

Biodiversity Duty

The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended)

Chorley Council's First Considerations Report

Autumn 2024



The Biodiversity Duty

Introduction

- i. This report sets out Chorley Council's roles and responsibilities under Section 40 of the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities \(NERC\) Act 2006](#) for protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the Borough.
- ii. This report has been prepared to demonstrate how Chorley Council will comply with the Biodiversity Duty and presents the council's first considerations. In accordance with the NERC Act 2006, all public authorities must complete their first consideration by 1st January 2024. Policies and objectives are to be agreed as soon as possible after this, with the deadline for the first reporting period of compliance with the Biodiversity Duty being no later than 12 weeks after the 1st January 2026.
- iii. The new extended Biodiversity Duty came into force on 1st January 2023, with Government guidance on complying with the extended Biodiversity Duty being published in May 2023.
[Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
[Reporting your biodiversity duty actions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- iv. Chorley Council have taken action to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment within the borough, and these actions and outcomes are reported in the first considerations report to provide evidence of how the authority is already complying with the Biodiversity Duty.
- v. Chorley Council continues to take a proactive approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the borough. Actions carried out and facilitated by the council will be recorded and monitored in a Biodiversity Duty Actions Register, which will be appended within each document reporting on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty from January 2026.
- vi. In addition, the subsequent reports will demonstrate how the council is delivering and monitoring **Biodiversity Net Gain** (BNG), a mandatory requirement for all new major developments from 12th February 2024, and non-major developments from 2nd April 2024 (with exemptions). The first considerations report will demonstrate how BNG is being implemented and actioned through the council's corporate and planning roles and responsibilities in accordance with the [Environment Act 2021](#).
- vii. **This First Considerations report sets out how compliance with the Biodiversity Duty has been achieved so far, how the council will continue to comply with the duty, and how compliance and actions will be reported on. This report presents the Key Actions and Objectives the council is setting out to achieve the above.**

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Key Actions and Objectives

The following summarizes the key actions and objectives Chorley Council will take to comply with the Biodiversity Duty going forward:

1. Identify actions to **promote, conserve and enhance biodiversity** within our existing local policies and strategies.
2. Support and assist with the creation and adoption of the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)** for Lancashire, as lead by Lancashire County Council (LCC), for publication in Spring 2025.
3. Consider and incorporate relevant **species conservation and protected site strategies** prepared locally and nationally, into our planning policies, actions and objectives.
4. To embed and implement **mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain** through the planning process, facilitating local BNG uplift through the provision of **Biodiversity Units** on Council Land.
5. Incorporate the Biodiversity Duty, and our first considerations within **Local Plan Policies** in the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan 2025-2036.
6. To formalize the above key actions and objectives into a singular **Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Strategy**.

1 Section 1: Current Policies, Objectives and Actions

Chorley Council has adopted a series of policies and strategies in the past that contribute towards biodiversity enhancement, conservation and ecological management, in addition to tackling climate change and protecting designated sites and protected species.

Chorley Council has kept a record of activities that the council has led and facilitated that have been for the betterment of biodiversity in the borough. Work has been carried out in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders such as Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Natural England, and often funded by successful acquisition of grant awards.

Section 1 identifies key objectives written into existing adopted strategies, in addition to examples of actions the Council has undertaken, that contribute towards Chorley Council's objective of complying with the Biodiversity Duty.

1.1 Central Lancashire Adopted Core Strategy

The Central Lancashire Core Strategy (July 2012) has been produced by the Central Lancashire Authorities of Preston, South Ribble and Chorley, with assistance from Lancashire County Council.

The Core Strategy is a key document in Central Lancashire's Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy seeks to co-ordinate development in the area and contribute to boosting investment and employment whilst incorporating an overarching strategy for sustainably managed growth while **protecting and enhancing green spaces** and access to open countryside.

Chorley Council is committed to applying the Central Lancashire Adopted Core Strategy, and relevant objectives for the benefit of enhancing green spaces and biodiversity in the borough.

The Core Strategy includes the following Strategic Objectives relevant to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity, promoting sustainability and addressing climate change, which have been considered and incorporated into the adopted Chorley Local Plan 2012-2026 (adopted in 2015):

Central Lancashire Core Strategy Objectives		Theme/Issue
SO3	To reduce the need to travel, manage car use, promote more sustainable modes of transport and improve the road network to the north and south of Preston	Travel
SO13	To sustain and encourage sustainable growth of rural business, taking into account the characteristics of the rural fringe and wider countryside	Rural Economy
SO16	To protect, conserve and enhance Central Lancashire's places of architectural and archaeological value and the distinctiveness character of its landscapes	Landscape and built environment
SO17	To maintain and improve the quality of Central Lancashire's built and natural environment assets so that it remains a place with 'room to breathe'	Built and natural environment assets
SO21	To reduce energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in new Development	Energy Use
SO22	To encourage the generation and use of energy from renewable and low carbon sources	Energy Generation
SO24	To reduce water usage, protect and enhance Central Lancashire's water resources and minimize pollution of water, air and soil	Natural resource management

1.2 Chorley Local Plan (2012-2026)

Chorley Council adopted the Chorley Local Plan (2012-2026) in July 2015 which incorporates the above Strategic Objectives of the Central Lancashire Plan. The Chorley Local Plan includes policies that consider sustainability, climate change and the natural environment which contribute to the conservation and recovery of biodiversity. The relevant policies are set out below.

Catering For Sustainable Travel

The Council has a series of policies that address the declared climate emergency through reducing emissions and encouraging active, sustainable travel and use of public transport, such as 'Policy ST1: Provision or Improvement of Footpaths, Cycleways, Bridleways and their Associated Facilities in Existing Networks and New Development'.

Built and Natural Environment

The adopted Local Plan contains policies that target the protection of open countryside, natural environments, sites with environmental designations, trees, woodlands and hedgerows, and protection of Priority Species.

Policy	
BNE2	Development in Area of Other Open Countryside
BNE6	Light Pollution
BNE9	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
BNE10	Trees
BNE11	Species Protection

Promoting Health and Wellbeing

The value of the natural environment for health and wellbeing are recognised within the adopted Local Plan, and policies aim to minimise adverse impacts on the natural environment, habitats and accessible greenspace. The Local Plan seeks to retain and expand the availability of allotments which promotes sustainability and local food production. Relevant policies include:

Policy	
HW1	New Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities
HW2	Protection of Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities
HW3	Valley Parks
HW4	The Leeds and Liverpool Canal
HW5	Allotments

1.3 Climate Emergency Declaration

Chorley Council declared a Climate Emergency in November 2021 and has taken decisive action to address the climate emergency and promote nature restoration in the borough. In line with the declaration, and in efforts to enhance the green spaces and habitats across the borough, Chorley has engaged in numerous projects and partnerships that have contributed to the direct recovery of local biodiversity. Actions have focused on restoration of woodland cover, targeted restoration of habitats of biological interest, and support to wider schemes such as the Lancashire's emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) being developed by Lancashire County Council (LCC).

