

## **HABITAT AND SPECIES ACTION PLAN TARGETS: PROGRESS BETWEEN FEB 2003 AND FEB 2005**

Report for the Halton Natural Environment Roundtable

| <b>Target Plan: Reedbeds</b>                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1. The overall objective is to maintain, in favourable condition, the current extent of reedbed in Halton. The main area is a 15 hectare site at Astmoor | No significant loss of reedbed at Astmoor. Some small-scale losses have been noted in the Manor Park area of Runcorn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Target remains the same                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2. Expand the current area of reedbed by 2 hectares by 2010                                                                                              | <p>Work in progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of new wetland scrapes and reedbeds at Oxmoor Local Nature Reserve. When finished, an extra 1 hectare will have been created</li> <li>2. Floating reedbed, Wigg Island. 0.14 hectares were planted, Spring 2004.</li> <li>3. Pickerings Scrape. Two attempts at establishing a small reedbed have taken place. Some rabbit damage despite putting up fencing, so efforts are continuing.</li> <li>4. Hale Road woodland LNR. Use of reeds to help a leacheate problem. No reeds have established – scheme to be re-visited.</li> </ol> | <p>Monitor progress on all sites</p> <p>The creation of additional areas of reedbed around the Upper Mersey Estuary is consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway.</p> |
| 3. Promote targets in Halton BAP to ensure integration with other reedbed programmes and initiatives in the North West                                   | No progress for this period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add data to the national BARS recording scheme.</li> <li>2. Promote Oxmoor lagoon project when complete</li> </ol>               |
| 4. Seek to ensure all reedbeds are identified in the Unitary Development Plan as Wildlife Sites (SINC's).                                                | Completed – the main reedbed at Astmoor is included in the Upper Mersey Estuary SINC. The new reedbed at Oxmoor is also designated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | If smaller reedbed sites become established, or if they develop as clusters, consider as possible SINC's.                                                                  |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1. Prepare and implement a management plan for Astmoor reedbeds, in conjunction with the landowner/s.                                                    | Initial discussion with Halton Wildfowlers has taken place, December 2004. There are complimentary objectives between the two parties, and it is hoped to work together during the Mersey Gateway project period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Continue to work up a management plan in tandem with the timescale for the Mersey Gateway project.                                                                         |

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| 2. Extend reedbed at Oxmoor Local Nature Reserve;.                                                                 | See above. Good progress, with work starting on site, December 2004.                  | Monitor progress. Secure funding for visitor facilities |
| 3. Increase biological recording to identify further key species, including water vole                             | Nature Conservation Officer                                                           | 2005                                                    |
| 3. Monitor success of reed planting at Pickerings Scrape which was planted in March 2002                           | See above. Additional fencing has been erected to prevent rabbit problems, but so far | On-going                                                |
| 4. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme | Wildspace Officer; Parks & Countryside Service: Nature Conservation Officer           | On-going                                                |

| <b>Target Plan: Saltmarsh</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1. The overall objective is to maintain, in favourable condition, the current extent of saltmarsh in Halton. To offset losses and to allow the more natural functioning of estuarine sites, there is a need to identify realistic and achievable targets for re-creation. | No significant loss of saltmarsh has occurred. However: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An increased level of disturbance on the saltmarsh at Hale is becoming a worry.</li> <li>2. There are very dynamic tendencies in the estuary which are being monitored by the Mersey Gateway project.</li> </ol> The Mersey Gateway project can be seen as an opportunity to achieve this long-term target. | The long-term BAP targets for saltmarsh are consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway.                                                           |
| 2. Prepare strategic management plan for sustainable targets of saltmarsh creation and related habitats It is not possible to put a figure on expansion of the current area of saltmarsh until this work is carried out.                                                  | 1.An Upper Mersey Estuary management plan has been produced. This is a strategic document but has not addressed specific saltmarsh creation yet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3. Oversee policy in Unitary Development Plans for protection and compensation or mitigation measures of coastal saltmarsh from development                                                                                                                               | Completed – there are now a range of policy documents that recognise the conservation value of saltmarsh                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4. Continue annual monitoring of breeding and wintering bird populations                                                                                                                                                                                                  | There has been continued bird monitoring as part of the Mersey Gateway project. There has been additional recording by the Halton Natural Environment Roundtable (Tony Parker).                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Continued biological recording by members of Natural Environment Roundtable and Mersey Gateway consultants                                            |
| 5. Where necessary, restore the nature conservation interest through appropriate management                                                                                                                                                                               | An initial meeting has been held with Halton Wildfowlers on saltmarsh management within their area of interest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Management options are likely to be required during this period, in relation to progress within the strategic framework for the Upper Mersey Estuary. |
| 6. Promote targets in Halton BAP to ensure integration with other saltmarsh programmes and initiatives in the North West                                                                                                                                                  | No specific action to date. The Halton BAP has been widely distributed within the North-West but other local authority areas with saltmarsh reserves have not been directly targeted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | On-going                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1. Prepare and implement a management plan for Widnes and Astmoor saltmarsh, to encourage diversity of species and communities, in conjunction with the landowner and the second Mersey crossing proposals.                                                               | 1.An Upper Mersey Estuary management plan has been produced.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | This short-term BAP targets for saltmarsh is consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway.                                                          |

