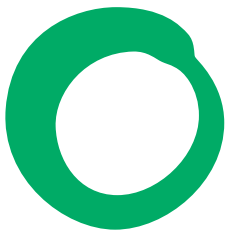


# How to win

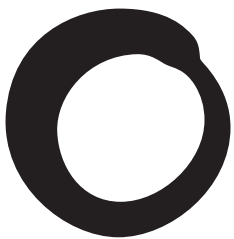
Saving wildlife sites



**Friends of  
the Earth**

# **How to win**

**Saving wildlife sites**



**Friends of  
the Earth**

Written by Alan Stanley on behalf of Friends of the Earth

Edited by Helen Barron

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# Introduction

The UK supports a great variety of wildlife. Wetlands, bogs, grasslands, heaths and centuries-old woodlands have all evolved from thousands of years' interaction between humans and nature. These rich habitats are a unique and irreplaceable part of the country's heritage, as well as being home to plants and animals.

But much of this precious natural heritage has been lost through industrial and urban development and decades of intensive agriculture. In most areas, all that remains are mere fragments of once-rich wildlife habitats.

Some of the remaining areas are given a degree of protection by law. The most important are known as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – or Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland. These make up the minimum area necessary to conserve the UK's range of animals, plants and natural habitats. After years of campaigning by Friends of the Earth and others, legislation was introduced in 2000 which gave SSSIs a much-improved level of protection in England and Wales.

Many sites are still threatened, however, even those that are legally protected. Important habitats are destroyed by developers, mineral extractors and industrialists, for the sake of short-term profit. Factory-style farming, which results from perverse agricultural subsidies, also takes its toll.

Friends of the Earth, through its network of local groups, has a long history of successful campaigning to save wildlife sites. In November 2000, Friends of the Earth's 20-year campaign for a tough wildlife Bill succeeded with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. The Act, as well as providing better protection for species, a 'duty of care' on public bodies, and conservation of SSSIs, puts into law the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The convention aims to promote the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. Every minister, government department and member of the National Assembly for Wales now has a duty to respect the convention.

This is positive stuff, but many wildlife sites are still under threat. It seems road building, air

travel, housing, and the needs of corporations, still hold the balance of power.

This *How to win: saving wildlife sites* guide will give you the practical advice necessary to help you build your own campaign for areas still at risk. It explains why conserving wildlife is so important in the UK, guides you through the often-complex legislation and planning processes, and decodes the seemingly impenetrable acronyms of bureaucracy. Whether you are a seasoned campaigner or a newcomer to wildlife issues, this guide can help you win.

*How to win: saving wildlife sites* should be useful to anyone in the UK wishing to campaign locally to protect wildlife. The majority of the information contained here applies throughout the UK, however, there are some significant regional differences to the specifics in Wales, Scotland and particularly Northern Ireland. We have tried to draw your attention to these differences at the appropriate place in the main text.

# 1 Wildlife – the bigger picture

A lot of environmental press covers the importance of ‘biodiversity’ – a big word for a reassuringly simple concept: the variety of life. As the rate of species extinction and habitat destruction accelerates worldwide, the loss of biodiversity increases. Humans depend on the benefits of biodiversity – food, energy, economy and climate stability – as much as other living things do. The sustainability of these benefits depends on maintaining biodiversity. By upsetting the balance we harm not only nature but ourselves.

The UK has a wealth of wildlife and is home to significant numbers of endangered species and habitats. Many of these have been declining, in some cases drastically. Wildlife is often given low priority in political decision-making and many habitats degrade from neglect, insufficient management, pollution and excessive disturbance.

## 1 Habitat loss

All UK land is influenced by human activity. The majority of land with rich wildlife is known as semi-natural habitat. These areas comprise natural communities of native species where human activities such as livestock farming have replicated the actions of wild grazing animals, for example. Semi-natural land covers about 30 per cent of the UK and has generally been subject to low-intensity use, such as rough grazing. It includes ancient broad-leaved woodland, grasslands, scrub, fens, marshes, dune systems, heaths and moorlands. These areas also record our natural and cultural heritage – they are a dynamic, living illustration of our history and the development of our society.

There are many stark statistics that show how drastically various UK habitats have declined. They are oft-quoted but shocking, nonetheless:

- 30-50 per cent of ancient woodland has been lost since 1945, primarily as a result of conversion to conifer plantation or farmland (NCC, 1984, Nature Conservation in Britain).
- 95 per cent of flower-rich meadows have been lost since 1945, mostly due to intensive agriculture (NCC, 1984, Nature Conservation in Britain).
- 80 per cent of lowland chalk and limestone grasslands have been lost or significantly damaged since 1945, mostly due to conversion to arable production or ‘improved’

grassland (NCC, 1984, Nature Conservation in Britain).

- More than 70 per cent of lowland heath has been lost since the early 1800s, with 40 per cent vanishing in the last 50 years. This is due primarily to intensive agriculture, urban development, afforestation and, more recently, scrub encroachment (RSPB, [www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/frame.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/frame.asp)).
- In northern England, 45 per cent of limestone pavements has been destroyed or severely damaged, largely as a result of the removal of weathered surfaces for sale as rockery stone. Only an estimated three per cent is left untouched (NCC, 1984, Nature Conservation in Britain).
- 50 per cent of fens and coastal marshes has been lost or significantly damaged since 1945, primarily as a result of drainage and nutrient enrichment (NCC, 1984, Nature Conservation in Britain).
- 94 per cent of lowland raised peat bogs have vanished since 1945. The primary causes are afforestation, repeated burning, agricultural land ‘improvement’ and peat extraction (Plantlife, 1991, Commission of Enquiry into Peat and Peatlands). The remaining lowland raised bogs in England are now protected areas but peat extraction for the horticulture industry unfortunately continues on some sites.
- There has been a 30 per cent loss or significant damage of upland grasslands, heaths and blanket bogs through coniferous afforestation, hill land improvement, burning and overgrazing (NCC, 1984, Nature Conservation in Britain).

Throughout the UK, whole landscapes are changing. These large-scale changes to the UK countryside rarely happen overnight. They are a gradual process of change to small parcels of land – a ‘death by a thousand cuts’ for UK wildlife. A grubbed out hedgerow here, a new housing development there, or simply changes in agricultural practice. The cumulative effect has been a steady erosion in the diversity of our countryside.

## Key Point

**This illustrates how important it is to protect these small areas so crucial for wildlife, whether they are recognised officially or not. The tragic losses incurred make what remains yet more valuable.**



# **2 Who to tackle – responsibility for nature conservation in the UK**

Ultimate responsibility for nature conservation in England lies with the Secretary of State for the Environment in the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). In Wales and Scotland powers are largely devolved to their first ministers via the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Parliament respectively. In Northern Ireland the Assembly is likely to take a similar role shortly although at the time of writing the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland has this function. In practice, however, day-to-day responsibility falls primarily to the Government's wildlife agencies and to local authorities.

## **1 The role of the wildlife agencies**

The wildlife agencies (confusingly also referred to as the nature conservation agencies, the statutory bodies or the country agencies) are the official Government bodies responsible for nature conservation in the UK. In England, the agency specifically responsible for wildlife is English Nature (EN), while wider countryside issues are covered by the Countryside Agency (formerly the Countryside Commission). Elsewhere in the UK these functions are combined so the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is the equivalent of both these agencies in Wales, in Scotland it is Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and in Northern Ireland the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS), a division of the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.

There is also a UK co-ordinating body, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) which assists in developing common standards and policies between the agencies and oversees the UK response to international laws, conventions and treaties relating to wildlife protection, such as the European Birds Directive, the Ramsar Convention and CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora).

The agencies are government-funded with budgetary control devolved to the Assemblies and Scottish Parliament. Their broad duties are:

- identifying nature conservation strategies
- notification, protection and to some extent management of SSSIs within their legal remit

- management and protection of National Nature Reserves
- advising Government on nature conservation and planning policy
- encouraging community involvement in nature conservation
- consulting with local authorities, other statutory organisations and private companies
- commissioning or supporting research and disseminating knowledge about nature conservation.

## Key point



**The wildlife agencies must act in the public interest and have a legal obligation to supply certain information relating to designated sites, such as SSSIs.**

In England, Wales and Scotland, the agencies are organised into area teams dealing with the day-to-day management of designated sites, liaising with site owners and the public and giving advice to local authorities and other organisations as they are required to by law. Each also has a national head office co-ordinating national strategy, research and policy.

## Top Tip



**Local teams are usually knowledgeable and are a useful source of information. Even if a local agency team is not aware of a particular issue it is worth seeking their views. Generally they should be treated as allies but do remember the agencies are official bodies, and may not be as sympathetic to campaigns as you would expect. Even where they are sympathetic they have limited resources and their statutory role means they may not be able to go as far you would wish in supporting your cause.**

## 2 The role of local authorities

Nature conservation should be an integral part of the work of local authorities and some do take an active approach to conservation, although their legal powers are piecemeal and inadequate. Councils co-operate frequently with the wildlife agencies and with voluntary bodies such as the Wildlife Trusts.

Local authorities can initiate and support nature conservation by:

- recording information on local wildlife sites
- appointing conservation officers and establishing links with wildlife agencies
- preparing a local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
- providing information for the public and raising awareness.

These are not all legal obligations and the degree to which local authorities involve themselves with nature conservation varies from place to place – there are competing demands for resources and many other pressures. Authorities may choose not to support nature conservation where they see a trade off with jobs or money. They are all, however, open to persuasion and lobbying.

