

Biodiversity at United Utilities '08/09

Cheshire Biodiversity Partnership

6th March 2009

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Purpose

- Outline UU's Biodiversity commitments
- Set out how we are working to deliver these
- Provide a view of future activities & challenges
- Share our approach to capturing and using information

Our Biodiversity Policy

● Our Biodiversity Goal

- “To be a world class operator of utility infrastructure, committed to **protecting and enhancing** biodiversity across our business”.

● Commits us to:

- Comply with all national and international biodiversity legislation and plans, either directly or through our contractors
- Integrate the management of biodiversity into appropriate business policies and processes, including day to day operations
- Protect biodiversity and enhance it where possible on all land owned by the business
- Communicate, share and embed where possible best practice in biodiversity across UU employees, partners and contractors
- Work with external partners and stakeholders to actively influence development of policy and future developments affecting biodiversity

Integrating Biodiversity

- Integrate the management of biodiversity into appropriate business policies and processes, including day to day operations
- What does this mean?
 - Considering biodiversity in the way we do things
- What have we done?
 - Inclusion in our policy and strategy hierarchy
 - Inclusion in our environmental asset standard
 - Inclusion in guidance for our capital programme delivery partners
- What is there still to do?
 - More effective inclusion in our EMS
 - Developing better measures of performance
 - Embedding in project management training and processes

Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

- Protect biodiversity and enhance it where possible on all land owned by the business
- Our traditional focus
 - Landholdings around catchments - Not necessarily on our operational sites
 - Precautionary approach as part of capital works rather than longer term biodiversity site management
- What have we done?
 - Development of process for active management
 - Biodiversity pilot
 - Survey
 - Engagement & communications
 - Action Plan development

Biodiversity and PR09

- Seeking funding for a programme of site investigations on a bigger scale and develop the delivery approach
- 2 major challenges:
 - Scale – the number of sites
 - Resourcing – competing priorities
- Responses
 - Prioritisation
 - Appropriateness

Our Remaining Commitments

- Comply with all national and international biodiversity legislation and plans, either directly or through our contractors
- Integrate the management of biodiversity into appropriate business policies and processes, including day to day operations
- Protect biodiversity and enhance it where possible on all land owned by the business
- Communicate, share and embed where possible best practice in biodiversity across UU employees, partners and contractors
- Work with external partners and stakeholders to actively influence development of policy and future developments affecting biodiversity

Our Remaining Commitments

- Complying with the law
- Educating colleagues and teams
- Developing communication tools
- Working in partnership
- Providing information and collating data

Biodiversity at UU - Collating Information

- The “system” seems to need feeding with **biodiversity** information.
- There is the need to translate “ecology” into “biodiversity”.
- On most development projects ecologists generally only required to identify presence/absence of eco constraints and rarely asked to evaluate the condition of habitats and species in biodiversity terms as part of their report.
- Having adopted a new policy we started to look at how we do things, to accept that change would be needed and see what the business benefits could be of change.

Biodiversity at UU - A toolkit approach.

- We assessed what we were doing, what our processes and performance was achieving (or not) and tried to better understand our own culture.
- We worked with previously untouched parts of the company and solicited feedback.
- We regularly receive positive and negative feedback from stakeholders.
- We evolved a methodology which is probably best referred to as a toolkit. Something that allows inputs from different parts of the business, allows people to work together and could through evolution be opened up for external input.
- The completed tool provides a biodiversity condition benchmark and acts as a reference for monitoring, via repeat evaluation.

Biodiversity at UU - A toolkit approach.

- We credit the following with a **high** value when scoring within the assessment tool.
- UKBAP, UK Priority BAP, LBAP, other protected habitats, BAP species, habitat supporting a “valuable” species.
- Example assessment tool handout (Lightshaw Water Treatment Works).
- Takes into account surrounding habitat or values.
- Allows us to ask questions of the asset in relation to its biodiversity context and to better inform design, maintenance and management, as well as assessment of impacts of development projects on biodiversity.
- *Our existing Eco process covers construction effects on ecology.*

Biodiversity at UU – Evaluation of Biodiversity

- Our focus is UU owned land and particularly that used for operational purposes.
- Biodiversity evaluation is based on an eco survey, plan of the works and its habitats, completion of the assessment tool and discussion.
- We have different templates for our regions e.g. Cheshire, Merseyside, GM, Cumbria, Lancs.
- We estimate size, value **and condition** as part of evaluation.

Biodiversity at UU, Toolkit example.

- Lightshaw water treatment works. *See accompanying handout.*

Feature	2008			
	Number	Condition of Features of HBV		Site Performance Indicator
		Favourable	Unfavourable	
Habitats of High Biodiversity Value	9	6	3	<p>A pie chart representing the condition of 9 habitats. The chart is divided into two segments: a larger blue segment representing 6 favourable habitats and a smaller maroon segment representing 3 unfavourable habitats.</p>
Species of High Biodiversity Value	5	3	2	<p>A pie chart representing the condition of 5 species. The chart is divided into two segments: a larger blue segment representing 3 favourable species and a smaller maroon segment representing 2 unfavourable species.</p>

Biodiversity at UU – Next steps

- We hope the assessment tool will support partnership working for biodiversity across our home region.
- Current questions :-
 - Checking the robustness of the methodology and need for audience and external inputs esp. biodiversity partners and their policy or steering groups.
 - Reporting interfaces. BARS, NBN, Record, others.
 - Usefulness to conservation and planning officers/LA targets

 - Making biodiversity work in a positive way for our colleagues.
 - Further appreciation of costs and benefits.
 - Adjustments to practice and contracts
 - Frequency of surveys or repeat evaluations.

Summary

- We have updated our approach
- We have introduced new methodologies for integrating biodiversity into the way we do things
- We are seeking funding to develop this further
- We have some challenges.....but we want to do more
- We welcome your feedback

Contact details for feedback etc

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