

## Broadleaved Woodland Habitat Action Plan

### 1. Habitat Description

- 1.1 Broadleaved woodland can be split into a variety of types according to its origins from ancient, semi-natural (present since at least 1600 AD) to new planting and wet woodland. Initially, this action plan will focus on those woodland types that have been recorded in the Biffa Waste Services ecological survey process, that is ancient, semi-natural and new planting broadleaved woodland. It is anticipated that other broadleaf woodland types (such as wet woodland) will follow at a later stage.
- 1.2 In the UK, most native broadleaved woods comprise a mixture of broadleaved species such as ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, field maple *Acer campestre*, while in southern Britain beech *Fagus sylvatica* and small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* are found. In addition, broadleaved woodlands are noted for the wide variety of plants in the ground layer.
- 1.3 Broadleaved woodlands are structurally complex and represent an important habitat, with many locally and nationally scarce plants and animal species being dependent on it.

### 2. Current Status

- 2.1 The Forestry Commission in 1994 estimated that broadleaved woodland of both native and non-native species, covers approximately 800,000 ha of Britain.
- 2.2 Broadleaved woodlands are affected by:
  - Conversion to other land uses through clearance for developments.
  - Loss of species through neglect or unsympathetic management of woodlands.
  - Excessive disruption through large scale changes in management regime.
  - Uncontrolled grazing of deer and sheep, which leads to a decrease in the structural diversity and reduction in natural regeneration.
  - Replacement of native trees by non-native trees.
  - Invasion by non-native species such as rhododendron *Rhododendron* spp and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.
- 2.3 The international importance of broadleaved woodland is recognised through the EC Habitats Directive with seven broadleaved woodland types listed under Annex I of the Directive.

- 2.4 In the UK some broadleaved woodlands receive protection through the SSSI series and a number of sites are NNRs. Important woodland sites may be recognised by Local Authorities as Wildlife Sites and protected by relevant local planning policies which safeguard them from the effects of inappropriate development. In addition broadleaved woodlands may be covered by Tree Preservation Orders, which are designed to protect individual trees and wooded areas.
- 2.5 Separate habitat action plans have been prepared on the UK BAP for six different woodland types. A Broad Habitat Statement for Broadleaved Woodland prepared by the UK Biodiversity Steering Group aims to maintain the extent and habitat quality, especially of ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodland, and expand broadleaved woods, particularly with new native woodland which is linked to ancient and semi-natural woods.

### 3. Example Sites

- 3.1 Broadleaved woodlands have been recorded at Himley Wood landfill site in the West Midlands, Holiday Moss landfill site in Merseyside, Wednesbury special waste site in the West Midlands and Eversly collection depot in Hampshire.

### 4. Objectives & Targets

No	Objective	Target
4.1	Produce appropriate data collection and information management procedures for the broadleaved woodland habitat.	Action to be in place by 2005.
4.2	Develop appropriate site management techniques to maintain and improve the biodiversity interest of the broadleaved woodland habitat.	Ongoing.
4.3	Develop appropriate monitoring and auditing tools to check and review the performance of the broadleaved woodland Habitat Action Plan.	Action to be in place by 2007.
4.4	Develop an appropriate strategy to increase awareness of the broadleaved woodland habitat and its associated action plan.	Ongoing.

## 5. Action Plan

*There are generic actions for Data Collection & Information Management, Site Management, Monitoring & Audit and Biodiversity Awareness that apply to all Habitat Action Plans. These are located in a separate 'Generic Action Plans' section that should be read in conjunction with this document.*

*Please note that the partners identified in the Broadleaf Woodland Action Plan are not an exclusive list and new partners are both welcome and needed.*

Action	Potential Partners	Year						Meets Objective No.
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2013	
<b>5.1 Data Collection &amp; Information Management</b>								
5.1.1 Determine the extent of broadleaved woodland habitats on all Biffa landholdings through the ecological survey process.	WT	•	•	•				4.1
5.1.2 Develop an information management system, which records and manages broadleaved woodland data alongside other priority habitats.	WT	•						4.1
5.1.3 Implement data management system, recording broadleaved woodland data & keep up-to-date as appropriate.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.1
5.1.4 Support research into the broadleaf woodland habitat particularly in areas highlighted in the UK BAP.	WT, UNI, EN,	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.1
<b>5.2 Site Management</b>								
5.2.1 Based on the results of the ecological survey, protect important sites where broadleaved woodlands occur.	LA, WT, EN	•	•	•	•			4.2
5.2.2 Review site ecological surveys and select sites where appropriate habitat creation and enhancement measures could be implemented for broadleaved woodlands.	WT, EN	•	•	•				4.2
5.2.3 Implement broadleaf woodland enhancement and creation schemes at suitable sites and restrict new woodland planting on sites where this would adversely affect the existing conservation value.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.2

Action	Potential Partners	Year						Meets Objective No.
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2013	
5.2.4 Develop generic management prescriptions to improve broadleaved woodland areas for biodiversity across all Biffa sites.	WT	•						4.2
5.2.5 Ensure that broadleaved woodland management prescriptions are included in Biodiversity Management Modules for sites where it occurs.	WT	•	•	•				4.2
<b>5.3 Monitoring &amp; Audit</b>								
5.3.1 Develop a monitoring protocol for the broadleaved woodland habitat.	WT, EN	•						4.3
5.3.2 Implement a monitoring protocol for broadleaved woodland habitat on Biffa sites.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.3
5.3.3 Develop an auditing procedure for the broadleaved woodland habitat action plan.	WT, LA	•						4.3
5.3.4 Implement an auditing procedure for the broadleaved woodland habitat action plan.	WT		•	•	•	•	•	4.3
5.3.5 Ensure the broadleaved woodland habitat action plan is reviewed and updated.	WT					•	•	4.3
<b>5.4 Awareness</b>								
5.4.1 Produce an internal communication so that best practice for the conservation of broadleaved woodlands can be used by staff where they occur on site.	WT	•	•	•				4.4
5.4.2 Produce education and interpretive material for relevant Biffa Waste Services stakeholders on the broadleaved woodland habitat action plan.	LA, WT	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.4
5.4.3 Encourage appropriate public access for study and enjoyment of broadleaf woodland habitats.	WT	•	•	•	•			4.4
5.4.4 Publish results of broadleaved woodland habitat action plan.	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	4.4

## **6. Partners**

EN – English Nature  
LA – Local Authority  
UNI - Universities  
WT – Wildlife Trust