


OBJECTIVE	TARGET	PROGRESS	PLAN STATUS	
			2008-2010	2011-2018
A. Enhance the wildlife value of the habitats immediately associated with canals.	ongoing	Good progress for otter and vole conservation, thanks to the work of the Canal & River Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Coventry City Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford District Council, Local Wildlife Sites Project, Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire, Earlswood Wildlife Partnership, Waterside Care Group, Sustrans and the Living Environment Trust.	↑	↑
B. Maximise linkages to adjacent habitats to ensure connectivity.	ongoing	Some progress thanks to the work of the Habitat Biodiversity Audit, Canal & River Trust, Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.		
Key to status: 2010: ↑ Any improvement ↔ No change ↓ Decline				
2018: ↑ Good progress ↑ Some progress ↔ No change ↓ Decline				

PROPOSED ACTIONS	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	% OF TARGET	ACTION STATUS
					↑ ↑ ↔ ↓
PL1. Continue to select all qualifying canals / sites as LWSs and enter onto database, targeting Coventry Canal, Grand Union Canal at Solihull and Birmingham & Fazeley Canal in the Tame Valley.	2015 onwards	In progress. Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA): the section of the Coventry Canal through Coventry is the first canal to be designated.	1 site		↑
PL2. Ensure that the protection of all LWS-designated canals and adjacent areas are included in Local Development Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and any other relevant strategies.	ongoing	In progress. Canal and River Trust (CRT): a Biodiversity Action Plan is planned for the canals of the West Midlands, recording all habitats and species that need protection. Stratford District Council (SDC): regeneration of land alongside the canal for housing includes a linear park.	1 site		↑
PL3. Ensure that new minor or major developments result in net biodiversity gain through adherence to the mitigation hierarchy.	ongoing	In progress: Warwickshire County Council (WCC): all Local Planning Authorities promote biodiversity impact assessments that lead to net gains. No net loss stated. No current examples of net gain. CRT: is constantly raising this through the planning process under the National Planning Policy Framework for biodiversity gain in all developments.			↑
PL4. Continue to implement statutory water objectives for canals through community engagement.	ongoing	Some progress. CRT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aim is to make canals an environmental asset with good ecological potential but is failing on invertebrates and pollution. is working with the Environment Agency (EA) to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) on the Coventry Canal by 2021. community groups are delivering on the objectives. 			↑
SM1. Maintain favourable ecological condition of all canals and adjacent habitats	ongoing	Progress where possible.	3 sites		↑

by ensuring the appropriate management of all sites.		<p>Sites next to canals being managed as SSSIs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clowes Wood • Shrewley Canal Cutting • Calcutt Meadow <p>CRT: water plans are in place, with mowing specifications; any criticism of grassland management has to be responded to, even if not water vole-friendly, and positive comments on canal-side condition would be appreciated.</p>			
SM2. Initiate programmes of positive management to improve canal habitats, particularly in urban areas.	2020	<p>Good progress.</p> <p>Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire (BCW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wharf Meadows in Bedworth, Marston Lane and Park were linked to the Coventry canal at the Marston Junction in 2014. • Fenny Compton tunnels: scrub clearance for butterflies. • With Sustrans: in 2014 the ‘Small Blue’ project opened up the embankments and restored grasslands on the Grand Union Canal at Long Itchington. <p>CRT: has set a ‘wellbeing’ focus in its strategy and promotional material, aiming to encourage people to use their local wild spaces; working with BCW in areas of deprivation, with a 5- year focus on Coventry.</p>	3 sites		↑
SM3. Create additional habitat wherever there are suitable opportunities, e.g. on CRT-owned land adjacent to canals, especially the off-side bank, taking into account the needs of associated 4 priority species/groups: otter, water vole, white-clawed crayfish and bats.	2020	<p>Good progress.</p> <p>CRT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • otter: 7 individuals are known to have territories in the 500km of Midlands canals. • water vole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the connection of existing wetland corridors through the creation and enhancement of offside habitats, using coir rolls along hard banks along the Coventry and North Stratford canals. ▪ protection of the canal corridor along the Ashby Canal, where there is good vegetation and a water vole population, continues. ▪ where water voles occur or could expand to, the most appropriate mowing specification is chosen for biodiversity, that leaves cover along the water’s edge, whilst still maintaining a safe and welcoming towpath for people. • white-clawed crayfish: concern continues re the impact of disease in water. • bats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shrewley Tunnel: good numbers of Daubenton’s and Natterer’s bats recorded. ▪ Hawkesbury Junction: brown long-eared bats recorded. <p>WWT with CRT and NBBC :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Water Vole recovery project has involved hedgelaying along the canal. • the water vole population is increasing along the Coventry Canal (Marston Junction) in Nuneaton with the linking of populations by the extension of canal banks with planted-up boxes to give habitat and access in and out of the water. 	3 priority species / groups.		↑
SM4. Implement the national requirement for Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) in all new housing schemes of more than 10 dwellings as well as commercial and industrial developments, using the	ongoing	<p>In progress.</p> <p>WCC: implements this Surface Water Management Plan for flooding issues meeting 10 houses plus threshold if it is part of a highways development. If not, it is the responsibility of a District Authority; enquiry to be made at next Green Infrastructure meeting (Annie Ottaway).</p>	3 LAs	50%	↑

