



Lowland Wetland HAP Group Meeting

11th March 2008, Carsington Water

Present:

Helen Perkins (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)
Charlie Horsford (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)
Beverley Rhodes (Derby City Council),
Rebecca Brunt (Environment Agency – Lower Trent)
Paul Bennett (Severn Trent Water)
Chris Monk (Derbyshire County Council – Countryside Service)
Deanne Gow (British Waterways),
Debbie Court (LD Biodiversity Partnership) **Note taker**

Apologies:

Ellie Andison (Environment Agency - Leeds Office), Emma Dagless (Natural England), Jim Lee, (National Trust),

1. Matters Arising

The LBAP Annual Forum (wetland theme) in October was very successful and most of the presentations were now on the website.

Deanne and Debbie had worked out a couple of relevant actions for the Grass-wrack pondweed. These were now on BARS and British Waterways were reporting against them.

Charlie had mapped all ponds in Derbyshire using Mastermap – 15,800 in all, which included those in the Peak District LBAP. These were now on two layers, those with more information on them ie DWT pond layer and those which were just mapped from Mastermap. The layer should be ready by the end of March. Debbie to check how the layer could be used and send copies to other LBAP partners when it was finished. **Action: Debbie**

In addition to the pond layer the DWT were in the process of updating and standardising all other LBAP GIS layers. More work was needed on the swamp layer to map the extent. **Action: DWT**

The next stage would be to find out which had a high ecological status (as per Ponds Conservation Trust survey). There was an article on the new Pond HAP in the recent IEEM journal. Debbie agreed to circulate a copy. **Action: Debbie**

Beverley agreed to work with Trevor to do a training session for LBAP partners on the Ponds Conservation Trust survey methodology in either the spring or autumn. **Action: Beverley**

Chris mentioned the Pond Conservation Trust's (PCT) 'Million Pond Project' which is looking to create a million ponds over the next 50 years. The PCT had produced a document on ponds and water management issues. Debbie agreed to circulate copies. **Action: Debbie**

Outstanding action points:

1. Debbie to check reedbeds in sewage treatment works with Severn Trent Water and Yorkshire Water and add sites to GIS layer as appropriate. **Action: Debbie**

2. Partner updates

Derby – The Derby Pond Warden Scheme was still very active with 18 active pond wardens and a further 10 awaiting being assigned a pond. The group were now writing management plans for the ponds and carrying out management work on some. The floating pennywort at Sunnydale Park had been sprayed but still needed monitoring. The Pond Wardens were receiving further training this year and the Day of Pondmania will be on 26th July.

Beverley had worked with Prof David Rodgers from Derby University on a white-clawed crayfish project for the Markeaton and Mackworth brook.

Derbyshire County Council – The pond at Highoredish had been restored with some tree and vegetation clearance.

Chris had provide advice to a number to owners/managers on other sites including Chevin and Mickelover golf courses via the Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group.

Lowland Derbyshire LBAP – Debbie had carried out a BAP audit at Carsington Water and calculated the number of ponds and area of other habitats the site has. This will enable the Rangers to feed into the LBAP process. A similar exercise will be carried out at Staunton Harold and Foremark Reservoirs over the summer.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – A number of ponds had been created and managed through the Grounds For Change project. Both of the projects submitted to Tubney and SITA landfill tax had been successful and have continued funding for the Water for Wildlife Project. Helen had been appointed as the Water for Wildlife Manager to oversee both projects.

3. National and regional Water for Wildlife meetings

Helen updated the group on national Water for Wildlife project. The project is looking at river restoration within the New Forest. Regionally there was a meeting with the water companies associated with AMP5 and habitat creation.

4. River Basin Management Plans

Following the Water Framework Directive there was a need to produce River Basin Management Plans for each of the 11 river basins in the country. Debbie agreed to circulate a presentation made at the recent Regional Biodiversity Partnership for information. **Action: Debbie**

In drawing up the plan the Environment Agency were holding a series of focus groups of specific topics. Debbie attended a workshop on Alien species. She agreed to circulate the notes from the day and a form which requested information on relevant projects already in place to gather together best practice.

5. Invasive Species

Rebecca mentioned the Invasive Species Management document being produced by CIRIA (Link: <http://www.ciria.org/rp759.htm>)

The Environment Agency's Japanese Knotweed guidance is also available online - the guidance is split into three parts and can be found at the following location (Link - <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/conservation/840870/840941/?version=1&lang=e>)

6. Flood Alleviation Schemes

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust had had involvement with the schemes within the Erewash and Trent catchments eg the left hand bank at Attenborough. If anyone has any suggestions for small-scale scheme they should contact the EA. **Action: All**

7. Sustainable Fisheries Seminar

Debbie mentioned that in 2002 the River Rother Wildlife Strategy held a very successful Sustainable Fisheries seminar at Poolsbrook County Park. She wondered whether this might be something we tried to repeat using the new contacts built up with fishing clubs since and through the Water for Wildlife project. This was deemed to be a good idea and Debbie agreed to speak to Tim Jacklin (EA) to see if anything similar was in the pipeline. Beverley suggested the Derby as a possible location

Action: Debbie

8. Date of next meeting

30th September 2pm Location tbc possibly Markeaton Park pitch and put hut.

Debbie Court
3rd April 2008.