

## **EN6/4 - Wildlife Links and Corridors**

**The Council will seek to consolidate and, where appropriate, strengthen wildlife links and corridors, and will not permit development which would adversely affect identified areas. In particular, the Council will seek to ensure that new development within or adjacent to identified links or corridors contributes to their effectiveness through the design, landscaping and siting of development proposals and mitigation works, where appropriate.**

### **Justification**

A network of wildlife links and corridors has been defined on the basis of Phase 1 (1990/91) and Phase 2 (1991/92) Habitat Surveys of the Borough. Such areas are important as routes for species migration and dispersal, and often comprise diverse semi-natural habitats. The identified network of wildlife links and corridors connect designated SBI's and other identified areas of high and medium wildlife value. Figure 6 gives a diagrammatic indication of the broad areas concerned and the more detailed boundaries of these areas are identified on the Proposals Map.

For the purpose of clarification wildlife corridors are defined as the major routes by which species migrate or disperse. Wildlife links are generally narrower than corridors but perform an equally important function and mainly consist of roadside verges, active or disused railway land and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal. The wildlife value of land depends to a large extent on its management. Thus, the management of land in accordance with nature conservation principles is necessary to generally enhance the quality and quantity of wildlife habitats. The Bury Wildlife Strategy details the requirements and methods of management for sites of nature conservation value, as well as promoting the social, educational and environmental benefits accessible natural areas can bring to the local community.

Existing wildlife corridors include:

- \_ the Irwell Valley
- \_ the valley of Holcombe Brook
- \_ the valley of Hawkshaw Brook
- \_ the Kirklees Valley
- \_ the Roch Valley
- \_ Hollins Brook
- \_ Whittle Brook
- \_ the valley of Blackshaw Brook
- \_ the valley of Elton Brook

Existing wildlife links include:

- \_ the East Lancashire Railway line
- \_ the old railway lines from Bury to Bolton, Holcombe Brook and Ringley
- \_ the M60/M62/M66 corridors
- \_ the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal
- \_ Manchester to Bury Metrolink line