Chorley's Climate Strategy 2022-2024

Chorley's Climate Strategy 2022-2024 sets out five strategic objectives that shape the priorities and actions that the council aims to deliver to achieve net zero by 2030. The reactive approach to the climate emergency contributes to nature recovery through alleviating the adverse impact on the planet, and through more direct action, such as outlined at Objective 4. The five objectives are set out below:

Climate Change Objective 1	To understand the carbon footprint of both the Council's activities and the Borough as a whole, now and in the future, so we can develop robust plans and track our progress.
Climate Change Objective 2	To dramatically reduce our carbon emissions as a Council and be an ambassador for change.
Climate Change Objective 3	Work with our residents, partners, and local businesses to influence behaviour and deliver local projects to drive down the carbon footprint of our Borough.
Climate Change Objective 4	To significantly increase the tree coverage across the Borough and promote nature recovery.
Climate Change Objective 5	Enable Chorley to be climate resilient and better equipped to cope with changes in the natural environment including weather events

The Climate Strategy details nine priorities for action to tackle climate change. All priorities are relevant to nature recovery indirectly, however Priority Nine has greater relevance and a more direct impact on nature recovery and biodiversity within the borough.

Priority Nine: *Deliver investment and improvements in the natural environment including waterways, areas of open space, natural habitats to deliver an increase in the biodiversity of Chorley.*

The [Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 2022/2024](#) identifies specific actions that have, or are being carried out, associated with each of the nine priorities, including Chorley's Emergency Tree Plan 2020-2030.

Emergency Tree Plan for Chorley

The Council have taken many initiatives to increase tree coverage across the borough, including the roll out of the [Emergency Tree Plan](#) and tree planting schemes.

Chorley's Emergency Tree Plan 2020-2030, adopted in November 2021 pledged the following:

- To expand woodland and tree coverage across the borough to reach 15% coverage by 2050
- To plant 116,000 trees by 2025 (one for every resident in the borough)

- To protect, manage, restore and enhance our existing and newly created woodlands
- To ensure a Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland policy is included within the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan
- To ensure the policy for Trees, Hedgerow and Woodlands in the emerging Local Plan are followed
- To appoint a Councillor as Council Champion for Environment and Green Space

The Council has achieved the target for tree planting in the borough and planted over 150,000 trees since November 2019, through collaboration with residents, landowners, private organisations and developers, exceeding the new ambitious target of 125,000 trees set for March 2024. Chorley Council is on target to achieve the pledges made by the Emergency Tree Plan.

1.4 Clean Air Strategy

Chorley Council published [Chorley's Clean Air Strategy](#) in 2021, which was updated in May 2022.

The Clean Air Strategy sets out aims and objectives to deliver a range of environmental and biodiversity-enhancing measures to promote clean air, reduce carbon emissions and enable more sustainable ways of travel.

The objectives and actions set out in the Clean Air Strategy, in addition to the measures set out under Chorley's Climate Change Strategy will contribute to tackling climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses, and subsequently slow down the associated adverse impacts on biodiversity and conservation.

1.5 Chorley Habitat Creation and Enhancement Actions

Chorley Council has led numerous projects for the creation and enhancement of habitats within the borough, including the creation of wildlife and attenuation ponds, reedbeds and seasonal wetlands. Riverbank restoration work has also been carried out, in addition to significant efforts to increase tree cover through planting. Examples of actions are set out below; a complete list of actions is included at [Appendix A](#).

Yarrow Valley

Chorley Council has carried out works at Yarrow Valley through a Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project aiming to 'slow the flow' of the river and reduce impacts of flooding using nature-based solutions. Works included the creation of new wetlands, enhancement to existing ponds, and measures to reconnect the river to the wetlands. These habitat creation and enhancement measures have improved local habitat provision and biodiversity value of the area, and the climate resilience of the river network.

Great Crested Newts

Chorley Council has worked with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to improve the conditions of ponds for great crested newt (GCN), a European protected species and Priority Species. GCN are present across numerous metapopulations in the borough. Through conserving and maintaining suitable habitats across Chorley for this species, Chorley is supporting GCN and safeguarding the local population.

Biodiversity Giveaway

With support from Chorley Hedgehog Rescue and the RSPB, Chorley Council hosted a successful tree and biodiversity giveaway in the borough, providing the following resources to residents of Chorley in February 2024:

- Native trees (1340)

- Native hedgerow plants (5740)
- Hedgehog highway panel (50)
- Hedgehog houses (20)
- Bird boxes (100)
- Bee hotels (100)
- Bird feeders and suet balls (100)

These resources provide a boost to the available habitats and provisions for wildlife across the borough and contribute to carbon sequestration in our bid to tackle the impacts of climate change.

Chorley Council held similar biodiversity giveaway events in the past, with a giveaway event in November 2023. Chorley Council have promoted biodiversity to the public annually since 2021, by operating a stand at Chorley Flower Show promoting bee friendly plants and good practice to attract wildlife into gardens.

2 Section 2: Consideration of Other Strategies

2.1 Lancashire’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Chorley Council has, and continues to be, involved with the development of the emerging Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) through representation in the LNRS Steering Group, involvement with the Lancashire Nature Partnership (LNP) and representation in the LNRS Task and Finish sub-group for Mapping, Data and Evidence. Chorley Council has provided formal response into the first LNRS public consultation in March 2024, and will continue to promote the consultation processes, providing members and constituents the opportunity to have their say around the development of the LNRS.

Chorley Council are providing input directly into the strategy to ensure the Council’s priorities are incorporated into the LNRS, so that existing and potential locally valuable habitats are included in the mapping. This inclusion will facilitate the protection and uplift of existing and potentially valuable habitats for biodiversity, through mechanisms such as BNG, as these habitats are formally identified and given greater weight for biodiversity throughout the planning process.

The Council is working to incorporate the LNRS into the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP) policy, strengthening the protections and enhancements afforded to ecologically valuable habitats, and improving connectivity and nature recovery across the borough.

2.2 Statutory and Non-statutory Protected Sites

Chorley Council has the following statutory and non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation within the district boundary:

Site and Designation
West Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Charnock Richard Pasture SSSI
Wrightington Bar Pasture SSSI
Ribble Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
Hic Bibi Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Withnell Nature Reserve LNR
109 Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) within the Chorley boundary (see Appendix B: Biological Heritage Sites in Chorley (Total: 109))

The above statutory and non-statutory designated sites have varying levels of protections written in legislation and extant planning policy. The emerging LNRS will envelop these sites into the strategy; the emerging CLLP will have both regards to the LNRS, and to statutory and non-statutory designated sites, affording these valuable spaces additional protections from planning and development.

