

Derbyshire Biodiversity News

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2005

Welcome to the first issue of Derbyshire Biodiversity News!

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.

Derbyshire Biodiversity News will be produced four times a year.

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Derbyshire Biodiversity Website launched!

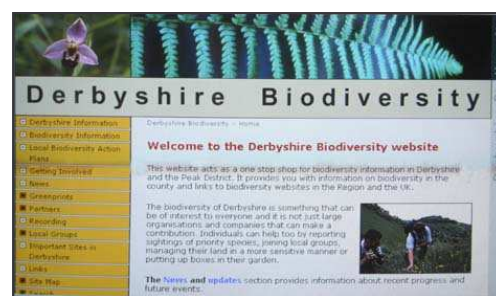
The long awaited Derbyshire Biodiversity website was launched on 12th August 2005. The site is intended to act as a one-stop shop for biodiversity in Derbyshire and the Peak District. It provides information on biodiversity in the county and links to biodiversity websites in the Region and the UK.

A unique feature of the site is the list of local wildlife groups that are active in the county. This will hopefully raise the profile of the groups and provide a vital link between local groups and conservation organisations.

The site lists current biodiversity projects in the county that the public can get involved in such as county-wide surveys. If you have anything that can be added to this list please send details to info@derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk.

The site is in its infancy and will rely on partners sending information in for the news sections.

This and future editions of the Derbyshire Biodiversity News will be downloadable from the website.



The design and support for the website was made possible by a grant from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. In the first 2 weeks alone the site had more than 500 different users visit it.

Visit the website at www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk

Natural England, the new Government Agency

Major changes are currently taking place within Government looking at the way the future of England's landscapes and nature are managed, protected, funded and enjoyed in the future.

A new independent body, *Natural England*, to be created in October 2006, is bringing together the current roles of English Nature, the Landscape, Access and Recreation division of the Countryside Agency and the environmental activities of the Rural Development Service.

Natural England's work will include:

- Promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity
- Conserving and enhancing the English landscape
- Increase understanding and enjoyment of nature, promoting access to the countryside and open spaces and encouraging open-air recreation
- Contributing in other ways to social and economic well-being through management of the natural environment.

UK Biodiversity

This section provides a quick update for biodiversity on a UK level.

The UK BAP Targets Review is currently half-way through. The review is concentrating on looking at the existing 436 targets in the UK BAP Species and habitat action plans. In June 2005 65% of the action plan targets had been reviewed.

The UK BAP Priority Species and Habitats Review. A review of the priority habitats and species will be carried out between April 2005 and December 2006. This review will ensure that the correct species are listed as priorities. One of the groups that were probably under represented initially were the invertebrates. The UK BAP Invertebrate Group are preparing their candidate list for additional species and are suggesting ways for how conservation of these species can be tackled such as by research, grouped plans or links to habitat action plans.

The **third UK BAP Reporting Round**, involving Lead Partners, Lead Agencies, their Steering Groups and LBAPs, will be held between October and December 2005. The LBAPs have been encouraged to submit LBAP progress between 2002 and 2005 by the end of September to enable the UK Lead Part-

ners to compile their reports before Christmas. Progress can only be submitted using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). The LBAP co-ordinators will be working with partners to submit progress so if you have something to report contact your LBAP co-ordinator for more details.

This years **UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference** was held in Bristol and its theme was "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – Joined up action". It was opened by a video message by the Minister responsible for Biodiversity (amongst other things). A transcription of Jim Knight's speech can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/ministers/speeches/jk050614.htm>

Another important message from the conference came from Achim Steiner, the Director General of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). He threw down a challenge to take the 'importance of biodiversity' message out to the general public to make it relevant to their lives.

For information on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan visit www.ukbap.org.uk



Regional Matters

There is a Regional Biodiversity Forum which meets to discuss biodiversity matters within the East Midlands (Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland).

The Forum meets quarterly and has representatives from the main LBAP partners including the Wildlife Trusts, Local Authorities, English Nature, National Farmers Union, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, DEFRA, the Regional Assembly and the National Trust.

In addition to the main Forum there is a policy sub-group a regular meeting of the LBAP co-ordinators. The Forum produced a draft Regional Biodiversity Strategy in October 2004 and is currently revising it in light of a consultation period.