opportunity to create new habitats.		<p>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC): implements this Surface Water Management Plan for flooding.</p> <p>Coventry City Council (CCC): is the designated Lead Local Flood Authority for Coventry and as such it is a Statutory Consultee as part of the planning process for all major planning applications where SUDS should be implemented. Once the new Local Plan is adopted by the City's Planning Service, it will be a requirement of all development to ensure SUDS are implemented on a wide scale throughout the City to manage down local flood risk and that of the wider River Severn Catchment.</p>			
SM5. Ensure biodiversity is protected and enhanced during all activities including restoration and management (see RM4).	ongoing	<p>In progress.</p> <p>CRT: plans to increase biodiversity by 10% by 2025 to enhance the priority habitats of hedges, grassland, reed fringe, open water and woodland, delivered through its Environmental Appraisal.</p>			↑
SM6. Improve and maintain canal water quality in line with WFD.	2021	<p>In progress.</p> <p>CRT: dredging of silt in Coventry Canal in 2018-9 with marking of all discharge points.</p>	1 canal		↑
RM1. Carry out surveys, using the Natural Asset Management Strategy, to identify key habitats and priority species on the canal systems, identifying the most important stretches, initially targeting the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal in the Tame Valley, and Coventry Canal, Nuneaton (see PL1).	From 2020	<p>In progress.</p> <p>CRT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Natural Asset Management Strategy highlights the various species and habitats that may be located along the canal corridor and issues guidelines to protect and enhance these environments. • corridor studies have been completed for a few sections of canal in North Warwickshire which have identified potential areas for habitat schemes. • sampling of sites is carried out before any work is begun for the presence of plants and invertebrates. <p>HBA: the Coventry LWS map has been sent to CRT to combine data.</p>			↑
RM2. Where found on the canal systems, monitor otter, water vole, white-clawed crayfish and bats and review data every 5 years. (see RM1)	ongoing	<p>Good progress.</p> <p>CRT action for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • otter: annual surveys for spraint by 70 volunteers have identified 7 individual otters in the 500km of the Midlands canals (spraint is sent for DNA testing). Territories are flexible and a Birmingham University student began to investigate this in 2018; some information is obtained from road kills. • water vole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a survey of the offside bank by canoe was carried out in 2018. ▪ more data about mink is needed in view of the increase in water voles to assess if control is still needed. • bats: records were obtained in conjunction with the Warwickshire Bat Group at Shrewley Tunnel (Daubenton's and Natterer's bats in good numbers) and Hawkesbury Junction (brown long-eared bats). 	3 priority species / groups		↑
RM3. Assess connectivity of canals with adjacent wetland habitats, to identify key landscape areas to improve (see SM2).	2017	<p>In progress.</p> <p>HBA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accurate digitised database of standing water in the sub-region has been established, with mapping, and is annually updated. 	2 canals		↑

