

Derbyshire Biodiversity News

Volume 1, Issue

Also available from www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk

December 2005

Welcome to the second 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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Boost for grassland work!

Progress on grassland biodiversity targets is set to get a boost with the launch of the Value in Meadows Project in 2006. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is delighted to announce that after several years of unsuccessful applications their Value In Meadows Project has finally found funding.

The Project, which has received £35,000 from the Esmée Fairburn Foundation, will enable the Wildlife Trust to recruit a project officer to work with grassland owners in the Peak Fringe area. It is estimated that since 1982-3 there has been a 91% decline in the area of semi-natural grassland in lowland Derbyshire. The remaining resource is estimated to be around 1600ha and is considered to be of regional significance.

The Project will deliver much needed progress towards the Lowland Derbyshire LBAP grassland targets. It aims to survey in

detail and secure the management of key grassland sites. In addition it will provide advice and assistance with Higher Level Stewardship applications as well as beginning work on developing a Local Grazing Scheme and a seed supply scheme.



For more information about the Value in Meadows Project contact Jo Brown, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Conservation Manager

Jbrown@derbyshirewt.co.uk
01773 881188

Local Nature Reserve Forum

English Nature hosted a Local Nature Reserve Forum for local community groups and countryside officers on 17th September.

A total of 64 people attended the day long event which consisted of talks, workshops and visits based around the theme of managing, recording wildlife, sustaining community involvement on Local Nature Reserves.



Local Nature Reserves, and their management, have a valuable contribution to make towards biodiversity targets.

Derbyshire currently has 30 Local Nature Reserves, totaling 231.81ha. Most have at least one priority biodiversity habitat on them, such as ancient woodland, species-rich grassland or reedbed.

The day was well supported and was felt that it was necessary to develop a county-wide Local Nature Reserves strategy to target future designations and support existing community groups or Friends of groups associated with Local Nature Reserves.

For more information contact Emma Dagless at English Nature on 01629 816659
e-mail emma.dagless@english-nature.org.uk.

UK Biodiversity

Work is continuing at a national level on the UK BAP Targets and Priority Species and Habitats Review.

By the end of December 2005 the Local Biodiversity co-ordinators will have completed an on-line questionnaire relating to LBAP progress since 2002. The co-ordinators will also have submitted information on progress towards LBAP habitat and species targets.

The National Lead partners for UK Priority Habitats and Species will use this information to report on progress towards the UK BAP targets and use this to influence the review of the national targets.



To view information for your Local Biodiversity Action Plan go to the Biodiversity Action Reporting System website www.uk-bap-reporting.org.uk.



Regional Matters

The new East Midlands' Regional Biodiversity Coordinator, Warren Priest, started work at the beginning of November. Warren has come to the Region from the West Midlands, where he was the Regional Biodiversity Manager with the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership and, before that, the Local Records Centre Development Officer for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

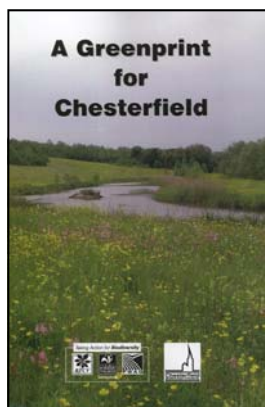
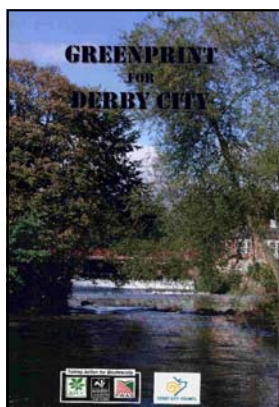
Prior to this he worked overseas for a number of years on a wide range of, mainly biodiversity and rural development, projects. His main interest is fungi.

Based at the East Midlands Regional Assembly in Melton Mowbray and supported by the Assembly and English Nature, Warren will now be looking to develop the East Midlands Biodiversity Forum's capacity to meet the Region's many nature conservation challenges through the implementation of the forthcoming Regional Biodiversity Strategy, "Putting Wildlife Back On The Map", improving coordination and partnership-working at and between all levels, and better integration of biodiversity objectives into the Region's strategies, policies and plans.

For enquiries please contact:
Warren Priest, Regional Biodiversity Coordinator,
East Midlands Biodiversity Forum,
warren.priest@emra.gov.uk, 01664 502579

Greenprints for Biodiversity

Things are moving forward apace on the Greenprint front. The Bolsover Greenprint is nearing completion and is scheduled to be launched early in 2006. Implementation of the completed Greenprint can then begin, so watch out for details of new projects in future newsletters.



