

- Identifying greenspace sites in supporting documents within or evidencing the LDF, and through the consideration of planning applications
- Production of a Green Infrastructure Study.

## **CS17: BIODIVERSITY**

The council will promote effective stewardship of North Lincolnshire's wildlife through:

1. Safeguarding national and international protected sites for nature conservation from inappropriate development.
2. Appropriate consideration being given to European and nationally important habitats and species.
3. Maintaining and promoting a North Lincolnshire network of local wildlife sites and corridors, links and stepping stones between areas of natural green space.
4. Ensuring development retains, protects and enhances features of biological and geological interest and provides for the appropriate management of these features.
5. Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for.
6. Supporting wildlife enhancements that contribute to the habitat restoration targets set out in the North Lincolnshire's Nature Map and in national, regional and local biodiversity action plans.
7. Improving access to and education/interpretation of biodiversity sites for tourism and the local population, providing their ecological integrity is not harmed.

- 11.39 This policy is primarily about conserving and enhancing North Lincolnshire's wildlife, including intertidal and peat moor locations and supporting a richness of biodiversity that will underpin the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods and green tourism. Alkborough Flats is a recent example (completed in 2006) where a flood risk management scheme has been and a managed nature conservation area provided which includes the creation of some 170 hectares of intertidal habitat. The spatial distribution of the hierarchy of important nature conservation sites is illustrated in the Key Diagram. It recognises the importance of protecting species and the assets found within the statutorily designated sites, but also the need to view biodiversity enhancement as an integral opportunity in all development. Certain developments may be required to submit an impact assessment to quantify the effect on biodiversity and inform design and mitigation measures. Development proposals need to consider protected species at an early stage. Where development adversely affects biodiversity interest, negative impacts should be minimised and compensation to offset these impacts should be provided. Any proposed development likely to have a significant effect on a wildlife site of international importance will be subject to a thorough ecological assessment. A Habitat Regulations Assessment under the Habitat Regulations will be made by the council to inform development control decisions. Where it cannot be demonstrated that a development proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of European or international importance to nature conservation, such development is not supported by this Plan and will not be permitted.
- 11.40 This policy will be implemented through specific proposals, where appropriate, in supporting documents within or evidencing the LDF and by the planning application process to positively bring about development which supports wildlife policy. It will be amplified through special studies/delivery frameworks and by a Supplementary Planning Document.