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| 2. Verify saltmarsh species for the period 2002 –2010, to bring up to date current species data as separate from historic data. This may require specialist recording in estuarine and saltmarsh habitats | Extensive specialist recording has taken place as part of the Mersey Gateway project. This information will be available to go to rECOrd, the local LRC.                                                                                                                            | On-going.                                                                                                          |
| 3. Ensure traditional management is continued on existing saltmarshes; promote appropriate grazing regimes; promote and encourage use of agri-environment programmes and other initiatives.               | Some progress has been made, with backing from the Mersey Partnership, on acquiring saltmarsh as a specific nature reserve.                                                                                                                                                         | On-going discussions. This short-term BAP targets for saltmarsh is consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway. |
| 4. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme                                                                                        | The Wild About Halton project has been raising awareness through guided events and school projects at Wigg Island. In particular the “Lost Lagoon” walks include nature watching on the Mersey Estuary.<br>This project has been extended with Heritage Lottery Funding until 2009. | On-going                                                                                                           |

| <b>Target Plan: Bluebells</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. Halt the apparent decline in the Halton population by 2005; maintain the population at levels no lower than those recorded as part of the Biodiversity Audit 1999.                                                      | No known loss of woodland containing native bluebells                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2. Maintain the current local distribution by monitoring the percentage of ground cover in existing woods.                                                                                                                 | Halton is part of the Cheshire-wide Bluebell BAP Action Group which is surveying and monitoring bluebells. Due to the surveying carried out up to 2004, it is generally felt that the location of all native bluebell areas are now recorded. The monitoring of percentage ground cover has only occurred in Big Wood, Runcorn.                                                                                                                                | Some monitoring to be carried out.                                                                                                                     |
| 3. Establish a programme of new bluebell planting areas within suitable woodlands.                                                                                                                                         | Some progress, see below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4. Consider site designation where substantial new bluebell occurrences are found.                                                                                                                                         | No actions required within this time period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | On-going                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. Conduct a specific bluebell survey by 2004                                                                                                                                                                              | Not carried out – there has been survey records added to the Recorder 2002 database on a regular but ad hoc basis only.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Funding has been secured from HLF through the Wild About Halton project. To be carried out between 2005 – 2007 by short term contract, HER and rECOrd. |
| 2. Introduce new populations from the Bluebell Recovery Project and Cheshire Action Project to appropriate locations. Carry out a programme of native bluebell planting in all 5 Local Nature Reserves and at Wigg Island. | Some progress:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New planting has taken place along the towpath hedge, St. Helens canal, Widnes. 200 bulbs were planted, supplied by Landlife.</li> <li>2. New planting has taken place at Wigg Island (April 2002). 400 bulbs, supplied by Landlife.</li> </ol> two woodland sites have been identified for new planting but not yet carried out – along the Rocksavage Expressway, and at Hale Road woodland LNR. | 2002, then on-going                                                                                                                                    |
| 3. Raise public awareness of local importance for bluebells through relevant publicity. Emphasise the importance of people staying on paths when walking in woodlands                                                      | This action is being carried out through the Bluebell BAP Action Group. There has been local publicity articles published around flowering time in the Spring.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Continued Natural Environment Roundtable involvement                                                                                                   |

