



Report No: **196/2010** Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Torbay Biodiversity Action Plan – 3 Year Review**

Wards Affected: **All Wards**

To: **Cabinet** On: **27 July 2010**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to Budget: **No** Change to Policy Framework: **No**

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1. What we are trying to achieve and the impact on our customers

- 1.1 To highlight the achievements of the Torbay Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) '**The Nature of Torbay**' in conserving and enhancing key nature conservation assets in Torbay. The attached Delivery Document records the work and actions that have been completed or are in motion over the first 3 years.
- 1.2 To seek the continued support from Members for the Council's partnership with the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and involvement in the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan and related Steering Group as a key mechanism for conserving the biodiversity and geodiversity of Torbay.

2. Recommendation(s) for decision

- 2.1 **That the achievements detailed in the Torbay Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Review be noted.**
- 2.2 **That the Council continues its partnership involvement in and support of the LBAP and Steering Group as a key mechanism for conserving the biodiversity and geodiversity of Torbay through the implementation of the LBAP actions.**

3. Key points and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The Torbay Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) plays a vital role in co-ordinating work to conserve and enhance Torbay's important natural assets. The Nature of Torbay was launched in February 2007 and includes 9 Habitat Action Plans and 7 Species Action Plans. It highlights priority actions for the

conservation of nationally important habitats and species and details delivery mechanisms for the next ten years.

- 3.2 The Council has a duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) which states: *“Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”*.
- 3.3 The Torbay Biodiversity Steering Group includes representatives from Natural England, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Torbay Council (Cllr Dave Butt - Cabinet Member for Community Services and Spatial Planning Officers Steve Turner and Tracy Brooks), RSPB, Devon County Council, Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, Botanical Society of the British Isles and English Riviera Geopark Organisation. The LBAP has been very successful in establishing strong partnerships, which has strengthened delivery and increased opportunities for gaining funding.
- 3.4 The Delivery Report 2006-2010 (Appendix 1) records delivery against the key habitat and species main objectives and key actions set out in the main LBAP document (available to download via: www.countryside-trust.org.uk/lbap.htm). For example, **Lowland Calcareous Grassland** is a nationally important habitat which the LBAP aims to bring into effective management, expand and link existing sites, improve designation and increase monitoring and awareness. The current main mechanism for delivery of these objectives is the ‘Loving our Limestone Project’ 2008-2011 (Partnership project: TCCT, Natural England and Plantlife, funded by a grant of £135k from the SITA Trust) in order to restore key grassland sites suffering from scrub encroachment etc. The project has also publicised the issue of Torbay’s rarest habitat, and carried out surveys and monitoring work. The project has delivered several actions set out in the main LBAP.
- 3.5 The Delivery Report demonstrates many positive achievements towards meeting the LBAP Objectives, and highlights a number of successes. Much project work is still ongoing and the review demonstrates that there are still key habitats and species that require further management and actions.
- 3.6 The LBAP and Steering Group therefore need to remain in place as key elements of Torbay Council’s partnership working with particularly strong links to the Community Plan theme of ‘Pride in the Bay’.
- 3.7 Our designation as a Geopark (www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk) is based upon the international importance of 32 ‘geosites’ covering a story of 3 geological time periods, all found within a compact area. The English Riviera includes one of the highest concentrations of protected geological sites in the UK with 16 Geological Conservation Review Sites (GCRS), 16 County Geological Sites (CGS) many of which sit within the 11 nationally protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s). The European Geoparks Network has signed formal agreements with UNESCO's Division of Earth Sciences giving the network UNESCO endorsement. The LBAP forms a key part of maintaining these geosites and therefore supports The English Riviera Geopark Organisation (ERGO) in maintaining our Geopark status.