Money nationally from DEFRA and English Nature has allowed the Forum to recruit a Regional Biodiversity Co-ordinator. This individual will work closer with regional bodies on biodiversity matters and will also help administer the new SITA Enriching Nature grant fund.

Greenprints for Biodiversity

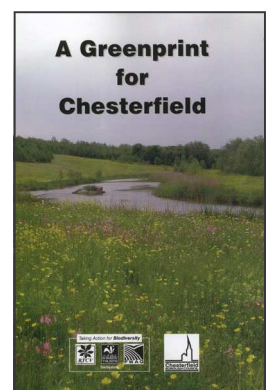
'Greenprints for Biodiversity' are produced by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for District and Borough Councils. They provide a framework for the conservation of biodiversity within districts or boroughs by translating both the UK and Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) to a local level in order to make them more achievable by local people.

So far, Greenprints have been completed for Derby City and Chesterfield Borough and work is already underway to implement them. Recent projects which have been initiated through the Greenprints include a bluebell survey in Chesterfield and hedgerow survey in Derby City. For more information on these Greenprints and the work that has taken place through

them can be found on the Derbyshire Biodiversity website.

Two other Greenprints are currently in production. The Greenprint for Bolsover District is now nearing completion, having been through an extended period of consultation and revision. Implementation is planned to commence in 2006.

Anna Evans, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Forum



On 10th May 2005 Derbyshire County Council hosted the 2005 Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Forum. A total of 55 delegates from a wide variety of Local BAP partnership organisations attended the Forum and participated in a number of workshops.

The morning session concentrated on celebrating some of the BAP successes since the last Forum four years ago, including talks on Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's highly successful water vole project, Chesterfield Borough Council's Greenprint, Derbyshire County Council's Landscape Character Assessment and Severn Trent Water's company BAP.

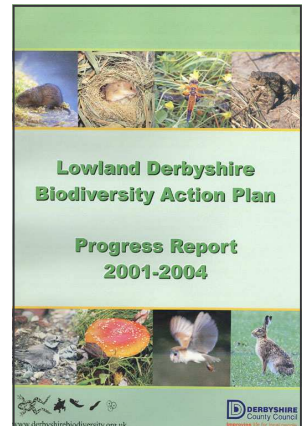
The afternoon session looked at some of the barriers and opportunities that arise when dealing with biodiversity. One talk gave an interesting example of how East Midlands' Development Agency has been working with partner organisations on habitat creation on a highly contaminated site.

The workshops following the talks concentrated on looking at ways organisations can work together to break some of the barriers to achieving biodiversity success, such as funding.

You can download copies of the talks from the Forum and feedback from the workshops from the 'Other news' section of the Derbyshire Biodiversity website.

The forum also saw the launch of the 2001-2004 LBAP Progress Report.

Copies can be downloaded from the website or paper copies can be sent by e-mailing



Continued funding for Biodiversity Officer

In June 2005 the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership was delighted to announce that they had been successful in receiving a grant from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund to support BAP co-ordination until April 2007.

The £56,000 grant together with match funding supplied by LBAP partners, will ensure the continuation of the Biodiversity Project Officers post and support for the partnership. Match funding had been supplied by Derbyshire County Council, Bolsover District Council, South Derbyshire District Council, Erewash Borough Council, Derby City Council and Forestry Commission. We do however, need more match

funding in the next financial year.

The grant will support the continued support of the Derbyshire Biodiversity website, the Annual Forums, working with partners to write more habitat and species action plans and working with the UK Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) for monitoring the LBAP. Another main aspect of the grant will be the setting up of a regional mineral and biodiversity forum.

Debbie Court, Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership

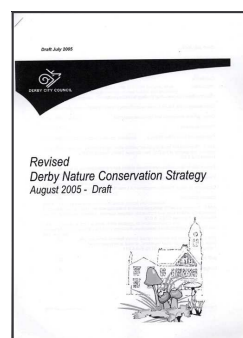


Derby City's Draft Nature Conservation Strategy

Derby City Council have prepared a draft revision of a Nature Conservation Strategy, which will, when adopted, act as a Supplementary Planning Document to the City of Derby Local Plan.

They would welcome your views on the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy before the end of the consultation period on Friday the 14th October 2005.

