

Harlow Biodiversity partnership

Harlow Biodiversity partnership is an independent group working to conserve Harlow's biodiversity, facilitated by Harlow Council.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings of the group, either as an individual or as a representative of a community organization or local business.

Our aim is to make a positive contribution to the conservation of our natural world and its biodiversity by sharing information and ideas. We take part in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan process, promote participation in practical nature conservation projects, and guide Harlow Council policies.

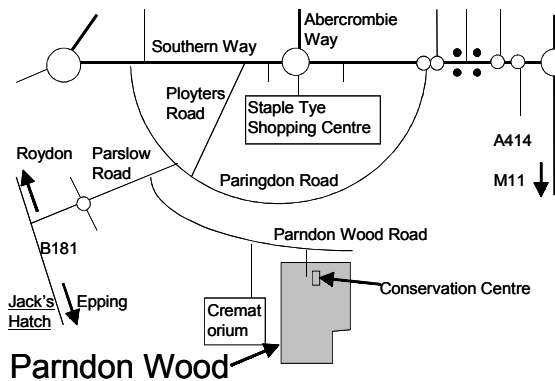


Artificial Otter Holt, Parndon Moat Marsh

Andrew Tomlins

How to get involved

Harlow Biodiversity partnership meets about six times a year, 7:30pm Tuesday evenings at Parndon Wood Conservation Centre.



Further Information

For more information contact:

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HBp web page:

www.harlow.gov.uk/wildlife

Essex Biodiversity partnership web site:

www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk



*Working together
for biological
diversity in
Harlow*



black poplar

Harlow
Biodiversity
partnership

What is Biodiversity?

Biological diversity – biodiversity – is the term given to the variety of living things and the variety of interactions of plants, animals, and natural processes that form ecosystems and habitats. Biodiversity forms the web of life on Earth. It includes:

- variety of species
- genetic variation within species
- variety of ecosystems and habitats

The value of Biodiversity

We are an integral part and depend on the web of life. It is the vast array of interactions among the various components of biodiversity which makes the planet habitable for all species, including humans.

Our personal health and the health of our economy and human society depend on the supply of various ecological “goods & services” by ecosystems:

- food, fibres, materials, fuel
- plant pollination, pest & disease control
- climate stabilization & moderation
- air & water purification, nutrient recycling

Biodiversity is the key to the ability for this to continue:

- genetic resources for crops, medicines, etc.
- cultural & aesthetic benefits
- ability to adapt to change

Loss of biodiversity threatens food supplies, sources of wood, medicines, and energy, and interferes with essential natural processes. Protecting biodiversity, as well as being ethical, is also in our self-interest.

Biodiversity under threat

Pressures are many and range from increased demands on natural resources with economic growth and new intensive harvesting technologies to global atmospheric change and global warming.

As a result of human activity species extinction worldwide is increasing and is now many times the natural rate. Fragmentation, degradation, and outright loss of ecosystems pose the greatest threat to biodiversity.



Convention on Biodiversity

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro over 150 governments, including the UK, signed the “Convention on Biological Diversity”, which has three main goals:

- conservation of biological diversity
- sustainable use of its components
- sharing equitably benefits of genetic resources

Following this the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) was established. Much of the work is done at local level, e.g. the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan. For further information visit:

www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk
www.ukbap.org.uk, www.biodiv.org

Essex Biodiversity

Action Plan

In producing the Essex Plan 25 species and 10 habitat types were chosen as a focus for action. The following are relevant to Harlow.



Water Vole



Song Thrush

Species

Brown hare, dormouse, otter, pipestrelle bat, water vole, bittern, grey partridge, skylark, song thrush, great crested newt, stag beetle, black poplar.



Stag Beetle

Habitats

Hedgerows, ancient woodland, old orchards, reed beds, urban habitats, natural grassland.

Practical Action

Habitat Surveys

Species surveys of wildlife habitats in Harlow are undertaken, for example ponds, hedgerows, and wild flower meadows.

Practical Conservation Work

HBp supports practical projects in the biodiversity action plans carried out by groups such as Harlow Conservation Volunteers.