

Summer 2012

Volume 8 Issue 1

# Derbyshire Biodiversity News

Also available in colour from [www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk)

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This newsletter is aimed at anyone in Derbyshire with an interest in biodiversity including site rangers, planners, conservation staff, species recorders, local community groups, families and individuals.

Produced by the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership.

## Biodiversity News gets a new look!

Welcome to this new format of the Derbyshire Biodiversity Newsletter. After a long break, we are back with an updated design of newsletter which now more closely reflects the appearance of the newly published Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

After an enormous amount of consulting and preparation, the new Local BAP for Lowland Derbyshire was launched at the Annual Forum, late last year (see p3). Both LBAP Officers have been busy since then, not only promoting the LBAP to planners and local groups, but also helping to develop a schools biodiversity project (see p5).

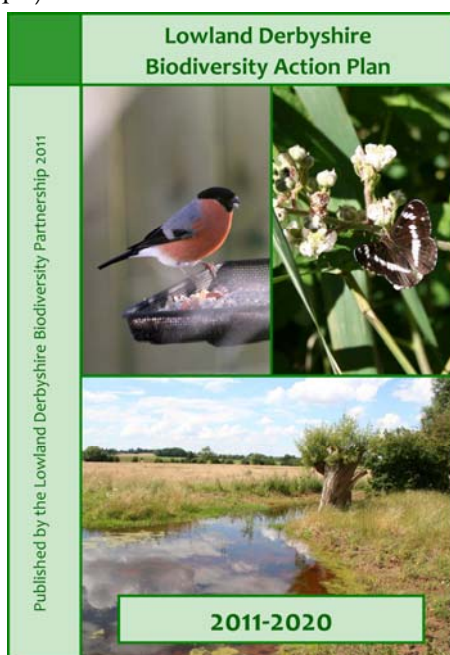
Then in January we began work to support a new government initiative called Local Nature Partnerships (see p5). This was an idea which arose from the Natural Environment White Paper which was published last year.

All this activity has resulted in a long break in newsletter communication with our partners. On page 8 we discuss some new ways we are planning to spread the word about biodiversity action, and we invite you to give us your feedback on how best you'd like us to communicate with you in the future.

If you don't want to do that, do at least tell us what you think of the new look newsletter, and remember that you can email your contributions about news or project work in your area to either of the LBAP job-share officers. Let us know if you'd prefer to have your Newsletter emailed rather than posted to you.

Alternatively you can use our new joint email address of: [biodiversity@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@derbyshire.gov.uk)

We still intend to bring you big news items from across the whole county, but hope our new look now more closely reflects its production by the Lowland Derbyshire BAP Partnership.



*The new-look Lowland Derbyshire BAP*

## New Action Plan for Lowland Derbyshire

Lowland Derbyshire now has a brand new Biodiversity Action Plan. It takes a completely new approach to reducing the loss of local biodiversity, and covers a ten year period.

It sets out to identify all the work needed to halt the declines in the county's most important wildlife resources by 2020. It relates to those parts of Derbyshire lying outside of the Peak District BAP area.

Instead of focussing on different habitat types, it follows a national trend in accepting that biodiversity is not separate from our landscape; it's part of it.


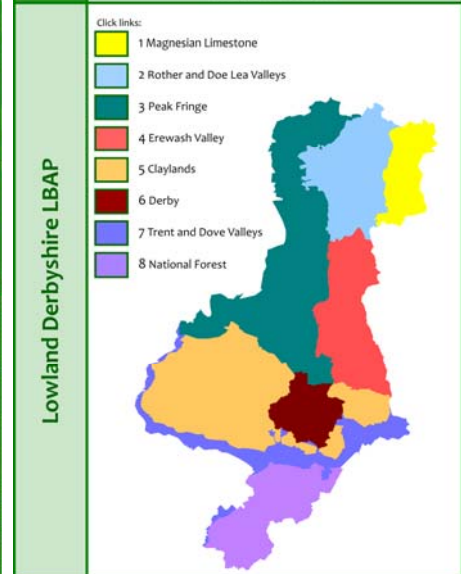
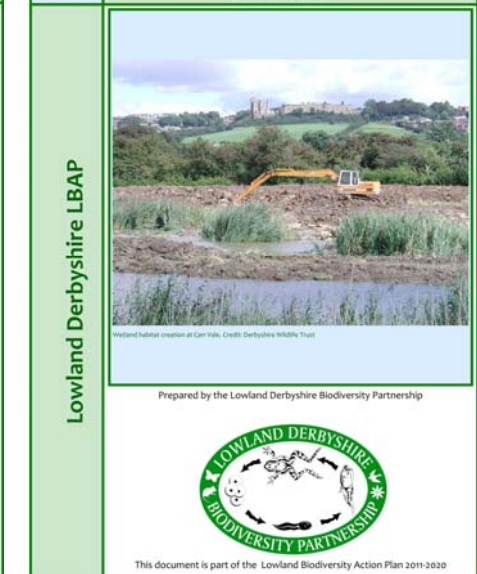
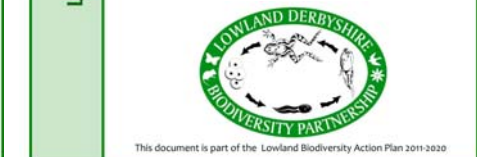
This new action plan for Lowland Derbyshire divides the region up into eight 'Action Areas', each defined by their local characteristic landscapes and wildlife features. Thus, the National Forest Action Area in the south has very different actions and targets from the Magnesian Limestone Action Area in the north (see map below).

