SLLP Project Development Pro Forma

Name of Project	**1. Bringing Local Wildlife Sites into, and sustaining them in positive conservation management** **2. Canyards Hill**
	
Sponsoring partner organisation & main contact	The project will be run by Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit as part of the SLLP core team: Main contact: Richard Harris Ecology Manager Sheffield City Council Parks & Countryside 3rd Floor West wing Moorfoot Building Sheffield S1 4PL Email: Richard.harris@sheffield.gov.uk Tel: 01142734481 Mobile: 07964108485
150 word summary	Investing in our core sites: bringing Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) into, and sustaining them in positive conservation management through the identification, conservation, maintenance of species and habitat features of substantive conservation value and enhancement thereof.

	This project will bring 4 sites into positive conservation management, including creation of 1 new Local Wildlife Site, and ensure that 7 sites retain their existing positive conservation management status; without this project the latter would drop out of positive conservation management. This will be achieved by surveying, developing new habitat management briefs and delivering conservation management. Canyard's hill is an impressive 'tumble down' landscape, we will undertake research and create a PDF and web page so that people can find out more about it.
Full project description	**Aim** This project will generate better ecological information to inform and deliver better targeted conservation management of LWSs, so as to maximise their function as important wildlife refuges but also their connecting, stepping stone and buffering qualities, and the support they provide to other site networks. This project will characterise the role played by areas of intervening land as breeding, foraging and commuting, refuge or other functioning habitat. This will enable a better joined up approach to management at the landscape scale. Through the interaction with other projects within the overall scheme, this project will contribute to landscape-scale restoration of ecosystems. Better ecological condition and management will be achieved through a process of survey and mapping what wildlife is present and its distribution across the 11 sites and selective areas of intervening land area. This will enable us to make informed decisions to target conservation efforts to restore and re-create habitats and re-establish functional links to contribute towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss across the Lakeland Landscape Partnership area and beyond. **What will be achieved?** Sheffield currently has a total number of Local Sites is 319 comprising of 253 LWSs and 66 Local Geological Sites. Through the actions of the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership the total number of Local Sites currently in positive management will be 144 or 45.1% (all LWS) in 2018. This is an increase of 4 (1.2%) on the position at year end of 2016/2017. As a result of this project, as a minimum, 7 LWS at risk of losing positive conservation management status are retained and 4 (1 new) gain positive conservation management status[1]. Therefore, at the end of this project the percentage of sites, as a minimum, in positive conservation management will have risen to 46.25% (148 out of 320)[2]. However, it is important to emphasise if additional LWSs are identified through this project, and brought into positive conservation management, this percentage will increase again. Intervening land areas (not designated as LWS) have a significant role

[1] See Risks section

[2] See Risks section

	to play in terms of their contribution to ecological function and this project will characterise the part they play as buffers, their connecting function, or otherwise identify their contribution to the landscape-scale ecological network. These areas are primarily agricultural land, but include any type of semi-natural habitat in between LWSs. In addition this project will facilitate conservation management which otherwise would not have been as informed, nor as effectively targeted towards priority species or habitats[3], nor carried out to such a standard to optimise the benefit for those habitats and species. There are 69 LWSs in the project area. The area of LWSs in the Landscape area but not within the PDNPA is approximately 1310 Ha out of 4995 Ha which equates to 26% of the total SLLP area. This project has the potential for direct positive impact over 3%[4] of the area outside of the PDNPA but within the SLLP, and indirect effects in the vicinity of the sites themselves. However, taken in conjunction with the other projects as part of the wider SLLP scheme and combined with programmed work across the LWSs area, the benefits accrued will be greater and over a much wider area within the programme boundary and beyond. **Background and context** **Local Wildlife Sites** The project hinges on the concept of LWSs. Some explanation of what a Local Wildlife Site is and how it is designated is necessary to put the project in context. LWSs are non-statutory sites designated for their substantive nature conservation value. It is also helpful to define what the word 'substantive' is in terms of nature conservation value and the local context. It may include a variety of factors. Defra's Guidelines[5] give the following factors: • differing abundance and therefore significance of the nature conservation resources, for example between rural areas and urban areas; • general paucity of natural interest in the area; and, • the importance of certain features at the edge of their range. • determining criteria thresholds for the nature conservation benefits to be secured through any particular Local Sites system. This will involve considering the amount and distribution of locally significant species, habitats and geological features to be selected into the system; • distribution, abundance and increasing or declining trends in the nature conservation resources;

[3] E.g. Species and Habitats under S41 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, LBAP and UK BAP species and habitats, protected species.

[4] Approximately 148.23 Ha

[5] Local Sites Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs © Crown copyright 2006

	• maintaining viable populations and functioning ecological communities They are areas identified and selected locally for their nature conservation value based on their importance in the local context, although they may be important in a district, regional or national context too. The reason for the selection of sites is to provide recognition of the substantive nature conservation value of these sites and to help conserve those features. They are designated by a Local Sites Partnership[6] comprised of organisations with an interest in biodiversity conservation locally. Sheffield sites are very varied; they can be public or private land, they can be large or small, they cover a wide range of habitats from open heathlands to ancient woodlands and include linear features such as water courses a dominant feature in Sheffield's topography. Sites can also be designated for a particular species or assemblage of species or as an example of a specific habitat. Although they are discrete sites in the landscape, the series of LWSs (together with other networks such as SSSIs) can act to maintain the nature conservation interest of the Sheffield region by supporting viable populations and functioning ecological communities. Through their connecting, stepping stone and buffering qualities, they support other site networks[7]. They are numerous and distributed throughout the Sheffield region (253 LWSs ranging in size from 0.09 Ha to 161 Ha). Local Sites are sites of substantive nature conservation value and although they do not have any statutory status. The Defra guidance states '*In most areas, local authorities, working with other local partners, have set up systems of locally valued non-statutory sites.*' A Local Sites system is not a statutory requirement and how it is implemented is open to interpretation. **Positive conservation management** The following is taken from the Defra guidance. 'To show that positive conservation management is being undertaken on a Local Site, there must be documented evidence of management that contributes to maintaining or enhancing the features of interest for which a site has been selected and designated. The nature of the management activity appropriate to interest features of a site will commonly be defined within one, or more of the following: • site management plan • management schemes - agri-environment or conservation management agreement or scheme • relevant Biodiversity Action Plan • management guidance and advice

[6] In Sheffield this is the Sheffield Local Sites Partnership.