- 3.8 The main risk of not continuing to support the LBAP is the detrimental impact it will have on the maintenance and enhancement of Torbay's biodiversity, the impact of failing to meet the Council's duty under the NERC Act, the perception of residents and visitors and maintaining our Geopark status. As Torbay's population increases and development pressures rise, our natural landscape will be put under increasing pressure and as a result this landscape needs a greater degree of management in order to sustain it in the long term. The biological and geological wealth of our area underpins our local economy and improves our quality of life, and failing to manage this resource well may also have long-term financial impacts.
- 3.9 It should be noted that the post of Biodiversity Officer is currently jointly funded by Torbay Council (via New Growth Point funds), Natural England and TCCT. However, funding for work on the BAP in 2011/2012 is at risk. The financial support at present available from Torbay Council (£10,000 pa via NGP) and Natural England will no longer be available and BAP work will be severely curtailed. As a consequence the TCCT, through the BAP Partnership, will need to find other ways of delivering and monitoring the Action Plan.
- 3.10 The TCCT hopes to address this issue by making wider use of the funding that may be available to support work on the emerging Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. In this way it is hoped that it will be possible to continue with at least some basic work on the BAP during the next financial year.

For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to the supporting information attached.

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Supporting information to Report 196/2010

A1. Introduction and history

- A1.1 Biodiversity Action Planning is the methodology followed by national government, local authorities, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations concerned with nature conservation across the UK (UK BAP website: www.ukbap.org.uk). This has been disaggregated to the Regional (www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk) and County level (www.devon.gov.uk/devon_biodiversity_action_plan.htm). A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a way of focusing resources on the most important habitats and species in an area. It can be at a national, regional or local level – whatever is most appropriate. A Geodiversity Action Plan does the same thing, but for geological and geomorphological sites and features. The Torbay BAP integrates both plans into a single document to include all of Torbay's natural assets.
- A1.2 The Nature of Torbay highlights the priority habitats and species in Torbay, describes the issues currently identified as threatening these habitats and species and sets out the main objectives and targets for their future conservation. It should be noted that not all habitats and species in Torbay are included in the document; priority habitats and species were chosen because they are particularly threatened or rare, have public value or are characteristic of Torbay
- A1.3 The Nature of Torbay has strong links to other strategic documents. It supports the Local Development Framework through Supplementary Planning Documents (e.g. The Greenspace Strategy) and other Council led strategies (e.g. Torbay Community Plan).
- A1.4 The National Indicator NI 197 seeks to measure the performance of Local Authorities in protecting and improving their local biodiversity. It is a calculation of the “*proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented*”. Biodiversity forms a part of many other National Indicators but NI 197 is the only indicator which directly measures the results of Local Authority actions on wildlife. NI 197 acts as a proxy for the state of local biodiversity as it is specific and measurable. County Councils and Unitary Authorities must report on NI 197 regardless of whether they have chosen it as a performance improvement target in their Local Area Agreements. The LBAP also underpins the Local Authorities duty to report on NI197 and improving our ‘score’. A separate report dealing with the wider implications of delivering an improved NI197 score will be presented later this year.
- A1.5 A key objective of the single new draft Planning Policy Statement: *Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment* seeks to bring together related policies on the natural environment and on open and green spaces in rural and urban areas to ensure that the planning system delivers healthy sustainable communities which adapt to and are resilient to climate change and gives the appropriate level of protection to the natural environment. It states (policy NE1.1) ‘...*local planning authorities should work together to ensure that they have up-to-date information, at the appropriate scale, about the characteristics of the natural environment in their areas to inform plan-making*’...and should identify ‘...*the regional and sub-regional distribution of habitats and species of principal importance, internationally and nationally designated areas for biodiversity and geodiversity,*

and broad opportunity areas for habitat restoration and re-creation..' The LBAP therefore assists the LPA in meeting both these requirements.

A2. Risk assessment of preferred option

A2.1 Outline of significant key risks

A2.1.1 Continuation of support for the monitoring and implementation of the Torbay LBAP provides a number of benefits, apart from the innate value of conserving our biodiversity and geodiversity. If not continued there are risks to Torbay Council in meeting its duty under the NERC Act, poor NI197 scores, risk to the maintenance of Geopark status, poor evidence base for the Local Development Framework and the Annual Monitoring Report (Core Output Indicator E2 - Changing Areas of Biodiversity Importance). The LBAP also supports the promotion of Torbay's positive image of a biodiversity rich area for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, there is a significant financial risk from any decline in the importance of Torbay's natural assets for the tourism industry.

