



## Steering Group for the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2010 10.00- 12.30pm**  
**Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, East Mill, Belper**

***Dan Abrahams Chair (Natural England) DAb***

Bev Rhodes (Derby City Council) BR  
Gary Wain (Groundwork Derby Notts) GW  
Steven Wright (BTCV) SW  
Andy Duncan (BTCV) AD  
Douglas Moulton (NEDDC) DM  
Jo Brown (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) JB

Dave Slinger (Derby City Council) DS  
Rachael Coates (Amber Valley BC) RC  
Tom French (Derbyshire County Council) TF  
Tristan Galletly (Forestry Commission) TG  
***Debbie Alston (Project Officer) DAI***

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Apologies**

Yvonne Wright, Kevin Exley, Esther Smith, Nicola Baker, Jane Clement, Rebecca Brunt, Andy Stubbs and Barry Joyce.

#### **2. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising**

- 7) Financial Support for LBAP – discussed under item 8
- 8) Andy Stubbs had circulated the relevant papers
- 12) Planning – RC sent draft AV Sustainable Community strategy to DAI after last meeting, DAI had sent some comments

#### **3. Presentation on progress towards the current LBAP targets**

DAI gave a short presentation on progress towards the current BAP targets, received by all. It is apparent that in many cases, many of the targets have been met, or very nearly so. In some cases, targets have been greatly exceeded – although in some areas (e.g. management of secondary woodland) apparent progress reflected the difficulty in confirming direction of travel against targets – in that case, the target related to increases areas of woodland in positive management, whilst the baseline was difficult to measure. In that instance, the reported number is the actual area under management, rather than the increase.

In a small number of other cases, the targets had been missed by some significant margin. This appeared to be a reflection of over optimism (overestimation of opportunity) when target setting.

JB requested that DAI circulate the data again showing units of measurement in relation to each target

**Action – DAI to circulate**

## 4. LBAP Review discussion

### General

A review of progress on the BAP review was presented by DAI, and there was detailed discussion of the review, the work presented, and the work remaining to do.

DAI began by giving an overview of the review, and the East Midlands Landscape Character Assessment from which the spatial element of the new BAP will be drawn. There remained agreement that a spatial approach to the new BAP is appropriate. Whilst there was discussion about the challenges the new approach might present (for example for organisations deciding which group(s) to get involved with and the time it would take to attend all meetings) it was agreed that the new approach offered new opportunities, for example in providing access to potential partners who might not have previously attended HAP groups. It was also accepted by the LAs present that whilst most authorities found their area spread across more than one action area, this was not a problem.

### **Action – DAI to circulate link to EM LCA**

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east\\_midlands/ourwork/characterassessment.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_midlands/ourwork/characterassessment.aspx)

### **DAI to circulate maps/presentation electronically**

### Draft area map

DAI presented the draft Area Map and invited comment on the map, and the approach presented:

TG asked how different areas would be administered and concern at being expected to have an input to all of the groups, and BR enquired who would lead in each area? DAI had also received comments from Paul Tame at the NFU concerning the potentially unrealistic expectation of representation of landowners at the area meetings/groups. DAI confirmed that it was envisaged that each area would have an identified lead partner, who would assist in writing the appropriate area plan, and who would coordinate group activity. In many areas, leads will be naturally apparent where areas correlate to existing project activity, for example the National Forest in their area, Derby City Council in their area, or Limestone Journeys in relation to the Magnesian Limestone Area. In other area, a natural lead may be less apparent. DAI confirmed that she was in the process of confirming the area lead partners – partners requested that these be confirmed ASAP. DAI also made the point that the areas should have a list of appropriate contacts to allow electronic communication of issues. This should ease the burden of some partners feeling they have to be physically involved in many groups.

### **Action – DAI to confirm area leads by mid-July**

BR raised concerns in relation to Derby City, in particular the need to ensure that maps, and texts do not isolate the City, but explore how landscape, and biodiversity, percolate into and through the city, and how the city links to the surrounding area.

DS highlighted the need to ensure that the BAP did not appear 'stand alone' but used relevant 'hooks' and made appropriate links to other agendas and priorities, including climate change, green infrastructure, and social and economic issues.

### Action Plan template

The draft Magnesian Limestone area action plan was presented for discussion as a concept and format for use. Discussion included:

- That the area description text should be kept short – and indeed that the area action plans should be as concise as possible
- That an overarching vision – briefly setting out the area context and opportunities would be a useful addition to each plan
- That habitats could be identified as 'primary', 'secondary' (and possibly localised)
- That issues and opportunities identified would merit a little explanatory text – i.e. why is 'good quality agricultural land' an 'issue' for biodiversity (and should they be referred to as issues, constraints, problems etc)?
- Habitat opportunity maps should be large, clear, and if necessary present separate habitat types on separate maps, for clarity. Maps would also be 'clipped' to the relevant area, high resolution (allowing people to 'zoom in') with keys containing only the relevant habitat types, again for clarity

Overall, partners were happy with the way the area action plan format was developing, although DAL was to continue to develop, edit, re-order and add additional information as required.