## **Key point**



**Authorities are required to incorporate biodiversity matters in ‘community strategies’. They have specific duties with respect to SSSIs under Schedule 9 of the CRoW Act and most oversee designations of local wildlife sites.**

## **3 Landowners and farmers**

Whatever the legal ins and outs of government policies and responsibilities it is important to recognise that when it comes to the crunch, nature conservation in the UK relies on positive action taken by farmers and landowners. Very few of our most important wildlife sites are managed solely for nature conservation and whilst the positive management for wildlife of some protected areas can now be imposed in certain circumstances nature conservation rightly relies for the most part on the willing co-operation of the landowner or farmer.

Building constructive relationships with these people on the front line is an important, often vital, first step in protecting wildlife. No two farmers are the same; some will be helpful some won't, but we strongly advise you to seek to work with farmers if possible. Organisations such as the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and some County Wildlife Trusts offer advice to farmers on agri-environment schemes and grants and wildlife friendly farming (see How to find out more, Section 9, for details).

Unfortunately, farmers and landowners groups, such as the National Farmers Union (NFU) and Country Landowners Association (CLA), are unlikely to be overtly helpful and may well be the opposite.



# **3 Nature conservation designations and schemes**

Natural heritage schemes and designations fall into two main categories: those based on the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and those based on other criteria. Those in the latter category are many and varied. Some have the protection of landscape features and land use as their primary goal rather than nature conservation per se. All, however, can be useful tools for the local campaigner.

## **1 SSSI-based designations**

There are approximately 6,500 SSSIs in England, Wales and Scotland and around 180 ASSIs in Northern Ireland. They cover about seven per cent of the UK land area and some will have additional designations – National nature reserves, Special areas of conservation, Special protection areas, and Ramsar sites if they are of particular national or international importance.

SSSI designation gives some legal protection; empowering the wildlife agencies to ensure the sites are well managed and protected from damaging activities. Some responsibility is placed on the owner or occupier of the land concerned and local authorities and other public bodies have a number of duties and responsibilities.

(For more information, see Appendix One)

## **International wildlife protection**

There are a number of international treaties and conventions the UK Government has signed up to - most important are two EU Directives - that require the designation of sites to conserve internationally important wildlife. All these, excepting marine sites, use the SSSI designation as a basis - which means all sites designated under the Birds Directive, the Habitats and Species Directive and the Ramsar Convention will also be SSSIs. A note of caution though, if an SSSI has other international designations it does not follow that all the wildlife designated as of 'special interest' in the SSSI is necessarily protected by those additional measures. The criteria used to designate all these different designations is very different and international sites are often designated for very different reasons to the SSSIs which form their basis. A site may be a Birds Directive site because of the numbers of

nightjar but an SSSI for its peatland habitat. The only way to find out whether a site is designated is from the wildlife agency.

## **Natura 2000**

The EU Habitats and Species Directive 1992 (council directive 92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive 1979 (council directive 79/409/EEC) are the most powerful pieces of conservation law in the UK. The Birds Directive requires EU member states to take special measures to conserve some vulnerable bird species and all migratory birds. The Habitats and Species Directive requires states to ensure the “favourable conservation status” of internationally significant species and habitats. Sites designated under the Birds Directive are known as Special protection areas (SPAs). There are more than 200 in the UK. The legal measures which govern the protection and management of SPAs are the same as for the Habitats Directive. Sites designated under the Habitats Directive are known as Special areas of conservation (SACs). There are 350 in the UK at the moment and this will rise to more than 500. Collectively these are known in Europe as Sites of community importance (SCIs) under the EU Natura 2000 programme often referred to simply as Natura 2000 sites. Confused yet? For more information see Appendix Two.

## **The Ramsar Convention**

The ‘Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat’ is, thankfully, better known as the Ramsar Convention after the town in Iran where it was signed in 1971. The convention is designed to promote the preservation of important wetland habitats and its remit has broadened from a focus on wetland birds to promoting the wise use of wetlands in general. Signatory countries are required to designate at least one Ramsar site nationally and to “formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of wetlands”.

In the UK, there are more than 140 Ramsar sites and whilst they are recognised in law (in the CROW Act) they do not have special protection per se. Again the reason for designation may be different from the SSSI.

## **National Nature Reserves (NNRs)**

There are more than 200 NNRs in the UK not including 46 Nature Reserves in Northern Ireland. NNRs are areas of national importance for wildlife (or geology) as originally defined in *A Nature Conservation Review* (Ratcliffe, D. et al, NCC, 1982), or subsequently added. They are all designated SSSIs but are state-owned or leased and managed for wildlife by the wildlife agencies or occasionally by agreement with a competent body such

as the National Trust or RSPB. Most also have some degree of public access and many are used for research.

## **2 Non-statutory wildlife sites**

There are estimated to be at least 42,000 locally identified wildlife sites outside of the statutory protected area network. They include County wildlife sites - also called sites of particular ecological importance, sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs), sites of nature conservation importance (SNCIs), and a myriad other names. In fact a survey by the Wildlife Trusts identified 26 different terms used to name sites and 115 Wildlife Site systems operating in the UK (REF Status of Wildlife Systems 2000, The Wildlife Trusts).

In most cases they are designated by planning authorities, often based on surveys carried out by the local Wildlife Trust with either the authority or the Trust taking responsibility for managing the site. The designation itself amounts to little more than being added to a list of sites referred to by district and parish councils when considering planning applications or other development. Some protection for non- statutory wildlife sites would usually be offered in the local authority 'Local Plan'. The wildlife agencies have a special overview of such schemes and there is formal government guidance on their designation and protection.

## **3 Other schemes and designations**

### **Local nature reserves (LNRs)**

Under the landmark 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, local authorities can acquire, declare and manage LNRs, taking advice on selecting sites from the wildlife agencies. Even parish councils can designate these sites provided they have had the power passed down to them by the planning authority. LNRs must be important in a local context, in the same way that NNRs are nationally. LNRs must be managed to retain their wildlife interest and this is done either directly by the local authority or passed on to a conservation organisation most often the County Wildlife Trust.



## **Key point**

**Local authorities offer protection from development for LNRs with their local plan and have powers to create bylaws to give additional protection.**

Unfortunately, local authorities have been slow to use their protection powers and there are fewer than 1,000 LNRs in the UK - distributed patchily around the country depending on the individual enthusiasm of authorities for nature conservation. For more information on this, see Section 5: Wildlife development and planning law.

Those LNRs that do exist play an important role in conservation by contributing to environmental awareness and, as most are open to the public, they provide easily accessible areas to enjoy and learn about nature. They add to the quality of life in urban areas and offer an opportunity for people to be involved in managing their local environment. LNRs can form a component of Local Agenda 21 strategies, Local Biodiversity Action Plans, and environmental education strategies.



## **Key point**

### **The wider countryside**

**Regardless of the emphasis in UK legislation on protecting sites, the countryside beyond protected areas supports the majority of wildlife. Areas rich in wildlife - ponds, ditches, field margins, headlands and copses - remain, with the notable exception of hedgerows, unprotected and under threat.**

## **Ancient woodland sites**

In England, English Nature has produced an inventory and maps of sites considered to be ancient woodland. These are defined as natural or semi-natural woodland sites larger than two hectares in 1920, when the first maps were produced, and which are believed to have been continuously wooded since 1600. The list is passed to local authorities whose Local Plans sometimes contain measures to protect them, although under planning law such measures are not allowed to frustrate 'development'...

## **Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs)**

The ESA scheme is one of many so-called agri-environment schemes, some overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and some by the nature conservation and countryside agencies. They are meant to encourage farmers to help

safeguard areas where the landscape, wildlife or historic interest is of national importance. Farmers can apply for additional government grants and subsidies to manage these areas of their land to preserve the important features. There are 22 ESAs in England, covering ten per cent of agricultural land. Farmers are under no obligation to take part in the scheme, however, and the areas have no legal status.



## Key point

**Agri-environment schemes are imperfect in many ways but do offer, not protection as such, but a positive alternative to destructive farming methods in some circumstances.**

## Tree preservation orders (TPOs)

TPOs can apply to a single tree, a group or a whole woodland. They are issued by planning authorities to protect trees with amenity or environmental value and make it an offence to cut down, uproot or in any way damage the tree or trees in question. Within a local authority, tree preservation orders are administered by local tree officers and these should be your first point of contact.

## Hedgerow regulations

Under regulations introduced in 1997, the removal of any hedge longer than 20 metres requires planning permission. If the hedge is shown to be significant in terms of its age, environmental or historical importance, then the planning authority can refuse such permission and take further measures to protect the hedgerow. To be seen as significant enough for this action, the hedgerow must be at least 30 years old and meet a minimum of one of eight criteria (*Hedging your bets: is our hedgerow legislation gambling with our heritage?*, CPRE, 1999):

- i marks a pre-1850 parish or township boundary
- ii incorporates an archaeological feature
- iii is part of, or associated with, an archaeological site
- iv marks the boundary, or is associated with, a pre- 1600 estate or manor
- v forms an integral part of a pre-1845 field system
- vi contains certain rare plants or animals (listed in the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act)

- vii includes a certain number of woody species over a given length
- viii runs alongside a public right of way and contains a minimum number of woody species.

## **Limestone pavement orders (LPOs)**

Under Section 34 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, local authorities may make a limestone pavement order which makes it an offense to remove limestone from an area of land. This protection was introduced in response to the widespread destruction of limestone pavement features for sale as rockery stone.

Most areas of limestone pavement are covered by LPOs and many are also SSSIs. Limestone pavements were given further protection under the European Habitats and Species Directives in 1992, when they were recognised as a priority habitat for designation as Special areas of conservation (SAC).

## **Marine nature reserves**

Marine nature reserves are areas recognised for their special marine features and have a level of protection broadly equivalent to National Nature Reserves. At present, however, there are only three in the UK and you are unlikely therefore, to come across them. The three sites are Lundy, Skomer and Strangford Lough.