A2.1.2 The LBAP is the means by which actions to conserve our biodiversity are co-ordinated and prioritised at a strategic level. The existence of the LBAP and the LBAP Co-ordinator means that grants from external bodies are much more readily available. Funders often require a current LBAP to be provided when considering grant applications. In an increasingly competitive public-sector funding environment well-regarded LBAPs and the processes that go alongside LBAPs are likely to be even more important in leveraging grants.

A2.1.3 The LBAP is an important part of the evidence base in the Local Development Framework, including the Affordable Housing and Planning Contributions SPD, where Biodiversity issues are considered to form an 'inner circle' (on site) consideration for development proposals. The LBAP is the established means by which these decisions are made and justified when mitigation for developments are considered.

A2.1.4 The cost of co-ordinating the LBAP is met partly by Torbay Council (£10k p.a.), Partly by Natural England (£8kp.a.) and partly by TCCT (£5kp.a.) The financial risk associated with the current recommendation is low as the Council's expenditure levers significant additional grant aid and further investment (eg the Loving our Limestone grant). The overall benefit to the community in social, environmental and economic terms is considerable.

A3. Other Options

A3.1 Cease support and involvement in the LBAP partnership. This short term option would free up £10,000 of New Growth Point funding (see A4.1 below) but would lead to a significant reduction in biodiversity and geodiversity assets in Torbay.

A4. Summary of resource implications

A4.1 The Council currently works in partnership with TCCT and Natural England to pay for the BAP Officer to co-ordinate the LBAP and emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy at a cost of £10,000 pa from New Growth Points funding. A key risk to this arrangement is the ending of NGP funding in March 2011.

A5. What impact will there be on equalities, environmental sustainability and crime and disorder?

A5.1 Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning spatial planning and should ensure that development is delivered in a way which protects and enhances the natural environment. The recommendations set out provide clear support for environmental sustainability. There are no direct impacts on equalities, or crime and disorder. However our natural assets can contribute to quality of life, health and wellbeing by providing cherished local green spaces and much valued habitats. They can provide opportunities for community involvement in management, education and research.

A6. Consultation and Customer Focus

A6.1 No direct consultation has been undertaken with the LBAP Review. However, extensive consultation was undertaken with stakeholders during the formulation of the LBAP and annual events are held to engage these stakeholders in the progress of the plan.

A7. Are there any implications for other Business Units?

A7.1 Whilst a number of the nature conservation sites are leased to TCCT many sites are owned and maintained by Torbay Council. There may be implications for the Executive Head of Residents & Visitor Services in terms of the nature conservation management of our public open spaces and beaches. The existence of key habitats may also be of relevance to the implementation of development projects and therefore have implications for Spatial Planning and the Torbay Development Agency.

Appendices

Appendix 1 The Nature of Torbay Delivery Report

Documents available in members' rooms

Torbay LBAP 'The Nature of Torbay' -Summary document

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

Torbay LBAP 'The Nature of Torbay'

www.devon.gov.uk/devon_biodiversity_action_plan.htm

The English Riviera Geopark Official application for nomination of the region.

(<http://go.gomango.co.uk/geopark/documents/geoparkapp07.pdf>)

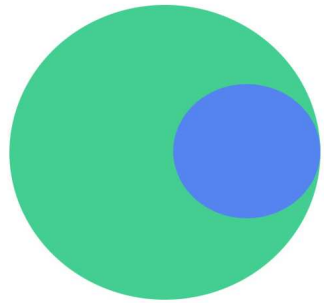
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1)

Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1498981.pdf>)

Consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/naturalenvironmentconsultation?view=Standard>)



The Nature of Torbay

A Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan 2006 - 2016

The Nature of Torbay 2006 – 2010 Delivery Report

1. Background

The Nature of Torbay was launched in February 2007 and includes 9 Habitat Action Plans and 7 Species Action Plans. The Torbay Biodiversity Steering Group includes representatives from Natural England, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Torbay Council, RSPB, Devon County Council, Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, Botanical Society of the British Isles and English Riviera Geopark Organisation.