[7] Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

	In the case of management guidance and advice documentation should provide clear evidence of the management activity that has been undertaken, included when it was undertaken, and that such management is in accord with the management advice for the site.' More information on Indicator 160-00 can be found at: http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/single-data-list-guidance.pdf **Local Wildlife Sites selection process** LWSs have been designated according to what constitutes substantive nature conservation interest. What this is is set out in the site selection criteria and reflects the local context as well as national priorities. Sheffield's selection criteria follow the five points set out in the 2006 Defra Guidelines. • Local Sites networks provide a comprehensive rather than representative suite of sites. • Local Sites provide wildlife refuges for most of the UK's fauna and flora and through their connecting and buffering qualities, they complement other site networks. • Local Sites have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets. • Local Sites represent local character and distinctiveness. • Local Sites contribute to the quality of life and the well-being of the community, with many sites providing opportunities for research and education. All proposed new sites and re-surveyed sites will be evaluated under these criteria. These criteria so far are: • Upland woodlands – 2012 • Heathlands – 2012 • Grasslands – 2012 • Lowland woods-2017 • Bats – 2017 • Ponds and Standing water – Draft produced 2017 Further criteria will be developed in 2018. The site surveyor will make an evidenced based judgement using the selection criteria, whether a site should be a LWS, or that it still qualifies under these criteria to be retained as a LWS. A citation sheet is then produced giving the key points for the designation with direct reference to the evidence collected in the field.

	What we will do as part of this project • Ecologists to undertake habitat and wildlife surveys and complete management briefs for LWSs over a three year period. Carry out additional specialist species surveys as required. • Ecologists to undertake habitat and wildlife surveys and complete management briefs for new LWSs and the selective intervening land area to buffer, connect or otherwise positively contribute to a landscape-scale ecological network. • Management work undertaken informed by surveys. **The process of surveying a Local Wildlife Site** There is a standard process and form for surveying a LWS. This is as follows • Permission (as appropriate[8]) must be obtained from the land owner prior to the survey being carried out. • Desk top survey • Carry out field work. The data required and collected on site comprise (i) A site description with reference to the appropriate criteria (see above) (ii) Species lists using the DAFOR scale of abundance (iii) An annotated map and photographs (iv) Key species/habitat Target Noted (TN) and marked on the map. They may be given a six figure grid reference (not a site centroid) (v) Evidence of management to indicate that the site is in positive management (vi) Recommendations for management • The survey records any boundary changes that should be considered. This includes expansion of the size of the LWS to reflect areas outside the current boundary having interest that merits it being included within the site boundary. Conversely, the LWS size may be reduced due to a reduction in the conservation interest. This should only take place when it has been established that management cannot restore species status/habitats. All changes must be presented to the Local Wildlife Site Partnership for approval. • If management is required this should be noted and communicated to the owner. • The records collected during the survey are added to the Sheffield Biological Record Centre (SBRC). • The citation sheet which notes the conservation interest of the site and the reasons for the LWS designation is updated to reflect the new survey data. • The site owner is given a copy of the survey if requested. **Survey Approach**

[8] E.g. in the case of riparian habitats it is practically impossible to get all permissions.

	LWSs survey provides a relatively rapid assessment, and provides botanical species lists, along with descriptive 'target notes' which give an account of particular areas of interest, will enable the nature of habitats, their location, extent and distribution to be characterised. This will be augmented with more detailed information such as, further appraisal of habitat areas for legally protected or priority species and habitats which will form the basis of establishing any requirements for further more detailed surveys e.g. surveys for bats or breeding birds, which will be undertaken as part of this project, to subsequently be used to inform and deliver conservation management. Detailed habitat maps will be produced to scale between 1:2500 to 1:10000. Phase 1 habitat maps will be mapped onto GIS. Taken together this will be used to inform decision-making and direct the implementation of conservation management. Funding will be used to facilitate either positive conservation management status or retention of that status through habitat management identified and implemented by this project. Once surveys are completed areas of selective intervening land between LWSs will be assessed using aerial photography and targeted Phase 1 surveys undertaken where appropriate. The proposal is to undertake a program of LWSs surveys and further habitat and species surveys across 11 sites (10 LWSs) within the Lakeland Partnership Area between 2019 and 2022. The proposals go above and beyond guidance and recommendations for identification, selection and management of Local Sites. **Management Brief** The following will also be devised: i) Management condition and description of management which is apparent during survey ii) Status of LWS features and recommendations for retention iii) Management recommendations. These will be discussed with the land owner and a set of agreed prescriptions developed. This research and survey will inform production of a long-term area based management plan for identifying and carrying out habitat protection improvements. These plans will follow the format of and linking with the Sheffield Moors Masterplan and The Eastern Moors Management Plan. **Habitat Management** Without knowledge of what wildlife is present and its distribution it is not possible to halt and reverse its loss. By establishing what wildlife and habitats are present across the project area we will be able to identify what action to take, and in conjunction with partners, enable the delivery of management of sites as wildlife refuges, but also to

	establish a coherent and resilient ecological network thereby restoring functional links and re-establishing ecological processes and ecosystem services to the benefit of both people and wildlife. As part of this project we will look to link, buffer and extend existing sites, and establish new sites of substantive wildlife value. Not only will this provide wildlife with the best opportunity to thrive, but allow it to expand and adapt to Climate Change and resilient to the rate and scale of change of modern society. Habitats in the programme area include woodlands and scrub, hedgerows, heath, grassland communities, farmland including pasture, aquatic communities including streams and open water such as reservoirs, specialist fungi habitats such as waxcap grasslands and vegetation of open habitats. Management work could include establishment of and/or widening of riparian buffer strips which will have the added benefit of reducing soil run-off; invasive species control e.g. Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Habitat management could include management of farmland, PAWS restoration, lowland heathland restoration and woodland management including thinning, and hedgerow management and even drystone walls. This could be as simple as creating wide pond margins offering wet/damp marginal habitat, management of wet grassland for breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl linking to providing an area of flood containment and/or natural flood management. A portfolio of sites supports this bid. The following sites are confirmed for survey: **LWS 222 Hillsborough Golf Course (56%[9] of LWS):** The course is constructed on former lowland heath (UKBAP & LBAP), remnants of which survive between the fairways, with species such as heather, western gorse (a UKBAP species) and scattered birch. Protected species also have a strong presence. Scrub also present. LBAP: Unimproved grassland, lowland heathland UKBAP: Lowland heathland **LWS 032 Yew Trees Wood:** Mainly deciduous woodland, dominated by oak, on a steep south-facing slope. Fields to the east are unimproved grassland with scattered hawthorn and western gorse scrub. Western gorse scrub (UKBAP) is developing in the unimproved field. LBAP: Unimproved grassland UKBAP: Upland oak woodland **Non – LWS** **Bowcroft Cemetery**

[9] Where specified, percentages relate to proportion of the LWS we will survey and make management recommendations for.