## **4 Landscape, recreation and access**

There are several additional types of protected area in the UK which, whilst primarily concerned with the protection of scenic beauty and cultural heritage, can be useful in the protection of wildlife habitats. These include national parks, Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) and heritage coasts. This guide will not deal with these areas in detail, but it is useful to be aware of some key information, and if you are campaigning in an area which contains any of these designations it will certainly help you to be familiar with them.

### **National parks**

National parks are designated under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, although this legislation has been amended several times subsequently. They have a dual purpose:

- i) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the national park
- ii) and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special

qualities of the park.

Where conflict arises between these purposes parks must attach greater weight to conservation over recreation; wildlife conservation within national parks is given a high priority. Parks are Governed by national park authorities (NPAs) which, in terms of planning control operate in much the same way as local authorities but with an additional constraint known as the Silkin Test. This requires that NPAs presume against granting permission for development unless it can be shown to be in the national interest, no alternative can be found, or the benefits to the local economy significantly outweigh environmental or landscape disadvantages. As elsewhere, however, agriculture and forestry activities are largely exempt from this.

### **Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs)**

Like national parks, AONBs are designated under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area concerned. Wildlife is once again given a higher priority than elsewhere. Unlike national parks they have no provision for promoting access and recreation and have no special planning provisions. Instead, AONBs are managed by local authorities who, along with other statutory bodies must have regard to the purpose of the AONB when making decisions which affect it. Some AONBs, such as the Sussex Downs, are managed by a conservation board with powers delegated by the local authority, or authorities, concerned. They have no direct planning control, however. Under the 2000 CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way) Act provisions have been put in place for the establishment of further conservation boards where necessary and also a duty has been imposed on local authorities to produce management plans for AONBs under their jurisdiction. The equivalent areas in Scotland are known as National Scenic Areas.

### **Heritage coasts**

Heritage Coasts are a non-statutory designation agreed between the Countryside Agency and local authorities to protect undeveloped coastlines which have particular scenic beauty and features of interest, including wildlife. Local authorities must take them into consideration in planning and managing their coastline.



# 4 Species protection

The primary legislation dealing with species protection in the UK is the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (This does not apply in Northern Ireland), the Habitats and Species Directive (see Appendix Two) and the Birds Directive. There are also other specific pieces of legislation, such as the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. A significant element of species protection arises from the UK's commitment to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.

## 1 Biodiversity planning in the UK

More than 150 world leaders signed up to the Biodiversity Convention at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The objective of this agreement was to conserve and enhance biodiversity worldwide. The Convention requires signatory countries to protect and manage their biodiversity sustainably, and calls on rich countries to help poorer nations meet their objectives. Sadly, there were few targets, timetables or binding commitments.

The UK Government published *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan* in January 1994 as part of its obligations under the Convention. This was followed in 1997 by a set of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) which detailed specific targets and actions for 389 species and 24 habitat types. These plans are implemented by a partnership of conservation organisations and are administered by a 'lead partner' which may be the wildlife agency or an organisation such as the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB or Plantlife.

### Key point



**Species or habitats which are the subject of BAPs are the UK's stated priorities for action and therefore raise greater concern when they are threatened.**

BAPs do not carry legal status and listed species and habitat types are not necessarily protected (although some are covered by other legislation). The Countryside and Rights of Way Act places a duty on Government departments, however, "to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in the exercise of their functions" (DETR,

Countryside and Rights of Way Bill, Factsheet 4, Nature Conservation: [www.wildlife-countryside.defra.gov.uk/cl/bill/factsheet/ 4](http://www.wildlife-countryside.defra.gov.uk/cl/bill/factsheet/4)). The process of listing and identifying the priorities has legal backing even though the plans themselves do not.

## **Species protection legislation**

All wild birds, some animals and plants are protected under Part 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (amended by the CROW Act 2000). It is an offence to take from the wild, kill, injure, intentionally or recklessly disturb or damage the nest or eggs of any wild birds. Additional penalties are incurred if this offence is committed with respect to certain species listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. An exception is made for some game species which may be hunted during defined seasons (listed in Schedule 2).

It is similarly an offence to kill, injure, take from the wild, be in possession of or trade in wild animals listed on Schedule 5. The intentional or reckless disturbance, damage and destruction of those species' 'places of shelter and protection' is also outlawed. There are a number of exceptions to this, however, which allow disturbance where it is 'unavoidable' in the pursuit of specific other 'lawful activities'.

Wild plants are also protected - it is an offence to pick, uproot or damage them. Additionally it is prohibited to sell or possess for the purpose of selling any plants listed on Schedule 8 or their derivatives.

## **2 A guide to particular species**

In addition to the measures covered above some species have specific additional protection. The following list is not comprehensive but covers a few of those species we get asked about the most.

### **Badgers**

Badgers are specifically protected under the provisions of the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act. This Act is designed to prevent the unlawful persecution of badgers for 'sport' and makes it a criminal offence to take, kill or injure a badger without a licence (granted by the wildlife agencies). It is also unlawful to interfere with its sett unless to do so is unavoidable in carrying out a lawful activity. More information is available from the National Federation of Badger Groups at [www.badgers.org.uk/nfbg/](http://www.badgers.org.uk/nfbg/)

### **Bats**

All species of bat are protected in the UK by both the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (Schedule 5) and the Species and Habitats Directive. They are a special case however in that any disturbance to their roosts is strictly controlled by law and anyone wishing to interfere in any way with a bat roost must first seek the advice of their wildlife agency. Additional information is available from the Bat Conservation Trust at [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

## **Bluebells**

Bluebells are protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 but only under those articles which restrict the sale of plants or bulbs taken from the wild. Apart from this they receive no more protection than that given to any wild plant under the 1981 Act. For more information contact Plantlife at [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

## **Great crested newts**

The great crested newt is listed as a 'species of community interest' and is given protection by Annexes II and IV of the Habitats and Species Directive and the Wildlife and Countryside Act. It is an offence to kill or capture the species deliberately, to take or destroy its eggs, damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place, or to deliberately to disturb it. Disturbance is not restricted to places of shelter and is therefore prohibited anywhere. It is also on the priority list of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The Herpetological Conservation Trust works to protect newts and other reptiles and amphibians, contact it on 01202 391319.

## **3 CITES**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), is an international system for regulating the trade in animals and plants, and products derived from them. It is based on a system of permits and certificates which are issued in the UK by the DETR. No native UK species are listed under CITES.



# 5 Wildlife development and planning law

Land-use planning is a crucial issue for nature conservation. As campaigners we frequently find ourselves dealing with one aspect or other of the planning system – for example to oppose a development which would damage a wildlife site. However planning law is by no means all-encompassing when it comes to determining land use. Agriculture and forestry land use are not covered by UK planning law which is primarily concerned with what is called development – building, engineering and mining operations.

## Key point



**The planning system is essentially a means to resolve conflict between differing land-use objectives. As such, it is designed to be responsive to national and local concerns, and to be influenced by public pressure and by technical arguments.**

The Government's general policy guidelines outline the role of planning as being to 'enable the provision of homes and public buildings, investment and jobs in a way which is consistent with the principles of sustainable development. It needs to be positive in promoting competitiveness whilst being protective towards the environment [as] an amenity' (REF: DETR, 1997, PPG1 General Policy and Principles, The stationary office).

There are two processes at work in town hall planning offices:

- i) The production of development plans – the authority's strategy for determining where and how new development takes place, and
- ii) development control – the process of determining individual planning applications.

On a practical level, planning is administered by local authorities. These are either 'unitary' or 'two tier' (the two tier being the old-style County and District authorities). Unitary authorities are responsible for all aspects of planning whereas in two-tier authorities responsibility is split. County councils produce structure plans and determine additional plans for such areas as waste and minerals planning, whereas District councils produce the more detailed local plans and determine all other planning applications. In exceptional circumstances applications can be called in by the Government to be determined by the Secretary of State.

# 1 Development plans

Development plans provide the framework by which planning authorities determine planning applications. There are three types:

## i) Structure plans

Usually produced by county councils, structure plans define broad strategic planning policy for their administrative area. Structure plans have to take into account a range of Government advice and policy and must assess the environmental impact of their strategies. Structure plans should list all designated nationally and internationally important wildlife sites (SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, NNRs and Ramsar sites) and place the nature-conservation importance of the area covered by the plan in a national context.

## ii) Local plans

Local plans put the flesh on the bones of the structure plan to which they must conform. They are produced by district or unitary authorities and go into the detail of what will be allowed to happen where. Local plans should identify, and usually map, all local, national and international nature conservation interest – not necessarily just designated sites – and outline what weight will be given to those interests in determining planning applications.

## iii) Unitary development plans

Some unitary authorities produce UDPs which are essentially a hybrid structure plan (part 1) and local plan (part 2). Other unitary authorities however produce structure plans jointly with neighbouring authorities and their own local plan.

## Influencing development planning

Getting involved in influencing development plans can seem a daunting task. The process can be long - years in some cases - and time-consuming. However, whether it is a structure plan, local plan, waste plan or minerals plan, the benefits for wildlife if you get involved can be significant. There is also a great deal of help to guide you through the stages. Development plans can be used to ensure damaging operations which require planning permission do not go ahead, and also to encourage the adoption of positive management for wildlife. Especially in the case of minerals and waste plans, you can help ensure degraded sites are restored with wildlife in mind.

There have been many positive policies which have been included in development plans (REF: WWF/Green Balance, 1997, *Planning for wildlife – a practical guide*):

- identifying strategic wildlife corridors

- creating areas of wildlife interest in development of areas lacking ecological interest
- providing for the restoration of mineral workings primarily for wildlife
- provision of structures to encourage species such as dormice, bats and otters
- requiring that appropriate habitat management plans are drawn up for local authority-owned land.