This delivery document records the work and actions that have been completed or are in motion in the first 3 years.

2. Biodiversity Project Delivery 2006 – 2010

1. Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Bring all existing calcareous grassland sites into effective management.

- Maintain current resource of high quality calcareous grassland.
- Establish restoration plans for all sites by 2009.
- Bring all significant areas of calcareous grassland into favourable condition by 2012.

2) Expand and link existing sites and establish new sites through habitat recreation projects.

- Recreate 10 ha of calcareous grassland habitat, for example as part of development schemes, by 2012.

3) Improve designation of all sites, including fragments.

- Designate all appropriate calcareous grassland County Wildlife Sites by 2009.
- Survey and establish new and existing 'Special Verges' by 2009 and seek inclusion in LDF.

4) Increase the amount of research and monitoring.

- Resurvey the 10 key sites identified in the 2001 Calcareous Grassland Survey by 2009.
- Monitor every calcareous grassland site on a 5 year cycle.

5) Increase education & public awareness.

- Set up an 'Autumn Ladies Tresses' awareness campaign by 2009.
- Continue to promote the 'Save the Small Blue' campaign.

Delivery Mechanism	Project Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Loving our Limestone Project	To restore and maintain Torbay's key Lowland Calcareous Grassland sites which are suffering from scrub encroachment, invasion by non natives, loss of grazing etc.	LCG3 – Maintain management balance – grassland/scrub mosaic. Through clearance and removal of non-natives e.g. cotoneaster & holm oak.	TCCT,NE, Plantlife and SITA (funders) 2008-2011
	Loving our Limestone leaflet produced and available at Trust visitor centres	LCG6 – Inform local community and walkers about the importance of the grassland.	
	Surveys of the Loving our Limestone sites (Sharkham, Durl Head, Walls Hill, Daddyhole, Fishcombe, Berry Head, Hope's Nose)	LCG11 - Complete an inventory of all lowland calcareous grassland sites e.g. verges and identify networks and owners	
	Monitoring programme set up at Loving our Limestone sites	LCG12 – Set up standard surveying protocols across key limestone grassland sites in the Bay. Complete at 5year intervals	

2. Urban – built up areas, greenspace and wasteland.

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Increase positive management for biodiversity in the urban environment.

- Provide 'natural' greenspace sites within 300m of every home in the urban area by 2012.
- Ensure wildlife friendly policies are incorporated into all greenspace management plans by 2010.

2) Raise public awareness of the importance of urban biodiversity and greenspace.

- Launch an awareness campaign and community involvement programme to encourage people to take action on their doorstep to help biodiversity by 2009.
- Promote wildlife-friendly gardening by establishing links with garden centres
- Promote biodiversity through other, connected programmes (e.g. Bay Walks) by 2009.
- Set up exemplar sites of good practice for biodiversity. Establish at least one exemplar site per category (developments, school grounds, gardens, churchyards, businesses) by 2009.