Implementation of the Chesterfield Greenprint is also continuing, with a number of projects undertaken this year and more in the pipeline.

This spring and summer saw the completion of a public blue-bell survey in the borough which has helped to increase knowledge on the status and distribution of this iconic British species. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Water Vole Project also undertook a series of water vole surveys and the results of these will be used to inform future conservation work to benefit this threatened mammal in the borough.

Looking forward to 2006, work is due to start on a Borough-wide hedgerow project. If you live in Chesterfield, look out for chances to get involved in the project and help to locate and conserve your local hedgerows.

For more information contact
Anna Evans at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
aevans@derbyshirewt.co.uk 01773 881188

Insect Show 2005



The DaNES held its annual Insect Show on 5th November, at Broomfield Hall, Morley. It was an informative and social event for members, and to promote public interest in insects. As the venue has an attractive grounds with a café, garden centre, and free parking, people could come and make a day of it.



Exhibits were displayed by members and non-members of all ages, amateurs, experts, individuals and organisations. They all really conveyed their enthusiasm about insects and, with

nearly 200 visitors, the hall was a hive of activity.

Exhibitors brought news of insect records, studies and conservation. There were live and preserved insects, photographs, computer and slide presentations, and opportunities for hands-on study, plus an unusual collection of antique entomological equipment. Children could collect activity sheets and dip for aquatic insects and were given paper hats promoting a ladybird survey. There were also plants for sale, as well as entomological equipment, books and insect-theme gifts. People even enjoyed some late insect-hunting in the grounds as the weather was fine! The raffle had, of course, insect-related prizes.

The Derby Telegraph photographed the event. The event had a good number of people with many saying how much they enjoyed the show, it all seemed worthwhile, especially when a 4 year old boy said he wanted to come again the next day !

Glynis Harris, DaNES www.danes-insects.org.uk

Ogston Nets Top National Award

All the hard work put in by members of Ogston Bird Club and Severn Trent Water to improve the habitat and encourage more birds at the reservoir has been recognised this year with three prestigious national awards.

The reservoir was awarded two British Trust for Ornithology awards in the annual BTO-Hanson Business Bird Challenge 2004 competition, and another major award from English Nature for conservation work in particular.

The BTO-Hanson accolades recognise both Ogston's conservation success in recent years as well as the number of species seen around the site in 2004. They highlighted the work of over 90 businesses throughout the UK - in Ogston's case the owners of the reservoir Severn Trent Water - in working closely with volunteers to enhance their sites for birds and other wildlife.

There were awards for all kinds of sites from large, medium and small quarries to different sized wetland sites. Ogston topped the Wetland category. It also came out third of 11 industrial and commercial sites nationally, for the number of species recorded during 2004 with 159 records.

The Club also joined others from the nature conservation world when they accepted an award from English Nature in a green Oscar ceremony held in London in September.

English Nature's Peak District Conservation Officer Dan Abrahams, who nominated Ogston Bird Club, said: "The club are a real inspiration. They have been instrumental in turning

around the site and been rewarded by Little Ringed Plovers breeding on the site in 2002 for the first time in many years, and three pairs raised broods in 2004. In a short space of time they have moved from being a club interested in birdwatching to a club involved in bird conservation. What they have done is fantastic for wildlife and for the hundreds of people who come along to visit the site."

STOP PRESS – The club have just completed a whole series of further habitat improvements on the West Bank of the reservoir to provide many more scrapes and areas of wetland for breeding birds.

The photograph below shows a view of the new scrapes from the club's West Bank hide.



For more information about Ogston and the Ogston Bird club visit the website at www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk.



National Forest Tender Scheme

The National Forest Tender Scheme is a unique woodland incentive run by the National Forest Company (NFC) in partnership with the Forestry Commission (FC). The NFC is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and is a company limited by guarantee.

Essentially the Tender Scheme enables an applicant to tell the NFC what woodland they want to create and manage and how much money they need to do it. It enables landowners to diversify their landholding and business interests, create commercial and/or amenity wood-

land and can be linked with work that enhances or creates opportunities for recreation, access and tourism. Land entered into the Tender Scheme is still owned by the applicant. It is not sold to the NFC.

To date (1994-2005) 787ha of woodland has been planted in Derbyshire as part of the National Forest Tender Scheme.

Applications for 2006/07 of the Tender Scheme will be accepted from 14th November 2005 to a strict **deadline of 12 noon on 31 March 2006**. Early applica-

tions are strongly encouraged. In order to ensure confidentiality and to encourage early application, the FC will not undertake any public consultation until after the deadline date.