When putting together development plans, planning authorities are obliged to take into account the views of local people and interested parties, as well as government guidelines. The process is long and complex, usually with several opportunities for participation, although this can vary between authorities.

## **Top Tip**

**If you decide to try to influence the plan you should get involved as early in the process as possible.**

Contact your local planning department and find out what stage the plan is at and when the public consultation stages will take place. Also ask to be included on the list of consultees so you will receive notification of all the important stages. You can start to influence the process even before the initial stages by writing to the council letting them know your views on planning for wildlife in your area.

## **Top Tip**

**You should also start to build a network of contacts in other relevant organisations, NGOs and other local authorities. These organisations may be able to give you valuable information and expertise and it could be possible to agree a common policy and submit joint objections - or at least ensure that your objections don't contradict, which will give extra legitimacy to your case.**

There are usually three main stages to the process of producing development plans:

**i) The pre-deposit consultation draft**

This is the first stage in the procedure for passing a plan, and the local authority will consult at this stage with bodies such as the DETR, the wildlife agencies, the Environment Agency and any members of the public and interest groups. There is often a six-week consultation period, and this is where letters of objection are needed. You should identify the parts of the plan you object to, why you object to them and the changes you would like to see. The more letters the council receives at this stage the better.

**ii) The deposit stage**

This is a more formal draft, advertised in the local paper and setting out the views of the local authority. Objections are submitted on council forms.

**Top Tip**



**You don't have to respond to the whole plan - it is better to respond to a few points thoroughly in the order they appear, explaining your objection specifically and suggesting any new areas of policy not included. It is also a good idea to make clear your support for those policies you endorse.**

At this stage the authority may decide on revision or withdrawal of some of its proposals, which again must be consulted upon in the same way.

**iii) The plan inquiry**

The plan inquiry is presided over by independent inspectors appointed by the DETR. They hear the council's and objectors' cases and make recommendations relating to all the matters considered. The local authority must then draw up a statement of the post-inquiry modifications, giving reasons for any recommendations not acted upon. This statement must be made publically available, and you can object to the modifications or any recommendations not acted upon. You cannot go back and object to the original plan. Finally the authority must give at least 28 days' notice of its intention to adopt the plan, advertise and send copies to the DETR.

## 2 Development control

Development control is the sharp end of the planning system that determines the specifics of what gets built where. Most types of development require planning permission but there are some significant and potentially damaging exceptions.

### i) Planning policy guidance notes

The primary piece of guidance available to local authorities concerning planning and wildlife is Planning Policy Guidance Note 9: Nature Conservation (PPG9). This is a key document in the decision-making process and sets out in detail the Government's view of how local planners should balance nature conservation with development.

### Top Tip

**We strongly recommend that you study PPG9. It is essential reading for any wildlife campaigner who intends to have any involvement in the planning process.**

The equivalents of PPG9 in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are:

**Wales** TAN 5 Planning and Nature Conservation (Welsh Office 1996)

**Scotland** NPPG14 Natural Heritage (Scottish Office 1999)

**Northern Ireland** Planning Policy Statement 2

### ii) Permitted development

As already mentioned, forestry operations and agriculture are excluded from the planning process and even mobile phone masts and some agricultural buildings are classed as permitted development which does not require permission. In addition, many seemingly minor developments such as fencing may be permitted but could have a significant impact on wildlife.

Short of scouring your area on foot it is very difficult to know when permitted developments are taking place - precisely because they do not require planning permission. If you do come across such cases, however, there is a procedure whereby local authorities can issue an Article 4 Direction to regain planning control over permitted developments. To do this they must justify their case to central government and the Direction has usually only been applied in sites of recognised wildlife or landscape importance such as SSSIs. But it's worth a shot.

If you wish to pursue an Article 4 Direction for an area of land, you need ultimately to contact a planning officer at your local authority.

## **Top Tip**

**It is usually appropriate to approach the landowner first, explain your concerns, and give them the opportunity to adopt positive management for the wildlife on the area concerned, before resorting to the authorities.**

## **Influencing development control**

### **i) Planning permission**

If planning permission is required, which it is for most types of development - details of applications are published weekly in the local press by the planning authority. You can check these at your local planning office or you may be able to subscribe to a mailing service and get the weekly list delivered - at a cost, obviously. There are two types of planning applications, outline applications and detailed applications.

### **Outline applications**

Outline applications are used by developers to establish whether a planning authority is in favour, in principle, of a particular development without having to go to the lengths and expense of a full application. Details are usually sketchy and it is often difficult to determine anything useful from outline applications beyond where the development will be and what it is. Councils can request more details before they make a decision, however. Once approved, outline planning permission gives the developer three years to come up with a detailed application and get approval.

### **Detailed applications**

Detailed applications, as the name might suggest, examine the proposal in far more depth. The application may be supported by a range of other information on subjects pertinent to the application, such as transport implications or the effect of the development on the environment. If an environmental report exists it is worth looking at very closely as its inclusion amounts to an admission by the developer that the impacts of the scheme are potentially significant.

In certain cases, developers will be required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1998 which implement EC Directive 97/11/EC. Some developments will require an EIA (Schedule 1) automatically, while others are at the

discretion of the local authority (Schedule 2) (see Section 9: How to find out more, for more detail).

Environmental reports and EIAs should always be examined critically and bear in mind that they are likely to try to portray the development in a favourable light. It is worth checking the following:

- that a full range of species surveys were carried out and that they were done at the correct time of year
- make sure the report looks not just at the direct physical impact of the development but also at the long-term impacts
- will noise or increased traffic affect local species?
- examine closely any claims made about the level of impact the site is likely to have and try to ensure they are justified.

If required, try to get some technical assistance from your county wildlife trust or local naturalists and see if it is feasible to have access to the site to carry out your own assessment.

If you can show that the level of environmental information available to the planning committee is not sufficient, the planning office may be able to convince the developer to commission an independent survey of the site.

## **ii) The decision process**

Once all the relevant information is available, the local planning authority will make a decision. This will not be arbitrary and must conform to the appropriate development plans described previously.

### **Key point**



**It is a legal obligation to ensure that the decision is in accordance with these plans unless the authority can show significant "material considerations" which override the directions given in the plan.**

Although different applications vary, the decision will be based broadly on the following:

- Central Government guidance contained in Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs)
- regional planning guidance (RPGs)
- the existing structure plans and local plans or unitary development plan
- previous court judgements in relation to appeals in similar cases
- the merits of the individual proposal as described in the planning application
- landscaping, access, loss of amenity value and sustainable development (including wildlife considerations).

Planning authorities are also required to consult with a number of other statutory consultees on all applications. These will vary depending on the application. The wildlife agencies must be consulted about any development affecting SSSIs, for example.

### **iii) Objecting to an application**

The local planning authority must reach a decision within eight weeks of receiving the application, or 16 weeks if an environmental statement was required. So you will need to move quickly. Objections are usually required within 21 days of the application being submitted and sometimes within as little as ten days. If you are pressed for time you may be able to submit an outline objection and follow it up with the detail as soon as possible.

## **Top Tips**

### **Gathering information**

- **Obtain a copy of the full application plus any additional reports or environmental statements.**
- **Network with other wildlife groups and get their views on the proposal. If other groups intend to lodge complaints co-ordinate your objections to give more weight to your arguments and prevent contradictions.**
- **Find out the views of the wildlife agency and the environment agency and any statutory consultees.**
- **Obtain a copy of any relevant development plans.**
- **Check with the planning authority to see if there have been any previous applications to develop the same site. If so find out what happened to them and why.**
- **Obtain the relevant Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs).**

### **Writing the objection**

Try to keep your objection as concise as possible and summarise the key points up front. Submit the application in the name of your group and make sure that copies are sent to all the councillors on the planning committee and to the local media, along with a press release. Make sure you get a copy of the planning officer's report on all the objections and check your views have been represented correctly.

You shouldn't feel the need to concentrate solely on wildlife. You may well have other issues with the development. Is it necessary, for example. Is it consistent in your view with the development plan? But do try to ensure you limit objections to what is contained in the application and concentrate on the material considerations. Quote from the relevant plans and government guidance and try to frame your arguments in terms of whether the development is in the public interest.

### **The decision**

Once a decision has been reached by the planning authority the opportunities to appeal are limited. If the application is refused the developer has the right of appeal which will be heard by an independent planning inspector.

If the application is approved, however, objectors have no right of appeal. The only course of action left is a judicial review of the planning authority's decision through the courts. To succeed, you must show the authority acted unlawfully in approving the application. The authority will require costly legal representation, so this course of action should be approached with caution ...

### **3 Public inquiries**

In particularly contentious cases, the planning application may be called in by the Secretary of State, who will then make the decision. This can happen for an issue that has impacts beyond the local authority, or one that could give (or is giving) rise to substantial regional or local controversy. The applicant can also appeal to the Secretary of State for an inquiry to be held if the local authority has rejected a proposal or failed to determine it within the required time. Inquiries are presided over by a planning inspector who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

A public inquiry attracts more publicity to a planning application and offers an opportunity for opposition views to be expressed and to convince a wider audience of the public antipathy to the project. They are time-consuming, however, and usually favour the developers in that they will have more time and resources to make their case.

### **4 Planning in Northern Ireland**

Although broadly similar in function, planning in Northern Ireland is controlled centrally by the Planning Service, an agency of the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (DOENI). At the time of writing a consultation is underway on Proposals for Amendments to Planning Legislation in Northern Ireland and significant changes to the planning system are being proposed.

A good introductory guide to planning in Northern Ireland is contained in the Planning Service Charter Standards Statement available from DOENI. See also *The Northern Ireland planning system: a user's guide* (Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland, 1997).