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| 4. Protect key populations by the use of fences on sites with known problems of trampling | No progress; no specific sites have been assessed where this has been a problem in the past. Beecwood in Runcorn is the most likely woodland where trampling is occurring..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Start 2005 and then on-going                         |
| 5. Encourage submission of bluebell records to RECOrd web site.                           | <p>Halton is part of the Cheshire-wide Bluebell BAP Action Group which is surveying and monitoring bluebells.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A number of woodlands were surveyed during 2003, mainly in the east of the Borough, the data has been added to Recorder 2002 software.</li> </ol> <p>Big Wood, Runcorn has been included in this type of survey work bt the Cheshire wide BAP Group..</p> | Continued Natural Environment Roundtable involvement |

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| <b>Target Plan: Purple Hairstreak</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |
| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                         |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |
| 1. Establish the population size by 2010, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010.                                                                                                                                                   | Some progress – new site identified at Wigg Island.                                                                                                                                                |                                                                         |
| 2. Identify suitable oak – ash woodland sites and encourage the retention of larger trees                                                                                                                                                                    | Some progress – there is general awareness of the requirements of this butterfly from distributing the Halton BAP                                                                                  |                                                                         |
| 3. Where appropriate incorporate new management prescriptions on targeted sites, such as Dorchester Park and Clington Woods Local Nature Reserves.                                                                                                           | Carried out – Purple Hairstreak references have been included in revised management plans.                                                                                                         | Add to new management plans if required                                 |
| 4. Seek to ensure all habitats known to hold viable populations are identified in the Unitary Development Plan as Wildlife Sites (SINC's).                                                                                                                   | On-going – no specific actions during this time period                                                                                                                                             |                                                                         |
| 5. To raise local public awareness to the value of butterflies in general and specifically to a species that is normally difficult to view. The use of technology, such as video cameras, to be explored as a tool to raise awareness                        | Good progress. See below.                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                         |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |
| 1. Establish regular summer recording for adult butterflies on 3 key sites where the species is present over three years. To be repeated every 4 –5 years.                                                                                                   | Detailed surveying took place at Wigg Island, in 2003 by an enthusiastic student during the summer vacation. Report has been posted on the Halton web site.                                        | Continued Natural Environment Roundtable involvement                    |
| 2. Make full use of recent Mersey Forest woodlands; establish oak / ash woodlands when thinning regimes take place; reinforce corridor planting with same species; establish flowery woodland rides to provide important nectaring sites in low aphid years. | This has occurred at Wigg Island.                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                         |
| 3. Invite Woodland Trust to be a key partner in Purple Hairstreak activities                                                                                                                                                                                 | No action to date                                                                                                                                                                                  | Progress at Sandymoor Wood to verify and / or monitor previous records. |
| 4. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme                                                                                                                                           | Good publicity has been achieved through the Butterfly Bus event at Wigg Island, 2003 and 2004. Over 400 people have seen this tree top butterfly and includes good photographs and press releases | On-going                                                                |