	This small but "ancient Quaker burial ground" contains the graves of members of the Shaw family of nearby "Hill" and "Brookside" farms. There is a plaque and squeezer stile, beyond which is a well-maintained grove of trees and a path leading down to the burial site. Here there are a small number of 18th century graves all of which are nicely preserved. The headstones lie flat on the ground and some are cracked but the inscriptions are clearly legible. (Quakers were not allowed to be buried in the parish graveyard so this is how Bowcroft came into existence. The land for the burial ground was purchased in 1675 by George and William Shaw). This lonely site is often described as 'wind swept'. Maintained by Bradfield Parish Council. **LWS 224 Haggstones (68% of LWS)** The site features a disused quarry, surrounded by secondary woodland growing on quarry spoil. Beneath the trees there are small areas of acid grassland/heath mosaic (a priority habitat in the UKBAP). The quarry has been partially infilled by tipping, then landscaped and seeded with wildflowers (including musk mallow, field scabious and cowslip). The site is used by mammals that are protected by legislation. UK & LBAP: Lowland heathland UKBAP: Lowland dry acid grassland **LWS 004 Redmires Conduit (59% of LWS):** This linear feature runs west to east for 2km, from Soughley Lane to Blackbrook Road. The conduit comprises a narrow, steep-sided intermittently flowing channel, with a narrow strip of vegetation on either side. This includes heathland species (heather, bilberry, cowberry & heath bedstraw), wet grassland species (lesser spearwort & bog stitchwort), tall ruderals and the occasional shrub. A well-used public footpath runs parallel to the channel. UK & LBAP: Water course ('priority' habitat) **LWS 115 Deer Park Road Community Wildlife Area** This site consists of two blocks of semi-natural vegetation (relict farmland) which form an island within the surrounding housing. Habitats include semi improved grassland, planted woodland, rank grassland, tall herbs, scrub, scattered semi-mature trees and a wet flush. Protected mammal species use the site. **LWS 038 More Hall Reservoir** The site includes the reservoir, outlet channels, ponds (former water treatment works), coniferous plantations and relict ancient woodland. Other habitats include unimproved & acid grassland and small areas of heath. LRDB species occur, including great crested grebe, crossbill, red and roe deer and protected mammals (including bats). LBAP: Ancient woodland, unimproved grassland, ponds & standing water, rivers & running water. UKBAP: Lowland dry acid grassland, Ancient & / or species rich

	hedgerow. **LWS 014 Middle Rivelin Valley** Dominated by the River Rivelin, woodland and old mill ponds are present in this section of the valley. They show the various transitional stages between open water and carr woodland. AWI species are present throughout, including climbing corydalis (A LRDB species). Some of the open ponds are stocked and fished. This forms an important corridor between the Peak Park and the urban fringes of Sheffield. LBAP: Ancient woodland, ponds & standing water, rivers & running water. UKBAP: Wet woodland. **LWS 016 Hagg Wood** A section of the site (below the allotments off Back Lane) is dominated by heather and bilberry. The bulk of the site is comprised of former allotments that have been abandoned or planted up. Bird species such as the green woodpecker hold territories in the Hagg Wood area. The former allotment site (below Long Lane) is very diverse for fungi. Dead wood is plentiful in this section. LBAP: Upland heathland **LWS 017 Roscoe Plantation** The silted mill pond (with developing willow & alder carr), old plantation woodland (possibly formed part of the larger ancient Stannington Wood), patches of acid grassland (on the dry slopes with bilberry and heath bedstraw) and overgrown allotments form the diversity of this site. Ancient Woodland Indicator species are present on site. The River Rivelin flows along the southern boundary. Evidence of quarrying can be found in the eastern half. LBAP: Ancient woodland, rivers & running water. **LWS 018 Clough Fields (40% of LWS)** The site has a variety of habitats which include ancient woodland, wet woodland, grassland, heath / grassland mosaic (including Lowland heath), unimproved acidic and neutral grasslands and a developing woodland (former allotments) Large solitary trees are present along the field boundaries and a substantial wet flush area is within the LWS. Declining woodland birds such as blackcap and song thrush are present, and the site is used by brown hare and other protected mammals. LBAP: Ancient woodland, neutral grassland, acid grassland. UKBAP: Lowland heath, wet woodland **What species/habitats could benefit?** The wooded valleys, most of which are LWSs, hold a wealth of wildflowers associated with ancient woodland. The valleys are home to many species of birds, including scarce and declining species such

	as willow tit, spotted flycatcher and lesser spotted flycatcher. Carefully planned management could help create more habitats for these birds. Birds found along the watercourses include dipper and grey wagtail, plus a few pairs of kingfishers. The former millponds hold breeding populations of frogs, toads and newts. The reservoirs provide habitats for wildfowl, both breeding and over-wintering. A few pairs on common sandpiper nest along their banks. The bilberry-rich areas of heathland support green hairstreaks and other specialist invertebrates. The wooded valleys hold a few populations of purple hairstreaks and white-letter hairstreak; both species are probably under-recorded. **The value of the intervening farmland** The majority of the land between the LWSs is open farmland. It comprises a mixture of: • permanent pasture grazed by sheep, cattle and horses; • improved grassland and grass leys, harvested for silage; • arable land, sown with crops such as cereals and oil-seed rape. Although much of the grassland has been subject to agricultural improvement, there remnants of unimproved pasture and traditional hay meadow. The intervening farmland supports small breeding populations of ground-nesting birds, including skylark, lapwing, curlew, snipe and grey partridge. Golden plovers use some areas of farmland for feeding, resting and roosting on the way to and from their breeding grounds on the South Pennine Moors. The linnet nests in areas of scrubby heathland, but spends much of its time foraging on farmland. Birds associated with the moorland fringe, such as such merlin and twite, may also visit farmland in search of food. The open fields and woodland edges are home to the brown hare, a widespread but seldom seen species. Barn owls are occasionally seen hunting over the field margins and areas of rough pasture. The field margins and roadside verges hold small populations of the wall brown and other butterflies. The small heath butterfly occurs sporadically in the remaining areas of unimproved acidic grassland. With sensitive management, more areas of farmland could be made suitable for these species. Species and habitats that could benefit from this project include species and habitats designated under S41 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, LBAP and UK BAP species and habitats,