The Planning Service website  
[www.doeni.gov.uk/planning/](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/planning/)

Planning Service Charter Standards Statement  
[www.doeni.gov.uk/planning/Charter\\_Standards\\_Statement/citizens.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/planning/Charter_Standards_Statement/citizens.htm)

## 6 Getting started

### Getting information

Accurate and up-to-date information is crucial to any campaign to protect local wildlife in your area, and you need to ensure you have this – and thus know what you are talking about – before getting started on campaigning.



#### Key Point

**Getting information can sometimes be difficult and persistence and patience are required. Remember you are exercising your rights and that pressurising organisations to be more open and provide better information access, is a useful campaign in its own right. Many others may thank you for it.**

The Access to Environmental Information Regulations, 1992, which implement EU Directive 90/313/EEC (this does not apply to Northern Ireland) are a powerful tool for campaigners. The regulations cover Government departments, agencies, local authorities and other bodies which carry out functions of public administration. Anyone can request information under the regulations which cover all environmental information. There is no need to give a reason for wanting the information but state that your request is being made under the Regulations.

Responses should be forthcoming as soon as possible or within two months at the latest. A fee may be charged, but this must be reasonable and relate only to the supply of the information requested.

Friends of the Earth can provide more detailed information on your 'right to know' and you should contact our enquiries unit for more information (See the Contacts section for details of how to get in touch).

A number of general resources are always useful and are outlined in Section 9: How to find out more. When a campaign is focused on a particular site, however, the information you need, and the action you should take, is very much dependent upon what kind of site it is. The following section summarises the key resources.

Once you are aware of a threat to a particular area there are a number of questions you can ask to determine your next steps.

## **1 Is the site, or any part of it, covered by any conservation designations?**

The only comprehensive source of information about designated wildlife sites is your local wildlife agency office, although most information is also held by the local planning authority. Friends of the Earth is pressing the agencies to make access to this information easier – not only to help members of the public trying to find out about their local wildlife sites, but also to reduce the workload of the agency local teams.

Background information on the range of Nature Conservation designations is given in Section 3. See Section 9: How to find out more, for details on where to find the information you need.

### **First steps**

#### **Natura 2000 sites and or Ramsar Site**

##### **Get**

SAC, SPA or Ramsar citation and SSSI citation from your wildlife agency

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

The 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act as amended by the 2000 CRoW Act

The 1994 Regulations which implement the Habitats Directive in the UK

The European Commission guide to Natura 2000 ‘Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive’

The management plan for the SAC or SPA and the management statement for the SSSI.

Ramsar policy statement [www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd10.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd10.htm)

##### **Inform**

The County Wildlife Trust

The RSPB local office

European Commission (DGXI)

DETR planning office

**Ask** your local wildlife agency office what it is doing about the threat.

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

**Get**

SSSI citation from the wildlife agency local office

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

The 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act as amended by the 2000 CRoW Act

The planning authority local plan

**Inform**

The County Wildlife Trust

The RSPB

**Ask** your local wildlife agency office what it is doing about the threat.

**Local nature reserves and county wildlife sites****Get**

Site survey or designation from the local authority

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

Wildlife agency guidance on local sites

Local wildlife sites report from DETR

The planning authority local plan

**Inform**

County Wildlife Trust

Local authority ecologist

**Ask** your local authority and the County Wildlife Trust what they are doing about the threat

**National biodiversity action plan habitats****Get**

The habitat action plan (HAP)

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

Local authority local plan

Local biodiversity action plan

**Inform**

HAP 'lead-partner' organisation

Your local wildlife agency office and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Local biodiversity action plan listed habitats

**Get**

Local biodiversity action plan

**Inform**

The relevant local BAP partners

## 2 Is a listed species present?

Without specialist knowledge it will be very difficult to determine what species are present on undesignated sites without some help. It is worth finding out if any survey has already been done of the area in question. If the site is threatened by a planned development it may be that an Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out (see Section 5). If not, contact your County Wildlife Trust who may have carried out a survey or know of local naturalists who are familiar with the site. If no survey is available, the Trust may be able to arrange for one to be carried out. This can take a considerable amount of time as some species can only be easily recorded at certain times of year. However, the type of habitat present on a site can give a broad indication of whether listed species are likely to be present, and, if no survey is available, this in itself could be used as an argument to delay a damaging activity until the wildlife interest of the site has been determined.

### First steps

#### Habitats and Species Directive or Birds Directive listed species

**Get**

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

The 1994 Regulations which implement the Habitats and Species Directive in the UK

The European Commission guide to Natura 2000

**Inform**

Your local wildlife agency office

Any specialist NGO interested in the particular species (eg. Plantlife, RSPB, The Herpetological Conservation Trust, Mammal Society, Bat Conservation Trust etc.)

**Ask** your local wildlife agency office what it is doing about the threat.

## **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Scheduled species**

### **Get**

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000

### **Inform**

Your local wildlife agency office

Any specialist NGO interested in the particular species (eg. Plantlife, RSPB, The Herpetological Conservation Trust)

**Ask** your local wildlife agency office what it is doing about the threat.

## **National biodiversity action plan species**

### **Get**

The Species Action Plan (SAP)

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation (see Section 5)

Local authority local plan

Local biodiversity action plan

### **Inform**

The SAP 'lead-partner' organisation

Your local wildlife agency office and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Any specialist NGO interested in the particular species (see Section 9 for details)

## **Local Biodiversity Action Plan listed species**

### **Get**

Local biodiversity action plan

### **Inform**

The relevant Local BAP partners

### **3 Does the site contain trees or hedgerows?**

Information on the Hedgerows Regulations and Tree preservation orders is in Section 2.

#### **First steps**

##### **Get**

The DETR guide to tree preservation orders

The Hedgerows Regulations

##### **Inform**

The local tree officer or local authority planning department

**Ask** your local authority about felling licences and TPOs which may apply to the site. Determine whether planning permission has been granted for removal of hedgerows and ask to see any local authority assessment of whether the hedgerows are ‘important’.

### **4 Do any other designations apply to the site?**

In addition to Nature Conservation designations there are a number of planning designations which may be useful. These are not covered explicitly by this guide but information on them is usually contained in the local plan. More information on this is contained in Section 5.

Planning designations to look out for include:

- Areas of outstanding natural beauty
- Greenfield areas
- Strategic gap areas
- Heritage coasts

### **5 What if there is no legal or planning protection for the site?**

Much of the countryside and open spaces in urban areas will not fall into any of the above categories. This does not mean it is impossible to campaign to protect those areas. In cases such as these you will need to broaden your research to try to establish any cultural or historic value of the site. You can also concentrate on the natural beauty of an area and try to establish that it has value to local residents – as an amenity, a place for recreation, relaxation, peace and quiet and enjoyment of nature – that will be harmed by the activity which threatens the site.

# 7 The basics of organising a campaign

At it's simplest, campaigning is about getting organised to change something. We have the right to be involved in decisions that change our lives and our environment and unless we exercise that right, those in positions of power can do what they want with a minimum of public opposition.

This section deals with the basics of how to get started and get organised. It provides basic information on how to use your power to change things and to win.

## 1 Find people to give you people power

Campaigns are rarely won by individuals; they are won by groups of concerned people.

### **Top Tip**

**The more people you involve in your campaign and the more tasks which can be shared, the greater your chances are of campaign success.**

Getting more people involved in your campaign will:

- give your group greater credibility
- enable you to get your message across to a greater number of people
- provide you with a larger pool of people with particular skills or interests
- give your group a regular income, for example if people pay a small membership fee.

Once you have found a group of people with similar concerns, you need to get together and decide on a plan of action. You will need to:

- clarify your aims
- decide how much time you can all spare and how often you want to meet
- decide on a campaign name
- make a list of people the group can approach to write letters, attend meetings, or make telephone calls
- write down a list of other contacts who might be useful.

Having established a core group, you now need to let others know you exist, know how to find you and a bit about your campaign. Campaign publicity should always state what your

group does, how to contact you, how to join and what people can expect when they join.

## **2 Make meetings work... with time for fun too**

Meetings are your public face. At a meeting you will be judged by people who are interested in your campaign. If people come to one meeting and never again, your meetings are not working for new people. And if your meetings are not working for new people, they are probably falling well short of the needs of the rest of the group too.

Regular campaign meetings should be the most effective time your group spends together. Making your meetings work effectively for everyone is a clear sign your group is thinking ahead, wants to succeed in its campaigns, and is attracting new members.

Developing a standard yet flexible format for meetings will allow your group to do everything it wants, and needs, to do in two hours and still have time for an after meeting social/drink.

### **Top Tip**

**Good meetings can make all the difference between a group feeling motivated and dynamic or getting stuck in a rut. The success of your group meetings is in your control.**

## **Get organised: the basics of setting up the campaign**

Now that people are interested and working together, the next step is to establish a campaigning organisation. Getting your organisation right will make your campaigning more effective – it will help your group achieve objectives, save time, win campaigns and thrive in the longer term. Time spent now on getting the best structure for your group will pay off many times over in the future. To keep a group running it is important you work as a team:

- have realistic expectations
- have a common sense of purpose
- have a common sense of identity
- encourage involvement
- encourage people to be active and voice their opinion

- value everyone's contributions
- recognise limitations
- make time for fun.

## 4 Depend on more than one person

Groups can fail if one job involves far too much work – don't leave it all to the chair or co-ordinator. Depending on one person is unfair to the individual concerned, may lead to them doing a bad job or burning out, and can disempower other members of the group. An active campaign group could divide the co-ordinator role between two or more people. Useful appointments include:

- A campaigns co-ordinator who co-ordinates the work of small task-groups (if they exist) or individual campaigners; represents the group externally (eg, on council forums or in the media); monitors media coverage; oversees the group's strategy and steers new members towards appropriate campaigns.
- A group organiser who receives information on behalf of the group and distributes it promptly; is the first point of contact with the public; maintains group resources; ensures meetings are recorded and action points followed up and steers new members towards appropriate organisational jobs.