If you require any further information on The National Forest or the grants that are available please contact:

Dr Hugh V Williams
Incentives & Land Management Officer
The National Forest Company,
Tel: 01283 551211
Fax: 01283 552844
enquiries@nationalforest.org.

Project Slot... Water for Wildlife

Water for Wildlife is a unique partnership between The Wildlife Trusts, the water industry and the Environment Agency, supporting wetland conservation across the UK.

Here in Derbyshire, the Water for Wildlife Project is generously supported by Severn Trent Water, with additional funding from the Environment Agency and from Biffaward.

The project aims to contribute to the restoration and protection of wetland wildlife in the wider countryside, through practical conservation and awareness raising, as well as contributing to delivery of the relevant local BAPs. This has been delivered primarily through a programme of wetland surveys and providing conservation advice and support to landowners.

Individual elements of the work include:

Derbyshire Otter Project: monitoring the county's otters as they return to Derbyshire. A team of 45 trained volunteers monitor 70 bridge sites on rivers around the county, monthly. Since 2001, the volunteers have made a total of 1377 monitoring visits, resulting in 248 positive records. Otters are now breeding on at least three rivers in Derbyshire.

Witches Oak Water: a former gravel workings south of Shardlow, this Severn Trent Water-owned site is being restored for water storage and nature conservation. The total site covers around 100 hectares. Habitat creation works include 16ha of reed bed, 5ha of wet woodland and 1800 metres of hedgerow.

The site is regularly used by otters and populations of several local Red Data Book plant species are already present including the nationally scarce Short-leaved Water Starwort.



Water Vole Recovery Project: Building on four years of water vole research and surveying in Derbyshire and the Peak District and with major funding from the Tubney Charitable Trust, we are taking action to protect remaining water vole populations and to enhance and create wetland habitats in order to reverse the current decline

Based on both local BAPs (Lowland Derbyshire and Peak District), the project is delivered under five project areas: protecting and managing current water vole sites; encouraging expansion of water vole populations; monitoring and surveying water vole and mink populations; providing information and advice to assist others in taking action to protect the species; and involving others in taking action through practical conservation and training.



For more information about the Water for Wildlife Project contact Philip Precey, the Water for Wildlife Project Officers on 01773 881188 or e-mail pprecey@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Or visit the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust website www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Local Group Focus Sorby Natural History Society

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

The Sorby Natural History Society was formed in 1918 as the Sorby Scientific Society in honour of Henry Clifton Sorby 1826-1908) and is now a registered charity, without professional staff, run by members for members.

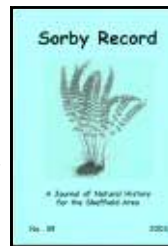
The Society covers a full range of natural history interests in Sheffield and the surrounding areas, including parts of Bolsover, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and the Peak District. It provides for both interested beginners and specialists alike.

The society has groups for the study of zoology, botany, ornithology, microscopy and geology. Each group organises meetings and surveys etc in which all members may participate.

The Society organises over 100 meetings a year. Outdoor field excursions are arranged for weekend, to localities in the Sheffield area and further afield by coach to the coast and other favoured localities. Indoor meetings are held at regular intervals, and include illustrated talks by members, and guest speakers.

The Sorby Newsletter is issued free, by post or email twelve times a year to all members. The newsletter helps to keep members informed of meetings, surveys, and current events, as well as items of natural history interest.

The Sorby Record, the Society's journal, is issued free to members once a year. It contains papers on articles on the natural



history of the Sorby area.

The Society's annual membership fees are:

Individual £10, Household: £12.50,
Junior/Student: £5

For more information contact
Roger Butterfield

E-mail secretary@sorby.org.uk

Or visit the website at www.sorby.org.uk



The Sorby logo, a winking owl!

Biodiversity and Local Development Frameworks

On 18th November 2005 the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) ran a seminar at Cromford Mill on Local Development Frameworks and Biodiversity for conservation officers and local authority planners. This was one of a series of seminars that were held throughout the country.

Recent changes in the planning system has been introduced through the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*. This new legislation and accompanying Government planning guidance (*PPS 12 Creating Local Development Frameworks*) has meant that local authorities have to produce Local Development Frameworks to replace Local Plan documents.