	protected species, and locally declining species and habitats. **Water Vole** The status of Water vole in the Sheffield area is becoming critical. Lack of management is putting serious pressure on the few remaining populations, the largest and most stable of these being the population in the upper Redmires conduit. **White clawed crayfish** The protection and stabilisation of these remnant populations must be further enhanced to ensure they are not lost from the Sheffield area. **Bats** The SLLP area has numerous areas ideally suited for bats. Populations could be assisted through identifying areas with large bat populations and concentrating on a number of habitat improvements in these areas. **Butterflies** There are numerous rare butterfly species in the SLLP area that could benefit from the creation of wildflower meadows or increasing larval host plant populations. E.g. the Wall and the White-letter Hairstreak. **Reptiles** The SLLP area is home to a number of reptile species including Adder, Grass Snake and Common Lizard. These would benefit from the creation of Hibernacula and basking points, possibly integrated into dry stone wall works. **Otter** The return of Otters to the Don is a fairly recent development. The SLLP could assist Otter in their movement up the Don through the creation of artificial holts in riverbanks. **Salmon** The recent return of salmon to the Don as a result of improvements in water quality is a major ecological achievement. The habitat could be further enhanced through the creation of spawning banks. **Wax cap grasslands** There are numerous unimproved grassland sites in the SLLP area that are home to nationally rare fungi. The sensitive management of these sites is essential to maintain these fungal communities. **Sundews** There are numerous sites in the SLLP that are home to these rare carnivorous plants. Developing management plans and working to conserve this rare bog plant would also help reduce flooding. **Dragonflies**

	There are numerous upland dragonfly species that are declining nationally. These would benefit from habitat management and pond creation. **Amphibians** All amphibian species are experiencing a global decline. Local amphibian species can be helped through the creation of new or restored breeding habitat. Breeding ponds can also form part of upland flood defences. **Priority habitats that could benefit from the project include:** • Heather Moorland • Sphagnum bog • Upland acid Oak Woodland • Ancient woodland • Wet flush • Heath and acid grassland mosaic • Cotton Grass • Hedgerows • Dry stone walls (locally important) • Running and standing water **Permissions** The Defra guidance acknowledges the difficulties in gaining site access and getting information from private owners. Permission has been given to carry out habitat surveys by the various landowners[10]. Permission in principle has been granted to carry out habitat management. Implementation is subject to additional agreement. As a large landholder there is sufficient scope within the portfolio of sites to facilitate management works within budget for our own landholdings. However, through our discussions it is clear there is a high degree of confidence from participating site owners agreeing to actions to bring their site(s) under positive conservation management. Any management works will be maintained for 10 years, which we as a partnership, commit to do. **Funding** **SCC Contribution** Over the lifetime of the project monetary contributions are £8000. Subject to permissions, this will be supplemented by in-kind contribution of re-surveys of LWSs in the SLLP area between 2019 and 2022 as part of our programmed work on a minimum of 12 no. of sites. Reference will be made to Sheffield Biological Records Centre,

[10] See Risks section

	Barnsley Biological Records Centre, Peak Park National Park data along with data from independent organisations to inform conservation action. We will work towards a data sharing agreement with the Peak District National Park Authority to facilitate biological data exchange. This data will be used to inform management works. We are asking for funding for the following: **Year 2019/20** **LWS 222 Hillsborough Golf Course:** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day + 4% pay increase = £187 Survey 1 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £1029 Management brief & landowner liaison 2 days = £374 **LWS 032 Yew Trees Wood:** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day + 4% pay increase =£187 Survey 1 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £1030 Management brief & landowner liaison 2 days = £374 **Non – LWS** **Bowcroft Cemetery** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day+ 4% pay increase = £187 Survey 0.5 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 2 days x 1 surveyor = £561 Management brief & landowner liaison 2 days = £374 **LWS 224 Haggstones** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180.33 per day+ 4% pay increase = £187 Survey 1 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3 days x 1 surveyor = £935 Management brief & landowner liaison 2 days = £374 **Year 2020/21** **LWS 004 Redmires Conduit:** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day+ 6% pay increase = £191 Survey 0.5 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 2 days x 1 surveyor = £573 Management brief & landowner liaison 4 days = £764

	LWS 115 Deer Park Road Community Wildlife Area Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180.33 per day+ 6% pay increase = £191 Survey 0.5 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 2 days x 1 surveyor = £573 Management brief & landowner liaison 3 days = £573 **LWS 038 More Hall Reservoir** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180.33 per day+ 6% pay increase =£191 Survey 1 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £1051 Management brief & landowner liaison 4 days = £764 **Year 2021/22** **LWS 014 Middle Rivelin Valley** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day+ 8% pay increase = £194 Survey 2 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 4 days x 1 surveyor = £1552 Management brief & landowner liaison 5 days = £970 **LWS 016 Hagg Wood** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180.33 per day+ 8% pay increase = £194 Survey 1.5 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £1261 Management brief & landowner liaison 3 days = £582 **LWS 017 Roscoe Plantation** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day+ 8% pay increase = £194 Survey 1.5 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £1261 Management brief & landowner liaison 3 days = £582 **LWS 018 Clough Fields** Costs LWS survey Surveyor costs £180 per day+ 8% pay increase = £194 Survey 1.5 day x 2 surveyors; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £1261 Management brief & landowner liaison 4 days = £776 **Additional Surveys** Predicated on the findings of the above surveys and management

