas (such as in areas where green infrastructure strategies are being produced) to begin to be finalised.	By end June 09	Consultation started and work begun to finalise at least three profiles.	Profiles not yet on the web due to technical problems with SW Biodiversity website. Work begin to finalise one profile.
2.	Target A2 – Draft Devon Nature map to be discussed in detail with a districts and other partners.	By end June 09	Results of meeting with district used to refine Nature Map package.	Meeting arranged for 18 th August with TDC
3.	Target B - Pilot for monitoring and providing advice to County Wildlife Site managers to begin across Devon.	By end June 09.	Advice/condition checks provided to 15 County Wildlife Site managers in this quarter. Training on the approach delivered to key partners (FWAG, DNP etc). Funding sought for a capital grants scheme.	Achieved all other than finding funding.
4.	Target C - DCC to discuss priority areas in Devon for parish audits with AONB Projects. Community Council continue to integrate wildlife issues into parish plans. Work underway on a co-ordinated approach to community delivery to be developed between partners.	By end June 09	Priority areas for audits identified and key partners engaged.	Achieved
5.	Target D - Approach to monitoring of County Wildlife Sites to be piloted (see target B above). Monitoring of the planning process to be discussed with Districts.	By end June 09	See (3) above + greater understanding of what is needed to be done to monitor wildlife outcomes via the planning process.	Pilot underway

Key Milestones (This Quarter – Quarter 2 09/10, ends 30 September 09)

	Description	Date	Outputs expected
1.	Target A1 - Consultation on the Strategic Nature Area profiles to be carried out in 2009/10 and profiles placed on the SW Biodiversity website. Profiles in key areas (such as in areas where green infrastructure strategies are being produced) to begin to be finalised.	By end Sep 09	Consultation started and work begun to finalise at least three profiles.
2.	Target A2 – Draft Devon Nature map to be discussed in detail with a districts and other partners.	By end Sep 09	Results of meeting with district used to refine Nature Map package.
3.	Target B - Pilot for monitoring and providing advice to County Wildlife Site managers to begin across Devon.	By end Sep 09.	Advice/condition checks provided to 15 County Wildlife Site managers. Half way evaluation done on pilot. Funding sought for a capital grants scheme.
4.	Target C - DCC to discuss priority areas in Devon for parish audits with AONB Projects. Community Council continue to integrate wildlife issues into parish plans. Work underway on a co-ordinated approach to community delivery to be developed between partners.	By end Sep 09	Drafting of parish audits underway.
5.	Target D - Approach to monitoring of County Wildlife Sites to be piloted (see target B above). Monitoring of the planning process to be discussed with Districts.	By end Sep 09	See (3) above + greater understanding of what is needed to be done to monitor wildlife outcomes via the planning process.

Key Risks (*Please refer to scoring guidelines below)

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Mitigation
Target A1. Partners lack time to input into finalising the profiles	5	3	15	Focus on profiles in areas with high development pressure where there is greatest need for the profiles (e.g. where green infrastructure strategies are being produced)
Target B. Land managers do not respond to requests for permission to access County Wildlife Sites	5	3	15	Time given to contacting a lot of owners. Undertake the pilot in liaison with NFU / CLA etc to raise the profile of County Wildlife Sites in Devon.
Target B. Lack of capital funding available to bring sites into positive management (e.g for fencing / scrub clearance / water supply etc).	5	5	25	Funding to be sought to set up a capital grant for improving management infrastructure.
Target B. Low	4	5	20	Greater publicity for CWSites

profile for County Wildlife Sites				– including the use of 'exemplar' sites / open days / workshops / information.
Target B. Lack of funding to set up an annual monitoring / advisory programme for CWS.	5	5	25	For 2009/10 funding for advice and monitoring has been received from all LAs other than three. This funding uncertain for 2010/11 and other funding must be sought.
Target C. lack of interest from parishes	5	1	5	Low risk – mitigated through contacting lots of parishes and good publicity.

Spatial Implications – 2008/09 data (amended)

Targets relating to Nature Map and the Biodiversity Monitoring Framework apply across the whole county equally. Parish Audits were mainly done in North Devon, Torridge and Mid Devon (as DCC funding was targeted at the Biosphere Reserve in 2008/9 + others were produced by DWT's Working Wetlands Project). The number of Local Sites in positive management can be broken down to district level. *Note that the figures below are for the total number of County Wildlife Sites known to be in positive management and not the number of sites brought into +ve management in 2008/9 – it does not include County Geological Sites (this data to be added asap).*

District	Impact (insert √ or x or unknown)	Disaggregated Data (√ or x)	Number of County Wildlife Sites	Number and % of County Wildlife Sites known to be in positive management.	% and number of County Wildlife Sites brought into positive management in 08 / 09. Bold = >3% target.
Exeter			26	27% - 7 sites	0
East Devon			306	40% - 123 sites	8% - 24 sites
Mid Devon			228	35% - 80 sites	3% - 6 sites
North Devon			444	57% - 254 sites	4% - 19 sites
Torridge			214	55% - 117 sites	4% - 9 sites
West Devon			276	51% - 142 sites	7% - 18 sites
South Hams			280	52% - 145 sites	6% - 17 sites
Teignbridge			213	27% - 57 sites	4% - 9 sites
North Devon AONB			53	49% - 26 sites	4% - 2 sites
Blackdown Hills AONB			142	48% - 68 sites	7% - 10 sites
South Devon AONB			177	57% - 101 sites	6% - 10 sites
Tamar Valley AONB			20	55% - 11 sites	0
East Devon AONB			140	41% - 57 sites	7% - 10 sites
Dartmoor NP			144	52% - 75 sites	12% - 17 sites
Exmoor NP			115	73% - 84 sites	6% - 7 sites

*Risks – Scoring Guidelines:

Likelihood of risk:

- 1 – Very low
- 2 – Low
- 3 – Medium
- 4 – High
- 5 – Very high

Impact of risk:

- 1 – Insignificant
- 2 – Minor
- 3 – Moderate
- 4 – Serious
- 5 – Very serious

Total risk score (likelihood x impact)

- 1 – 6 Low**
- 8 – 12 Medium**
- 14 – 20 High**
- Over 20 Very high**