Other potential roles include a press officer, membership secretary and a treasurer. Another way to organise your group is to split roles into individual tasks which means more than one person can do what would otherwise be one person's job.

### **Top Tip**

**Above all, ensure you structure your group to meet your campaign needs.**



## 5 Manage your membership

Members come and go so always be on the lookout for new blood. Public meetings and events are good places to recruit members. Build on your group's successes and keep your messages locally relevant in order to attract members.

- When holding or attending public meetings, build in time to call for more active and general support.
- Advertise tasks for specific roles on large sheets of paper – like Wanted posters. This enables people to approach you, as well as allowing you to target specific skills.
- If you have set up an event with the aim of getting media coverage for your campaign, build in a call for new members. If you know the event is definitely being covered by the local paper/radio/TV, follow it up with letters to local papers about your campaign, ending by asking for help and funds.
- Build on success – people are attracted to groups that are seen to be successful.

### **Top Tip**



**When dealing with members of the public be positive and sell your successes. As the saying goes, nothing succeeds like success.**

## 6 Draw up a campaign plan

A campaign plan should help increase your group's chances of success and identify the most effective course of action to take. In real life nothing is straightforward. Situations change rapidly, and campaign plans need to be redesigned as necessary. The following are the basic steps:

- decide on your campaign aim and objectives – your aim spells out what the campaign wants to achieve overall, objectives are the stepping stones for how you get there
- identify your targets – the people or institutions which can bring about the changes you are campaigning for
- develop your key messages
- know your facts
- choose your tactics – your choice of tactics depends not only on who your target is, but

on the issue, the timing, what stage the campaign is at, opportunities for influence and how much pressure you want to apply

- mobilise the public – the majority of campaigns are won because of public pressure. Look for easy, straightforward ways the public can get involved in your campaign
- develop a media strategy – when planning campaigns, consider how to use the media to get your messages across, and gain maximum exposure at prime opportunities
- draw up schedules for main activities/events
- draw up a summary of what needs to happen by when with clear priorities. Know who your allies are, and work with them – who else is doing something similar to you? Can you link up with other community groups?
- identify fundraising opportunities – every campaign opportunity is a possible fundraising opportunity
- review, evaluate and monitor your campaign When and how will you judge whether the campaign has been successful?
- “We won!” – when you do have a campaign victory, take time to celebrate your success. Victories are significant milestones, and marking them can re-energise your campaign. Always be prepared to win.

## **7 Money – getting it and managing it**

The first rule of fundraising is that, ‘You don’t get what you don’t ask for’. Do not be afraid to ask for funds to run your campaigns. There are several ways of raising money for your campaign and they are not all mutually exclusive. For example you can organise a fundraising event, hold a street collection or run a raffle. You can also fundraise from trusts – there are more than 20,000 grant-making trusts and foundations in the UK. While most mainly give to national organisations a significant number are for local grant-making bodies. The Directory of Social Change produces guides about local trusts and ways to fundraise.

Once the money starts rolling in, you’ll need to work out how to manage it. There are financial and legal issues to consider. For example, there is a legal obligation to record all monies received and notes must be kept of who has given personal donations.

## Top Tips

### Managing money



- **Appoint a treasurer.**
- **Get a bank account.**
- **When you receive or pay out money record it at once and write out a receipt.**
- **File receipts – keep all receipts in an envelope, filed or clipped together.**
- **Balance the books at the end of the month or quarter.**
- **Annual accounts – the point of balancing the books is to make sure that at the end of the financial year the group's account books and bank account tally.**
- **Legal issues – most voluntary groups will be characterised under the heading of "Clubs, societies and associations". Some may be registered as separate legal entities. Unfortunately there is no automatic exemption from tax. The Inland Revenue Guidance leaflet IR46 sets out the position with regard to Income and Corporation tax and can be obtained from your local tax office.**

## 8 Get the message across


As campaigners we are competing for people's attention in a noisy, busy world and against large media and advertising budgets. You do not need a big budget to get people's attention. What you do need to do is thorough planning and preparation:

- **What do you want to say? Before you set up a street stall or print a leaflet, try to write down the basics of your message in one or two short sentences. Unless you can explain your campaign to someone who knows nothing about the issue, it will seem small, complicated and irrelevant.**
- **Why are you telling people? What exactly do you want people to do when they have seen your poster, read your leaflet or have visited your street stall? Whenever possible, your communications should contain a clear call to action – such as joining your group, sending a letter, boycotting a product, donating money or attending a public event.**
- **Who are you telling? "The public" is a fuzzy term. Your communications will be much more effective if you target specific people.**

- How are you going to tell them? Once you have worked out who your audience is, and your basic message, decide on the best way to get it across. Stalls, posters and leaflets are just a few ways of communicating to the public. There are many other techniques, such as using stickers or postcards. The main thing to remember is that everything should back up your core message, be attractive, succinct and grab attention.

## Top tips

### Good communications

- Use direct language – specific, active words instead of generalised or vague expressions.
- Keep your language active – it is better for getting people’s attention.  One trick that keeps your language active is to use the shortest possible verb in a sentence.
- Keep it short and simple. If you can cut text, do it!
- Be positive when you communicate – turn things around to give a positive outlook. Use the active voice and be precise.
- Avoid jargon – don’t assume your audience knows everything you do. If you avoid jargon, you’ll keep more people with you.
- Be imaginative – you can get your message across through clever puns, adapted commonsense sayings, metaphors and rhetorical questions. But avoid clichés.

## 9 Look good

To communicate a campaign message you need to think about how design can help you. For example, if you want to produce a leaflet, newsletter or poster, your job will be to make your product so attractive that it stands out or entices someone to pick it up. You will need to make it easy to use by arranging the text and pictures so that people are guided through the publication without confusion about which section they should read, or look at, next.

Whether you are designing your own materials or commissioning a designer it is important to establish what the aims of the publication are. This is known as a brief.

To do this for a poster, work out:

- the purpose of the poster – is it promotional or is it going to communicate a hard-hitting message?
- who is the poster aimed at?

- where will the poster will be displayed?
- how will the poster be reproduced (eg, photocopying/printing)?
- are there any logos to be included?
- how will people know who is talking to them? What details, phone numbers and web addresses will be included?

(Ways to encourage people to read your campaign messages are covered in Friends of the Earth's *How to win – a guide to successful community campaigning*.)

Try your leaflet or poster out on your audience before it is printed. Check for spelling mistakes or wrong phone numbers – ask your tester if they can tell you what the key message is. You may find your family's first impressions very helpful.

## 10 Get basics of media work

Media coverage is by far the quickest, cheapest and most effective way to reach the people you want. A local newspaper is read by thousands. A national news programme is watched by millions. Even the most committed person distributing leaflets cannot reach so many in so short a time. Media coverage can also raise the profile of your campaign and help put pressure on decision makers.

### Top tips

#### Media basics

- **Every media organisation works to deadlines – find out what they are.**
  - **Find out the names of key journalists in your area, what areas they cover and if you can, their pet subjects.**
  - **Know what they want. Journalists want news stories – a key ingredient is something involving local people or local personalities.**
- Other elements include controversy; previously unpublished facts.**



The media finds out about many stories from press releases so you need to know how to write them. Simple rules to follow to increase the chances of your press release being read by the news editor are:

- use headed paper – make up a press release template, which you can copy and reuse
- use the campaign logo (if you have one) and the name of your group in large writing at the top

- give key details – put the date and time of publication at the top
- think pictures – if your press release advertises a demonstration or other visual event, write "Picture opportunity" on it, and give a date, time, and clear address (with map if necessary) of the event
- stay in touch – put full contact details at the bottom of each page with telephone numbers
- put the page number at the top of each page of your release
- make it interesting – try to grab the news editor's attention with a clever, appropriate headline
- put all the key facts in the first paragraph – the first sentence of every news story tells you who, what, when and where; the rest of the story will expand these facts and try to answer the questions why and how
- use short sentences and clear English throughout – avoid jargon
- include a snappy quote from the key campaigner
- add a section called "notes to editors" at the end if you need to – this is for more detailed information, explanations about toxic chemicals, acronyms, references and so on
- keep the press release to two sides of A4 in a fairly large typeface maximum – aim to use just a single side of A4
- distribution by fax is by far the best method
- follow it up – ring key journalists (or news desks) to make sure they have received it, and find out if there is anything else they want to know
- take a look at the site you are trying to save and try to pick out the elements that will appeal most to the public – some species are more charismatic than others, for example.

## **Top Tip**

**Whether you are designing your own materials or commissioning a designer it is important to establish what the aims of the publication are. This is known as a brief.**

## Top Tip

**Media coverage is by far the quickest, cheapest and most effective way to reach the people you want.**



For more information on TV and radio work see Friends of the Earth's *How to win – a guide to successful community campaigning*.



# 9 How to find out more

This section has up-to-date details of where you can access the information you need to campaign effectively to protect wildlife. Needless to say, however, information of the type contained in this report can go out of date quickly. To try to keep information up to date, Friends of the Earth will produce a website to accompany this guide. The information on the site will be kept as up to date as possible and will allow you to join a network of other activists with whom you can share information and request help with your campaigns. You will be able to find this website at [www.foe.co.uk/](http://www.foe.co.uk/)

Many of the references contained in this section refer to information available via the Internet. We have used these as, for most people, this is the cheapest and quickest way of getting hold of information. If you do not have access to the Internet at home try your local library or Internet café.

