

## Swindon BAP Standing Open Water Action Plan - Includes Urban Ponds and Canals

**Objective SOW01: To monitor and enhance population sizes and ranges of species associated with standing open water.**

| Target  | Target Measure   | Action  | Action Measure   | Partners  | Action Deadline | Links to Other Plans | Comments  |
|---|--|---|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| SOWT1: To increase knowledge of the range and populations of species associated with SOW habitats, over and above the statutory requirements. | The WSBRC receive an increased number of records from Swindon Borough relating to SOW habitats. Baseline 2009/2010. WSBRC. | SOWA1: A volunteer group study amphibian populations in Swindon Borough.  | At least five ponds are studied each year and the results reported to the WSBRC. | Wiltshire Amphibian and Reptile Group (WARG), WWT | Annual report   |                      | These are surveys undertaken over and above those carried out as part of a statutory obligation (development, public bodies etc). The Swindon Biodiversity Partnership would urge that all contracts for such work, contain a clause requiring those who have conducted surveys and subsequent monitoring, to pass the information to the WSBRC, as part of a statutory obligation. |
|   |  | SOWA2: Individuals are trained to determine the presence/absence of GCN's (and other amphibians) in ponds, under licence.   | At least 5 individuals undertake training.                                       | WARG, WWT   | 2012            |                      |   |
|   |  | SOWA3: Interest in amphibian projects is generated by hosting events focused on amphibians (e.g. Great Crested Newt Hunts). | At least two public events per year.   | WARG/WWT  | Ongoing         |                      |   |

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|---|--|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------|
| <b>SOWT2:</b> Water voles expand their range into more mink free areas. | An increase in the range of water voles. 2014. Water For Wildlife Project (WWT). | <b>SOWA4:</b> Mink control expanded out from local key area up to current target for the WFW project. | Percentage of target area covered. | <b>WFW (WWT)</b> , EA, CWP | 2014            |                      |          |

**Objective SOWO2: To increase the amount of standing open water habitat.**

| Target   | Target Measure  | Action   | Action Measure  | Partners                                 | Action Deadline                                    | Links to Other Plans | Comments   |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|----------------------|--|
| <b>SOWT3:</b> Increase the area of standing open water habitats. | At least one large area of SOW (1ha+) (SB Planning Dept.) and 5 smaller areas of SOW (EA) are developed each year.<br>This is an accrual target to take account of big areas coming online; therefore base year is April 2009-March 2010. | <b>SOWA5:</b> Provide technical advice on biodiversity issues to ensure the Wilts and Berks Canal promotes maximum benefits to biodiversity. | Publication of a Wilts and Berks Canal Trust BAP.   | <b>W&amp;BCT</b> , EA, NE                | 2010   | Wiltshire BAP        |  |
|  |   | <b>SOWA6:</b> Encourage landowners (including schools) to construct new ponds.   | At least five small ponds developed every year.   | <b>EA/WWT</b>                            | Annually   |                      |  |
|  |   | <b>SOWA7:</b> Work with developers to provide advice on pond creation and management in new housing developments and roads (SUDS).           | All major developments provide at least one new pond/wetland area for wildlife.   | <b>SBC</b> , WWT, EA                     | Monitoring major development planning applications |                      |  |
|  |   | <b>SOWA8:</b> To encourage the use of native plant species in newly created SOW habitats.  | Build on existing work and compile a list of information sources and other resources that can be used to encourage use of native species. | <b>WWT (WFW volunteers)</b>              | 2011   |                      |  |
|  |   | <b>SOWA9:</b> Bring forward plans for SOW creation on possible sites (such as Wichelstowe off site mitigation area).                         | One major pond/wetland scheme is brought forward every five years.  | <b>SOW HAP Working Group</b> , SBC, GWCF | 2014   |                      | This is over and above the normal obligations and conditions, where a partnership approach may attract further resources across a landscape. |

**Objective SOWO3: To protect, buffer, link, restore and enhance standing open water habitats.**

| Target   | Target Measure                                     | Action   | Action Measure  | Partners               | Action Deadline | Links to Other Plans | Comments   |
|--|--|--|---|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| SOWT4: Work to achieve the restoration and enhancement of standing open water habitat. | One pond restored or enhanced every year (WWT WfW) | SOWA10: Using existing mechanisms (ELS, HLS, Developer obligations etc) bring forward at least one pond restoration per annum. | Number of ponds restored.   | SOW HAP Working Group  | Annually        |                      | It may be possible to pull together a list of opportunities that can be updated annually |
|  |  | SOWA11: Promote and advise landowners of the benefits of buffer zones near aquatic habitats.                                   | At least two sites influenced each year.                                  | WWT (WfW)              | Annually        |                      |  |
|  |  | SOWA12: Survey existing ponds to determine the number that meet national BAP priority status.                                  | Number determined.  |                        | Annually        |                      | Swindon BAP Coordinator, EA and WfW to determine criteria against which this is judged.  |
|  |  | SOWA13: As ponds are surveyed, determine enhancements for those that do not currently meet national BAP priority status.       | Enhancements suggested for ponds that do not currently meet status.       |                        | Ongoing         |                      |  |
|  |  | SOWA14: Encourage local communities to manage ponds in their local greenspace.   | 5 community groups actively engaged in managing ponds.                    | WWT                    | 2014            |                      |  |
|  |  | SOWA15: Continue to provide a series of volunteer work parties based on Standing Open Water habitats.                          | 10 work parties each year with a focus on SOW enhancement or restoration. | WWT, SBC Rangers, BTCV | Annually        |                      |  |