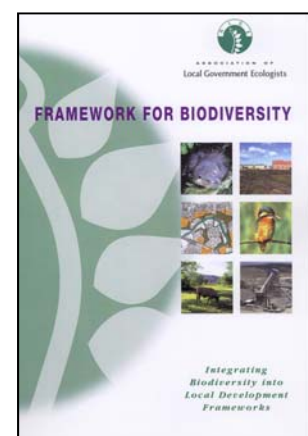
Local authorities in Derbyshire are at different stages of producing their Local Development Frameworks.

The seminar, which was attended by over 40 people, included 13 local authority planners from Derbyshire gave information on how to incorporate biodiversity into the Local Development Framework process.

Local Development Frameworks must be based upon a good evidence base. The biodiversity evidence base should include, as a minimum, should comprise information on the features and resources referred to in *PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*.

There is a requirement to produce Annual Monitoring Reports. The ODPM has suggested a biodiversity core output indicator looking at changes in areas and populations of biodiversity importance. This presents an opportunity to look at how biodiversity is monitored through the planning system.

ALGE have produced "Framework for Biodiversity" a forty page guide to integrating biodiversity into Local Development Frameworks.



This will soon be available to download from the publications section of the ALGE website (www.alge.org.uk).

Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document



Erewash Borough Council are in the process of producing a Supplementary Planning Document for Biodiversity.

The document supplements the various policies and proposals as set out in the Erewash Borough Council Local Plan Adopted July 2005. The contents of the document will therefore guide those submitting planning applications. When adopted it will be given considerable

weight in the determination of planning applications and it is therefore expected that developers will follow the advice as set out.

The draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document and its accompanying Draft Sustainability Appraisal can be downloaded from :

www.erewash.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/localdevelopmentFramework.htm.

Comments should be sent to
Yvonne Wright
Team Leader , Policy and Development
Erewash Borough Council
Town Hall
Long Eaton
Derbyshire
NG10 1HU
Yvonne.wright@erewash.gov.uk

By 15th December 2005

Peak District introduces new measures to conserve protected species



On 5th December 2005 the Peak District National Park introduced new measures through their planning process to conserve protected species.

Legislation protects threatened species and their habitats and all are material consideration in the planning decision making process. Application of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 necessitates, where appropriate, the submission of protected species surveys prior to the determination of planning applications. The practice note which the authority has produced offers a procedure that targets likely habitats but also protects them if they are found elsewhere. It should give applicants and developers greater certainty and avoid delays in processing applications.

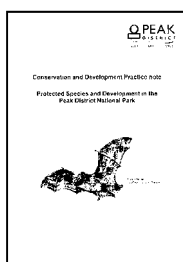
The Authority's Practice note was adopted by the Authority's Planning Committee on 20th May 2005 but it does not have the legal status of a Development Plan or Supplementary Planning Document.

The new procedure will mean that for certain developments a planning application will not be formally registered without an accompanying protected species survey.

Such developments include:

- Alterations to the roof or demolitions of houses built before 1939.
- Changes to or demolition of barns and other traditional buildings.
- Alterations to or demolition of buildings with complex roof structures of any age
- Developments to listed buildings affecting walls or roof
- Developments involving the loss of mature trees
- Developments affecting buildings where bats and owls are known to be present.
- Developments involving disturbances to rivers, streams, canals, ditches, lakes, ponds and other aquatic habitats.
- Developments involving disturbances to hedgerows, scrub or woodland.

The National Park Ecology team have worked with the planning officers to develop this procedure and once surveys have been submitted they will check the adequacy of the surveys.



The key aims of the new procedure are to:

- Ensure that measures are taken to conserve Protected species through the planning process.
- Help ensure that applicants do not breach the Protected species legislation by addressing this as part of the planning process.
- Prevent unexpected interruptions to building works due to protected species.
- Minimise the cost of surveys to applicants by ensuring only the most likely cases require surveys
- Speed up the application process for applicants.

The process will help achieve actions for various Species Action Plans in the Peak District Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The Peak District Biodiversity Partnership are also in the process of writing an action plan to cover bats and birds in buildings.

It is hoped that other local authorities will adopt this approach in the near future.

For more information on the process visit the Peak District National Park Authority website at www.peakdistrict.org/auth/services/dc/planning.htm.

Or contact the Ecology Team at ecology@peakdistrict.gov.uk.

Habitat management for the Dingy Skippers

Pleasley played host to a dingy skipper training session for conservation officers and land managers in the East Midlands.

Fred Harrison from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society (DaNES) and Barry Prater from Butterfly Conservation led a very interesting session looking at the habitat requirements for the dingy skipper butterfly. After a talk on the species ecological requirements we ventured to a site on the Pleasley Trails renowned for its dingy skipper population.



Site visit to Pleasley Trails on a very wet afternoon!

