

PINS NOTE 32/2011

To: All Inspectors

Date of Issue: 12 September 2011

Currency: review at 6 months after issue

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

Background

1. On 19 August 2011, Defra issued its biodiversity strategy for England. The paper sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy on land and sea over the next decade, building upon the Government's white paper for the natural environment¹ and the UK National Ecosystem Assessment².
2. The aim of the strategy ('the 2020 mission') is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.
3. Four priority areas have been developed, based upon the five strategic goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan³:
 - A more integrated large scale approach to conservation on land and sea;
 - Putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy;
 - Reducing environmental pressures⁴;
 - Improving our knowledge.
4. A summary of the key actions for each priority area can be found at annex A of the strategy. Within the 'reducing environmental pressures' priority area, the key actions for the planning and development sector are:
 - Through reforms of the planning system, take a strategic approach to

¹ The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government – June 2011)

² UK National ecosystem assessment: understanding nature's value to society - synthesis of key findings (2011)

³ [Convention on Biological Diversity, COP Decision X/2, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) (2010)

⁴ The following sectors and pressures have been identified as having the greatest potential to influence biodiversity: agriculture; forestry; planning and development; water management; management of the marine environment; fisheries; air pollution; invasive non-native species

planning for nature within and across local areas; guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks; retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system; and

- Establish a new, voluntary approach to biodiversity offsets and test the approach in pilot areas.
5. Defra will be accountable for the overall delivery of the strategy and Natural England will be the lead statutory body. A rolling delivery plan will be developed with key stakeholders and it is hoped this will be in place within 6 months of the publication of this strategy. If further priorities arise during the lifetime of this strategy, the delivery plan will be updated accordingly.

Action

6. Inspectors should be aware of the Biodiversity Strategy for England, particularly when dealing with development plans and casework where terrestrial and/or marine biodiversity may be an issue. Inspectors will be kept informed of developments by updates to this note as necessary.
7. Please contact XXXX if you have any queries on this Note.

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Director of Quality, Strategy and Plans