Where specific actions apply to all areas, they have all gone into one separate section termed a 'Generic Action Plan'.

Biodiversity Action Plans are detailed documents which target the most important wildlife habitats and threatened species in the UK. Much effort has gone in to making ours as readable and understandable as possible. Many hundreds of suggestions and contributions from you, our partners, went into the final publication. Do make sure you read the Action Plan for your area – it will certainly help anyone applying for funding to do habitat improvement work, and will help you determine the most appropriate habitat creation opportunities in your particular area.

The new LBAP can be downloaded from our Derbyshire Biodiversity website, along with large and detailed maps showing the distribution of Priority Habitats within each of the eight Lowland Derbyshire Action Areas. Shortlink: <http://bit.ly/derbyslbp>

Partners who attended the Annual Forum late last year (see p3) will already have a copy on CD. Other partners will be receiving a CD enclosed with the mailed out version of this newsletter. Please contact the LBAP Officers if you require another copy of the CD, or have any questions.

Published by the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership 2011	<p>Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Lowland Derbyshire Action Areas</p>	<p>2 Rother and Doe Lea Valleys Area Action Plan</p>
	 <p>2011-2020</p>	<p>Click links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Magnesian Limestone</li> <li>2 Rother and Doe Lea Valleys</li> <li>3 Peak Fringe</li> <li>4 Erewash Valley</li> <li>5 Claylands</li> <li>6 Derby</li> <li>7 Trent and Dove Valleys</li> <li>8 National Forest</li> </ul> 	 <p>Lowland Derbyshire LBAP</p> <p>Prepared by the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership</p>  <p>This document is part of the Lowland Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020</p>
	<p>The new look Lowland Derbyshire BAP</p>	<p>Map showing the eight 'Action Areas'</p>	<p>Each Area has its own Action Plan</p>

## Annual Forum—Past and Future

Last year's Biodiversity Forum was held at the University of Derby and saw the unveiling of the new Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (see previous page).

The theme of the day was about thinking big, and how we can all help deliver biodiversity benefits in the wider landscape. Amongst the topics covered were the Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes approach; the government's new Natural Environment White Paper, as well as local and national examples of landscape-scale projects. Copies of most of the presentations given that day are available on the [Derbyshire Biodiversity website](#).



This year's Forum will be held at the year-end again. Details and dates are still being finalised. (it's likely to be either 17th November or 1st December). It's main theme will focus on the ways in which small or large projects can reach out and inform their audiences with conservation and biodiversity messages.

If you are interested in giving a presentation on your project's outreach or educational achievements, please contact the Biodiversity Project Officers (Contacts on back page).



## Rio—Past and Present

Twenty years ago an Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro was signed by nearly all nations around the globe. It marked the beginning of Agenda 21 and the impetus for the UK and others to implement Action Plans to halt the declines we've seen in global biodiversity.

