

## Local government performance framework

*NI 197 – Improved Local Biodiversity* – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented, aims to measure the performance of local authorities for biodiversity by assessing implementation of active management of Local Sites. National Indicator 197 is a 3-year initiative, due to finish in 2011.

Local Sites in Warwickshire are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) formerly known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs and are regarded as being of county importance. An LWS Panel designates these against approved criteria. The panel comprises of Natural England, Warwickshire County Council Ecologist, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, an independent ecological consultant and a local Local Authority representative (optional). The ownership of this data for Warwickshire is the Wildlife Sites Partnership (WSP), Local Authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The parameters for measurement are:

- All sites that meet the selection criteria should be selected as [Local Sites](#).
- The assessment will cover all Local Sites in the local authority area and not just those controlled by the local authority.

Active management is summarised as:

- Site management plan.
- Management schemes – agri-environment or conservation management agreement or scheme.
- Relevant Biodiversity Action Plan (including habitat action plan, species action plan or local biodiversity action plan). Where a site is designated primarily for its geological features, the recommended management activity may be defined within a Geodiversity Action Plan.
- Management guidance and advice. (source: HM Government March 2008)

The indicator will be a simple percentage calculated as follows:

$$NI197(\%) = X/Y \times 100$$

Where: X = number of sites in the Local Authority area where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented during the last five years.

Y = total number of sites in the Local Authority area at the time of reporting.

Good performance is indicated by an increase in the percentage of sites under positive conservation management year on year.

## Solihull Perspective

Warwickshire is in the process of surveying its LWS, from allocated potential LWS (pLWS) identified through the [Habitat Biodiversity Audit](#)<sup>1</sup> and [Warwickshire Biological Record Centre](#)<sup>2</sup>.

There are circa 119 pLWS and circa 96 LWS in Solihull. There is no mechanism for monitoring the above management criteria. However, data sets that may be used to assess this would be (ownership/custodian in brackets):

- Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA Partnership)
- Wildlife Sites Project (WSP Partnership)
- Warwickshire Biological Record Centre (WCC)
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)
- Local Nature Reserves (Natural England) debatable see guidance
- Local Authorities landholdings (Local Authorities)
- Agri-environment Scheme data (Natural England / Defra)
- Woodland Grant Schemes (Forestry Commission)

Number of designated LWS (Y)	96
Number under Agri-Environment & Woodland Grant Schemes (WGS)	6
Non-Agri-Environment/WGS sites estimated under management	23
Total estimated sites under management (X)	29
<b>NI197 = X/Yx100</b> <b>29/96x100 = 30%</b>	

## NI 197 targets:

- Baseline = 30% (29 / 96 x 100)
- 2008/09 = 33% (32 / 96 x 100) 3 more managed and est. 6 sites selected (102 LWS)
- 2009/10 = 37% (35 / 96 x 100) 3 more managed and est. 6 sites selected (108 LWS)
- 2010/11 = 40% (38 / 96 x 100) 3 more managed and est. 6 sites selected (114 LWS)

<sup>1</sup>HBA has European recognition of Best Practice for monitoring Biodiversity, will need adapting to record management practices.

<sup>2</sup>WBRC: The Local Record Centre for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull managed by WCC containing over 2million species and habitat records (established in 1974)