



## Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Steering Group 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### Present:

Dan Abrahams **Chair** (Natural England) DAb  
Jo Brown (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) KH  
Kevin Exley (South Derbyshire District Council) KE  
Dave Slinger (Derby City Council) DS  
Rachael Coates (Amber Valley BC)  
Tom French (Derbyshire County Council) TF

Andy Stubbs (East Midland Biodiversity Partnership) AS  
Rebecca Brunt (Environment Agency) RB  
Tristan Galletly (Forestry Commission) TG  
Esther Smith (Derbyshire Dales DC) ES  
Debbie Alston (Project Officer) DAI

### 1. Apologies were received from:

Paul Tame (NFU), Carl Hawke (National Trust), Steve Wright (BTCV), Beverley Rhodes (Derby City), Tristan Galletly (Forestry Commission) Yvonne Wright (Erewash BC), Sam Lattaway (National Forest), Gary Wain (Groundwork), Douglas Moulton (North East Derbyshire DC), and Nichola Baker (Chesterfield BC).

### 2. Matters Arising

TF and DAI had a successful meeting with Derbyshire County Council publicity dept and it was agreed that the LBAP partnership could issue its own press releases. The newsletter was also allowed to continue in its current format rather than having to follow the recognised DCC branding.

TF had not been able to progress Annie Cooper's paper on funding for the various biodiversity delivery elements eg LRC, LBAP and LWS. **Action – TF to progress**

DAI reported that due to ongoing technological upgrading at DCC her direct dial number had changed again . It is now **01629 539771**. It should be noted that this is forwarded to a mobile where vocal reproduction was currently poor.

### 3. Project Officer's Report

DAI gave a verbal update on her work since the last meeting in July 2009

- 3 issues of Derbyshire Biodiversity News
- Completed and produced the 2008-9 Annual Report
- Organised and ran the 2009 Annual LBAP Forum, with more than 150 people attending
- Completed Park Audit for CBC and for BDC and advised NEDDC
- Provided land management advice the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service on NERC Duty
- ALSF bid was successful (£36k) and have started to do phase I
- Continued work on GIS layers to quantify and locate action for this BAP period and help guide the next BAP revision
  - EWGS, WGS, NFTS
  - HLS
  - Priority grassland layers
  - Semi-improved grassland
- Continued to work and supported partners to develop projects and find funding eg Derwent Valley project, Moss Valley Project and Doe Lea Project and a number of smaller community schemes
- Partnership now has 96 LBAP partners including 39 local groups

DAI reported that following the addition of various GIS information to the GIS layers it is possible to roughly estimate the additional progress towards the LBAP targets. This will alter with the contributions from coal restoration schemes, still to be added and the addition of other information. However, the overall impression is

that the vast majority of targets will be reached and in some cases exceeded. The exception is the field margin targets, where the uptake of Entry Level Stewardship has not been as high as expected.

Woodland:

ASNW under management = c1,225ha (75%)  
PAWS under management = c1,117ha (89%)  
Secondary woodland under management > 100ha (achieved)  
Woodland created > 500ha (achieved)

Grassland:

Neutral under positive management = 344ha (achieved)  
Acid under positive management = 157ha (78%)  
Calcareous under positive management > 35ha (achieved)

Semi-natural neutral being restored = 350ha (achieved)  
Semi-natural acid being restored = 268ha (achieved)  
Semi-natural calcareous being restored = 75ha (achieved)

Neutral creation = 109ha (achieved)  
Acid creation = 0  
Calcareous creation = 31ha (achieved)

Wetlands:

Pond creation >30 (achieved)  
Pond restoration > 30 (achieved)  
Reedbed creation > 30ha (achieved)  
Swamp management > 50ha (achieved)

Hedgerows:

Hedgerow management > 100km (achieved)  
Hedgerow creation > 50km (if restoration scheme contributions are included) (achieved)

Field margins – as recorded in 2008/9 Annual Report

#### **4. LBAP Review**

DAI had circulated a paper on the LBAP review prior to the meeting, including a proposed timetable. She outlined the draft action areas based upon the presence of propriety habitats and aligned to the recent regional landscape character work.

Concern was raised about the national approach that was being taken on prioritising national landscape scale projects and associated funding, especially in relation to climate change.

DAb commented that our proposed approach would align closer to landscape character and make it easier for local engagement. KE said that it would make it easier for local planning authority GI studies.

JB reported that DWT's Living Landscape work is currently looking at eight areas of Derbyshire, Derby is included within the Derwent Valley living landscape area. It is currently being looked at internally at DWT, an external consultation with key partners is envisaged soon. It is hoped that this will fit the proposed review LBAP, but will include some long-term objectives beyond the 5 years of the plan.

JB suggested that care was taken over the detail of the boundaries of the proposed LBAP areas during the consultation process.

#### **5. Feedback from East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership**

AS gave an update and distributed copies of various papers on recent EMBP projects. The EMBP has recently taken on a new Chair, Tony Hams, who has a long history of conservation in Derbyshire and is nationally well connected in conservation organisations.

