



Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership Forum 2009



Wildlife Recording



24th October 2009
Derby University, Derby

A programme of talks, workshops and displays showing the importance of wildlife recording and highlighting examples of local and national schemes and how to participate in them.



Event is supported by Derby City Council and Countdown 2010



Wildlife Recording

The Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership is made up of over 90 organisations from the private, public and voluntary sectors who have agreed to work together to deliver the aims of the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan. The action plan contains targets for habitat management, restoration and creation. Work is also taking place to survey, monitor and conserve species, especially those which are considered to be in national decline, such as the water vole.

Every year the Partnership holds a themed Annual Forum for partners and community groups. The theme of this year's Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership's Annual Forum is *Wildlife Recording*. The event is free and is aimed at partners, landowners, community groups, students and this year, for the first time, the event will also be open to members of the public. There are 250 places available and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

The event will include talks on established and recently launched national recording schemes, as well as a variety of workshops encouraging participation in local and national wildlife recording schemes as well as exploring the use of wildlife recording in development planning and in tracking climate change.

Derbyshire has a long history of wildlife recording dating back to before the Victorian era. Our county has a good coverage of species experts, and a number of county-wide recording schemes, some of which are part of national schemes.

Information on the whereabouts of habitats and species is the basis of wildlife conservation. We cannot protect or conserve a habitat or species if we do not know where it is! Many people record wildlife for their own enjoyment, but those records, however informal or anecdotal, need to be sent to someone or an organization so that they can be used for conservation purposes.



By the end of the event, you will hopefully be inspired to either start wildlife recording, or if you already do, to participate in local and national schemes or projects and to send records to the various county recorders.

There will be plenty of opportunities within the event to share experiences amongst like minded individuals, as well as to meet other groups and individuals within the county.

Attendance at the Annual Forum is **free but places must be booked** in advance using the booking form.

Workshops:

Delegates will have an opportunity to attend 2 workshops. These are designed to be interactive so please come armed with questions on particular issues.

1. Garden Bird recording - this workshop will provide an example of participation in Garden BirdWatch, including some basic garden bird ID techniques, an introduction to the recording forms and some of the interesting behaviour and ecology we can expect to see. **The workshop will be run by Amy Lewis, Garden BirdWatch Development Officer for the British Trust for Ornithology.**

2. Wildlife recording – where to start. Do you want to start looking at wildlife on your site or in your garden to help monitor the changes you make, but don't know where or how to start? If so then this workshop is for you. The workshop will discuss the basics of wildlife recording and who to send your records to. **The workshop will be run by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust**

3. OPAL Air Quality Survey – This workshop will look at how we can use lichens to indicate the level of air pollution. You'll get the chance to become familiar with common lichens that are good indicators of air pollution and you will be able to take away a free survey pack to allow you to assess the level of air pollution near you. **This workshop will be led by Amy Rogers from OPAL and lichen experts.**

4. Recording reptiles and amphibians – This workshop will examine how to record amphibians and reptiles and the best techniques to use to find them; what useful information can be recorded with your sightings, and how it can contribute to local and national recording schemes. **The workshop will be led by Chris Monk from the Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group.**

5. Recording mammals. This workshop will look at the different species of mammals in Derbyshire and the telltale clues they leave behind to aid recording. Information will also be provided on how you can help contribute towards the Derbyshire Mammal Atlas. **The workshop will be led by the Derbyshire Mammal Group.**

6. Recording fungi – this workshop will involve a walk around the University grounds and Markeaton Park looking at fungi and talking about methods of recording as well as tips on identification. **The workshop will be led by Beverley Rhodes from the Derbyshire Fungus Study Group**

7. Recording invertebrates. This workshop investigates the diverse world of insects, their collection, identification and recording. We look at moths and butterflies; beetles, including ladybirds; bees; hoverflies; grasshoppers and crickets; and bugs. Pond species are also considered. Examples of collecting equipment will be on view. **The workshop will be led by the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society.**

8. Wildlife recording and the planning system – Good information on wildlife is the basis of making good planning decisions. This workshop will show you how information is used to make decisions and what information is useful to collect when commenting to planning applications. **The workshop will be led by Rachel Hoskin, Planning and Conservation Officer for Natural England's Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire team.**

9. Wildlife recording, phenology and monitoring climate change – this workshop will explore the use of wildlife recording through the ages to track the changes to the seasons and how we can use wildlife recording to track climate change. **The workshop will be led by Debbie Alston, Biodiversity Project Officer for the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership.**