



Progress Report March – September 2008

**By Debbie Alston
Biodiversity Project Officer**

1st October 2008

1. Linkages to national and local BAPs.

1.1 UK BAP.

The Project Officer attended the LBAP Conference in Cambridge between 12-15th July. Workshops, discussion and presentations were based around current UK BAP guidance, biodiversity and business and UK HAP groups. The event was a very useful opportunity to share ideas with other LBAP officers and discuss projects with potential funders.

Copies of newsletters were passed to the UK BAP officer to keep them informed of local progress and issues. The Project Officer was invited to attend the England Local and Regional Strategy Group meeting in September as one of two representative LBAP officers, but was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

1.2 Regional

The Project Officer has attended a number of regional meetings within the period including East Midlands Biodiversity Full Partnership and the Steering Group as the chair the regional LBAP officers group. The regional LBAPs met in March, June and September to discuss common issues such as the Natural England Memorandum of Agreement, BARS and the promotion of the NERC Biodiversity Duty.

The Project Officer has responded to requests for information from the East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership.

1.3 Links with neighbouring LBAPs

Close contact and liaison has been maintained with the Peak District and National Forest LBAPs as well as Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire LBAPs.

1.4 Greenprints

The Project Officer attended one Chesterfield Greenprint Steering Group meeting in June and during the Sustainability Officer's maternity leave has maintained close contact with officers at Chesterfield Borough Council.

The Bolsover Biodiversity Network (BBN) has continued to be successful with key partners and groups working towards the targets. The Project Officer chaired two meetings throughout the period. Each of these meetings were held at a partners office allowing time to have a site visit to see recent biodiversity projects.

The Erewash Greenprint is currently going through its period of consultation. The Project Officer made some initial comments on chosen species and habitats in its drafting but will respond formally during the consultation period.

2. Local Feedback

2.1 Annual Forum

The 2008 Annual Forum will take place on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October. The programme is attached to this report. It is a joint event with the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group. The overall theme of the event is *Biodiversity in the Urban and and Brownfield Environment*. The first day, in Bramcote Nottinghamshire, is aimed at LBAP partners and includes talks on Green Infrastructure, Green Flags, Green Roofs and including biodiversity in regeneration. The second day, at Pleasley in Bolsover and is aimed at local groups and will include workshops to provide information on brownfield species and helping groups to increase their capacity to manage themselves and their

sites. Workshops will again be run by local and regional experts. This year some sponsorship has been gained for the event by a local consultancy and a Local Authority in Nottinghamshire.

2.2 LBAP Steering Group

The Steering Group of the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership met on 19th June. Eleven members of the partnership were represented and participated in discussions. Reports were received from the habitats groups, Greenprints, partners on recent projects and achievements. There was discussion on including geology being included under the Biodiversity Partnership.

2.3 Servicing and expanding the partnership.

More local groups and organisations have formally joined the LBAP partnership within the period:

- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust
- Derbyshire Alternative Technology Association (DATA)
- Derbyshire Mammal Group
- Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society
- Derbyshire Ornithological Society
- Derwent Green Gym
- Findern Footpaths Group
- Friends of Allestree Park
- Friends of Chellaston Brickworks
- Friends of Kirk Hallam Lake & Meadows
- Friends of Markeaton Brook
- Friends of Mickleover Meadows
- Friends of Red River
- Meynell Langley Estate
- Ogston Bird Club
- Osmaston Green Gym
- RSPB Derby Local Group
- South Derbyshire Badger Group

During the report period the Project Officer has visited or communicated with a number of LBAP partners and local groups to discuss various issues including projects current and future, BARS and funding. LBAP Partners and groups visited include Environment Agency, Lea Valley Project, Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire, Severn Trent Water, Friends of Mickleover Meadows, Friends of Elvaston Castle and Findern Footpaths Group.

3. Making the LBAP accessible.

3.1 Website

The usage of the Derbyshire Biodiversity website has remained high. The statistics package continues to show a high usage. Unfortunately the package was not working during March – July so no figures have been recorded. The website designer has recommended an alternative and will be switching the website over soon. The species pages are the most visited part of the site followed by the local group page and habitats pages.