Following consultation with various county recorders, a list of the UK priority species that have been recorded in the region is almost finalised. A conference on landscape-scale delivery is being planned in the first part of 2010, the partnership is due to produce an annual report soon and various workshops on key issues are being planned. DAI is the LBAP partnership contact for the EMBP and will circulate details of workshops and projects to the relevant LBAP partners.

## **6. Feedback from Habitat and Species Sub-groups**

**Woodland** – The Forestry Commission is busy processing more than 70 applications to the Woodland Bird project funding and will keep DAI updated with successful schemes to monitor LBAP targets. The woodland group are putting together a Landscape Partnership bid for the Derwent Valley.

**Wetland** - Derby City Council's pond project had received funding from SITA. This project will create 5 new ponds and produce management plans for 20 ponds where the pond wardens will be given the training to restore and manage the ponds in the future. The National Trust had received funding for river catchment work in the Markeaton and Mercaston brook. Through Environment Agency funding they had also employed a project officer for the Doe Lea catchment. The three year project will concentrate on working with landowners to manage soil resources in the catchment and alleviating flood risk through habitats creation and management.

**Grassland** – DAb reported that the Grassland HAP Group had not met but applications had been submitted and processed for additional grassland management, restoration and creation under HLS schemes.

**Farmland** – This group had not met and it was noted that as the field margin targets were unlikely to be met, that Entry Level Stewardship needed to be pushed a bit harder. This was being achieved by FWAG in areas where their time and visits were funded by a third party or project.

## **7. Financial support for LBAP officers post from partners**

TF thanked those partners who have responded positively to the letter sent in October. He highlighted the fact that with contributions from Natural England and Derbyshire County Council there is still a shortfall of about £14,000 a year to cover the Project officer's post and a small capital pot to cover website, form, reports etc. To date, we have been able to cover the shortfall by partners contributions and hoped that this would continue in the near future. TF highlighted that this was unique in the region, no other LBAP had the financial support of all the local authorities in the LBAP area.

TF asked if the local authorities representatives present if they would be able to return to their authorities and ask if a simple Service Level Agreement would be possible with the LBAP to formalise the situation and to add inflationary increases to the contributions. Those present agreed to ask the relevant officers at their authorities and feedback to TF

**Action – ES, RC, KE and other LA reps not present at the meeting**

## **8. Local Wildlife Sites update**

JB reported that the report on the condition of Local Wildlife Sites was currently with the printers. There will be a detailed and non-technical version produced. A pdf of the non-technical version is being considered for the website.

AS reported that there had been some work carried out on indicator NI197, it was agreed to circulate this throughout the partnership

**Action – AS to circulate**

## **9. Greenprints**

**Chesterfield** – DAI reported that CBC's Greenprint is due for a review in the next few months, DWT will be undertaking this with CBC.

**Bolsover** –DAI and DWT were involved with a review of the Bolsover Greenprint.

**WildDerby** – A Bioblitz is being organised at Markeaton Park in June. This is in conjunction with the BBC breathing Places campaign.

## 10. Local Record Centre Update

The LRC Partnership (DWT, Nick Moyes at Derby Museum and Peak District National Park Authority) signed a MOA for 2009-1. The MOA included getting datasets up to a common standard, mobilising data to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) gateway. DWT has got more than 300,000 species records on its database and work is being done to validate these before moving some to the NBN gateway. Recently the protected species database records were uploaded to the NBN gateway at a 2km level.

TF said that he had recently seen a number of poor quality EIAs submitted with planning applications where the desktop studies have only included a look on MAGIC and the NBN gateway. This was of concern as they are not consulting the primary data sources.

DWT commented that the records in EIAs are not of good enough quality to provide information to feedback into the data system ie dates, recorder, grid refs etc. There was a recent meeting between IEEM and the LRCs to discuss the production of guidelines for consultants.

## 11. Funding

Three projects in the LBAP area had received SITA funding, Derby City Council had been granted £91k for the ponds project, the National Trust had been granted £112k for the Markeaton, and Mercaston catchment project and DWT had been granted £53k for Transforming the Trent Valley project. In addition, the National Trust had been granted £190k from the Environment Agency for the Doe Lea Project.

## 12. Planning

JB reported that DWT were providing expert witness for DDDC at the Matlock Moor windfarm public inquiry. Consultations over various aspects of the Local Development Frameworks were ongoing with consultation on SDDC's issues and alternatives options paper Core Strategy and issues and options in Amber Valley until 31<sup>st</sup> March. High Peak and Derbyshire Dales will be consulting on the preferred options in June 2010.

KE reported that the planning inspector's report on the proposed freight and distribution centre at Burnaston Farm was expected in the autumn, outline application for the Derby and Sandiacre canal had been submitted to Derby City and South Derbyshire District Council. Due to the results from Appropriate Assessments it is likely that the presence of the River Mease SAC will influence the location of the District's housing allocation.

RC asked if DAI and/or DWT could provide some advice as how to include biodiversity in the Amber Valley Sustainable Community Strategy.

**Action – RC to send draft copy to DAI**

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010** – at DWT's office, East Mill, Belper.

Papers attached:

- LBAP Review Paper
- Regional Biodiversity Opportunity mapping project update
- East midlands Priority Species list update