The draft document can be seen on Derby City's website at: <http://www.derby.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/LandUsePlanning/revisedderbynatureconservationstrategy.htm>



There you can also see a copy of the Sustainability Appraisal Report on the draft strategy, a non technical summary of that report the "SPD Matters" and the "Consultation Statement".

If you would like to see, or be sent, a free paper copy of the documents or have any questions, please contact Dave Slinger on 01332 256001, or at david.slinger@derby.gov.uk

BAP Species recording in the National Forest



With the launch of the 2nd edition of The National Forest BAP in August 2004, attention was focused on the need to gather more baseline information on some of the species featured in the BAP, in order to better inform our targets for species numbers and distribution.

Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre were employed as consultants by the National Forest Company to gather further information on the status of barn owl (a new SAP in the 2nd edition) and on redstarts across the Forest area. Existing records were collated using Recorder and then a wide range of peo-

ple were contacted to obtain new records or those not yet entered on to the database - local bird groups, site managers, interested landowners.

Results show that, as expected, redstarts are concentrated in the east of the Forest with no records in Derbyshire. The lack of records may be due to the fact that they are heard more than they are seen and, as many people may not recognise the song of the redstart, numbers may be under-recorded.

For barn owls, 55 records were gathered across the whole Forest with at least 5

breeding pairs recorded in Derbyshire. We suspect that there are more and we just haven't picked up all of the records and so we are considering producing a little recording card or booklet to encourage people to report any sightings to us.

*Audrey Brown
National Forest Company*

Project Slot... Moors for the Future



In each edition we will focus on a particular conservation project in Derbyshire. First up is the Moors for the Future Project.

The Moors for the Future Project was launched in 2002 to reverse damage to some of the world's rarest habitats caused by erosion, pollution, fires and over-grazing. It is the biggest upland conservation projects in Britain and a major project contributing towards the Peak District LBAP. The project is managed by the Peak District National Park Authority and run by a partnership of 12 organisations.

What has been achieved so far? On the restoration side alone, the project has seeded an area of bare, eroding peat equivalent to 320 football pitches!



Geojute spread across the moors

Through a programme of new initiatives, the project aims to:

- Restore and conserve moorland sites most damaged by access and recreational pressures.
- Enhance the moorland heritage experience for both visitors and local people and encourage greater care of it.
- Establish a learning centre to develop conservation expertise and provide a research and educational resource available to all.



Supervising aerial drops

This year there has been a programme of 80 moorland-themed events.

This will culminate in the first ever 'Moorland Festival' during September (10th-25th). There is an exciting diverse and varied programme throughout the fortnight.

Highlights include 'have a go' dry stone walling, heather seed spreading, stunning moorland walks, runs and cycle rides.

Events take place all over the Peak District. Many of the events are being run in conjunction with the Ranger Service.

A leaflet has been widely distributed, details are also available on the web site:

<http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk>



*Carol Parsons,
Moors for the Future Partnership*

Local Group Focus DaNES

In each edition we will be focussing on the activities of a local wildlife group.

This time we are looking at the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society (DaNES). DaNES was formed in 1914 to promote and further interest in general entomology and the study of all land arthropods in and around the county of Derbyshire. It has since extended to officially cover Nottinghamshire and has members with interests in the various invertebrate Orders.

Currently, the Society participates in national recording schemes, such as the National Review of the Rarer British Macro-moths, and endeavours to identify those local insect species whose numbers have declined to the point at which their existence is threatened - and in so doing enable others to target resources available for wildlife conservation upon habitat and species protection.

The Society has irregular indoor meetings at the Visitor Centre, Shipley Coun-

try Park near Heanor. These meetings are informative and pleasant social occasions and include talks by visiting lecturers and members, slide shows and discussion evenings.

Field meetings are held usually between May and September in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and they aim to stimulate site recording and provide an opportunity to learn field techniques and identification skills.

The Society also produces a journal containing information about recording methods, hints and tips, recording schemes and book reviews. It features reports by Recording Officers of notable



Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
Entomological Society

records and observations of most insect orders.

One of the highlights of the groups events is the **Annual Insect Show**. This year it is on **Saturday 5th November 2005 10.30am - 4.00 pm at Broomfield Hall, Morley, Derbyshire.**

Ordinary membership is £12 a year, but reduced to £8 for students and senior members.

For more information on Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society visit the website at www.danes-insects.org.uk

or email Dave Budworth at Dbud01@aol.com

**DaNES Insect Show is on
5th November 10.30-4pm
at BroomfieldHall, Morley.**

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological

On 16th August 2005 the new Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) and an accompanying circular were launched.