It is Chorley’s ambition that council-owned land, including land within existing BHSs under council ownership¹, will benefit through the implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain in planning, by providing Biodiversity Units (BUs), securing biodiversity uplift and long-term management and monitoring. Biodiversity Units can be sold and/or allocated to developers for off-setting and compensation, or for use in-house to compensate for the

¹ Approximately 23 BHSs lie wholly or partially within Council ownership. A list of BHSs is listed at [Appendix B](#).

council's own developments where on-site BNG is not achievable. The selling of units can generate income to fund BU creation and upkeep. Maintaining an in-house BU supply prevents the need to outsource for BUs when off-site compensation will be required, which would be a significant expenditure and an unnecessary use of Council monies.

Targeting BNG uplift and compensation onto strategically valuable sites (sites within the LNRS), will provide greater benefits for wildlife and conservation owing to their existing biodiversity value, potential value and ecological connectivity, and overall contribution towards the national Nature Recovery Network.

2.3 Ancient Woodland

Chorley boasts the largest coverage of Ancient Woodland in Lancashire, with a reported coverage of 7% across the borough as of 2021². LCC are undertaking work to update Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory in Lancashire and have been carrying out surveys at potential and existing Ancient Woodland (AW) sites in Chorley with ambitions to check, update and expand the AW network.

Ancient Woodlands have protections from planning through existing and emerging Local Plan policies, and legislation in relation to Irreplaceable Habitats. Declines in the condition of AW in the borough can be reversed through appropriate, targeted habitat enhancements and an increase or change to management. It is envisaged that enhancement and management can be facilitated through funding sourced from mandatory BNG where woodland Biodiversity Units are required for off-setting, as with protected sites.

Currently, AW in the borough is often in poor condition owing to absence of management, proliferation of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Rhododendron, and degradation from recreational pressure caused by public access. An absence of funding in recent years has led to continued declines in condition, however mandatory BNG will provide a new funding stream for secured, long-term management to improve the valuable habitats.

2.4 Protected and Priority Species

Existing planning policy and legislation ensures the protection of protected species across Chorley from development and land use changes. Owing to the significant coverage and connectivity of green spaces, such as woodland, rivers, hedgerows and ponds, Chorley provides habitats for a number of protected and Priority Species including a number of bat species, great crested newt and other amphibians, farmland birds, badger, hedgehog and otter.

Local parks, greenspaces and the green belt provide refuge for fauna across the borough. These green spaces and the associated habitats are protected from adverse impacts of development by existing policy, and those spaces in council ownership are subject to ongoing management for the benefit of protected and priority species.

Such management activities include the installation of bird and bat boxes, tree planting along rivers to provide shade, and creation and management of wildlife ponds suitable for great crested newt. Chorley Council have worked closely with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to create great crested newt ponds to support the local District Level Licensing scheme, providing and protecting suitable habitat for GCN as compensation and enhancement in

² It is expected that this percentage will have increased as more AW sites are surveyed, recognised and recorded by LCC work, which will be added to Natural England's Ancient Woodlands Inventory. This figure will be updated upon completion of this work.

response to impacts of development. The newly created ponds are secured and managed in the long-term to ensure suitability for the species. The ponds have been successfully colonized by GCN, and will continue to be monitored for at least 25 years.

3 Section 3: Future Actions

3.1 Adoption of Key Areas and Objectives

Chorley Council are to adopt the **Key Actions and Objectives** as set out in this report, to facilitate and maximise the recovery of biodiversity locally:

Key Actions and Objectives

1. *Identify actions to **promote, conserve and enhance biodiversity** within our existing local policies and strategies.*
2. *Support and assist with the creation and adoption of the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)** for Lancashire, as lead by Lancashire County Council (LCC), for publication in April 2025.*
3. *Consider and incorporate relevant **species conservation and protected site strategies** prepared locally and nationally, into our planning policies, actions and objectives.*
4. *To embed and implement **mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain** through the planning process, facilitating local BNG uplift through the provision of **Biodiversity Units** on Council Land.*
5. *Incorporate the Biodiversity Duty, and our first considerations within **Local Plan Policies** in the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan 2025-2036.*
6. *To formalize the above key actions and objectives into a singular **Biodiversity Action Plan** and **Biodiversity Strategy**.*

3.2 Biodiversity Champions

To facilitate the effective delivery and recognition of actions that contribute to the recovery of biodiversity across the borough, teams across the council have nominated 'Biodiversity Champion.' Each Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for the following:

- Recording and reporting on their team's biodiversity-related actions to the Biodiversity Gain Project Lead, including gathering and providing evidence
- Attend internal biodiversity related training and activities, and Nature Recovery Workshops, delivered by the Biodiversity Gain Project Lead
- Raise awareness of biodiversity issues and opportunities to their wider teams
- Ensure their team are delivering their respective services with consideration for biodiversity, ecology and conservation

Actions achieved by the teams and recorded by the Biodiversity Champions, will be reported on and recognised through the Biodiversity Duty reports published by the council from January 2026 and every 5 years, by being collated into a Biodiversity Duty Actions Register.

The actions and achievements of each team will be reviewed by the Biodiversity Gain Project Lead with the following objectives:

- To recognize valuable contributions towards the council's compliance with the Biodiversity Duty;
- To provide constructive feedback to teams and their reported achievements;
- To identify additional opportunities for improving their contribution to the recovery of biodiversity;

- To relay new information, considerations and key targets around biodiversity and nature recovery; and
- To set goals in relation to biodiversity recovery relative to their service areas.

The Biodiversity Gain Project Lead will work closely with teams such as Property & Development, Operational Assets, Street Scene, Open Space and other services to review how land under council ownership is managed and how this could be improved for biodiversity. This will be facilitated by the nominated Biodiversity Champions, and the relay of information and ambitions across the teams. Any relevant changes to services will be recorded and reviewed in the ambition for continued improvement in the interest of biodiversity and conservation.

3.3 Fulfillment of the Biodiversity Duty

A recap of the requirements set out by the government on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty is presented below:

Complying with the Biodiversity Duty

- a. *Local Authorities must do the following to comply with the Biodiversity Duty:*
 - i. *Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.*
 - ii. *Agree policies and specific objectives based on your considerations.*
 - iii. *Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.*
- b. *Local Authorities must complete the following actions:*
 - *Complete the first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024*
 - *Agree policies and objectives as soon as possible after this*
 - *Reconsider the actions you can take within 5 years of when you complete your previous consideration (or more frequently)*
- c. *Local Authorities must consider other relevant strategies, and how these strategies will affect how the organisation complies with the biodiversity duty, including:*
 - *Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)*
 - *Species conservation strategies*
 - *Protected sites strategies*
- d. *In relation to other relevant strategies, authorities must:*
 - *Understand how/if they are relevant to your organisation*
 - *Be aware of how these strategies affect land that you own or manage, or actions you could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity*
 - *Consider how you could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate*

This report presents how Chorley Council is, and will continue to, fulfil the requirements to comply with the Biodiversity Duty.