	proposals. **Desk-top study and targeted Phase 1 surveys** £3493 **Targeted specialist species surveys** £3913 **Capital works** £30000 **Outputs** Number of sites in positive conservation management will have risen to 46.25% (148 out of 320)[11]. 11 Local Wildlife Surveys completed. Protected species surveys Selective Phase1 survey and mapping of intervening land Conservation land management 4 sites in positive conservation management, including creation of 1 new Local Wildlife Site. 7 sites retaining their existing positive conservation management status[12]. Comprising a total area of approximately 148.23 Ha. **Outcomes** 1. Greater knowledge of habitats and species, their distribution and how they use the SLLP area available to the community, partners, conservation organisations, and landowners to inform future management. 2. Better ecological condition and management to maintain viable populations and functioning ecological communities across 11 sites and the surrounding area. 3. In conjunction with other projects a significant contribution towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss across the Lakeland Landscape Partnership area and beyond. 4. Contribution to the quality of life and the well-being of the community, with many sites providing opportunities for the enjoyment of nature, research and education. **Who will be doing the work** Surveys will be carried out by Casual ecology workers working irregular hours as and when required, with more detailed surveys targeting specialist wildlife groups e.g. surveys for bats or breeding birds by casual ecology staff, or specialists from the private, charity or academic sectors where we do not have the skills 'in-house'. Contractors, specialists (from the private or charity sector), will be employed to deliver a range of habitat management and creation

[11] See Risks section
[12] See Risks section

	projects. **Legacy and long-term management implications** In the long term the project will pave the way to secure the future of the landscape, its wildlife and people. The outcomes will be sustained through Sheffield City Council's rolling programme of site survey, and work developed through partnerships and relationships established through this project and the wider programme. **2. Canyard's Hill** Canyards Hill is not a Local Wildlife Site, however it is unique in the SLLP programme as being the only geological interpretation project. As it is site specific the WS team have agreed to manage the project. Canyards Hills is a 64.1 hectare (158.4 acre) biological and geological SSSI in South Yorkshire. The site was notified in 1990. This site possesses the most impressive examples in England and Wales of 'ridge-and-trough' or 'tumbled ground.' Beneath a 10 m high cliff, the north-facing valley side above Broomhead Reservoir is a chaotic mass of sub-parallel ridges, separated by intervening narrow areas of marshy ground. The site is formed in Upper Carboniferous Millstone Grit and shows the most extreme form and best example of 'tumbled ground', with innumerable small Millstone Grit blocks (controlled by jointing) taking up a large landslip. (Wikipedia). This project will review the existing information available and create a PDF and website page content to interpret the site for non-specialists. We will engage a Geomorphology expert to interpret describe the site in straight forward words and create a number of images to illustrate how it came about.
Supporting documents	Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management in England Local sites (i.e. sites designated locally for their substantive nature conservation importance for wildlife or geological importance). These sites are being managed so as to preserve their nature conservation interest (i.e. are in "positive conservation management"). https://data.gov.uk/dataset/nature-conservation-local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management-in-england These official statistics give information on Local Sites designated locally for their nature conservation importance (either for wildlife or geology) which are being managed so as to conserve their nature conservation interest. Sheffield MBC has reported consistently since 2008 on Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management and has increased the percentage. However, it is proving more and more difficult to bring additional sites into positive conservation management, particularly those that are in private ownership. Sheffield City Council is familiar with working on large scale partnership projects and has successfully delivered as a key partner the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area Project. Burbage NIA -

	National "Nature Improvement Area" project for the Burbage Valley in the Peak District National Park. Partners: National Trust, RSPB, Eastern Moors, Peak Park. http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/dark-peak-nia-0 Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit carried out the Desk-top study to gather comprehensive baseline data, National Vegetation Classification and specialist wildlife surveys, and made Conservation Proposals which were adopted and carried out a Watching Brief. Co-wrote the Forestry Ecological Impact Assessment. Sheffield General Cemetery HLF Round 1 Project – SCC secured HLF Development funding for Sheffield General Cemetery, a Grade II* registered Park & Garden in central Sheffield to develop proposal to conserve the site and improve access for the local community. The project has involved developing masterplan proposals for the conservation of the built and natural heritage, engage with target audiences to understand needs and developing a range activities to make the heritage more accessible. The development project is nearing completion and will submit a Round 2 application in February 2018. Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit carried out the Desk-top study to gather comprehensive baseline data, Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, with Conservation Proposals and Watching Brief. SCC Ecology Unit Schedule of Rates provided. **2. Canyard's Hill** Canyard's Hill Notification 1990
Other partners and organisations directly engaged in delivering the project	• S&RWT • Yorkshire Water • Sheffield City Council • Contractors (to be appointed subsequently) The strong partnerships established through the programme between the public sector, conservationists, land managers and business will engender positive conservation outcomes for wildlife and people.
Other organisations benefitting or taking part in your project or key target audience	• Private land owners – written agreement from Mr John Illingworth, to survey and in principle to carry out habitat management on part of Hillsborough Golf Course Local Wildlife Site 222. Verbal agreement to survey and in principle to carry out habitat management on Bowcroft Cemetery. • Peak DNPA – in discussion to set up joint data sharing agreement.
How does the project contribute to our vision?	
"*A wilder, more natural and resilient landscape of native clough woodland, descending down from the moorland slopes to the reservoirs, streams and farmlands below, alive to the sound of curlews and lapwings, and crossed by a lattice work of drystone walls and accessible paths and bye-ways. A landscape that provides clean air and water, supports wildlife, helps to reduce flooding and improves peoples' health & wellbeing. A landscape for everyone to value, enjoy, understand – and feel part of."*	

The Local Sites series have a significant role to play in supporting wildlife by providing refuges for habitats such as native clough woodland, open and running water, and grasslands for the benefit of target species such as curlew and lapwing. Furthermore they buffer, connect or otherwise contribute to a landscape-scale ecological network. Increasing our knowledge through survey and desk-top study of species and habitats and their distribution will enable better conservation management and lead to a greater understanding of the landscape and how it functions. This in turn will help us towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss across the Lakeland Landscape Partnership area and beyond.

Our work will also enhance the capacity of the natural environment by providing ecosystem services such as cleaner water and crop pollination.