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| 5. Carry out egg searches on lower limbs prior to felling of large oaks in the winter period | Has been carried out on an ad hoc basis but generally, there has been no felling of large oaks during this period. | On-going |
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| <b>Target Plan: Great crested newt</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                      |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                      |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                      |
| 1. Increase the population of Great crested newt pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2006.                                                                                                                                       | Survey work has increased through:<br>1.the Halton Pond project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. This project is increasing more records.<br>2.better collation of records from other sources, including survey's for development control purposes and the production of local amphibian atlas for Cheshire. |                                                      |
| 2. Maintain the current local distribution by monitoring ponds and terrestrial habitats. To be combined with general pond survey work.                                                                                                                                        | No known loss of ponds during this period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | On-going                                             |
| 3. Seek to maintain the number of sites (ponds and terrestrial habitat) in Halton likely to be suitable, prior to full survey information being available. To include habitat restoration or creation of sufficient new sites near existing ones to compensate for any losses | Some progress:<br>1.Two ponds surveyed during 2004 in Town Park, Runcorn revealed GCN's and have been managed accordingly.<br>2.A pond dug in 2000 was surveyed in 2004 and revealed a male GCN and some eggs.<br>3. Regular monitoring at Rocksavage nature reserve.                                         | On-going                                             |
| 4. Seek to ensure all ponds known to hold viable populations are identified in the Unitary Development Plan as Wildlife Sites (SINC's) and that protection and enhancement of ponds is taken into account in accordance with PPG9.                                            | On-going – no specific actions during this time period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                      |
| 5. Co-ordinate a targeted programme of pond restoration/creation within strategic areas to expand the range of existing GCN metapopulation. In particular, assess Halton Borough Council's landownership of suitable aquatic and terrestrial habitats                         | Some background progress work through carrying out the Halton Pond Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                      |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                      |
| 1. Maintain biological records for species and habitats using the national standards adopted through the National Biodiversity Network. Source existing biological data and acquire further records from contract survey through rECOrd, the Local Records Centre.            | Some records have been added to the database – some remain in paper format and are still to be added.                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Continued Natural Environment Roundtable involvement |
| 2. Monitor numbers of new or restored ponds that could be                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | On-going                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | On-going                                             |

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| suitable for the great crested newt. Measure the new number of new populations artificially established in any such new ponds. |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3. Make available the Halton Environment Fund for pond creation and management                                                 | The grant has helped to create and manage 2 ponds during the time period. In addition, the BTCV have been particularly active on pond management, spending 21 workdays during 2004. |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme             | Some good press releases for the Halton Pond project during 2004. Also, contact has been made with the North west pond project and pond work carried out at Salford University.     | Natural Environment Roundtable involvement: training event as part of Halton Pond project.<br>Launch the Cheshire Amphibian Atlas at a site in Halton? |
| 5. Encourage submission of general pond records to rECOrd web site.                                                            | On-going                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <b>Target Plan: Redshank</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1. Increase the population of Redshank pairs by 20% and wintering numbers by 20% by 2015. To be based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010. Survey data to include over wintering numbers as well as breeding numbers on saltmarsh and surrounding farmland. | Steady progress: increased recording has been carried out by Tony Parker, including low water counts on the Upper Mersey Estuary.        | To incorporate Tony's work into the HLF funded biological recording work programme, 2005-2009.<br>This long-term BAP target for Redshank is consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway. |
| 2. Promote sympathetic management of saltmarsh in targeted areas, in particular as part of the New Mersey Crossing proposal                                                                                                                                                       | No progress on the ground, but discussions are taking place in connection with the Mersey Gateway.                                       | This long-term BAP target for Redshank is consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway.                                                                                                   |
| 3. Where appropriate incorporate new management prescriptions on targeted sites, such as land around the Hale Duck Decoy, Astmoor saltmarsh and Widnes Warth saltmarsh                                                                                                            | No progress. There is concern that the land around the Hale Duck Decoy is not being managed to the benefit of the Redshank.              | Actions required in discussion with English Nature.                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1. Produce a borough wide Redshank wintering and breeding report by 2005, to establish baseline figures for further habitat monitoring. Monitor annual changes through Breeding Bird Survey data                                                                                  | Not carried out:                                                                                                                         | Funding has been secured from HLF through the Wild About Halton project. To be carried out between 2005 – 2007 by short term contract, HER and rECOrd.                                      |
| 2. Continue regular recording of saltmarsh habitats from Wigg Island Community Park.                                                                                                                                                                                              | Progressing, through both Halton Natural Environment Roundtable (Tony Parker) and consultants for the Mersey Gateway project.            | On-going                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme                                                                                                                                                                | No specific Redshank initiative. Guided events at Wigg Island have raised the profile of the habitats and species of the Mersey Estuary. | Natural Environment Roundtable involvement:                                                                                                                                                 |