The PPS9 sets out the Government's planning policies for biodiversity and geological conservation in England. A joint ODPM/DEFRA circular accompanies PPS9 and provides administrative guidance on the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England.

Together these two documents replace the existing Planning Policy Guidance note 9 on Nature Conservation (PPG9), which was published in October 1994.

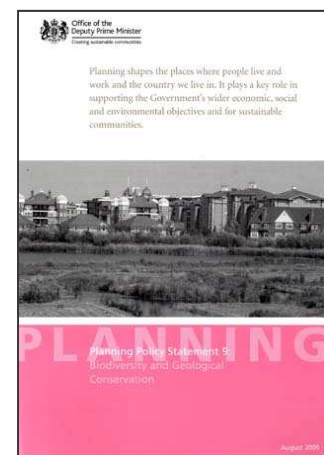
PPS9 has a new emphasis on the need to conserve, enhance and restore biodiver-

sity and makes clear that geological conservation is an important part of protecting our natural heritage. Positive planning which facilitates conservation of biodiversity and geological conservation contributes to the Government's principles for sustainable development set out in the UK Strategy.

The policies set out in PPS9, together with the guidance in the circular will enable planning authorities, regional planning bodies and planning inspectors to play their part taking forward the UK Strategy.

Later this year, the Government are expected to publish some good practice guidance to complement the PPS and the circular.

Copies of PPS9 and the accompanying Government circular can be downloaded from the ODPM website (www.odpm.gov.uk).



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Editor:

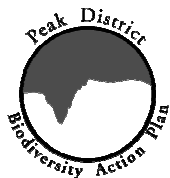
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**Deadline for articles for the next edition:
30th November 2005**

www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk



Help wanted!

Do you have a particular biodiversity issue that you are struggling with? It may be that someone else has solved this on their own site or come up with a solution within their organisation. There are precious little resources for biodiversity and we do not need to waste these re-inventing the wheel!

We intend to have a regular slot in this newsletter for you to ask for help from others, if you have an issue that you think someone may be able to help with e-mail your issues to info@derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk.

Student Projects

University and colleges will soon be asking for ideas for appropriate projects for students to undertake during their undergraduate studies. Whilst projects could be anything, they should involve about 15 days field work, not be just descriptive, and not cost the University/college more than £50!

If you have any ideas for projects on your sites or within your organisations then please send them to:

Debbie Court, Biodiversity Project Officer, c/o Environmental Services, Derbyshire County Council, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RY

Or e-mail: Debbie.court@derbyshire.gov.uk

Funding Corner

Are you looking for funding for a biodiversity project? Two major sources of funding are currently looking for applications.

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF)

The ALSF was set up to address the environmental and social costs of aggregate extraction by delivering environmental improvements, minimising the demand for primary aggregates and reducing the local effects of aggregate extraction. The grant scheme aims to support projects which work with the aggregates industry to research and investigate practical ways in which to manage this underwater sand and gravel resource, and minimise the impact of extraction on biodiversity.

Applications for funding are welcome at anytime. However, if you would like your project to be considered in the fourth round of funding, your completed application form should be submitted by **17th October 2005**. They are expecting to make decisions on the fourth wave of applications at the beginning of December 2005.

More information from:

<http://www.english-nature.gov.uk/about/alsf.htm>.

Enriching Nature. The SITA Environmental Trust have recently launched Enriching Nature a grant designed to help fund biodiversity projects. This replaces their previous application process for biodiversity projects. A total of £13.5M will

be available for biodiversity projects in England over the next three years.

This is an exciting and ambitious funding programme developed by SITA Trust, in consultation with the nine Regional Biodiversity Fora in England, which correspond to the nine Governmental regions. The funds will be split equally, with each region receiving £500,000 per year.

Enriching Nature will provide funding to support the recovery of species and habitats identified as a priority by both national and regional biodiversity action plans. The focus will be on recreation projects that support species and habitats identified on a national level, although local priorities will be considered for the Small Fund.

The Enriching Nature Programme has two funding levels:

- Small - for projects up to £25,000
- Large - for projects up to £175,000

The next application deadlines are **20th December 2005** and **21st March 2005**

More information from:

<http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/nature>.