Twenty years on, and in the midst of a world economic slow-down, those nations returned once more, though many without their leaders. But unlike the original Earth Summit in 1992, which produced powerful agreements on preserving the climate and the biodiversity of the world and its oceans, most commentators felt that little of substance came out of this 20th anniversary meeting. There were no fresh agreements or major commitments to preserve our world. Some commentators believe a huge

opportunity was missed to save serious harm to our planet. Others, meanwhile, have pointed to the fact that environmental commitments of Rio 1992 were at least re-affirmed (something the US seemed unlikely to do at first). Rio+20 was itself an enormous meeting ground for around 45,000 people, 196 countries and 3,000 fringe events. Causes emerged to protect the Arctic and to remove fossil fuel subsidies. But will it save the planet? We'll see.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



## Project Slot: DerwentWISE—a project for the Lower Derwent

In October 2011 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) gave approval to the Lower Derwent Valley Partnership to submit a full application for a landscape rehabilitation project along the Lower Derwent Valley under their 'Landscape Partnerships' programme.

If successful, this application will lead to a five year, £2.5million project which will protect and enhance the special landscape on and around the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site. The project will extend from Matlock Bath in the north to Derby in the south.

While the World Heritage Site is globally recognised, little emphasis has been given to the value of the wider landscape, such as its internationally important ancient woodlands, pre-industrial archaeology, diverse geology or species-rich meadows. The project will involve the public, particularly local communities and landowners in improving and maintaining this landscape.

The Landscape Partnership aims to safeguard and restore this unique landscape by:

- Restoring, linking and extending habitats and geological sites.
- Ensuring the character of the wider landscape, which includes walls, hedgerows and ancient trees, is protected and enhanced.
- Improving access to, and better interpretation of, heritage sites and features
- Promoting public engagement by ensuring that communities feel proud of their landscape and are equipped to be involved with its long-term care.



*River Derwent*

The project will achieve these aims by:

- Identifying and engaging with owners of priority sites and features, providing advice, training and access to funding.
- Carrying out a 'Heritage at Risk' audit of built heritage features to make recommendations for their conservation and the skills of volunteers to make improvements.
- Delivering a programme of community engagement and arts activities to increase public involvement, understanding of the landscape and to increase access to information about the valley.
- Delivering a programme of education activities with schools, twinning urban and rural areas.

- Developing a 'Forest Schools' programme.
- Providing heritage skills training based at Derbyshire's new Eco Centre.

A series of public consultation events will take place over the months ahead, providing everyone with an opportunity to talk to learn more about how they could get involved in this project.

The Partnership is led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and includes Derbyshire County Council; Natural England; The Environment Agency; Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership; English Heritage; The National Stone Centre; Fleet Arts; The Arkwright Society; The Forestry Commission; Derby City Council and The National Farmers Union.

For more information contact Kevin Mann on 01773 881174 or email: [kmann@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:kmann@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

## Local Nature Partnerships

In the last newsletter we reported that the government had published its Natural Environment White paper, containing initiatives to strengthen the resilience of the natural environment. Since then 12 **Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)** have been set up as pilots, sharing funding of £7.5m up to 2014. Our nearest NIAs are The Dark Peak and the Humberhead Levels

Another White Paper initiative was to establish **Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)** - these would be high level, strategic partnerships designed to get the environment on everyone's agenda whenever key decisions are made. The Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership has been working with our Nottinghamshire colleagues to develop this idea. Using a small amount of DEFRA funding, we have held stakeholder meetings with many potential partners on how an LNP for our joint area might operate. We held six high-level workshops with sectors covering business, health, local communities, education, landowners, and, of course, environmental groups. These were facilitated by an external professional, Alison Millward, and we were fortunate to have Tony Hams representing us and presenting the case for a Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LNP.

Overall there was strong support for the idea of LNPs embedding environmental issues at the highest level of local decision-making. There was also enthusiasm across most sectors for us coming together to work on common issues.

In mid-July we held a final meeting to draw out the key points and set priorities. The government's deadline for applications for LNP status was set for early June. This would enable Ministers to make the first announcements of which LNPs had been successful before the MPs' summer recess. This was well before our development work was fully completed.

On July 18th Richard Benyon MP announced that 41 areas of England (including the Peak District) have been granted LNP status. We are amongst nine others still working with DEFRA to discuss becoming a LNP later in the year.

Despite this delay, we are confident our efforts will result in LNP status eventually being awarded. One challenge all LNPs face is 'sustainability', just as with the LBAPs. So far no promise of central government money has been made to support LNP activities. This will probably be the greatest hurdle for all LNPs to overcome!

For more on the White Paper visit the [DEFRA website](http://DEFRA.website). Shortlink: [www.bit.ly/defrawhitepaper](http://www.bit.ly/defrawhitepaper)

## Biodiversity Action Plans for Schools

Derbyshire County Council is currently running a pilot scheme for schools to develop biodiversity action plan for their grounds.

