

Homework item #26

Prepare a note, in liaison with Total Environment, to clarify how the buffers/restoration areas have been established, including the 250m distance from corridors and stepping stones, and the extent of involvement of local and/or national partnerships in defining these.

1. The Council has liaised with the Total Environment team in producing this note.
2. In respect of restoration areas, included within the Cheshire East Ecological Network map, the selection of a 250m buffer (referred to on page 4 of [ED 09]) was made on the basis of professional judgement of qualified ecologists within the Total Environment team. Professional judgement was applied in the absence of any standardised guidance.
3. As noted in the report, it is acknowledged that the 250m is a generalised measurement, however it does recognise the typical dispersal distance of characteristic Cheshire species, such as Great crested newts.
4. Buffer zones within the network were identified following the methodology detailed on pages 2 and 3 of the report and include areas between and around the individual component sites that make up the Core Areas.
5. It can be confirmed that the Local Nature Partnership board was consulted during the development of the Ecological Network.