The project recognises that a well-managed and documented Local Sites series and wider countryside contributes to the quality of life and the well-being of the community, with many sites and areas providing opportunities for public enjoyment of nature, research and education.

Site wills be managed through the partnership in the long term as part of Sheffield City Councils on-going commitment to maintaining sites in positive conservation management.

Strategic fit

Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network[13]

The report states in relation to LWSs 'There are a large number of surviving patches of important wildlife habitat scattered across England outside of SSSIs, for example in Local Wildlife Sites. We need to take steps to improve the protection and management of these remaining wildlife habitats'. It goes on to say 'Local Wildlife Sites are important to future ecological networks, because they not only provide wildlife refuges in their own right but can act as stepping stones and corridors to link and protect nationally and internationally designated sites'. On the issue of improving the quality of current sites by better habitat management the report acknowledges that LWSs are often under managed, and with reference to these and other statutory sites, acknowledges that investment in the management of existing wildlife habitats is an absolute priority if England is to have an effective ecological network.

The Report acknowledges 'we need a step-change in our approach to wildlife conservation, from trying to hang on to what we have, to one of large-scale habitat restoration and recreation, under-pinned by the re-establishment of ecological processes and ecosystem services, for the benefits of both people and wildlife.'

It goes on to say 'This vision will only be realised if, within the overall aims, we work at local scales, in partnership with local people, local authorities, the voluntary sector, farmers, other land-managers, statutory agencies, and other stakeholders. Private landowners, land managers and farmers have a crucial role to play in delivering a more coherent and resilient wildlife network.'

It also states 'We propose that the overarching aim for England's ecological network should be to deliver a natural environment where: Compared to the situation in 2000, biodiversity is enhanced and the diversity, functioning and resilience of ecosystems re-established in a network of spaces for nature that can sustain these levels into the future, even given continuing environmental change and human pressures.

[13] Lawton, J.H., Brotherton, P.N.M., Brown, V.K., Elphick, C., Fitter, A.H., Forshaw, J., Haddow, R.W., Hilborne, S., Leafe, R.N., Mace, G.M., Southgate, M.P., Sutherland, W.J., Tew, T.E., Varley, J., & Wynne, G.R. (2010) Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network. Report to Defra.

We also recommend that this be underpinned by three objectives:

(1) To restore species and habitats appropriate to England's physical and geographical context to levels that are sustainable in a changing climate, and enhanced in comparison with those in 2000.
(2) To restore and secure the long-term sustainability of the ecological and physical processes that underpin the way ecosystems work, thereby enhancing the capacity of our natural environment to provide ecosystem services such as clean water, climate regulation and crop pollination, as well as providing habitats for wildlife.
(3) To provide accessible natural environments rich in wildlife for people to enjoy and experience. Where LWSs are in Council ownership we will continue to grant public access.' Much of the area is criss-crossed by public rights of way and this will give people the opportunity to see and interact with wildlife and nature.

Sheffield's Great Outdoors Green and Open Space Strategy

A principal outcome of Sheffield's Great Outdoors Green and Open Space Strategy is 'An even greener Sheffield – contributing on a regional scale to managing climate change and conserving biodiversity'. This project fits with the four priorities for action:

• Minimising climate change
• Sustaining quality in our environment
• Managing for nature and biodiversity
• Making connections for people and wildlife

A key strategic outcome is 'By 2020 - phased improvement to target condition for all Local Nature Sites and SSSIs achieved through Biodiversity Action Plan implementation. This project contributes to the first part of this goal by targeting positive conservation management of LWSs.

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services states: 'We will encourage local authorities to take a more active and positive role in the management of Local Sites, including through reporting data on such sites in the Government's new Single Data List'.

National Planning Policy Framework

Section 117 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that planning authorities should identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation. This supports Sheffield's work on Local Sites. Along with Defra's guidance there is relevance to maintaining a suite of these sites and to keep up the corresponding review period.

Furthermore, Section 165 of the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to‑date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area.

Section 84. of the Defra guidance states a review period of between five and ten years is recommended. We aim to follow this recommendation, but getting permitted access to private sites is proving particularly difficult.

However, designation and review is only one part of the equation; sites need to demonstrate that they are in positive conservation management. Resources to manage sites are minimal. This is an opportunity to target management to maximise benefit for key habitats and species.

Local Sites Partnership

Sheffield has an active Local Sites Partnership run in line with Defra best practice guidance. Amongst its roles the partnership:

• actively promotes and supports site management;
• co-ordinate funding provision and/or identify and promote the taking up of funding opportunities;
and;
• promotes the enhancement of sites through buffering and increasing connectivity.

In section 22. of the Defra Local Site selection and management 2006 document it states 'The Partnership should also aim to make the best of funding opportunities to ensure the protection, management and beneficial use of the site network.' We, as Partnership lead, are doing just that through this project by seeking HLF funding.

Furthermore, the guidance states lottery grants are available for voluntary and community sector led initiatives geared to environmental objectives which may be relevant to Local Sites.

How does your project contribute to our combined statement of significance?

Identify how your project meets one or more of the SLLP programme objectives

1. A more connected and resilient landscape.	Non-statutory LWSs (Local Sites) provide a series of important wildlife refuges. These refuges will be better managed and their function, along with intervening land, as connecting, stepping stone and buffering qualities, and the support they provide to other site networks enhanced; this will enable a more ecologically connected, robust and resilient landscape.
2. Bigger, better and more joined up natural environment for people and wildlife.	11 sites will be better managed as a result of this project for specific priority habitats and species.
3. Better recorded and valued cultural heritage celebrated by local people and visitors.	11 sites will be better recorded as a result of this project for specific priority habitats and species. Subject to permissions, this will be supplemented by in-kind contribution of re-surveys of LWSs in the SLLP area between 2019 and 2022 as part of our programmed work on an additional 12 sites. Canyard's Hill is a most impressive feature in the SLLP Landscape, however it is little interpreted and people do not recognise its interest.
4. Better understanding of local heritage with more people helping look after it – a landscape for all to learn about, value, experience and enjoy.	The surveys and management briefs will be made available to landowners. Records collected during the survey will be added to the Sheffield Biological Record Centre (SBRC) which is available to be used freely by the public and conservation organisations to learn about the wildlife of the SLLP area.

HLF priorities met (quantitative and/or qualitative and which can be directly measured)
Cross reference with the HLF Monitoring Spreadsheet.