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry Canal: mapping and recording has been completed through Nuneaton and Bedworth. • Grand Union Canal: mapping and recording has been completed through Solihull. 			
RM4. Produce Environmental Appraisals and Environmental Impact Assessments for all maintenance work and proposed developments.	ongoing	<p>In progress.</p> <p>CRT: carries out Environmental Code of Practice Appraisals for all programmed work, identifying habitat and species that may be affected by the proposal and any remedial action required to prevent damage to the habitat or species and also enhance the area.</p>			↑
RM5. Continue trials and research into soft bank protection and ‘dressing up piling’.	ongoing	<p>In progress.</p> <p>WWT: ‘soft-bank protection’ was installed at the Hawkesbury junction on the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal in 2008, using vegetative fibre and native plants to create a more natural bank side habitat; results need to be reviewed.</p> <p>CRT: a management trial for soft bank repair on the Stratford Canal began in 2004.</p>	2 canals		↑
RM6. Record and monitor invasive non-native species and identify hotspot areas and produce targeted control programmes. Species include Himalayan balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>), Japanese knotweed (<i>Falopia japonica</i>), marsh pennywort (<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>), giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>), non-native crayfish and killer (<i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>) and demon (<i>D. haemobaphes</i>) shrimps.	2027	<p>In progress.</p> <p>CRT: carries out monitoring of these species and management to reduce them, including the eradication of pennywort from canals. Continues the EA’s (Check Clean Dry Campaign).</p> <p>Environment Agency: produced the Plant Tracker app in 2015 it to help identify and record the location of 14 invasive plant species, with a "Confusion Species" gallery for each one to help separate similar looking plants.</p>			↑
RM7. Monitor the water quality of canals and publish information produced.	ongoing	<p>Reduced input.</p> <p>CRT: scaled back at Earlswood Lakes and elsewhere but there is still a need to investigate the scale and frequency of survey as one-off discharges are increasing.</p>			↓
RM8. Research water quality at locations where there is a potential or known impact on wildlife, e.g. Earlswood Lakes, in partnership with EA and landowners.	2018	<p>Some progress.</p> <p>Earlswood Wildlife Partnership: carries out monitoring of Earlswood Lakes.</p> <p>Waterside Care Group: carries out monitoring at Olton Reservoir, Grand Union Canal.</p>	2 sites		↑
CPI. Provide suitable training for operatives and volunteers to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity, in association with bioengineering companies.	ongoing	<p>In progress.</p> <p>CRT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • held a bio-environment training day in 2016 • holds monthly species training courses for engineers. 	12 courses annually min.		↑
CP2. Hold workshops and events on canal management, protected species, for the public.	ongoing	<p>Good progress.</p> <p>CRT: held workshops for water shrew (2016) and otter and water vole (2018).</p> <p>Living Environment Trust: have been involved in the maintenance and restoration of a 5.5m stretch of the Coventry Canal and delivers educational packages, e.g. litter picks and habitat improvement.</p> <p>Coventry City Council (CCC): the Park Service Rangers maintain the art trail and two pocket parks along the Coventry Canal.</p>	4 events min.		↑

<p>CP3. Include information on the wildlife of canals on existing heritage information boards to enhance the awareness and enjoyment of anglers and other canal users.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Some progress.</p> <p>WWT: has installed notice boards at Coventry Canal at Nuneaton about the water vole habitat work.</p> <p>CRT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental awareness material is available on the website, aimed at boaters and other canal users offering advice on how to reduce the possible detrimental impact upon the environment by their actions. • has installed notice boards at Earlwood Lakes car park. • erects temporary signs when working for water vole; these need to be reviewed every 5 years. 	<p>2 sites</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
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