The East Midlands Butterfly Conservation have been surveying the region for dingy and grizzled skipper as part of their Dingy and Grizzled Skipper Project. They consider the dingy skipper to be a scarce species in the East Midlands. A recent survey of the area has found it present in 64 tetrads in Derbyshire, more than the rest of the counties in the region put together.

The project aims to survey populations of the butterfly species, contact site owners to give management advice and gain protection for the site as Wildlife Sites. The training day was targeted at managers of sites with populations of dingy skipper.

The butterfly is found in a range of habitats, where its larval foodplant, birds-foot trefoil grows in abundance. In this region, the preferred habitat is limestone grassland, but it is also found in secondary habitats such as disused quarries and railway lines. The regional stronghold for the species is the White Peak in the Peak District with 40% of occupied tetrads.

Dingy skipper s are on the wing between mid May and early July.

If you think you may have dingy skippers on a site you manage or know of a population please get in contact with Barry Prater.

The East Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation has also produced leaflets for the grizzled and dingy skipper giving information on habitat requirements and management.



To receive a copies contact

Barry Prater

e-mail: barry@prater.demon.co.uk

Telephone: 01777 818504.

Postal : 11, Stonehill Close, Ranskill, Retford, DN22 8NG

Or visit the website:

www.butterfly-conservation.org/eastmidlands/index.html.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust produces five-year plan

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has produced its new Strategic Development Plan, which sets out its priorities for 2005 to 2010.

The Plan is the outcome of a year-long process of discussion and consultation with members, volunteers, trustees and staff, and links in very closely to the Local BAPS.

The Trust's priorities in relation to BAPs are:

- Four priority habitats - grassland, post-industrial land, veteran trees, wetland
- Five priority species—bats, farmland birds, otter, rare plants, water vole

- Designated Wildlife Sites, especially working closely with land-owners
- Nature reserves - taking on new reserves, and improving access
- Three geographic areas - Trent Valley, Peak Fringe, Lower Derwent, Coal measure river valleys
- Continuing to develop its highly regarded education work
- Two key environmental issues - invasive recreation / attitudes to the countryside, and sustainability (including climate change)
- Engaging with people, from organising events to involving local

communities in implementing Biodiversity Greenprints

A summary version of the plan can be downloaded from the Trust's website

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



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Editor:

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

Tel 01629 585611

E-mail : Info@derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk

**Deadline for articles for the next edition:
31st March 2006**

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.

Volunteer Projects

Do you have specific projects that volunteers could do for you, such as small research projects, information that needs mapping on a GIS programme or specific surveys on sites? If so send a project brief 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

These will then be circulated amongst volunteer groups and organisations and further education colleges and universities.

Funding Corner.... England Woodland Grant Scheme

The Forestry Commission has recently opened the last in its suite of grants covered by English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS). In addition to the Woodland Planning, Assessment, Regeneration and Creation Grants, there are now the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and the Woodland Management Grant (WMG). WIG can pay a contribution to the standard costs involved for work to create, enhance and sustain public benefits within woodland. WMG offers payment to safeguard existing environmental and social public benefits that woodlands can provide.

EWGS has a more regional focus than the old Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS), some of the grants are designed to meet the priorities set out in the East Midland's Forestry Framework - *Space-4-Trees*, which can be found at www.space4trees.org.uk.

In Derbyshire woodland eligible for WMG:

- Must be of a type important to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP).
- And or offer free public access where there is a demand.

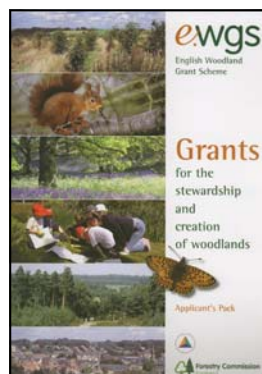
(NB Woodland properties over 30ha must be Certified to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).)

There are 4 funds within the WIG applicable to woodlands in Derbyshire:

- The Woodland SSSI Fund- an 80% contribution towards the standard costs involved in bringing woodland SSSI's into a *recovering* condition.
- The Woodland Biodiversity Fund- a 50% contribution towards the standard costs involved in the delivery of UK-BAP targets.
- And 2 different Access funds, to provide improvement in facilities for free public access to woodlands.

Further guidance and application forms can be obtained from the Forestry Commission Website:

www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs,



For advice and further information on EWGS contact

Tristan Galletly, Woodlands Officer for Derbyshire and the Peak District

on 01629 816641

Tristan.galletly@forestry.gsi.gov.uk