

Standing Open Water Action Plan

Objective 1: Maintain the condition of open waters currently judged as in favourable condition (typical plant and animal communities present and sustainable) within important sites/landscapes (SSSI, SNCI, AONB). Maintain the condition of all other high-quality sites where feasible.

Target: No deterioration in ecological status of favourable-condition standing waters in Kent.

| Action | Target Start Date | Target End Date | Lead Partner | Implementers | Cost | Progress | Constraints |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|------|----------|-------------|
| 1. Ensure that no deterioration in water quality occurs within favourable-status standing open waters. | 2005 | Ongoing | EA | EA, LAs, Landowners, Water companies | | | |
| 2. Ensure the protection and continuation of favourable condition of all Tier 1 eutrophic standing waters (as defined by the national HAP steering group). | 2005 | Ongoing | EA | | | | |
| 3. Ensure that appropriate habitat management plans exist or are developed for standing open waters and surrounding land ('buffer zones') within important wildlife and landscape areas. | 2005 | Ongoing | EN/KWT | Landowners, EN, KWT, AONB Units, LAs | | | |

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| 4. Ensure that any occurrences of non-native, invasive species in favourable-status sites are reported and controlled quickly and effectively. | 2005 | Ongoing | EN/KWT | Landowners | | | |
| 5. Discourage the sale of invasive aquatic species by garden centres, and promote the use of native species. | 2005 | Ongoing | EA/KWT | | | | |
| 6. Ensure that surface/groundwater abstractions and water level controls do not have a deleterious effect on the ecology of favourable-status standing waters. | 2005 | Ongoing | EA | | | | |
| 7. Ensure that faunal pathogens (such as fish diseases and crayfish plague) are not transferred into currently-unaffected standing waters. | 2005 | Ongoing | EA | | | | |
| 8. Use the planning and consenting process to ensure that development does not adversely impact on the ecology of standing waters and faunal linkages between them. | 2005 | Ongoing | LAs | EA, EN, KCC | | | |

Objective 2: Initiate action to restore to favourable condition (typical plant and animal communities present) sites that have been damaged or neglected, particularly within important sites and landscapes.

Target: All important sites restored to favourable condition by 2010

| Action | Target Start Date | Target End Date | Lead Partner | Implementers | Cost | Progress | Constraints |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------|----------|-------------|
| 9. Identify important standing waters that are in unfavourable ecological condition and determine causes. | 2005 | 2010 | EN/KWT | | | | |
| 10. Implement a programme of restoration (typical plant and animal communities present) for key standing waters identified as in unfavourable condition. Prioritise Tier 2 eutrophic standing waters (as defined by national steering group) that have been damaged by human activity. | 2007 | 2020 | EA/EN | | | | |
| 11. Identify sites containing invasive, non-native species and initiate a programme of removal. | 2005 | Ongoing | KMBRC | KRAG, EA | | | |
| 12. Provide up-to-date advice to landowners/managers on restoration and management of standing waters. | 2005 | Ongoing | EA/KWT | | | | |
| 13. Promote the BTCV Pond Warden Scheme in Kent to encourage appropriate management of ponds at Parish level. | 2005 | Ongoing | BTCV | | | | |

Objective 3: Increase the abundance of standing open water habitats where appropriate, particularly wildlife-friendly ponds.

Target: Create 30 new wildlife ponds in strategic areas by 2010.

| Action | Target Start Date | Target End Date | Lead Partner | Implementers | Cost | Progress | Constraints |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|------|----------|-------------|
| 14. Develop a strategic approach in Kent to facilitate targeted pond creation using landscape ecology principles and spatial planning tools such as KLIS. | 2005 | 2006 | KCC | CMPs | | | |
| 15. Identify target areas for creation of great crested newt breeding ponds and facilitate creation through development gain and agri-environment schemes. | 2005 | Ongoing | KRAG | DEFRA, FWAG, LAs | | | |
| 16. Encourage the creation of wildlife ponds within public and private parks and gardens through leaflets and advisory visits. | 2005 | Ongoing | LAs/CMPs | KWT, Landowners | | | |
| 17. Work with developers and consultants to ensure that new ponds and swales are incorporated into development proposals where appropriate. | 2005 | Ongoing | EA/LAs | | | | |
| 18. Promote good practice pond design and management for native wildlife to home-owners and land managers. | 2005 | Ongoing | KWT/ FWAG | | | | |

Key

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| AONB | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Kent Downs & High Weald AONBs) |
| BTCV | British Trust for Conservation Volunteers |
| CMPs | Countryside Management Projects |
| DEFRA | Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EN | English Nature |
| FC | Forestry Commission |
| KCC | Kent County Council |
| KMBRC | Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre |
| KWT | Kent Wildlife Trust |
| KRAG | Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group |
| LAs | Local Authorities |

Definitions

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Objective | What a plan aims to achieve |
| Target | When an objective should be achieved by |
| Action | How the objective is to be achieved and by whom |
| Lead Partner (of HAP) | A dedicated lead partner responsible for liaising with the various partners contributing to a specific HAP and/or SAP. The lead partner has overall responsibility for updating the HAP and/or SAP, for facilitating its implementation and for the annual reporting. |
| Lead Partner (of action within HAP) | In addition to the lead partner of each HAP or SAP, each action has a lead partner. They are not necessarily responsible for undertaking the action alone but may have the responsibility for its co-ordination and reporting to the HAP or SAP lead partner. |
| Implementers | Partners directly involved in the delivery of an action in the HAP or SAP. |