Delivery Mechanism	Project Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Torbay Greenspace Strategy	<p>Ongoing. Biodiversity written into Green Flag managements plan.</p>	<p>U1 – Improve policy implementation by greenspace contractors working for public bodies</p> <p>U2 – Ensure Torbay LDF includes biodiversity within housing developments</p> <p>U3 – Ensure biodiversity is incorporated in greenspace management plans</p> <p>U4 – Ensure that new developments meet greenspace requirements and adhere to section 106.</p>	<p>Torbay Council</p>
	<p>Green Flag accepted as the national performance standard. Green flag likely to go to a organisational green flag quality standard for local authorities in the future.</p>	<p>U5 – Encourage the use of national quality standards in public greenspaces and working towards schemes such as the 'Green Flag'.</p>	
	<p>Torbay Council committed to ongoing reduction in reducing pesticides, fertilisers and peat.</p>	<p>U6 – Adopt policies and promote reductions in the use of pesticides, fertilisers and peat in gardens and public greenspace.</p>	
	<p>Torbay Council undertaking several publicity/promotional drives re dog waste.</p>	<p>U8 – Educate public about green waste and dog waste in public greenspace and enforce dog fouling byelaws</p>	
	<p>Interpretation of biodiversity at public greenspaces has made limited progress e.g Youngs Park conservation area. Funding an issue.</p>	<p>U9 – Improve interpretation of biodiversity at public greenspaces</p>	

	Ongoing	<p>U13 – Raise awareness of biodiversity value of brownfield sites with planners, public and developers</p> <p>U20 – Encourage developers to take biodiversity into design from the start and build around wildlife corridors not through them.</p> <p>U21 – Educate contractors, managers about biodiversity value of public greenspaces and improved management practices.</p> <p>U23 – Communicate with railway management and advise on management for biodiversity</p>	
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3. Farmland

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Maintain/increase the numbers and range of key farmland wildlife.

- Increase the area of farmland under environmental stewardship schemes by 20% by 2010. This area will include:
 - an increase in the area of land under low input arable management by 10% by 2012.
 - an increase in the area of rough/semi-improved grassland by 10% by 2012.
- Maintain and expand existing populations of Cirl buntings and Greater horseshoe bats.

2) Maintain the network of existing ancient boundary hedgerows.

- Identify the current resource of species-rich and ancient hedgerows in Torbay by 2009 and achieve 25% favourable condition by 2012.
- Halt net loss of species-rich and all loss of ancient hedgerows by 2009.

3) Maintain/recreate the area of traditional orchards.

- Identify the current resource by 2009 and increase by 10% by 2012.

4) Work with smallholders to improve the farmed environment for biodiversity.

- Encourage 20% of Torbay's smallholders to improve the farmed environment for biodiversity by 2012.

5) Survey farmland wildlife and habitats to develop a stronger understanding of changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with RSPB/Natural England survey programme. • Undertake Phase 1 surveys of key farmland habitats every 5 years. 			
Delivery Mechanism	Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Occombe Farm and Occombe Local Food Fund	<p>The project's overarching aim is to demonstrate the benefits of local food production and act as a centre for food related learning and training</p> <p>Set up a Community Supported Allotment scheme at Occombe and facilitate 2 more being set up in deprived areas of Torbay.</p>	<p>F13 – Promote the use of local produce and traditional local breeds through sites such as Occombe and farmers markets</p> <p>F11 – Use Maidencombe and Occombe to educate people about farmland issues, from biodiversity to reducing recreational pressures.</p> <p>U14 – Launch community-based programme to promote wildlife-friendly gardening</p>	TCCT ongoing
Greater Horseshoe Bat	Mapping the greater horseshoe bat flyways and raising awareness with planners	F20 – Continue monitoring of bat roosts and develop a system of monitoring elsewhere. Map distribution of known roost sites	Natural England 2009 - ongoing
Cockington Stewardship Project	Project work includes scrub clearance, hedge laying, 3.5 kilometres of hedgerow restoration, almost 5km of fencing and 500 metres of new water supply across the estate. Some 500m of hedgerows will be planted with native trees, such as hazel, hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, oak and spindle	F5 – Encourage planting of new species rich hedges using locally native species	TCCT
Girl Bunting Survey		F19	

4. Broadleaved woodland

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Maintain the current extent of broadleaved woodland and improve its statutory protection.

- Maintain the 532 ha of total woodland and 40 ha of ancient woodland.
- Increase the designation of appropriate woodland sites to CWS / LNR by 2012 e.g. The Grove.

2) Manage and enhance the current areas of broadleaved woodland positively for biodiversity.

