

Biodiversity restoration in England by 2020

Set out below are the outcomes that Link's Biodiversity Working Group believe the Natural Environment White Paper, and the re-drafting of the England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS) should achieve if we are to meet the biodiversity elements (halting loss and restoration) of the EU 2020 target.

- Biodiversity conservation is given real **political commitment** at the highest level and there is wide acceptance that this is of **equal importance** to tackling climate change. **Accountability** for annual progress towards the 2020 target resides with a Minister.
- Meeting the EU 2020 biodiversity target is an **explicit aim** of the EBS, supported by clear, effective **mechanisms for driving delivery and resolving policy blockages** (e.g. in areas such as planning, agriculture and forestry).
- **A clear definition** of what successful achievement of the 2020 target would look like and a concise set of **SMART indicators** to assess progress towards it are produced.
- A clear commitment to delivering the full range of requirements of the **EU nature directives** is adopted.
- A clear commitment is made to getting all **protected areas** into **favourable condition**.
- Commitment to the conservation of the **list of species and habitats of principal importance** for biodiversity in England (s41 list) is reaffirmed.
- **An expert group**, that is independent of Government, is established in 2011 to report on progress towards the 2020 target for England and the UK.
- **Every Government department and local authority** is aware of its role in furthering the conservation of biodiversity, has a clear duty and plan of action for doing so. Every public body should identify a senior person with responsibility for ensuring biodiversity conservation is delivered.
- **Local authorities and local partnerships** are empowered and resourced to deliver the conservation of S41 species and habitats wherever appropriate.
- **The third sector** is empowered to play its full potential role in delivering biodiversity conservation.
- **Adequate advice** on conservation delivery on the ground is available for S41 species and habitats where appropriate.
- There are new and substantial sources of **funding for delivering landscape scale biodiversity conservation** (this will often cross local authority boundaries).