Chorley Council completed their first consideration of biodiversity duty compliance informally, in late 2023. From this first consideration, this report and subsequent Biodiversity Duty reporting has developed and formalised.

This report sets out the specific Key Actions and Objectives based on these first considerations and sets out how the council will strategically comply and report as required by the Biodiversity Duty.

This report sets out how the council will deliver the policies and achieve these objectives, through the implementation of multiple mechanisms as set out here in Section 3. Including the nomination of Biodiversity Champions across teams and services, Strategic Actions set out in **Table 2**, below, and via the implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.

Section 2: Consideration of Other Strategies outlines how the Council has considered other relevant strategies, including Lancashire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), existing protections on designated sites for nature conservation and protected species. Emerging protected site and protected species strategies, as developed by Natural England, will be considered and integrated into local strategy and be a material consideration through planning and development, where applicable.

3.4 Implementation of Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain

Summary of Actions

Chorley Council began preparing for the implementation of mandatory BNG ahead of the 'go-live' dates (12th February for majors, and 2nd April for non-majors).

A sample of actions being carried out by Chorley Council (and those completed), in preparation for mandatory BNG is set out below:

Table 1: Actions being carried out in preparation for implementing mandatory BNG

Actions
<i>Completed</i>
Appointed a Biodiversity Gain Project Lead Officer to drive the implementation of mandatory BNG, and lead on ensuring Chorley Council's compliance with the Biodiversity Duty
Successful acquisition and spend of DEFRA BNG grants (2023/24 and 2024/25)
Acquisition of relevant software to facilitate BNG through planning and monitoring
Baseline ecology surveys of three council-owned sites to establish Habitat Bank potential, with estimates of Biodiversity Units and costs to set up and maintain
Publication of a BNG Policy Statement outlining mandatory requirements and key guidance on the Chorley Council website
Set-up of an internal BNG Working Group comprising relevant directorate, heads of service and colleagues across CBC and SRBC to collaborate and streamline work around mandatory BNG and exploratory work around habitat banking for BNG.
Creation of an internal BNG applications planning register to monitor the status of planning applications in terms of BNG and enable reporting.
<i>Ongoing</i>
Engagement with PAS BNG Basecamp, training materials, discussions and available online resources
Review of how BNG can integrate into delivering corporate priorities and objectives
Review of existing related strategies and how they fit with BNG
Drafting of a BNG Policy into the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan
Further identification and BNG baselining of council-owned sites to enhance for biodiversity to explore the potential use as Habitat Banks
Communication of BNG requirements and information to senior management and officers
Communication of BNG requirements and information to councilors, members, relevant portfolio holder and committee
Communication with Lancashire County Council, exploring collaboration, training and resource sharing
Development of internal planning processes to incorporate mandatory BNG
Rollout of training sessions to DM officers on mandatory BNG and planning processes
Raising awareness of BNG within other relevant teams, and identifying their duties and responsibilities e.g. legal, finance, assets
Communication with other potential local off-site BNG providers e.g. Lancs Wildlife Trust
Representation within the Lancashire LNRS Steering Group
Review of emerging preferred sites and consideration of how BNG may have an impact
Training of relevant staff on software (e.g. IDOX and Exacom)
Development of additional materials and documentation to support mandatory BNG implementation such as local validation checklist, draft S106 agreements, decision notice wording and condition wording

Development Management, Training and Software

An internal procedure process has been prepared which outlines the requirements of mandatory BNG throughout each stage of the planning process. This tool will be used to guide the planning team and planning officers throughout applications from pre-application, validation, consideration and determination, discharge of the general biodiversity gain condition, to monitoring and enforcement of BNG applications.

A variety of internal training and resources is available to planning officers to ensure the correct implementation of mandatory BNG, and to ensure that BNG is used to maximise local biodiversity recovery.

BNG software has been acquired which will assist with validation, determination and reporting on BNG applications, and setting out monitoring and enforcement for applications approved, commenced and completed. Software will facilitate the reporting on BNG applications, as legally required.

Off-site BNG

To facilitate implementation of mandatory BNG and the delivery of BNG in accordance with the Biodiversity Gain hierarchy, and to minimise the amount of Biodiversity Units being exported outside of the borough for Chorley applications, the Council are exploring the creation of local BNG Habitat Banks.

Council-owned sites suitable for habitat creation and enhancement are being identified and baselined. Estimates of the potential Biodiversity Units (BUs) and cost of creation and maintenance are being prepared, with the intention of securing sites through a legal agreement with a third party.

Chorley Council are exploring work to support the creation of private local Habitat Banks in the borough to further increase the local availability of Biodiversity Units for off-site use. The Council may facilitate this through the following actions:

- holding a 'Call for Sites,' to encourage landowners to consider enhancing land into Habitat Banks
- hosting legal agreements (Section 106) with private landowners in the borough so that Habitat Banks and BUs can be legally secured and added to Natural England's Biodiversity Gain Sites Register
- providing guidance, information and resources to landowners as required, to assist with the creation of private Habitat Banks
- facilitating lines of communication between landowners, habitat managers, and third parties to ensure best practice and efficient habitat creation, enhancement, management and monitoring for BNG

Mandatory BNG and Council Assets

Chorley Council has ambitions to lead by example in the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain in development by following the mitigation and Biodiversity Gain hierarchies, where achievable. This will include identifying and avoiding ecological valuable habitats, enhancing, securing and complimenting existing habitats on-site, and targeting development over lower-value habitats. The council will be ambitious and innovative, while remaining realistic, when delivering BNG, targeting on-site uplift over off-site, where feasible.

Where off-site units are required, the council will target nearby BNG off-site opportunities that prioritize strategically significant habitats, minimizing the use of biodiversity units sourced outside the borough, and avoiding the use of statutory credits.

3.5 Strategic Actions

Table 2 below details the forward plan of strategic actions that will evidence the Council's compliance with the enhanced Biodiversity Duty, and where actions will be taken forward.