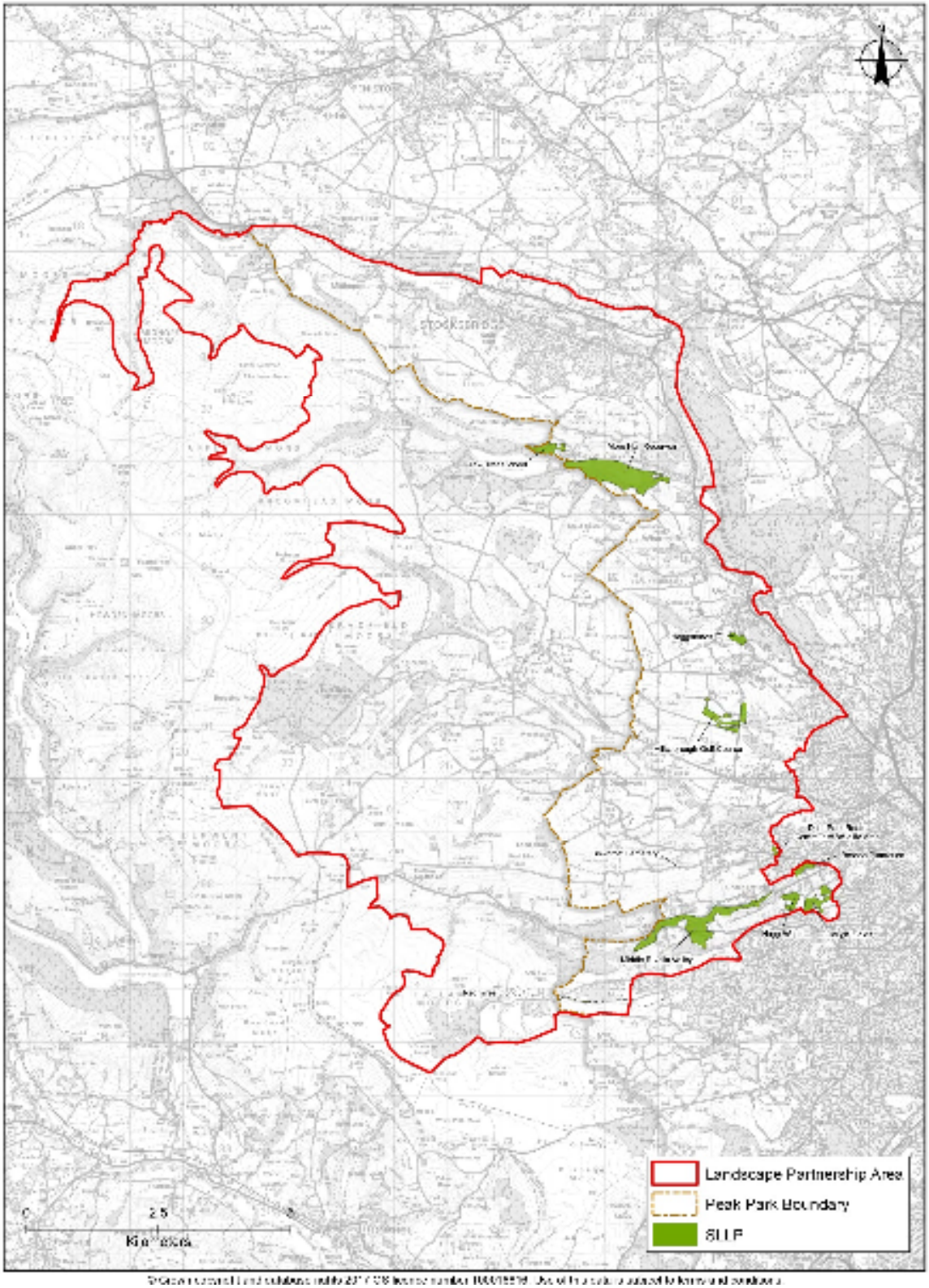
Outputs for heritage
Which aspect of heritage will be:

- better managed	4 sites into positive conservation management, including creation of 1 new Local Wildlife Site, and ensure that 7 sites retain their existing positive conservation management status.
- in better condition	As above
- identified and recorded	10 LWSs recorded; 1 new site Canyard's Hill is a most impressive feature in the SLLP Landscape, however it is little interpreted and people do not recognise its interest.
Outputs for people How many people will have:	
- developed skills	
- received training – certified, uncertified	
- learned about heritage	
- volunteered their time	
Outcomes for communities	
- Negative environmental impacts will be reduced	Large areas will be made accessible for the quiet enjoyment of nature.
- more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	Private companies and landowners e.g. Yorkshire Water, and Bradfield Parish Council
- your local area/community will be a better place to live, work and visit	Local Sites contribute to the quality of life and the well-being of the community, with many sites providing opportunities for enjoyment of nature, research and education.

Consents required	In place Y / N
From public bodies	Y
3rd party landowner agreements	Permission to survey. Permission in principle for habitat management.
Other	N/A
Budget headlines **Local Wildlife Site surveys example calculation:** Salary, expected pay increase at 2% per year compound included in forecast salaries, so for 2018/19 it is 2% increase; 4% in 2019/20 1st year of project; 6% in 2020/21 2nd Year etc. Surveyor costs £180 per day (This is taken from our schedule of rates for Scale 6 Casual staff) + 4% pay increase = £187 Survey 1 day @ £187 per day x 2 surveyors = 2 x £187 = £374 ; Write up 3.5 days x 1 surveyor = £655	Percentage

Sub-total = £1029 Management brief & landowner liaison 2 days = 2x £187 = £374 Total = £1403		
HLF Funds required	£48000 (includes Canyard's Hill £1,000)	86%
Partnership / match funding £ secured	£8000	14%
Volunteer contribution		0%
In-kind contribution		0%
Total	**£56000**	100
Location Map (where will your project happen) Canyards Hill SK250949		

Bringing Local Wildlife Sites into, and sustaining them in positive conservation management - Project Area



Photographs

N/A

Demonstrate links / cross-fertilisation to at least 2 other projects

This project will pay for ecological woodland survey work to inform works under the Woodland

Heart Project. Capital costs will be covered by the Woodland Heart for the named sites allowing concentration of capital monies on other non-woodland sites.