Eight primary schools are taking part in the scheme, trialling a range of activities which aim to help schools investigate the wildlife value of their school and to write a biodiversity action plan to help enhance it for nature. They'll learn about biodiversity and why it is important, and how to look at a school and its grounds within the context of the 2011-2020 Lowland Derbyshire LBAP.

The eight schools from across the LBAP area



each get one day's help from the Council's environmental education staff, but will be expected to complete the plan for themselves.

A day's conference will be held on November 13th for all the schools to come together to share their ideas and experiences. Once the pilot is completed, the activities and resources will be made available on the Derbyshire Biodiversity website for any school to use themselves.

For more information about the pilot contact Georgina Cass Tel 01629 533439  
Email: [georgina.cass@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:georgina.cass@derbyshire.gov.uk)



## The Decline of the Wall Brown in Derbyshire

Scientific Name: *Lasiommata megera*

Conservation Status:-

UK Red List (2010) Near Threatened (NT)

Derbyshire BAP Species Vulnerable (VU)

In the eleven years since the start of the new millennium the Wall Brown butterfly has seen an 89% decline in numbers and an 82% decline in distribution. One reason for its demise could well be the use of artificial fertilisers throughout the greater countryside, together with less traditional grazing of poorer quality grasslands.

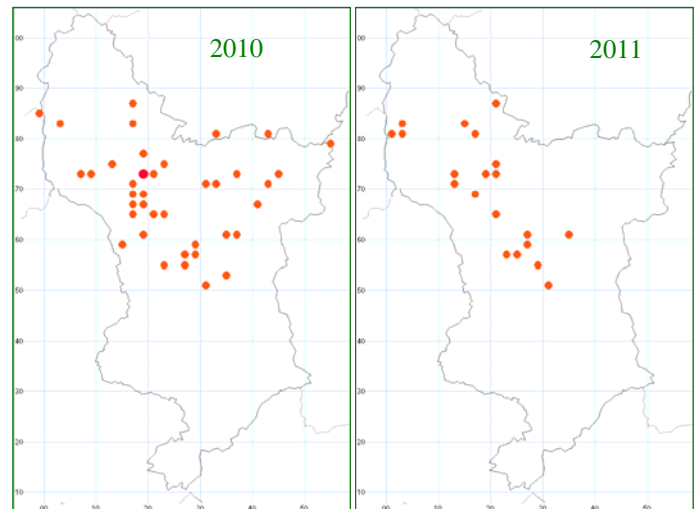


Research by Dutch Butterfly Conservation suggests that, whilst global warming may explain the current

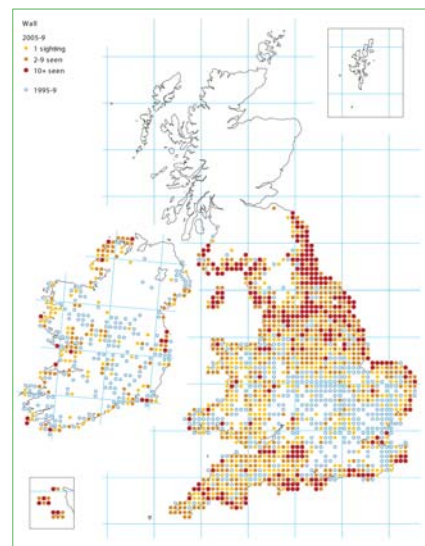
poleward shift of species distribution, it can also lead to microclimatic cooling in spring by advancing plant growth - an effect worsened by excess nitrogen, which then creates a change in habitat quality. This underlines the general threat of climate change to biodiversity.

Oxford Brookes University has investigated why the Wall Brown has declined in recent years here in the UK but, as yet, no satisfactory answer has emerged. One cannot help thinking that there is some correlation between the rise of the Speckled Wood and the fall of the Wall Brown during the last decade.

What we do know is that in Derbyshire this butterfly species has now disappeared from the south of the County, and is only just surviving at a few of the 'brownfield' sites in the North East of Derbyshire. However, its stronghold now appears to be in the Peak District, where over two thirds of the colonies remain. They are usually seen at 'rocky outcrops', which is now its favoured habitat. The highest counts are made at sites with an elevation around the 300m contour, which suggests it prefers the more temperate conditions found at these locations. (see the provisional 2011 Derbyshire distribution map).



