

Section 2: Species Guidelines

Application

Sites selected on the basis of the habitats which they contain will also support a large part of the County's biodiversity i.e. plants and animals. However, it is recognised that in order to conserve some species, site selection specifically on the basis of their presence will be important. The species guidelines are principally related to species that occur naturally in the county. However, species which are native in Great Britain and which become established in the county without human intervention are also included. In the future the guidance might be revised to include species which are the subject of Natural England accredited species recovery/introduction programmes.

In most cases, each species guideline is followed by a list of species to which the guideline applies in Derbyshire. Such lists generally include only those species which are known or believed at the time of writing to be extant in Derbyshire. For some of the less well-recorded groups of plants and animals these lists may include species that were last recorded in Derbyshire some time ago, but which may still be present. In some cases, however, species that are likely to have become extinct in recent years, are included too, as are a few species that are in the process of extending their geographical range to include Derbyshire. Records of species new to the County or of species previously considered to be extinct which are not included in the lists will also be eligible if they satisfy the terms of the guideline concerned. Hybrids have only been included in the lists where one or both parents are extinct or rare within the County.

For the purpose of these guidelines a 'locality' is defined as an area not exceeding one square kilometre in extent (a monad). It is important to note that Local Wildlife Sites should only be identified on the basis of reliable field records which have been appropriately verified and that often records made within a period of not more than five years prior to the time of first assessment will be required. Species records made before this time will be taken into consideration and can add weight to the selection of a site.

Many species are of course mobile and can move. Use of the term 'regularly' in those guidelines relating to animal species means that the species should have been recorded on the site for a minimum of 3 separate years (not necessarily consecutive) since 1987, unless otherwise stated. In some cases, sites may be designated on the basis of less regular evidence, where there are reasonable grounds to assume that the species concerned is still present or continues to use the site in question.

Sometimes priority species (as defined by the UK BAP) are associated with areas with little other ecological interest, such as buildings, private gardens, improved grassland or arable fields. In these cases it may be impractical to designate Local Wildlife Sites for these species, and these habitats may be specifically excluded from designation.