Table 2: Strategic Actions within Chorley’s First Considerations

NERC Act 2006 Chorley Council Biodiversity Duty First Considerations 2024		
Strategic Action	Action Delivered	Target Dates
Climate Emergency	Declaration of Climate Emergency in November 2019	Ongoing
Climate Change Strategy	Approval of the Climate Change Strategy for 2022-2024 setting out the work and priorities for the Council regarding Climate Change for those years; the document is being refreshed	Ongoing
BNG Policy Statement	BNG Policy Statement published on the council website	2024
Central Lancs Local Plan development	New Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP) being drafted to consider Biodiversity Duty roles and responsibilities, and incorporate the LNRS, protected species and conservation areas, in addition to a policy on BNG	2025
Development Management	Good practice in planning application validation and determination; ecological advice sought and followed, and recommendations / conditions for wildlife conservation, compensation, mitigation and enhancement applied (e.g. hedgehog highways, wildlife tunnels beneath roads, bat bricks and bird boxes, swales and SuDS use encouraged) in addition to incorporation of mandatory BNG processes	Ongoing
Lancashire Nature Partnership (LNP)	Chorley Council has representation in the LNP	Ongoing
Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Chorley Council has representation in the Steering Group of the LNRS, and the Mapping, Data and Evidence Task & Finish sub-group	Ongoing
Douglas Catchment Partnership	Chorley Council has sat on the steering group of partnership since its inception in 2013	Ongoing
Lancashire Peat Partnership	Peat Partnership lead by LWT; Chorley supported a funding bid and is involved in the partnership to restore the West Pennine Moors	Ongoing
Biodiversity Net Gain	Implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and development of BNG Policy to secure BNG gains within the borough to enhance habitat and biodiversity locally	From 12 th Feb 2024 (majors), 2 nd April 2024 (non-majors) and ongoing
Biodiversity Duty Compliance Reporting	First Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report to be published within 12 weeks of the 1 st January 2026, including the summary of actions taken to comply with the Biodiversity Duty, plans, objectives and actions, consideration of other strategies, detailing future plans and actions. Details of compliance and responsibilities relating to mandatory BNG, and meeting BNG obligations.	From January 2026; and every 5 years following
<u>Appendix A</u> presents additional detail of actions that Chorley Council have delivered within the borough that support biodiversity and habitat recovery, conservation and to address the Climate Emergency.		

4 Optional Information

The following sections are optional and will be included the Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report to be published within 12 weeks after 1st January 2026. These sections have been excluded from this First Considerations report.

Section 4: Information about Chorley Council

Section 5: Chorley Council's Top Achievements

Section 6: How Chorley's Policies and Actions have helped

Section 7: Raising Awareness and Education to the Community

Section 8: Monitoring and Evaluating Actions

Section 9: Biodiversity Highlights and Challenges

Appendix A: Actions by Chorley Council that have promoted the conservation and recovery of Biodiversity in the borough.

Project	Details	Partnerships
LNRS		
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Lancashire County Council are leading on the creation of the LNRS. Chorley Council are feeding into this project through the steering group	LCC and other County Boroughs
Douglas Catchment Enhancements - Rivers, Streams and Ponds		
New sewer outfall at Yarrow Meadows	UU carrying out an enhancement scheme to improve the water quality of the River Yarrow by building improvements to the local sewer network so that the network copes during periods of heavy rainfall including a new outfall into the river and associated biodiversity enhancements to reinstate the land.	UU
Brinscall Natural Flood Management (NFM) Scheme	CC submitted a funding bid via EA/DEFRA in November 2023 to Slow the Flow, create ponds and attenuation to alleviate flooding to roads, businesses and homes in Brinscall	NA
Ackhurst Lodge flooding	Installation of debris screens to mitigate the flooding and risk and continued the work with LCC and the EA to secure long-term solution to the flooding issues	LCC and EA
Astley Park Reedbed	Reed bed creation in 2017 and subsequent maintenance thereafter	NA
Carr Brook Linear Park	NFM Project created in 2021/22 funded by the Water Environment Grant (WEG) to create a seasonal wetland and improve accessibility of greenspace for residents	WEG
Yarrow Meadows	NFM Project created in 2018-2020 funded by Government, EA and S106 to slow the flow, reconnect the river to the flood plain, plant trees, create new wetlands, enhance existing ponds and improve accessibility to residents within Yarrow Valley Country Park	NA
Pond Creation and Maintenance	Enhancement of ponds for Great Crested Newts	LWT & NE
Canals and Waterways	Survey of canal tow paths and cost up section repairs; repairs carried out through grant funding £23,500 from Chorley Council and partnership working	Canal and River Trust; Probation Service
Trees		
Tree plotting and Inspections	Implementation of asset management technology allowing comprehensive reporting and plotting of trees. Regular inspection regime and works carried out to maximise tree health in the Borough.	NA
Tree plotting and Inspections	Removal of diseased trees (e.g. Phytopheria in Rhododendron at Astley Park, and Larch on Healy Nab)	LCC
Tree plotting and Inspections	Removal of dead, dying and dangerous trees and replacing of more suitable species.	NA

Project	Details	Partnerships
Tree plotting and Inspections	Monitoring of Ash dieback	NA
Emergency Tree Plan for Chorley	See Section 1.5	NA
Tree Planting	See Section 1.5	NA
Creation of Community Orchards	Many community orchards have been planted, including at Astley Walled Garden, Sutton Grove, Great Knowley, Church Hill Whittle, Cottage Fields Eaves Green.	NA
Creation of a Tree Nursery	A tree nursery has been created in Chorley on The Willows 2020-2022. Raised beds contain small trees which are grown by the schools and local community from seed of local provenance or small whips from the Woodland Trust and TVC are planted to grow them on. The trees are then moved on to appropriate homes once large enough.	Woodland Trust and TVC
General Maintenance Regimes and Best Practice		
Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)	Treatment of Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Hogweed on Council owned land. All Hogweed and Knotweed is mapped on GIS and checked twice a year and treated	NA
Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)	Community engagement to target key areas of Balsam and Rhododendron clearance	NA
Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)	Mink control	NA
Landscaping	Avoiding the use of peat within own assets (e.g. parks and flowerbeds); and avoidance of use of pesticides on Council grounds to conserve the natural biodiversity.	NA
Litter Picking	Regular litter picking teams throughout the Borough to keep the area clean and tidy and remove hazards for wildlife. Engagement with residents and community groups to promote litter picking initiatives	NA
Weed Treatment	Reduction of use of glyphosate; use of hot air kits	NA
Electric fleet	Work started on replacing fleet with electric vans	NA
Allotments		
Allotment Management	Managed to be self-sustaining, encouraging sustainable practices such as collection of rainwater, avoiding slug pellets, encouraging composting, reuse, and recycling. Providing wildlife habitat on plots for small mammals and amphibians.	NA
Grassland and Meadows		