*Distribution maps of Wall Brown in Derbyshire (2010 –11)*



*UK distribution of Wall Brown 2005-2009*

*(Courtesy of Butterfly Conservation)*

Nationally, and particularly in the south of the UK, this butterfly is increasingly becoming a coastal species (see map opposite). Once again, the more temperate conditions probably suit it here.

Let us hope that the definitive answer to the decline of this once common butterfly can be resolved very soon, so that it does not suffer the same fate as both the Pearl Bordered Fritillary and the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary which became extinct in the County during the late 1970's, or even worse, when the Large Blue butterfly became extinct nationally back in 1979.

Article prepared by Ken Orpe  
Derbyshire Butterfly Recorder



## Green Flags for Local Nature Reserves



Three Local Nature Reserves are amongst fourteen sites in Derbyshire which were granted Green Flag Award status in July.

The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country. In 2012, a record number of awards were made with 1,424 parks and green spaces currently flying a Green Flag or Green Flag Community Award.

The Local Nature Reserves celebrating are:

- Belper Parks LNR (*Amber Valley*)
- Pennytown Ponds LNR (*Amber Valley*)
- Wessington Green LNR (*Wessington Green Parish Council*)

The Green Flag Award scheme has two main categories, the Green Flag Award (for sites managed by local authorities or other public bodies) and the Community Award (for sites managed by voluntary or community groups). Sites are judged against a number of criteria, including biodiversity.

Other Derbyshire sites awarded the Green Flag Award status, many of which have community groups members of the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership associated with them include:

*Amber Valley Borough Council:* Belper River Gardens and Crossley Park.

*Chesterfield Borough Council:* Queen's Park and Holmebrook Valley Park.

*Derby City Council:* Chaddesden Park and Derby Arboretum.



*Celebrating the Green Flag win at Pennytown Ponds*

*Derbyshire County Council:* Shipley Country Park.

*Derbyshire Dales District Council:* Hall Leys Park.

*Erewash Borough Council:* Victoria Park.

*South Derbyshire District Council:* Maurice Lea Memorial Park.

In addition the New Mills Community Orchard Group were awarded a community award for the New Mills Community Orchard.

If you are interested in applying for a Green Flag Award for your site in 2013, do visit the Green Flag Award website to find out more.  
<http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org>

## Tool-kit for White-clawed Crayfish Conservation

A toolkit for developing a catchment-scale conservation strategy for white-clawed crayfish is now available.

The document includes relevant information for anyone considering looking at the conservation of this important priority BAP species within a catchment or landscape scale context. This will help support the concept and targets in the 2011-2020 Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Copies of the document are available as a free pdf, downloadable from the UK Crayfish website

[www.crayfish.org.uk](http://www.crayfish.org.uk).



## Lea Wood becomes a New Reserve for DWT



Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has taken over management of Lea Wood, a 30 hectare (74 acre) site of ancient semi-natural woodland on slopes above the Cromford Canal near High Peak Junction.

The wood was purchased by the Lea Wood Trust in 1997, when it was put for sale on the open market, to guarantee that it would remain open to the public. The intention was always to pass it on to a conservation organisation, and the Lea Wood Trust approached Derbyshire Wildlife Trust earlier this year to offer to gift the wood to them. It is already an important Local Wildlife Site with a great deal of wildlife interest and is one of the best examples of ancient woodland in the area. Wild daffodils and a fantastic display of bluebells are just some of the plant life, while heather and bilberry grow on the upper slopes. Among its varied birds are several that are declining in numbers, including pied flycatchers which regularly breed in the wood, lesser spotted woodpecker and spotted flycatcher. The open upper slopes are a good place to look for the spectacular mounds of northern wood ant, while at least 25 priority moth species listed in the UK Biodiversity

Action Plan have been recorded – they include September thorn and small phoenix.

Lea Wood is a significant part of a corridor of ancient woodland within the Derwent Valley, and its future management will make a significant contribution towards the achievements of the 2011-2020 Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan

The wood was transferred to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust during the Dethick, Lea and Holloway Carnival celebrations in early July.



Harry Foster (Lea Wood Trust), Richard Spowage (DWT Reserves Manager) and Shirley Hawkins (DWT Vice Chair) at the handover

## Communicating with Biodiversity Partners

We welcome views from partners on how we can improve our communication with you. Our commitments this year have unfortunately prevented us producing a newsletter until now, let alone maintaining quarterly output!

Do you find this newsletter informative or helpful? It does take us time to put together, so would you be happy to see fewer issues - or more? How could we improve them? Please tell us what you think, and especially if you'd prefer it emailed rather than posted out.

