

Eye Neighbourhood Plan

Supporting Document 28 - Biodiversity Networks

The Map AA identifies the existing networks of habitats within the parish of Eye that support biodiversity (Priority habitats and species). These provide connections for nature and also opportunities to strengthen and enhance them in line with the emerging Suffolk Ecological Networks project for a local Nature Recovery Network - led by Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) as outlined in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

Biodiversity Networks seeks to maximise opportunities through the planning process to identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks in line with para 174a of the NPPF. This helps to implement the recommendations of the Government report "Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network" (Lawton, 2010) by linking existing habitats, creating more habitat, buffering habitats to make their area bigger and managing habitats better for nature to make them more resilient. This is in line with NPPF para 174b i.e. promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity through the planning process.

The aim of this policy therefore is to enhance the existing biodiversity networks within the parish and link them to adjoining parishes and beyond (e.g Major's Farm Meadow SSSI and part of Thornham Estate Woods CWS both abutting the Eye parish boundary) thus contributing to the county and national networks.

The Biodiversity Networks identified within the Plan area include "building blocks" of designated sites (County Wildlife Sites & Local Nature Reserve) as well as Priority Habitats (hedgerows, woodland, orchard, fen & floodplain grazing land) and Local Green Spaces identified as important for biodiversity (see Supporting Document for LGS). Data has been provided by the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey, Veteran Tree Survey and SBIS Rookery survey, all undertaken by local volunteers which has helped identify the evidence baseline for this Policy.

Policy implications

The Biodiversity Networks have been identified because of their contribution to the biodiversity assets of the parish of Eye. These contribute important connectivity that needs to be recognised, protected and wherever possible added to throughout the development management process.











It provides a mechanism for applications to deliver measurable net gain for biodiversity by contributing to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of Priority habitats and ecological networks within the parish of Eye.

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BIODIVERSITY NETWORKS

KEY

-  Eye Neighbourhood Plan Area
-  Main Routes to the Town Centre
-  Flood zone 3
-  Flood zone 2
-  Flood zone 1
-  Woodland
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Fen
-  Orchard
-  Hedgerows

