

Biodiversity

Background

What is this about?

The Biodiversity of Mortimer is the number and variety of plants and animals that exist in the local area.

The NDP can help maintain or increase the Biodiversity. One way of doing that is to increase the number of green corridors and areas within the parish.

All the flora, fauna and landscape in the plan area are inextricably connected. If an area is converted from a field to a residential development that will affect the overall number of plants and animals that are living in the area.

It is possible to change the biodiversity of the area for the better by increasing the

What will it mean to me?

If the NDP helps Biodiversity you will see a wider range of plants and animals in the area.

There will be more green corridors and you will be able to gain easier pedestrian access to the countryside.

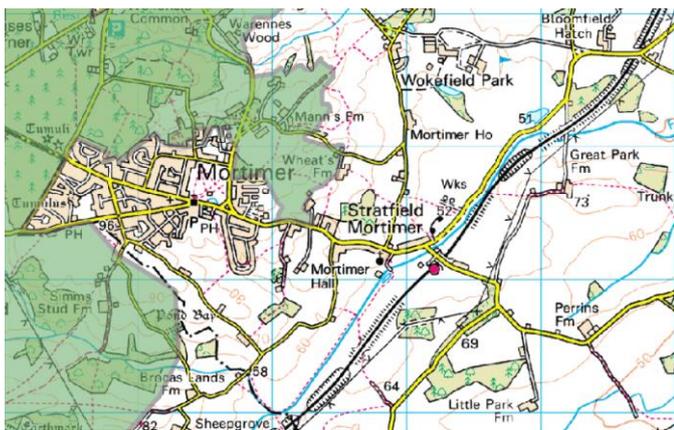
area of species-rich land and by linking such areas to allow animals, birds and insects etc. travel from one habitat to another. It is also possible to make man-made developments less intrusive by building in such things as wildlife corridors.

Of course all such activities come at a price either in terms of cash, resources or space and this plan must try and strike the right balance between these competing aspects.

Specific Considerations

The plan area only contains one area of particular national importance in terms of biodiversity. This is Biodiversity Opportunity Area 13 as identified by the Berkshire Local Nature partnership. This area impinges on the very west of the plan area.

Area 13 Biodiversity Opportunity Area



However, the rest of the plan area contains a wide range of mixed habitats which does support a wide spectrum of fauna and flora. It is to protect this existing biodiversity that policies should be directed.

In addition it is accepted that the opportunity may well arise in the course of development to create further enhancements to biodiversity.

In particular the Lawton Report in 2010 identified the following action plan to help with the national decline in biodiversity:-

- Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management (and enhance heterogeneity)
- Increase the size of current wildlife sites
- Create new sites
- Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'
- Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites

Clearly not all of the above is achievable in this NDP but several of the points are relevant. In particular:-

- Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'
- Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites

It is to these two bullet points that the policies in this NDP are directed.

Example NDP policies

The options

The first option is to carry on as we are with no specific policies on Biodiversity.

Alternatively we can adopt policies which will help increase local Biodiversity

Examples of the sort of policies that might be formulated are:-

Developments should provide open spaces and community woodland, and connect these spaces with others in the village and have defined areas for public access to such spaces

New or improved habitats will be created alongside existing and

new access routes

A network of interconnected wildlife corridors will be drawn up and incorporated in any future development

The sub-division of existing large gardens in the village (i.e. 'backland' development) will be discouraged.

Pros and cons

Doing nothing costs nothing and no extra land would be taken for green corridors. This should make new houses cheaper.

Providing for wildlife uses land which cannot be used for anything else. This tends to mean that new houses are more expensive as they have to allow for the extra land. However, the environment would be improved and new green routes for pedestrians would be created.

Hedgehog friendly fencing



Discussion Sessions

Tue 24th Feb 7–9pm
Sat 28th Feb 10–12am

Please use the post card

Please help us determine which is the most important wildlife to help by completing the Biodiversity post card. Thank you for your help.