



Landscapes for Living **Guidance for Local Opportunity Mapping**

The Regional Opportunity Map is intended to show regionally important opportunities such as priorities for landscape scale enhancement of regionally important habitats on a regional scale. The shaded opportunity areas and other opportunity areas such as SRCs and urban areas and growth points are shown as overlaid on top of the regional biodiversity map. The biodiversity base map was constructed by combining all habitats using regionally data that was consistent across the region and displayed at LDU level. Local Opportunity Maps need to add value to the regional map, they need to reflect the regional priorities outlined on the regional opportunity map but should also provide further details taking account of local knowledge and consider local opportunities for local priorities for habitats and for species.

The six 'county' based LBAPs should be the sub-regional scale used for local opportunity mapping. These local maps need to be created taking account of local circumstances, The LFL regional project not dictate the methodology for producing these maps. However certain standard outputs are required taking account of the following;

- Local scale
- Individual habitats & species priorities
- On the ground feasibility for enhancement
- Existing or potential delivery mechanisms
- Ecosystem services
- LBAP priorities (objectives and targets)
- Local socio/economic objectives
- Local strategies such as Green Infrastructure
- LDF and policy-planning proposals

The local maps should be used to provide a reality check to the regional map and to help revise the regional map.

The local maps should be produced in a way that local people understand, perhaps by producing a commentary to accompany them.

There were 3 distinct stages involved in producing a local opportunity map:-

Stage 1 – A Biodiversity Map

This is required because the regional map required data that was consistent across the region and therefore failed to include all available local information e.g. orchards, wood pastures and parklands and linear features such as canals and hedgerows were all excluded from the analysis. The regional data also combined all the available data to show biodiversity in terms of extent within a standard landscape unit (LDUs). This therefore failed to provide sufficient information to consider opportunities for certain important habitats, i.e. each habitat type was considered as being of equal importance

e.g. there was no distinction between the importance of heathlands, grasslands, wetlands or woodlands, in addition the extent of woodland tended to over emphasis the important of this habitat.

Local opportunity maps should ensure that it maps all existing habitat using best available information preferably validated through the LBAPs using the LRC if necessary. It is recommended that the appropriate scale for this is land parcels or sites rather than LDUs.

Stage 2 - An Opportunity Map

This is required to help set the scene for considering priorities for action. The opportunity map should be visionary and consider long term opportunities over the 50 year timescale. The local map should reflect the regional map and be comprehensive in its coverage of the local area outlining the opportunities across the whole of the area taking account of individual habitats and species, local knowledge on land-use, geology, soils, land ownership etc. The opportunity map also needs to take account of opportunities that exist outside the local area, i.e. within the adjoining counties. Where such cross-boundary working is required the regional LfL steering group may be able to assist.

Stage 3 – A Priority Map

This is required to help define local priorities over a shorter timescale, to reflect the timeframes within the local LBAP action plans or the LDF e.g. 2015 or 2016. This should reflect the existing delivery projects and programmes but also take account of known local opportunities that exist. Consideration needs to be given to issues such as;

- Existing complimentary priorities such as local historical landscape/geodiversity projects
- Local flood management projects
- Mineral extraction plans
- Other land-use proposals, housing or industrial developments
- Socio-economic issues such as local deprivation or green space or green infrastructure strategies
- Existing land-uses such common land, public open space
- Existing agricultural use

The priority map should be used to focus local debate about increasing delivery of biodiversity within the area identifying existing projects that need support or gaps where new projects or schemes need to be developed.

Timescale for producing these maps

It was agreed that ideally we should be attempting to produce local maps by Dec 2009

Regional Support

It was agreed that the regional support would be provided where necessary in terms of assistance with data sets, coordinating of cross boundary issues, and supporting and assisting the local process where possible.

Workshop

A note of a LfL workshop held on the 9th May is attached and may provide some additional useful guidance.

Jeff Edwards (20th June 2008-revised Jan 2009)

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Phase 2 Workshop – 9.5.08 – Notes from flipchart:

1. What do we want from the process?

- Inform Phase 1 mapping (iterative)
- Refine local priorities not obvious from P1
- Explore feasibility and targeting for habitat priorities
- Targeting delivery mechanisms and time-scales
- Developing an ecosystem/networks approach at LBAP level
- Spatial representation of BAP targets (habs and species)
- Inform LDF, GI, LAA and other policies/strategies
- Develop LBAP programmes at an appropriate scale
- Integrate non-biodiversity objectives

2. Elements of Phase 2 process

- Biodiversity-focused (auditing and describing biodiversity resource)
- Opportunity-focused (vision, feasibility, non-biodiversity objectives)
- Priority-focused (target driven, time-scales, opportunistic)
- Completion target – Dec 2009

3. Biodiversity-focused

- Map-based with description – how we did it, what it shows
- Standards:
 - Data* – best available as LBP agreed
 - Boundary issues*- Intra regional co-operation required, inter-regional co-operation desirable
 - National BAP standards* – use of habitat definitions required, use of condition assessment desirable
 - Parcel sizes* – as agreed by local BP but LDU2 preferred

4. Opportunity-focused

- Map-based
- 50-year time-scale
- Commentary
- Standards:
 - Data* – LBP to agree which data to take into account – biodiversity, other environmental, non –environmental. Need to draw up an options list for each to provide to LBPs
 - Scale* – most appropriate as agreed by LBP but LDF 2 preferred
 - Boundaries* – map at county or sub-county (eg district) level, cross boundary co-operation within region and between regions required
 - Presentation of opportunities* - use national BAP broad habitat definitions to present opportunities. Add target species as agreed by LBP. No white space (all areas have combination of habitats and species opportunities)

5. Priority-focused

- Map-based
- Commentary (eg on white space)
- LBP agreed
- Based on two time-scales – 2015 (current BAP targets) and 2026 (next BAP targets and RSS)
- Identifies spatially explicit landscape-scale delivery priorities:
 - programme descriptions*
 - lead partners/delivery orgs*
 - mechanisms for delivery*
 - targets (related to regional and national targets)*
 - funders*
- Scale of programmes as agreed by LBP
- Primarily for internal/funder/partner use

CR 12.5.08