Project	Details	Partnerships
Grass Cutting and Differential Mowing	Large areas of grass corridors are left uncut all summer to provide habitat and transition between woodland, long grassland and short roadside edges. Wildflower corridors are created.	NA
Creation of Wildflower Meadows	Expansion of the popular and successful programme with the creation of a further 42 sites and 55 more planned for 2022; planted 10,000 wildflower bulbs within wildlife corridors. A further 29,400 wildflower bulbs in 2023 40 mini meadows established with perennials 25 sites for perennials to be established in 2024 4 sites with annuals in 2024	NA
Wildflower Seeding at Yarrow Meadows	An area of wildflower seed sown on council land at Yarrow Meadows in Spring 2024	UU
Management of Species Rich Grasslands	Chorley Council own large areas of natural meadows that are ecologically diverse and support identifiable NVC habitats. These sites are managed annually by a farmer that cuts and bales the swards (Lower Burgh Meadows, Yarrow Meadows, Blainscough Wood Nature Reserve)	NA
Nature Reserves and Natural Habitat Management		
Habitat Areas	Continued maintenance of country parks, nature reserves and cemeteries which are managed for people and wildlife. Also taking on new assets such as Alker Lane which has biodiversity enhancements built into the development such as native planting, hibernacula, wetland and wildflower meadows.	NA
Moorland	Introduced PSPO between Chorley, Bolton and Blackburn with Darwen to prevent moorland wildfires	Neighbouring districts (Bolton & Blackburn with Darwen)
Ancient Woodlands	Chorley Borough has the highest amount of Ancient Woodland in Lancashire. Sites have been reassessed in 2022-2023 by LCC LERN (Records Centre)	LCC & LERN
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	Chorley has 2 LNRs, Hic Bibi LNR and Withnell LNR	NA
SSSIs	Chorley has 2 SSSIs; West Pennine Moors SSSI and Charnock Richard SSSI	NA
Bird Boxes	Bird boxes are installed in open spaces where possible. A variety of boxes are used, targeted at species that are likely to uptake e.g. Owl box installation at Withnell LNR and Yarrow Valley	NA

Project	Details	Partnerships
Bat Boxes	Installation of up to 60 bat boxes throughout the park; engagement via regular bat walks with the public, led by experts. Astley Park is known to be home to four species of bat.	Friends of Astley Park
Management of estate	Cemeteries, parks, sports fields, amenity spaces, communal gardens, roadside and railway verges, field margins and hedgerows, rights of way and access routes, water-dependent habitats are managed.	NA
Recycling and Waste		
Recycling	Recycling bins have been installed throughout the Town Centre following a successful trial. Materials are reported.	NA
Garden Waste	Homeowners can sign up to the annual garden waste bin collection	NA
Crisp packet recycling scheme	Successfully implemented with a receptacle placed at Union Street offices	NA
Recycling and Collection Rates	Recycling rate increased from 45.4% to 46.2%, and we have seen an increase in waste collection	NA
Action to Reduce Contamination	Activity to reduce contamination of recycled waste has proved successful, with Chorley having the lowest proportion of contaminated, rejected waste in Lancashire.	NA
Uniform swap scheme	Promotes re-use of school uniforms	NA
Biofuel	Exploration continuing into the feasibility of the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil as an alternative to diesel	NA
Sustainable Transport		
Cycle storage facilities	Installed at Bengal St Depot	NA
EV Charge Points	Installed on recent developments such as Tatton Gardens, West Way Sports Hub, Wigan Lane Sports Hub	NA
Active Travel Projects	External sustainable active travel survey and developed active travel projects	NA
Green Bus Stops	Roof replacement to green sedum roofs to provide habitat for invertebrates	NA
Air Quality and Carbon Reduction		
<i>Chorley Clean Air Strategy</i>		
NOx and particulate matter	Monitoring and reporting on NOx and particulate matter levels across Chorley	NA
Air Quality Assessments	Request and review air quality assessments for planning applications where the development may impact on air quality	NA

Project	Details	Partnerships
Fuel burning awareness	Run awareness campaigns on solid fuel burning and impacts on health and the environment	NA
Public engagement	Develop public engagement strategy to support the air quality agenda; reduce / prevent PM2.5	NA
Flexible working	Adopted flexible and homeworking to reduce commuting and avoidable travel	NA
Council Decisions	Assessment of Air Quality and Climate Change Impacts made for all council decisions	NA
Env. Act 2021	Assessing the impact of the Environment Act 2021 on smoke control and enforcement	NA
Carbon Monitoring	2019 carbon audit has been calculated and set as the baseline for coming years	NA
Decarbonisation of assets	Budgets have been approved for feasibility study for the decarb of leisure centres pending a procurement process	NA
Energy Creation		
Study of Council assets	Study been commissioned to review Council land assets with view to create energy, such as use of the weirs, grazing land for solar etc.	NA

Appendix B: Biological Heritage Sites in Chorley (Total: 109)

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
1.	Rufford Railway Hollows	41NE02	(Fe1) , (Ff4)? , (In2)? , (Wd5)	SD471165	West Lancashire; Chorley	17.84	
2.	Croston Moss	41NE03	(Bi2aii)? , (Bi2b) , (Bi2cii)	SD480170	Chorley	67.34	
3.	Croston Marsh	41NE04	(Fe1)	SD482185	Chorley	1.70	
4.	Brickcroft Lane Meadow	41NE05	(Gr1)	SD480192	Chorley	2.54	
5.	Clay 'Ole	41NE06	(Ff4)? , (Gr3)? , (Hm1) , (In1)	SD486198	Chorley	12.69	
6.	Bretherton Road Meadow	41NE07	(Gr3)	SD487195	Chorley	1.98	
7.	Barber's Moor Pasture	41NE08	(Am1a)? , (Gr3)	SD489195	Chorley	2.73	0.26
8.	Croston Big Wood	41NE09	(Bi2aii)? , (Wd1)	SD496176	Chorley	7.85	
9.	Leeds/Liverpool Canal, Rufford Branch	41SE01	(Ar1)	SD458133	West Lancashire; Chorley	22.43	
10.	River Douglas Estuary	42SE02	(Co1) , (Co6) , (Ff2) , (Hm1) , (Ri1)	SD455215	West Lancashire; Chorley; South Ribble	106.65	
11.	Ulnes Walton	42SE05	(Am3b) , (Ar1) , (Le5)?	SD496207	Chorley	7.14	
12.	Darlington Sidings and Clancutt Brook	51NE01	(Ar1) , (Hm3) , (Wd2)	SD560147	Chorley	12.34	<0.01
13.	Clancutt Brook (East)	51NE02	(Bi2)? , (Ff4) , (Gr3)?	SD565153	Chorley	7.29	
14.	Dob Brow Pastures (North)	51NE03	(Gr3)	SD566159	Chorley	3.37	0.01
15.	Parker's Wood	51NE05	(Av3) , (Av8j) , (Wd1)	SD565162	Chorley	6.57	0.01
16.	Euxton Wood	51NE06	(Wd2)	SD560177	Chorley	3.73	0.08