Month	Unique visitors	No of visits	Average no of visits per day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Sept 2008	1184	1762	60.76	7064	24997	519.61MB
August 2008	1029	1600	51.61	5972	25090	812.59MB
Feb 2008	1210	1721	59.34	4471	29921	669.45 MB
Jan 2008	1236	2000	64.51	5246	47251	1.27 GB

The website has been visited by people from over 40 different countries.

3.2. Newsletter

Quarterly newsletters were produced and distributed in April and July. The next newsletter is due out in October. Contributions have continued to come in from LBAP partners as well and local community groups. Feedback from LBAP partners and local groups has continued to be very favourable.

3.3 Talks

The Project Officer gave a talk about the LBAP Partnership to the Heath and District Heritage Society on 10th March.

3.4 Annual Report

During the period information for the 2007/8 Annual Report was gathered from over 75 organisations. This included sending questionnaires and maps for annotation to local groups, e-mailing, phoning and in some instances visiting LBAP partners to gather information. The report is currently being finalised and designed by the graphics department at Derbyshire County Council. It will be produced and sent out to LBAP partners and local groups just after the Annual Forum.

The report details LBAP contributions made from all contributing organisations and provides an update on progress towards the LBAP targets.

Highlights of the report include:

- LBAP partners created, or signed agreements to create, 12.56ha of woodland, 89.25ha of wood-pasture, 30.65ha of species-rich grassland, 6ha of reedbed, 13 ponds and 1,716m of hedgerow.
- LBAP partners restored, or agreed to restore and manage, 25.42ha of woodland, 58.95ha of wood-pasture, 30.84ha of species-rich grassland, 25 ponds, 2ha of reedbed and 280,332m of hedgerow.
- Over 68% of the habitat targets are on target to be completed by 2010; 10% have already been achieved.
- Biodiversity projects received more than £630,000 of external funding.

4. Implement Habitat Action Plans

4.1 Woodland

The Woodland Group met in Belper on 8th July. Discussion at the meeting, and at a subsequent meeting, resulted in the drawing up of an outline for the landscape project within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site. It looks likely that a funding bid will be submitted soon to the regional Green Infrastructure board. The Parkland, Wood-pasture and Veteran Tree Habitat Action Plan was revised and finalised.

4.2 Grassland

The Grassland Group met on 24th June 2008. Funding for the *Value in Meadows* project came to an end at the end of March and more funding is being sought. Progress has continued to be made by the *Wild About Nature* project and work has started on the *Ashover Heathland* project and *Bolsover Grassland* project. Grasslands have continued to be targeted through HLS.

4.3 Wetland

The Wetland HAP group met on 11th March at Carsington Water. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has completed work on a pond layer to increase knowledge of this habitat and its distribution. The *Water for Wildlife* project has started to make contacts ready for wetland creation and management work on the Dove catchment. Local groups have been busy creating and restoring ponds.

4.4 Farmland

The Farmland Group has not met in the last 6 months but further progress has been made with surveying hedgerows in Chesterfield. The Moss Valley area hedgerow survey project was successful and should be delivered over 2 years. Information has been found by a local group member on hedgerow data from the Elmtun parish from the 1980/90s.

5. Implement Species Action Plans

It has been decided not to produce any more Species Action Plans as we do not have sufficient baseline data to set meaningful targets. Work has begun to draw out suitable simple actions for some of the priority species which can be reported on through BARS. Most of these are likely to relate to data gathering to establish a baseline, but some will be practical actions associated with land management.

Money was secured from the Environment Agency to survey for white-clawed crayfish within the River Rother catchment. Surveys carried out this summer revealed white-clawed crayfish are still present at Wingerworth Lido but have disappeared from the River Moss near Eckington.

Actions were drawn up for some riparian species (otter, polecat, harvest mouse and various fish species) at the Riparian Species Group meeting in February.

6. Increasing capacity of partners in key sectors to implement HAPs and SAPs.

6.1 BAP Audits

Following the completion of the Project Officer's biodiversity audit for the Derbyshire Countryside Service, Countryside Service staff are currently working on a EWGS application and a HLS application for one of the areas.