- Achieve favourable status of 25% of the current resource by 2012 through a programme of woodland management.

3) Expand and link current areas of woodland without a loss to other priority habitats.

- Increase the area of native broadleaf woodland by 5% through new planting by 2012.

4) Increase knowledge and understanding of Torbay's woodlands, particularly on areas identified as semi-natural or scarce.

- Conduct a resurvey of LWS/CWS by 2009.
- Establish a targeted surveying programme for semi-natural woodland by 2012.

Delivery Mechanism	Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Ancient Tree Hunt	Public and volunteers to help map and survey Torbay's veteran trees.	<p>BW2 – Protect ancient trees (veteran) through relevant legislation e.g. Tree Preservation orders</p> <p>BW12 – Survey and identify all veteran trees as part of the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt. Submit all records to the Woodland Trust.</p>	Torbay Council and TCCT 2007-2008

5. Marine Habitats

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Maintain, improve and expand priority marine habitats and species.

- Halt any decline in seagrass populations resulting from human impacts by 2008.
- Maintain the extent and quality of Honeycomb reefs by 2012.

2) Increase research and monitoring of distribution, ecology and threats to marine habitats and species.

- Establish a monitoring programme for seagrass beds by 2008 and Honeycomb reefs by 2012.

3) Create zones to protect sensitive habitats and species from disturbance and seek further protection.

- Restrict damaging fishing and boating activities over known seagrass beds by 2008.
- Establish a voluntary code of conduct for the Bay by 2008.

4) Ensure EIAs are carried out before marine/coastal development and are taken into account in planning applications.

- Ongoing.

5) Establish partnerships to integrate effort and deliver actions.

6) Increase awareness of marine wildlife and associated threats.

- Set up an awareness campaign for seagrass by 2008 and Honeycomb reefs by 2009.

Delivery Mechanism	Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Torbay's Seagrass Project	The main aim of the project was to survey and conserve Torbay's nationally important seagrass beds.	<p>M22 – Restrict mobile fishing gear within and around seagrass beds where necessary</p> <p>M23 – Investigate changes in zoning and launch arrangements for water-ski lanes in Elberry Cove and Livermead Sands.</p> <p>M24 – Investigate restricting anchorage within seagrass beds</p> <p>M25 – Provide DSFC and fishermen with information on what and where the seagrass is and why it is important to commercial fisheries</p> <p>M26- Inform boat operators of the effects of anchoring and propeller damage to seagrass beds. Provide information, code of conduct and advice on good practice.</p> <p>M27 – Produce information on the impacts of mobile fishing gear over seagrass beds and raise awareness with boat operators and DSFC.</p> <p>M28 – Raise awareness with residents and visitors of the location, importance and vulnerability of the seagrass beds.</p> <p>M29 – Complete mapping audit of distribution and quality of seagrass beds in the Bay</p>	<p>TCCT, NE, Torbay Harbour Authority and Devon Sea Fisheries</p> <p>2007 – ongoing monitoring</p>
Torbay's Sea Caves	<p>Compile a report of the current survey data and information of Torbay's Sea Caves.</p> <p>Sea Caves potentially protected by marine SAC</p>	<p>M31- Seek protection of sensitive species rich marine caves.</p> <p>M32 – Increase the amount of research and monitoring of Torbay's marine caves</p>	TCCT 2008/09
Sea Fest 2009	Celebrate and promote Torbay's marine environment and heritage with a month of marine related community events. Facilitated by SeaTorbay.	M7 – TCCT Seashore Centre to continue to expand and develop marine education work through events programme and work with schools	SeaTorbay 2009