| <b>Target Plan: Skylark</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1. Increase the population of breeding pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010. Survey data to provide increase or decrease of suitable breeding habitat and extrapolate number of breeding pairs based on known breeding densities and territory size of skylarks | Some progress: skylark sightings are still being recorded but on an ad hoc basis and mainly in known areas e.g. Manor Park, Hale and Astmoor saltmarsh. This information is still to be added to Recorder 2002 software. There are no new farmland records. The survey target below needs to be carried out before this long-term target can be addressed. | 2002 - 2010 for survey work, then on-going                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2. Identify appropriate areas for the known losses of breeding areas within the period 1998 – 2003.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Not much progress: no new areas have been identified. There is also concern that existing areas of breeding skylark have other competing demands on them e.g. development, tourism, dog walking.                                                                                                                                                           | On-going                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3. Where appropriate incorporate new management prescriptions on targeted sites, such as Oxmoor Local Nature Reserve and Wigg Island Community Park                                                                                                                                                              | Some progress. A ground nesting area on Wigg Island has been created, to be quiet from Spring 2005. Also, a meadow at Moore Meadows is being managed to attract ground nesting birds. Skylarks are nesting at Oxmoor and should continue to do after the current wetland project has been completed.                                                       | On-going                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 4. Promote sympathetic management of saltmarsh and grassland in targeted areas. Promote take up of Countryside Stewardship options with landowners. Promote other beneficial agricultural practices, e.g. retention of stubbles, creation of grass margins and beetle banks.                                     | Not much progress. Stewardship has been promoted to some local farmers but with no immediate change in land management. However, as a long-term target, slow initial progress was expected. Progress under the new Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for farmers is awaited.                                                                                     | On-going                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 5. Identify all habitats in the Unitary Development Plan known to hold viable breeding populations as Wildlife Sites (SINC's).                                                                                                                                                                                   | No sites have been designated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | On-going, based on 5 year rolling programme of SINC review                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1. Establish a specific skylark report and map areas of importance by 2005                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Not carried out                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Funding has been secured from HLF through the Wild About Halton project. To be carried out between 2005 – 2007 by short term contract, HER and rECOrd.<br>Natural Environment Roundtable involvement: supplying records |
| 2. Establish regular recording on 2 key sites where the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Regular recording has been carried out on Astmoor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Possible student project monitoring                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| species is present over three years and set mean population levels. To be repeated every 4 –5 years                                                                     | saltmarsh, 2003 and 2004, as part of the Mersey Gateway project.                                                                                                                           | skylark nests at Manor Park during 2005. |
| 3. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme                                                      | No specific skylark activity, but included in Wild About Halton events in general.                                                                                                         | On-going                                 |
| 4. Expand Local Nature Reserve status in areas of importance for Skylarks within the urban greenspace system, for instance Haystack Lodge and Runcorn Road, Moore       | Some progress: Runcorn Road, Moore (now called Moore Meadows) has a meadow for ground nesting birds. However, the first year required treatment of a dock infestation and wasn't suitable. | On-going                                 |
| 5. Ensure mowing of relevant urban grasslands is not carried out during breeding season (late March to end July). Discourage tree-planting near significant populations | Good progress at Oxmoor LNR: some progress at Wharford Farm and very mixed progress at Manor Park IV.                                                                                      | On-going                                 |