This project has mutual benefits for wildlife in the project area and beyond through increasing our level of knowledge of potential habitat for target species, and by providing targeted management to benefit species dealt with under the Back from the brink project.

This project will benefit the 'Creating the buffer and stepping stones, creating new habitats with farmers' project by providing refuges to link to. Both projects have synergies in that they will both support other site networks by the functional linkages they provide e.g. foraging and commuting, resting or roosting function. There are synergies with the 'Working with water project' by either seeking to improve management of refuge sites, and the moors, bogs, flushes, streams, reservoirs and rivers that link them.

This project has synergies with Restoring the lattice. Drystone walls act as habitat in their own right or as linkages enhancing connectivity in the landscape for species such as small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, nesting habitat for birds e.g. wren, redstart, pied wagtail, and act as hibernacula.

Overall these projects will enable a better joined up approach to management at the landscape scale.

Cross Cutting Themes (Golden Threads)
Please note, or reference from previous text, how you will contribute to or work with the following:

1. Priority species recovery
   Habitat Management Section and **What species/habitats could benefit?**
   refers to maintaining, creating and restoring habitat for priority species, e.g. UK BAP and LBAP, and priority habitats which will benefit priority species.
2. Telling local stories
3. Digital landscape (i.e. using technology)
   Habitats and species will be input onto the Sheffield Biological Records Centre database and habitats mapped using GIS.
4. Monitoring and evaluation
   LWS will be surveyed, their condition will be monitored and evaluated. See **Operational** Section in **Legacy and long-term management implications** section. Positive management condition independently verified by Local Wildlife Sites partnership.
5. Evidencing ecosystem services
   Our work will also enhance the capacity of the natural environment by providing ecosystem services such as flood alleviation, cleaner water and crop pollination, mental and physical health benefits from access to nature.
6. Community engagement
7. Communicating the good work of the Heritage Lottery Fund, and potentially other supporters.

Biosecurity / Confidentiality	Biosecurity measures will be incorporated into the project e.g. when surveying for white-clawed crayfish take appropriate biosecurity precautions by following guidance such as 'Guidance on works affecting white-clawed crayfish', Stephanie Peay, June 2000, English Nature. Location of threatened species will be kept to 4 Figure grid references in the public domain. Particularly vulnerable species such as birds of prey, badgers, orchids will only be released to appropriate

	organisations at an agreed resolution. Timing of release will be taken into account to adequately protect the species. Competent and appropriately qualified staff and contractors will be utilised. Evidence reported of qualifications and evidence of suitability of an appropriate level of experience in ecological survey.
Legacy and long-term management implications	**Legal and agreements** Legal agreements entered into with other organisations or landowners to ensure management works are completed and maintained. **Operational** Programme of monitoring and maintenance drawn up once management works agreed. LWSs programme of re-survey monitored by the Sheffield LWSs Partnership which meets biannually. Programme of LWSs re-survey drawn up annually and completed by SCC Ecology Unit and submitted to LWSs Partnership. This ensures we meet the requirements of Single Data List 160-00 on Improved Local Biodiversity 'Nature Conservation: Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management' reporting to DEFRA annually, and on our SCC internal performance target on increasing LWSs in positive conservation management. **Strategic** LWSs and Lakeland Landscape Partnership Area: • Better identified and recorded • better understood • better managed • In better condition • accessible and welcoming, with appropriate safeguards for wildlife • valued and celebrated by local people and visitors Contributing to overall production of area based management plan to enable: • more, bigger, better and more joined up A legacy of these projects and the wider scheme will be to foster a continued good working relationship with partner organisations.
Partner's Environmental Policy	See 'Growing sustainably: a bold plan for sustainable Sheffield'
Risks	The LWSs series are a dynamic system. Over the whole of Sheffield, the number of LWSs could decrease if sites are de-designated as they no longer qualify for Local Wildlife Site status, or increase if new sites are designated. Similarly, the LWS area could increase or decrease if a proportion of a site is designated or de-designated respectively. The overall number of LWSs in positive conservation management could also increase or decrease. In general SCC does not have any control of privately owned sites and cannot insist on their conservation management. This is outside the control of this project.

	In some cases (see text) we have permission to survey a proportion of a LWS. Therefore a LWS could reduce in size and there is a risk that the overall area of LWSs will decline within the SLLP area. There is also the potential for a site to no longer meet the LWS criteria. However, as a result of this project we will have a more robust and defensible LWS series. In addition where we survey existing LWSs and intervening land there is the potential to increase the area, and in the latter case the number of LWSs in the SLLP area. In the case of this project without appropriate management 7 LWS are at risk of retaining positive conservation management status. With appropriate management 4 (and 1 new Local Wildlife Site) will gain positive conservation management status. It is not envisaged that conservation management will be a large undertaking; for example woodland management can involve minimal or non-intervention and be classed as positive conservation management. Of the 11 sites SCC own 2 sites, 5 are partially owned by the Council, 4 are in private ownership. Of the latter, 2 are predominantly owned by Yorkshire Water. The 2 sites owned by SCC have permission to survey. The SCC partially owned sites have permission for survey only on the Councils' area. The 2 predominantly Yorkshire Water sites have permission for survey. Of the remaining privately owned sites permission has been given for the whole of Bowcroft Cemetery and a proportion of Hillsborough Golf Course to be surveyed. Yorkshire Water is a partner in the project and are supportive. Consent is required from the owners to effect positive management by SCC. However, until surveys have been completed owners cannot guarantee their permission to carry out conservation management, as recommendations may not be in accordance with the function of a particular site. If permission is not granted alternative sites from the portfolio of LWSs in Council ownership will be surveyed and positive conservation management implemented.
Climate Change	This project will enable species to adapt to the impacts of climate change by for instance creating linkages and corridors. Geographically, species are moving northwards and spatially are moving from lowland areas to the uplands. As the rate of climate change increases this project will contribute towards the provision of a series of robust and resilient refuges through conservation management. This will continue to provide the right circumstances for population increase of threatened species, reduce risk of local extinction and provide potential colonists of new sites. This project

	promotes landscape heterogeneity to give species the opportunity to stay within their climate envelope, by giving them the ability to make small scale local movements to adapt rather than undertake long distance dispersal.