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
17.	Fox Hole Wood	51NE07	(Wd1)	SD564178	Chorley	3.93	
18.	Plock Wood	51NE10	(Mo4)? , (Wd1)	SD575157	Chorley	15.15	14.15
19.	Ackhurst, Great, Judeland, Damhead and Dog Trap Woods	51NE12	(Ma1b) , (Mo4)? , (Wd1)	SD575179	Chorley	20.27	20.03
20.	Pond Near Holy Cross High School	51NE17	(Am3a)? , (In2)	SD582157	Chorley	0.38	<0.01
21.	Knowles Wood	51NW01	(Wd1)	SD516157	Chorley	6.57	
22.	Bottom Field (Lydiat Lane Meadow)	51NW02	(Gr3)	SD519181	Chorley	2.90	
23.	Spring Wood	51NW03	(Wd1)	SD525158	Chorley	4.70	
24.	Little Wood	51NW04	(Ff4b) , (Wd1)	SD535156	Chorley	6.78	
25.	Yarrow Bank	51NW05	(Wd2)	SD538178	Chorley	0.73	
26.	Billinge Wood	51NW06	(Wd1)	SD530181	Chorley	1.45	
27.	Yarrow Valley (Pincock)	51NW07	(Fe1) , (Wd2)	SD548179	Chorley	7.14	
28.	Bank Lane Woods and Chapel Brook	51NW08	(Gr3) , (Wd2)	SD542189	Chorley	3.17	
29.	Manor House Farm Pond	51NW09	(Od4)?	SD508171	Chorley	0.08	
30.	Knowles' Wood Ponds	51NW10	(Am3)? , (Ff4)? , (In2)?	SD518158	Chorley	12.08	
31.	Bradley Lane Pond	51NW11	(In2)? , (Od4)?	SD525167	Chorley	0.06	

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
32.	Hic-bibi Claypit	51SE01	(Am1a) , (Am3a) , (Ar1) , (Av3) , (Av8i) , (In2) , (Ma1a)? , (Ma3)? , (Od4)? , (Od5)? , (Re1)?	SD567126	Chorley	8.02	8.02
33.	Drybones and Burgh Woods	51SE02	(Av3) , (Av8j) , (Wd2)	SD575143	Chorley	3.21	0.03
34.	Spring Wood	51SE03	(Wd1)	SD575148	Chorley	2.93	
35.	Arley Reservoir and Woodlands	51SE04	(Bi8) , (Ff3)?	SD585113	Chorley	4.69	
36.	Ellerbeck Colliery	51SE05	(Hm2)	SD585135	Chorley	23.22	22.2
37.	Coppull Hall Wood	51SE06	(Ff4b) , (Wd1)	SD580140	Chorley	7.26	0.6
38.	Crawshaw Wood (R. Douglas Valley)	51SE07	(Hm3) , (Wd2)	SD591112	Chorley	11.29	2.07
39.	Hic-bibi Lane Field Pond	51SE08	(Od4)	SD562125	Chorley	0.03	
40.	Wet Oaks Wood	51SW06	(Ff4b) , (Wd1)	SD541134	West Lancashire; Chorley	2.31	
41.	Chisnall Wood	51SW07	(Wd1)	SD544127	Chorley	5.98	
42.	Syd Brook Valley	51SW08	(Gr3) , (Hm1)	SD540134	West Lancashire; Chorley	33.09	
43.	Gorton and Mill Brook Woods	52NE08	(Ff4b) , (In2)? , (Wd2)	SD590259	Chorley; South Ribble	7.26	
44.	Haddock Park Wood	52NE12	(Wd1)	SD591252	Chorley	4.69	
45.	Mill Wood	52NE13	(Gr3) , (Wd1) , (Wd2)	SD598251	Chorley	4.78	
46.	Cuerden Farm Ponds	52SE03	(Am1a)? , (Am3)?	SD559227	Chorley	12.32	<0.01

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
47.	Tennis Court Pond	52SE04	(Am1a)	SD564236	Chorley	1.08	
48.	Cuerden Valley Park and River Lostock	52SE05	(Av8i) , (Gr3) , (Hm2) , (Mo4)? , (Od3) , (Wd2)	SD570241	Chorley; South Ribble	54.60	0.04
49.	Kem Mill Ponds	52SE06	(Am1a)?	SD573218	Chorley	1.32	
50.	Leeds/Liverpool Canal (Walton Summit Branch)	52SE08	(Ar1)	SD589208	Chorley	1.34	
51.	Tan House Valley	52SE09	(Am3)? , (Gr3) , (Hm2)	SD597202	Chorley	15.68	<0.01
52.	Denham Wood	52SE10	(Wd1) , (Wd2)	SD598216	Chorley	10.29	
53.	Holt Brow Wood and Foxholes Wood	52SW06	(Ff4b) , (Wd2)	SD546205	Chorley; South Ribble	5.24	
54.	Winter Hill, Rivington Moor and Daddy Meadows	61NE01	(Av3) , (Av8g) , (Bo4) , (Ff3)	SD666148	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	712.57	<0.01
55.	Healey Nab	61NW01	(Av3) , (Av8j) , (Hm2) , (Le4) , (Wd1)	SD606181	Chorley	49.16	
56.	Anglezarke Reservoir	61NW02	(Av3) , (Ff4b)	SD616163	Chorley	84.23	
57.	Grey Heights Wood	61NW03	(Wd1)	SD612176	Chorley	4.68	
58.	Spen Wood	61NW05	(Wd1)	SD618171	Chorley	5.22	
59.	Stronstrey Bank	61NW06	(Wd1)	SD617181	Chorley	18.56	
60.	Anglezarke Quarries and Woodlands	61NW07	(Av8i) , (Hm2) , (Wd1)	SD621159	Chorley	24.69	
61.	The Goit	61NW08	(Ar1) , (Fi1) , (Le4)	SD620190	Chorley	8.95	
62.	Goit Mire, White Coppice	61NW09	(Fe1)	SD620193	Chorley	4.16	

