

## Clarification of UK & Local Priority Habitat definitions and mapping for Policy NE3 Sites, Species and Habitats, and Policy NE5 Ecological Networks.

1. At present Policy NE3 and the supporting text for Policy NE5 in the Placemaking Plan (PMP) are not consistent. In Policy NE3, clause 3c refers to “Priority Species and Habitats”. The supporting text for Policy NE5 at para 271 refers to “UK Priority Habitats”.
2. Policies NE3 and NE5 are intended to safeguard key sites, species, habitats and ecological networks across B&NES. The intention is to include both UK priority habitat types and Local priority habitat within these policy areas, and to deliver protection commensurate with their status.
3. Usually reference to priority habitat is intended to mean Habitats of Principle Importance as listed in section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. These habitats are determined according to specific criteria described in UK BAP Priority Habitat Descriptions (UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Habitat Descriptions. BRIG (ed Ant Maddock) 2008. 65 habitat types have been listed. Not all occur in B&NES.
4. One local BAP habitat type is relevant to B&NES. This is a Post Industrial Site habitat type which was identified and mapped through Wildthings, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership which was active 2006 -2010.
5. The PMP as submitted does not clarify this distinction, and one mapping data set used in illustrative Diagrams 6 and 7 (PMP Volume 4, pp 17 - 18), and Diagrams 4 and 5 (PMP Volume 3 pp 11 - 12), had merged the two types of priority habitat. This needs correcting to ensure the habitat categories are clear and that policy objectives can be met.
6. In summary, the PMP needs updating to distinguish between UK Priority Habitat as listed in Section 41 of NERC Act, and a Local Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat – Post industrial Sites, determined through Wildthings the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership active for the B&NES area between 2006 and 2010.
7. This requires the following amendments:-
  - 1) For the Ecological Networks policy, para 271 would need an additional bullet point to include
    - **“Local BAP Habitat (Post Industrial Sites)”**
  - 2) An update of Policy NE5 Ecological Networks Map (p88 of Volume 6 Appendices and Glossary) to reflect the Local BAP Habitat (see Annex 1). Diagrams 6 & 7 of the PMP Volume 4, pp 17 & 18, and Diagrams 4 and 5 of PMP Volume 3 pp 11 & 12 would need updating to reflect this change.
  - 3) For Policy NE3:
    - Clause 3c should be amended to state **“UK Priority Species and UK Priority Habitats...”**
    - Clause 3d should be amended to include **“for locally important species and habitats,....”**