Phase I Map digitising for the National Forest area was completed, this allowed the National Forest Company to run an opportunity habitat model for the whole of the Forest area. This was a small contract for the National Forest Company.

The Project Officer has carried out a biodiversity audit for both Foremark and Staunton Harold Reservoirs allowing Severn Trent Water staff to be able to calculate and appreciate their contributions towards LBAP targets.

7. Monitoring and Reporting.

7.1 BARS

Information gathered for the 2007/8 Annual Report has been put onto BARS. Updated target goal information has been calculated in time for the 2008 UK BAP Reporting round. The Project Officer has met with the Environment Agency (Lower Trent) to agree the actions they will report on BARS and provided individual training on BARS.

The Project Officer, along with other LBAP officers, has raised concern regionally and nationally regarding the national reporting of BAP information which is not disaggregated at a local level as this can present a false impression of progress towards local targets. In Lowland Derbyshire, however, we are fortunate that the local Natural England and Forestry Commission officers are able to do this.

8. Community Strategies, Development Plans and similar strategic partnerships.

8.1 Local Strategic Partnerships & Local Area Agreements

The Project Officer attended a regional workshop to discuss generic connections between the national biodiversity indicator NI197 and NI188 (climate change). This has been followed up with a meeting with the officer responsible for local reporting on NI188.

8.2 Planning documents and other consultations

During the period the Project Officer attended a meeting to discuss where biodiversity can play a part in the 2026 vision document for Chesterfield. Comments have also been sent associated with the drafting of Higher Level Stewardship targeting maps and statements.

8.3 Training for LBAP Partners

The Project Officer ran a biodiversity training session for members at Erewash Borough Council and Bolsover District Council and is in discussion over delivering a session for planning officers. The Project Officer worked with the Assistant Sustainability Officer and ran a biodiversity training session for staff and members at Chesterfield Borough Council. As part of the work associated with the NERC Biodiversity Duty, a biodiversity awareness raising session was run for Senior Managers at Derbyshire Dales District Council. This session was also attended by the Chief Executive.

9. Raise Funding for LBAP initiatives

9.1 Funding information.

Information has continued to be circulated to LBAP partners on new funding schemes with the appropriate deadlines and criteria.

9.2 Support of Funding bids

The Project Officer has continued to discuss funding for biodiversity projects with LBAP partners. Information gathered for the 2007/8 Annual Report showed that LBAP partners

successfully gained £639,735.88 from external sources for LBAP projects. To date this year successful projects have totalled £338,781.

The Project Officer has continued to work with various LBAP partners and local groups on funding bids for specific biodiversity projects. Support letters have been written and sent to accompany six LBAP grant applications.

9.3 Funding for co-ordination

Contributions towards the co-ordinator's post for 2008/9 have been received from all but one local authority have been received. Contributions were also received from Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

In addition to those contributions listed in the last progress report money was secured from Severn Trent Water to carry out the Biodiversity audit at Staunton Harold and Foremark Reservoirs.

10. NERC Biodiversity Duty

As part of ongoing NERC work with LBAP partners the Project Officer completed a NERC Biodiversity Audit for Bolsover District Council and had initial discussions with both South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Following the production of the reports for Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire Constabulary the Project Officer attended follow up meetings and gave further advice where appropriate on practical actions.

Training on the NERC Duty has been given to members and officers at Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council and specific sessions for members at Bolsover District Council and Erewash Borough Council.

A regional template for a NERC Duty leaflet specifically for Parish Councils has been produced. This will be adapted locally with good Derbyshire case studies and sent direct to all parish council in the LBAP area with an accompanying letter.