## General resources

Conserv@tion

[www.habitat.org.uk/news1.htm](http://www.habitat.org.uk/news1.htm)

National Biodiversity Network

[www.nbn.org.uk/](http://www.nbn.org.uk/)

Naturenet

[www.naturenet.net](http://www.naturenet.net)

Naturezone

[www.naturezoneuk.co.uk/](http://www.naturezoneuk.co.uk/)

British Wildlife

[www.britishwildlife.com/](http://www.britishwildlife.com/)

ECOS The journal of The British Association of Nature Conservationists (BANC)

c/o The Wildlife Trust

Lings House

Billing Lings

Northampton

NN3 8BE

Or download a subscription form from [www.greenchannel.com/banc/index.html](http://www.greenchannel.com/banc/index.html)

Countryside law, Garner and Jones, 1997, Shaw and Sons, UK

A detailed introduction to legislation and policy relating to the countryside

Planning for wildlife – a practical guide, 1997 WWF-UK / Green Balance

Detailed information on how to influence the planning system with wildlife in mind including examples of best practice.

## **Specific queries**

The following index gives details on how to obtain more information on specific subjects covered in this guide and gives contact details for a range of organisations you may need to contact. Entries are organised as follows:

- Subject  
Which part or parts of this guide deal with that subject
- Explanation / list of useful references / contact details
- Related subjects

Access to Environmental Information Regulations 1992 Section 7

The text of the regulations can be found at

[www.hmso.gov.uk/si/si1992/Uksi\\_19923240\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.hmso.gov.uk/si/si1992/Uksi_19923240_en_1.htm)

The European Directive on Public Access to Environmental Information can be found at [europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/00402\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/00402_en.htm)

Agri-environment schemes Section 4

For ESAs and agri-environment schemes, see

[www.maff.gov.uk/erdp/guidance/guidanceindex.htm](http://www.maff.gov.uk/erdp/guidance/guidanceindex.htm) or contact the wildlife agencies.

Ancient woodlands Section 4

For information on ancient woodlands, see [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk)

Details of the Ancient Woodland Inventory in England can be found at

[www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/gis/tech\\_aw.htm](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/gis/tech_aw.htm)

Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) Section 4

Information on AONBs can be found on the Countryside Agency website at

<http://194.196.160.72/what/aonb1.htm>

Areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs) Section 4, Appendix 1

Northern Ireland equivalent of SSSIs. See SSSIs, Appendix 1.

Contact the Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland for more information

#### Badgers Section 4

More information on Badger protection is available from

National Federation of Badger Groups

2 Cloisters Business Centre

8 Battersea Park Road

London

SW8 4BG

Telephone: 020 7498 3220

Fax: 020 7627 4212

[www.badgers.org.uk/nfbg/](http://www.badgers.org.uk/nfbg/)

#### Bats Section 4

More information on bat protection is available from

The Bat Conservation Trust

15 Cloisters House

8 Battersea Park Road

London SW8 4BG

Tel: 020 7627 2629

Fax: 020 7627 2628

Website [www.bats.org.uk/](http://www.bats.org.uk/)

#### Biodiversity action plans (BAPs) Section 4

The JNCC UK Biodiversity website gives information on the Biodiversity Action Plan process and partners. [www.jncc.gov.uk/ukbg/default.htm](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ukbg/default.htm)

Information on the responsibilities of public bodies in relation to BAPs is available at [www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/cl/bill/factsheet/downloads/fact4.rtf](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/cl/bill/factsheet/downloads/fact4.rtf))

The Sectionnership against Wildlife Crime guide to wildlife crime enforcement in the UK [www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/index.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/index.htm)

#### Birds Directive Section 3

1979 European Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds).

For more information on the Birds Directive, see appendix two

The directives themselves are available from

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/legis.html>

See also Habitats and Species Directive

#### CITES Section 4

The International Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species. A summary of CITES measures as they apply to the UK is available at [www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/9\\_1\\_1.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/9_1_1.htm)

#### Countryside Agency

The Agency responsible for countryside, landscape and natural heritage in England (but not directly wildlife).

#### The Countryside Agency

John Dower House

Crescent Place

Cheltenham

Glos

GL50 3RA

Tel: 01242 521381

Fax: 01242 584270

[www.countryside.gov.uk/](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/)

#### Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Chapter 3, Appendix 1

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Legislation which includes measures to protect wildlife and wildlife sites especially SSSIs.

Available online at [www.uk-legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts.htm](http://www.uk-legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts.htm)

A series of factsheets on the Bill is also available from DETR at [www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/cl/bill/](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/cl/bill/)

#### Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) Section 2

The wildlife agency and countryside agency for Wales.

#### Countryside Council for Wales

Plas Penrhos,

Ffordd Penrhos,

Bangor,

Gwynedd.

LL57 2LQ.

Tel: 01248 385500

[www.ccw.gov.uk/](http://www.ccw.gov.uk/)

Countryside Council for Wales local teams can be found at:

[www.ccw.gov.uk/english/offices.htm](http://www.ccw.gov.uk/english/offices.htm) or by phoning the head office.

Convention on Biological Diversity Section 4

Signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Requires signatories to protect and manage biodiversity sustainably and led to the establishment of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.  
See Biodiversity Action Plan

Designated sites Section 3

JNCC's guide to Nature Conservation in the UK

[www.jncc.gov.uk/corporate/default.htm](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/corporate/default.htm)

DETR guide to designated sites [www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd08.htm](http://www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd08.htm).

[www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd08.htm](http://www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd08.htm)

A good guide to the legislation underpinning designated sites is available in *Countryside Law*, Garner and Jones, 1997, Shaw and Sons.

Good general information on designated sites is also available from [www.naturenet.net/](http://www.naturenet.net/)

See also Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation (Habitats and Species Directive), Special Protection Areas (Birds Directive), National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, Ramsar Convention.

Development plans Section 6

The campaign for Planning Sanity has useful links to legislation and online versions of development plans at [www.onlincam.freereserve.co.uk/planning/brief/devlopln.htm](http://www.onlincam.freereserve.co.uk/planning/brief/devlopln.htm)

See also Planning

English Nature Section 2

The Wildlife Agency for England

English Nature

Northminster House

Peterborough

PE1 1UA

Tel: 01733 455000

[www.english-nature.org.uk/](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/)

Addresses of English Nature local teams can be found at: [www.english-nature.co.uk/contact/local\\_office.asp](http://www.english-nature.co.uk/contact/local_office.asp) or by phoning the head office.

Environment and Heritage Service Section 2

The Wildlife and Countryside Agency for Northern Ireland  
Countryside & Wildlife Branch  
Calvert House  
23 Castle Place  
Belfast  
BT1 1FY  
[www.ehsni.gov.uk/](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/)

#### Environmental impact assessment Section 5

An excellent guide to the ins and outs of environmental impact assessment is Introduction to environmental impact assessment: principles and procedures, process, practice and prospects, Glasson, Therivel and Chadwick (1998)UCL Press

See also Planning

#### Environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) Section 3

An area in which farmers and landowners can apply for additional payment in order to manage their land sustainably. See agri environment schemes

#### Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Section 2

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) website contains a range of information including contact details for their local groups and advice to farmers on wildlife friendly farming.

[www.fwag.org.uk/](http://www.fwag.org.uk/)

#### Habitat action plans Section 6

See Biodiversity Action Plans

#### Habitats and habitat loss Section 1

The RSPB has an excellent introduction to the variety of UK habitat the species they support and the threats they face: [www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/habitats/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/habitats/index.asp)

General information on land use trends in the UK countryside can be obtained from the Countryside Survey 2000 at [www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/cs2000/](http://www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/cs2000/)

#### Habitats and Species Directive Section 4

1992 European Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)

For more information on the Habitats and Species Directive see Appendix two

The directives themselves are available from

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/legis.html>

The regulations governing implementation of the Directive in the UK (The 1994 Regulations ) are available at [www.hmso.gov.uk/si/si1994/Uksi\\_19942716\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.hmso.gov.uk/si/si1994/Uksi_19942716_en_1.htm)

Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/legis.html>

Hedgerow protection Section 3

A good introductory article is available at  
[www.naturenet.net/articles/congrevel.html](http://www.naturenet.net/articles/congrevel.html)

Heritage coasts Section 3

Information on Heritage Coasts is available from the Countryside Agency at  
[www.countryside.gov.uk/activities/landscapes/heritagecoasts\\_01.htm](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/activities/landscapes/heritagecoasts_01.htm)

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Section 2

The co-ordinating body for UK nature conservation agencies.

JNCC,

Monkstone House,

City Road,

Peterborough,

PE1 1JY

Tel. (0)1733 562626

Fax: (0)1733 555948

[www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk)

Limestone pavement orders Section 3

A good summary of the legislation is available at

[http://www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/6\\_2.htm](http://www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/6_2.htm)

Local authorities Sections 2 and 6

There are a number of directories of local authorities available on the internet

[www.open.gov.uk/index/t\\_local\\_government.htm](http://www.open.gov.uk/index/t_local_government.htm)

[www.oultwood.com/localgov/england.htm](http://www.oultwood.com/localgov/england.htm)

Local biodiversity action plans Section 4

Contact your local authority to find out if they have produced a local BAP and to get details

See also Biodiversity action plans

Local nature reserves (LNRs) Section 3

Details of LNRs in your area should be available from the planning authority and may be

listed in the Local Plan or on their website. Your local nature conservation agency office should also have details. It is worth checking out how LNRs feature as components in other environmental strategies run by the local authorities: they may be important components in a local Biodiversity action plan, Agenda 21 strategy or environmental education strategy.

Contact your local Wildlife Agency office for details of local wildlife sites in your area.