CRESH Cuttlefish Recruitment and English Spawning Habitats	Identify important cuttlefish spawning habitats and work with fishermen and divers to look at encouraging the cuttle not to lay their eggs on the pots but on artificial substrata.	M14 – Investigate the implementation of a voluntary scheme implementing more sustainable fishing practices for cuttlefish e.g. problems associated with leaving pots out of the water with eggs in.	SeaTorbay 2009 - 2011
Marine Spatial Mapping	Create a readily accessible GIS map of Torbay's marine/maritime environment that incorporates all currently available biological, physical and human activity data to aid decision making in the Bay.	M15 – Map out all legal discharge points in the Bay M10 – Develop co-ordinated surveying programme and input into Marine Recorder. Set up exchange agreements with DBRC.	SeaTorbay 2009
Whitebeam Project	Survey the current population of whitebeams in Torbay	MC7- Maintain population of whitebeam <i>Sorbus rupicola</i> and <i>Sorbus porrigentiformis</i> MC14 – Identify and map population of whitebeam.	Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust 2008/09

6. Earth Heritage

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Protect all sites that are of geological importance

- Achieve new CGS designation for all proposed sites by 2008

2) Conserve and enhance all sites that are of geological importance

- Write management plans for new sites by 2008
- Bring appropriate SSSI units into 95% favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

3) Seek to integrate objectives of earth heritage and wildlife conservation across the bay.

- Ensure geology is incorporated into existing management plans when plans are under review. All to have been reviewed by 2012.

4) Establish improved communication and co-ordination between all groups with management, research, educational or recreational interests in the earth heritage sites in Torbay

- Set up Geo-network by 2008

5) Foster greater community involvement, public awareness and understanding of the value of earth heritage sites, both as wildlife

habitats and as resources for education and study of the geology of Torbay

- Establish Geodiversity Officer post by 2008
- Achieve designation of Torbay as a European Geopark by 2008
- Roll out annual programme of events and activities

6) Establish a programme of research and monitoring across the sites

- Establish both site based and document based research where areas are not yet fully documented or contemporary reviews are lacking e.g. Devonian palaeontology and Berry Head Caves by 2009

Delivery Mechanism	Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Geopark	Gain designation of Torbay as a Global Geopark site and promote geological conservation and raise awareness	EH13 – Apply for Geopark designation and promote if successful EH5 – Seek funding to establish a Geodiversity Officer to coordinate actions	ERGO 2007 - ongoing
Rock It	To encourage local people and visitors to Torbay to identify, look after and celebrate the geological heritage of the area. Employ a geoeducation officer for 2 years to deliver project outcomes.	EH10 – Develop an interpretation strategy to educate the public and publicise geodiversity EH11- Increase public awareness through, volunteer opportunities, events and developing field trips and resources for schools and colleges EH12 – Develop links with other earth heritage sites both locally and globally	ERGO, TCCT 2008 - 2010

7. Parkland and Veteran Trees

Main Objectives & Key Actions:

1) Conserve and enhance the current extent, distribution and quality of parkland and veteran trees in Torbay.

- If appropriate increase designation of suitable sites by 2008.
- Establish Environmental Stewardship agreements in areas of Parkland/Veteran Trees by 2012.

2) Extend and improve knowledge of the parkland and veteran tree resource and research into best management options.

- Complete inventory of Torbay's veteran trees by 2012.
- Establish the current resource of parkland in Torbay by 2009.

3) Ensure that the management of surviving sites acknowledges and incorporates the biological value of parkland as well as historical, cultural and agricultural aspects by 2012.

4) Restore, where appropriate, the quality of parkland by ensuring long term recruitment and by linking and buffering within existing sites.

- Seek to restore 50% by 2012.

5) Continue to encourage appreciation and interpretation of Torbay's parkland and veteran trees.

- Encourage local community to be involved in the Veteran Tree Hunt – ongoing.

Delivery Mechanism	Background	Meets Action	Partner/s
Cockington Tree Trail	Produce a tree trail at Cockington	P11 – Promote the trees at Cockington – produce a tree trail	TCCT 2008
Ancient Tree Hunt	Public and volunteers to help map and survey Torbay's veteran trees.	P14 – Work with volunteers and local community to undertake surveys of veteran trees P15 – Produce a veteran tree database, map and submit to the Woodland Trust 'Ancient Tree Hunt'.	Torbay Council TCCT 2007/8