**Action – DAI to continue to develop area action plans to pass on to area leads to complete, once pre-populated  
DAI to discuss data issues with DWT**

JB offered that in light of the review, the Lowland Derbyshire Habitat Creation Guidelines could be revised to tie in to the LBAP areas. This was welcomed by all

**Action – JB to progress following BAP review or to coincide with new LBAP launch**

Discussion was had as to the appropriate formats for the completed BAP. It is anticipated that the BAP will predominantly be a web based document, although the following were also discussed:

- The use of colour/graphics/photos – and the need to ensure ease of printing, including in black and white
- The use of links, hyperlinks and 'click through' techniques in web based documents
- The potential use of publically accessible formats, and the need to ensure that the format used is appropriate to partners, the needs of the BAP and to use by other conservation specialists, consultants, partner groups, recorders etc

DAI to develop BAP making the final product more visually appealing (accepting that the template presented represents a possible contents, rather than a mock up)

**Action – DAI to investigate the web formats for the document, and the use of links**

## **5. Annual Forum**

DAI presented the plans for the annual forum, to be held at Chesterfield Library, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Format and contents of forum agreed by partners

JB confirmed that Ed Green or Tony Hams would be available to chair

**Action - DAI to send out booking details in July (final numbers confirmed by the end of September)**

## **6. Annual Report**

DAI confirmed that instead of a standard annual report, a slimmed down project progress summary would be released at the annual forum. This would conclude reporting against the existing BAP in anticipation of the new BAP.

DS requested that any report should be prefaced by a very short 'super executive summary' or highlights section

## **7. Update on the national UK BAP process**

DAI gave the group an update on the national steer on LBAP reviews. The England Biodiversity Group has developed the idea of having a number of Integrated Biodiversity Delivery areas (IBDAs) around the country. It is not yet certain the function of these areas as they have seemed to change over the course of the last few months, from integrating species delivery into habitats work to developing pilot areas for demonstrating types of delivery. A workshop was held in each regions to choose three IDBAs areas, the East Midlands choose The Peak District plus the Peak fringe, Sherwood and Lincolnshire coast and hinterland. All of the collective proposed IBDAs were looked at from a England perspective and it was discovered that the Peak and Fringe area butted up to the West Pennine Moors area and in addition the West Midlands had recommended that the Staffordshire Moorlands and Yorkshire wanted to add the South Pennines to the Peak and Fringe area. A meeting was held recently to discuss this potential 'super IBDA'. It was concluded to split this into two areas – Dark Peak and other upland areas further north, and the White Peak, Peak Fringe and Staffordshire Moorlands. This process is still developing. DAI will keep the partnership informed.

**Action – DAI to keep the partnership informed of developments**

## **8. Financial support for LBAP Officer Post from partners**

TF reviewed the situation to date in relation to funding. It had previously been agreed that it would be useful to develop a more formal arrangement in relation to funding in order to specify what partners received for their contribution, in order to demonstrate the value of the partnership, and to ensure the work of the partnership was valued appropriately when

budgets are scrutinised. It had previously been agreed that an SLA type format might be appropriate.

TF invited comment on the format of the agreement (and examples of good practice), how the costs of the partnership might be represented in relation to contributions, and how SLAs might work with non-LA partners. Suggestions received included:

- Basing any SLA on the DWT SLA with Local Authorities
- Highlighting that this is a partnership – funding partners provide some finance, in return for some services, but that partners also had a responsibility to assist the BAP, for example by providing meeting rooms etc, as well as to deliver the aims of the BAP
- Consider using an MoA style approach
- Highlight the unique outputs of the BAP/BAP funding
- Looking at the outcomes of regional work investigating biodiversity funding and which might result in a regional model/good practice

**Action - JB to send TF a copy of an SLA between DWT and a district council  
TF to progress in discussion with DCC legal services, finance teams  
and others. Additional comments from partners would continue to be welcomed.**

## **9. AOB**

**DAb** – Had been very busy and will continue to be busy with approximately HLS applications that could come in this year.

**RC** – had received some comments from DAI on the AV Community Strategy, but had not seen the final version yet.

**BR** – Had been busy with the BioBlitz event, which everyone agreed had been high profile and very successful. BR thanked her event sponsors including Derby City Council, Derby University, Natural England, Opal and the BBC. More than 640 species had been recorded.

**GW** – Had been doing his own series of Spring Watch Wild Day Outs at Local Nature Reserves.

**TF** – confirmed that consultation was underway on the Derby & Derbyshire Minerals Core Strategy: Key Issues & Options. Deadline 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, more details at:

[https://consultations.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/consult.ti/Minerals\\_Issues\\_and\\_Options/consultationHome](https://consultations.derbyshirepartnership.gov.uk/consult.ti/Minerals_Issues_and_Options/consultationHome)

**JB** – confirmed DWT Strategic Development Plan to be launched shortly. The Local Wildlife Sites Condition Assessment Report is ready for distribution and has been submitted as evidence in the Lawton Review of ecological networks.

**SW** – BTVC is a main partner in the Derby SITA ponds project and has already worked on Allestree Park lake and Alvaston Lake.

**AD** – looking for development work to support BTCV work in Derbyshire.

**DM** - looking at delivery of environmental priorities following the disbanding of their Sustainability team

## **10. Date of next meeting**

**10-12.30 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.** Venue and time TBC (venue might be East Mill or room at Carsington)