Following comments at last year's conference about how we interact, the LDBAP Officers plan to improve email communication with you, especially on topical news stories such as funding opportunities (or LNPs!). But would you want to receive yet more emails, or could this be helpful to you or your group? We plan

to alter our contacts database to target emails to people in different areas of Lowland Derbyshire

We will look at our website and ensure any broken links or outdated articles are removed. Please tell us if you need any content updating.

Over the summer we plan to start using Twitter to promote topical news, as well as links to local and national biodiversity stories. This won't replace emails, newsletters, websites or annual forums, but it could be an effective additional way of quickly getting news stories out to a wide audience and raising the profile of our Biodiversity Partnership. So tell us your news and we'll spread it around! For anyone already on twitter, checkout this hashtag: #LDBAP for topical tweets.





## Notice Board and Topical Tweets

### Water Vole Handbook (3rd edition)

A new version of the ever-popular water vole handbook is now available. At c£35 it includes up-to-date information on legislation and best practice on all things relating to water voles.

### Grassland Management & Restoration Resources

The Flora Locale website now offers a range of library resources and courses of value to managers of grasslands. <http://bit.ly/OemXIm> or visit [www.floralocale.org](http://www.floralocale.org)

### Name changes

BTCV is now known as TCV (The Conservation Volunteers)  
\*

The work of British Waterways and the Waterways Trust is now being carried out by the Canal and Rivers Trust, a Charitable Trust

### SITA Trust Funding

SITA's Enriching Nature Programme ends as scheduled this year. They're looking at a successor scheme right now.

Follow @SITATrust on Twitter

### Wanted: Glow worm Sightings

Records sought from Derbyshire or the Peak District. Both old and recent records are wanted. Contact Nick Moyes direct (see overleaf) or email to: [wildlife@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:wildlife@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

### RSPB National Partnership

Cemex UK and RSPB are to continue with their biodiversity partnership for the next 5 years to improve quarry habitats for wildlife. <http://t.co/UptBI4wU>

### Are You On Twitter?

For topical Tweets on local and national biodiversity stories, try these hashtags:

#biodiversity  
#ldbap  
#LNPs or follow:  
@greenroofsuk

### Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan online

The Lowland Derbyshire BAP and the Peak District BAP together cover the whole of the county of Derbyshire.

The Peak District BAP is viewable online at <http://bit.ly/peakldbap>

## Contact Us

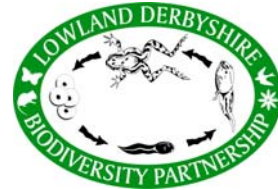
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**Deadline for articles for next issue  
7th October 2012**

The post of the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership is currently financially supported by: Amber Valley Borough Council; Bolsover District Council; Derby City Council; Derbyshire County Council; Derbyshire Dales District Council; Environment Agency; Erewash Borough Council and South Derbyshire District Council.

### Acknowledgements

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Picture acknowledgements: Peter Walker (p3), Marciofleury (p3), Kieron Huston (p4), Debbie Alston (p5), Ken Orpe (p6), Butterfly Conservation (p6) Amber Valley Borough Council (p7), Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (p 4 & 8)

## Funding Corner....Green Action Awards



The Greenwatch Action Grants can provide funding of up to £500 for groups within Derbyshire (excluding Derby City). It is simple to apply, and no match funding is required. Once an application is approved, grants should be paid within 28 days.

Each scheme is assessed with regard to its potential benefit to the environment under a range of criteria, including the protection and enhancement of Derbyshire's biodiversity as well as community involvement and benefit. Each application will need to demonstrate that a project will help to improve their local environment, increase its wildlife value or provide environmental education.

Applications are welcomed from non-profit making groups, including community, youth, cultural heritage and natural history groups, schools and colleges, voluntary organisations and parish councils.

Greenwatch Action Grants, cannot be given towards labour/staffing costs, maintenance/repair works, scholarships or loans, attendance at conferences or seminars, nor to profit making commercial enterprises or for material affecting the support of any political party.

More information, including the grant application form, can be found on the Derbyshire County Council website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery\\_funding/green\\_action\\_grants/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery_funding/green_action_grants/default.asp)  
Shortlink: <http://bit.ly/PEaL5L>

If you are unsure about whether a project would qualify, please contact Ian Goldstraw on 01629 539809  
[ian.goldstraw@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.goldstraw@derbyshire.gov.uk)