A summary of the legislation is available at:

[www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/contents.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/contents.htm)

Local wildlife sites Section 3

Information on local wildlife sites in your area should be available from your local authority or by contacting your local Wildlife Trust.

Details of the Local Sites Group report to DETR is available at

[www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd08.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd08.htm)

They are expected to produce specific guidelines on the designation and management of local site schemes late in 2001. The Wildlife Trusts have also published research on the designation and management of local wildlife sites, The status of wildlife systems 2000, available from them. Contact your local Wildlife Trust for details of local wildlife sites in your area. See also local nature reserves.

Mammal Society

15 Cloisters House,  
8 Battersea Park Rd,  
London SW8 4BG  
Tel. 020 7498 4358

[www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/)

Marine Conservation Society

9 Gloucester Road,  
Ross-on-Wye,  
Herefordshire,  
HR9 5BU

Tel:01989 566017

Fax:01989 567815

[www.mcsuk.org/home.html](http://www.mcsuk.org/home.html)

Marine nature reserves Section 3

There are only three MNRs in the UK

Strangford Lough: [www.ehsni.gov.uk/NaturalHeritage/StaticContent/mnr.htm](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk/NaturalHeritage/StaticContent/mnr.htm)

Lundy: [www.gratton.co.uk/ilfsac/lundy/inf/mnr.html](http://www.gratton.co.uk/ilfsac/lundy/inf/mnr.html)

Skomer: [www.ccw.gov.uk/designat/english/mnr.htm](http://www.ccw.gov.uk/designat/english/mnr.htm)

National nature reserves Section 3

Information on National Nature Reserves is available from wildlife agencies and on their respective websites.

National parks Section 3

Information on national parks in England and Wales including a description of each park and contact details for every national park authority can be found on the Association of National Park Authorities website: [www.anpa.gov.uk/theparks.htm](http://www.anpa.gov.uk/theparks.htm)

Additional Information is available from the Council for National Parks at [www.cnp.org.uk/](http://www.cnp.org.uk/)

Natura 2000 Section 3

The programme of designating protected areas under the European Habitats and Species Directive and Birds Directive.

See Habitats and Species Directive

Newts

For information on the conservation of newts and other reptiles and amphibians contact The Herpetological Conservation Trust

655A Christchurch Road,

Boscombe, Bournemouth,

Dorset BH1 4AP

Tel: (44) 01202 391319

Fax: (44) 01202 392785

[www.hcontrst.force9.co.uk/noframes/index.htm](http://www.hcontrst.force9.co.uk/noframes/index.htm)

NPPG14 Section 5

Government guidance to planning authorities in Scotland on nature conservation.

The full text is available from the Scottish Office at [www.scotland.gov.uk/library/nppg/npg14-00.htm](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library/nppg/npg14-00.htm)

See also Planning

Permitted developments Section 5

ie those which are allowed to proceed without the need to obtain planning permission. Details of these are included in two pieces of legislation:

General Permitted Development Order and Use Classes Order – both are available from HMSO [www.hmso.gov.uk](http://www.hmso.gov.uk)

See also Planning.

Planning Section 5

Planning for wildlife – a practical guide, WWF-UK/Green Balance, 1997

Detailed information on how to influence the planning system with wildlife in mind including examples of best practice.

Planning for wildlife – an insider's guide, Hetherington and Jamieson, 2000, British Wildlife vol. 12 number 1, pp1-6

A good introduction to planning from a nature conservation perspective.

Influencing local government – campaigns opportunities for FOE locally, Mobbs P, 1995, [www.gn.apc.org/pmhp/dc/acc2info/inflocgv.htm](http://www.gn.apc.org/pmhp/dc/acc2info/inflocgv.htm)

Detailed guide to influencing planning for local campaigners

How to stop and influence planning permission, Speer and Dade (1998), Stonepound books

DETR Planning website

[www.planning.detr.gov.uk](http://www.planning.detr.gov.uk)

Encyclopaedia of planning law and practice: Monthly Bulletin

Online [www.smlawpub.co.uk/online/plan/](http://www.smlawpub.co.uk/online/plan/)

Briefing on the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1998 from the Encyclopaedia of Planning Law and Practice.

[www.smlawpub.co.uk/online/plan/9904.cfm](http://www.smlawpub.co.uk/online/plan/9904.cfm)

The Northern Ireland planning system: a user's guide (Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland, 1997)

See also PPG9, TAN5, NPPG14, Permitted Development, Development Plans, Environmental Impact Assessment

Plant species protection Section 6

Contact Plantlife or information on the legal protection of plant species.

Plantlife - The Wild-Plant Conservation Charity

21 Elizabeth Street

London

SW1W 9RP

England

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 0100

Fax: +44 (0)20 7730 8377

[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

PPG9 Section 5

Planning policy guidance note 9: Nature Conservation. Central Government instructions for local planning authorities on reconciling nature conservation with planning. At time of writing the guidance is due for imminent review but should be available from DETR at [www.planning.detr.gov.uk/ppg/](http://www.planning.detr.gov.uk/ppg/)

See also Planning

Ramsar Convention Section 3

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

For information on the convention and Ramsar Sites in the UK visit the Ramsar Bureau website: [www.ramsar.org/](http://www.ramsar.org/) or the JNCC website [www.jncc.gov.uk/idt/ramsar/default.htm](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/idt/ramsar/default.htm)

The Government Policy Statement on Ramsar is available at [www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd10.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/ewd/ewd10.htm)

RSPB

The Lodge

Sandy

Bedfordshire

SG19 2DL

Tel: 01767 680551

Addresses of RSPB local offices can be found at: [www.rspb.co.uk/](http://www.rspb.co.uk/)

Scottish Natural Heritage (SHH) Section 2

The wildlife and countryside agency for Scotland

12 Hope Terrace,

Edinburgh

EH9 2AS

Telephone: 0131 447 4784

Fax: 0131 446 2277

[www.snh.org.uk/](http://www.snh.org.uk/)

Addresses for Scottish Natural Heritage local teams can be found on their website or by phoning the head office.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) Section 4

For more information on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, see appendix one

Citation details and management statements (if available) for SSSIs can be obtained from your local wildlife agency office. See also Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

At present limited information on SSSIs is also available from the wildlife agencies websites.

Special areas of conservation Section 4

Citation details and management plans for SACs can be obtained from your local wildlife agency office. See also Habitats and Species Directive.

Some information is also available from the wildlife agencies websites

Special protection areas Section 4

Citation details and management plans for SACs can be obtained from your local wildlife agency office. See also Birds Directive.

Some information is also available from the wildlife agencies websites

Species action plans Section 5, Section 7

See Biodiversity Action Plans

TAN5 Section 6

Government guidance to planning authorities in Wales on nature conservation

Information on planning in Wales is available at  
[www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/index.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanning/index.htm)

See also Planning

Tree preservation orders Section 4

Some useful resources on TPOs, including the latest regulations and a guide to the law, are available from the DETR at

[www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/tpo/guide/index.htm](http://www.wildlife-countryside.detr.gov.uk/tpo/guide/index.htm)

A summary is also available at:

[www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/index.htm](http://www.wildlife.countryside.detr.gov.uk/wildcrime/crime/law/index.htm)

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

WWT Slimbridge,

Gloucestershire

GL2 7BT

Tel: (01453) 891900 press 9 for a list of options

Fax: (01453) 890827

[www.wwt.org.uk/](http://www.wwt.org.uk/)

[www.wwf-uk.org/](http://www.wwf-uk.org/)

Wildlife agencies Section 2

See English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage or Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 3, 4 and 6, Appendix 1

The Act is available online at:

[www.uk-legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts.htm](http://www.uk-legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/acts.htm)

For the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Species Protection, see

[www.jncc.gov.uk/species/](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/species/)

Wildlife Trusts

Jacobs Wells Road,

Bristol,

Avon

BS8 1DR

The Wildlife Trusts website contains details of how to contact your local wildlife trust as well as general information on their work.

[www.wildlifetrusts.org/](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/)

WWF-UK

Panda House

Weyside Park, Godalming

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email: [wwf-uk-supportercare@wwf.org.uk](mailto:wwf-uk-supportercare@wwf.org.uk)

# 10 Glossary

We've tried to spell things out as we go along, but if all these wildlife acronyms are making your head throb - here's a quick list to clarify.

AONB	Area of outstanding natural beauty		Fisheries and Food
ASSIs	Areas of Special Scientific Interest (in Northern Ireland)	NFU	National Farmers Union
BAP	Biodiversity action plan	NNR	National nature reserve
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales	NPA	National park authority
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	PPGN	Planning policy guidance note
CLA	Country Landowners Association	Ramsar Convention	The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)	RPG	Regional planning guidance
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
EHS	Environment and Heritage Service (for Northern Ireland)	SAC	Special area of conservation
EIA	Environmental impact assessment	SAP	Species action plan
EN	English Nature	SCI	Site of community importance
ESA	Environmentally sensitive area	SINC	Site of importance for nature conservation
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)	SNCI	Site of nature conservation importance
HAP	Habitat action plan	SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	SPA	Special protection area
LNR	Local nature reserve	SSSIs	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
LP	Local plan	UDP	Unitary development plan
LPO	Limestone Pavement Order		
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture,		

# How to win

## Saving wildlife sites

This publication, in Friends of the Earth's How to win series, is packed with all the information you need to campaign against the destruction of wildlife sites. It explains the importance of wildlife sites to sustainability and biodiversity, and provides in-depth details of the actions you may wish to take and the procedures that need following. As a general resource or specific campaigning guide it is invaluable reading.

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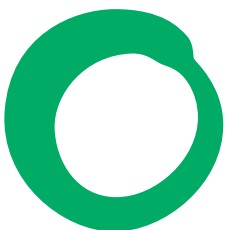
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