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
63.	Dean Wood	61NW10	(Av8j) , (Fi1)? , (Wd1)	SD629153	Chorley	7.23	
64.	Lead Mines Clough and Twitch-Hills Clough	61NW11	(Fe2) , (Li2) , (Li3) , (Mo4)? , (Wd1)	SD631161	Chorley	17.84	
65.	Bradley's Farm Fields	61NW12	(Fe1) , (Ff4b)? , (Gr3)	SD628148	Chorley	44.14	
66.	Anglezarke Moor, Horden and Bromiley Pastures	61NW13	(Av3) , (Av8g) , (Bo4) , (Fe2)	SD642178	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	1012.01	
67.	Holland Fold Field	61NW14	(Gr3)	SD601156	Chorley	1.26	
68.	Abyssinia	61NW15	(Hm3)	SD609162	Chorley	10.36	
69.	Yarrow Head Valley, Sam Pasture and Flushes	61NW16	(Fe2) , (Hm3) , (Mo4)?	SD641165	Chorley	40.81	
70.	Dean Head Clough	61NW17	(Fe2)	SD646152	Chorley	9.03	
71.	Tennis Court Field	61NW18	(Gr3)	SD625150	Chorley	2.17	
72.	Lower Rivington Reservoir	61SW01	(Ff4a) , (Ff4b)	SD626131	Chorley	99.26	
73.	Upper Rivington Reservoir	61SW02	(Ff4a) , (Ff4b)	SD621149	Chorley	38.91	
74.	Lever Park	61SW03	(Av8j) , (Hm3)? , (In2)	SD633131	Chorley	211.18	
75.	Shaw's Clough and Shaw's Wood	61SW04	(Wd1)	SD641127	Chorley	8.78	
76.	Black Brook Clough	62NW01	(Wd2)	SD608264	Chorley	1.14	
77.	Chapel Lane Cuttings	62NW08	(Gr3)	SD619268	Chorley	1.95	
78.	Owlet Holes Wood and River Bank	62NW09	(Wd1)	SD631259	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	12.97	

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
79.	Wild Bottom's Wood	62NW1 2	(Ff4b) , (Wd1)	SD626281	Chorley	20.20	
80.	Causeway Wood	62NW1 4	(Ff3) , (Ma1b) , (Wd1)	SD631257	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	21.55	
81.	Whinney Bank and Feniscowles Woods	62NW1 8	(Ar1) , (Ff4b) , (Hm3) , (Wd2)	SD640254	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	11.06	
82.	Roddlesworth Valley	62SE0 1	(Av3) , (Av8j) , (Ff4a) , (Hm2) , (Wd2)	SD654221	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	214.55	
83.	Ramsbotham Wood and Miller Wood	62SW0 1	(Wd1)	SD608229	Chorley	3.44	
84.	Withnell Fold LNR	62SW0 2	(Fe1) , (Li3)	SD610231	Chorley	6.36	
85.	Wheelton Plantation	62SW0 3	(Av3) , (Av8j) , (Ma1b)	SD626206	Chorley	46.90	0.24
86.	Laund Wood and Ollerton Wood	62SW0 4	(Wd1)	SD620243	Chorley	4.03	
87.	Withnell and Wheelton Moors and White Coppice	62SW0 5	(Av3) , (Av8g) , (Bo2a) , (Bo4) , (Ff3) , (Le4) , (Li3)	SD637202	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	682.99	
88.	Bensons Farm Meadows	62SW0 7	(Gr3)	SD645226	Chorley	4.76	
89.	Roddlesworth Wood	62SW0 8	(Wd1)	SD648224	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	10.25	
90.	Abbey Village (Red Lee) Reservoir, Abbey Village Wood and Red Lee Wood	62SW0 9	(Gr3) , (Hm2) , (Od5)? , (Wd1)	SD643231	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	24.51	
91.	Stanworth Valley Wood - West	62SW1 0	(Wd1)	SD645243	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	18.31	
92.	Stanworth Woods and Reservoir (Star Paper Mill Woods)	62SW1 1	(Ff3) , (Wd1) , (Wd2)	SD641250	Chorley; Blackburn with Darwen	15.53	
93.	Worden Wood	52SE0 2	(Wd1)	SD557206	Chorley; South Ribble	6.45	

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
94.	Buckshaw Wood and Grassland	52SE01	(Gr3) , (Wd2)	SD557204	Chorley; South Ribble	11.34	
95.	Blanche Meadows and Woodland	51NE18	(Gr3)	SD562173	Chorley	2.42	
96.	Duxbury Woods	51NE13	(Am1a)? , (Am3a)? , (Av3) , (Av8j) , (Br2)? , (Hm2) , (Ma1b)? , (Mo4)? , (Wd1)	SD586151	Chorley	54.92	53.4
97.	Whave's Brook Fields	62SW13	(Av8b)	SD612238	Chorley	13.39	
98.	Fishers Farm Ponds	51NE15	(Am3) , (In2)? , (Od3)? , (Po1)	SD558158	Chorley	1.50	
99.	Burgh Wood	51NE09	(Ff2) , (Wd1)	SD574151	Chorley	10.30	5.27
100.	Yarrow Valley Park	51NE08	(Av10) , (Av3) , (Ff2) , (Ff3) , (Hm2) , (Wd2)	SD571149	Chorley	28.83	23.76
101.	Shaw, Altcar and Ruin Woods	52SW02	(Ff4b) , (Wd2) , (Wd4)	SD538206	Chorley; South Ribble	8.90	
102.	Lucas Lane Pasture	52SE07	(Gr3)	SD583208	Chorley	0.70	
103.	Walleys Wood, Copper Works Wood and Big Wood	51NE11	(Mo4)? , (Wd1)	SD571170	Chorley	23.32	20.14
104.	Spring Wood	51NE14	(Mo4) , (Wd1)	SD594158	Chorley	10.06	7.2
105.	Dob Brow Pastures (South)	51NE04	(Gr3)	SD566156	Chorley	2.25	
106.	Dob Brow Swamp	51NE16	(Fe1)	SD568156	Chorley	1.55	
107.	Joan Meadow and Gorsyfield Woods	61NW04	(Wd2)	SD615178	Chorley	3.25	
108.	Bolton Hall Wood	62NW10	(Wd1)	SD625274	Chorley	2.37	

No.	Site Name	Site ID	Features (as defined by the BHS guidelines for selection)	Grid Reference	District(s)	Hectares (ha)	Area (ha) within Chorley Council land*
109.	Crook Hey Wood	62NW1 1	(Wd1)	SD620283	Chorley; South Ribble	5.77	

*As measured by overlaying BHS boundaries layer and Council Owned Land layer on ArcGIS to identify overlap.

Appendix C: Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AW	Ancient Woodland
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BU	Biodiversity Unit
CLLP	Central Lancashire Local Plan
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
GCN	Great Crested Newt
GIS	Geographic Information System
LCC	Lancashire County Council
LERN	Lancashire Environment Record Network
LNP	Lancashire Nature Partnership
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LWT	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
NA	Not applicable
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NOx	Nitrogen Oxide
PAS	Planning Advisory Service
PM	Particulate Matter
PSPO	Public Spaces Protection Orders
SRBC	South Ribble Borough Council
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TVC	The Conservation Volunteers
UU	United Utilities
WEG	Water Environment Grant