| <b>Target Plan: Song thrush</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. Increase the population of Song thrush pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010. Survey data to provide increase or decrease of suitable breeding habitat and extrapolate number of breeding pairs based on known breeding densities and territory size of Song thrushes. A cautionary note: the major causes of national decline are thought to relate to complex changes in agricultural practice. Action is dependent upon the outcome of current research. Targets need, therefore, to be modest and to be reviewed in the national context. | Borough-wide survey not yet started. A very useful student project surveyed wintering thrushes at Wigg Island.                                                             | To be incorporated into the HLF funded biological recording work programme, as part of Wild About Halton, 2005-2009.                                   |
| 2. Establish new areas of appropriate habitat and management, for instance, within Mersey Forest sites, new Local Nature Reserves and landscaped areas around industrial areas..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No specific actions have been carried out                                                                                                                                  | To be started by 2005/6?                                                                                                                               |
| 3. Where appropriate incorporate new management prescriptions on targeted sites, such as Wigg Island Community Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No specific actions have been carried out                                                                                                                                  | To be started by 2005/6?                                                                                                                               |
| 4. Promote the value of spring sown crops, root crops and scrub areas within the farm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No specific actions have been carried out                                                                                                                                  | On-going                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. Establish a garden recording scheme and map areas of importance by 2005. To be promoted as a “flagship” species for urban areas. Promote provision of bird food in gardens                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No progress                                                                                                                                                                | Funding has been secured from HLF through the Wild About Halton project. To be carried out between 2005 – 2007 by short term contract, HER and rECOrd. |
| 2. Expand Local Nature Reserve status in areas of importance for Song thrush within the urban greenspace system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Progress: three new LNR’s were designated in July 2004. Song thrush recording has still to begin on these new sites                                                        | On-going.                                                                                                                                              |
| 3. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Progress: Song thrushes, and other thrush family members, have been covered in the Wild About Halton events and activities, e.g. bird ringing at Oxmoor and Norton Priory. | On-going                                                                                                                                               |
| 4. Raise awareness associated with the use of pesticides in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | No specific actions have been carried out                                                                                                                                  | On-going                                                                                                                                               |

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| gardens and on farms.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                           |          |
| 5. Consider Song thrush requirements in management of urban greenspace, e.g. provision of suitable nesting habitat, restricting use of slug pellets and worm-killing chemicals. Promote hedgerow protection and planting | No specific actions have been carried out | On-going |

| <b>Target Plan: Reed bunting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>Implementation and Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Progress 2003-2005</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Revised action 2005-2009</b>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Long term targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. Increase the population of breeding pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010. Survey data to provide increase or decrease of suitable breeding habitat and extrapolate number of breeding pairs based on known breeding densities and territory size of reed buntings | Surveying has continued for this species, with a possible 5 breeding pairs in the "Lost Lagoon" at Astmoor. Other ad hoc recording has taken place along the Mersey Estuary, Oxmoor LNR and Hale Road woodland LNR. Most of the data has been added to the Recorder 2002 software. | To be incorporated into the HLF funded biological recording work programme, as part of Wild About Halton, 2005-2009.                                   |
| 2. Promote sympathetic management of watercourses and the creation of reedbeds and small ponds in targeted areas                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Some progress through-out the Borough e.g. reed planting at Pickerings Pasture and Wigg Island. Some loss of reeds at Manor Park                                                                                                                                                   | Possible habitat management project at Manor Park could increase suitable reedbed habitat.                                                             |
| 3. Where appropriate incorporate new management prescriptions on targeted sites, such as Oxmoor Local Nature Reserve                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Some good progress with new schemes e.g. the new Oxmoor wetland project will expand suitable habitat.                                                                                                                                                                              | On-going.<br>Part of this his long-term BAP target for Reed bunting is consequent on progress with the Mersey Gateway.                                 |
| 4. Identify all habitats in the Unitary Development Plan known to hold viable breeding populations as Wildlife Sites (SINC's).                                                                                                                                                                                        | No actions required                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | On-going, based on 5 year rolling programme of SINC review                                                                                             |
| 5. Encourage Countryside Stewardship measures on farmland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | On-going: a couple of farmers have been approached but no immediate progress.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | On-going                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Short term milestone targets in priority order</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1. Establish a recording scheme from 2003 and map areas of importance by 2005                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Some good progress: needs pulling together.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Funding has been secured from HLF through the Wild About Halton project. To be carried out between 2005 – 2007 by short term contract, HER and rECOrd. |
| 2. Establish regular recording on 2 key sites where the species is present over three years and set mean population levels. To be repeated every 4 –5 years                                                                                                                                                           | Good progress: this is taking place on the "Lost Lagoon" at Astmoor.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | On-going                                                                                                                                               |
| 3. Raise public awareness of local importance through relevant activities such as the Wild About Halton! programme                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Progress: on-going through the Wild About Halton and Parks & Countryside events at Wigg Island.                                                                                                                                                                                    | On-going                                                                                                                                               |
| 4. Identify areas holding wintering birds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No specific action has been carried out: the records waiting to be added to Recorder software may help with this target                                                                                                                                                            | Natural Environment Roundtable involvement: supplying records                                                                                          |