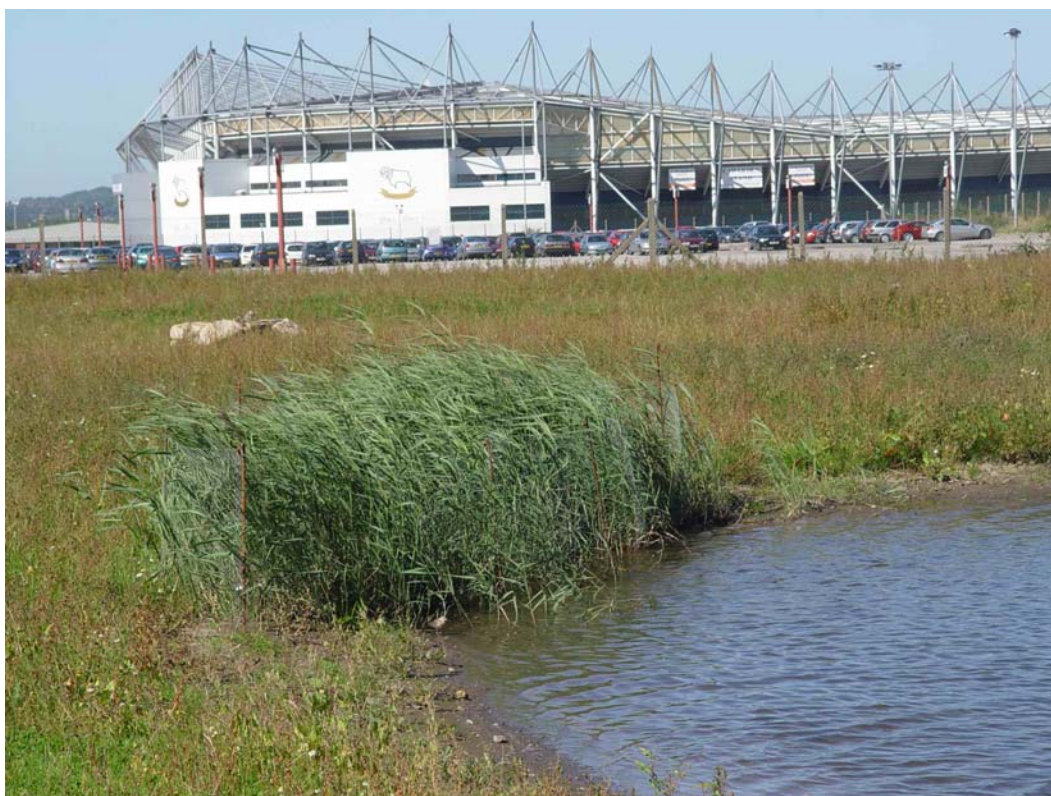
The NERC Biodiversity Audits produced by the Project Officer have attracted attention outside the LBAP area. Unfortunately due to low numbers the IEEM course on the NERC Duty to be run by the Project Officer was cancelled, it has been included within the 2009 programme. The Project Officer has been asked to present information on the audits and the process behind them on a Biodiversity Duty course run at Plas Tan Y Bwlch in October 2008.



Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LBAP Forum 2008



Biodiversity in the urban and brownfield environment



10th -11th October 2008

Bramcote Memorial Hall, Nottinghamshire & Pleasley Landmarks Centre, Derbyshire

A programme of talks, workshops and displays showing the relevance of biodiversity within the urban and brownfield environment and helping to build the capacity of local groups to manage sites.



Event is supported by Broxtove Borough Council and Clear Ecology, a specialist trading division of Clear Environmental Consultants, based in Derby (www.clear ecology.com.)



Biodiversity within the urban and brownfield environments

This year's Annual Forum is a joint event between the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire LBAP Partnerships and will explore the importance of biodiversity within the urban and brownfield environments. This Forum will look at opportunities for biodiversity protection, enhancement and creation/restoration within these environments and the role of local groups.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have extensive urban conurbations, particularly within the M1 corridor yet these areas retain pockets of open space that are important to both wildlife and people. Both counties have a legacy of mining activities which have presented good opportunities for habitat creation whilst other post industrial sites have developed into important wildlife areas through natural processes yet these sites are often threatened by development.

The event will be held over two days, with various elements to interest the wide membership of both LBAP partnerships. Delegates are welcome to book on one or both days and the whole event is open to LBAP partners from both counties.

Day 1, held in Nottinghamshire, is aimed primarily at those LBAP partners who deal with planning, leisure and regeneration and want to incorporate biodiversity further into their functions. Planning and Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) indicates that development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in biodiversity as part of good design and that such opportunities should be maximised in and around developments. The morning session will cover issues related to this.

The site visit in the afternoon, to Bramcote Hills Park, will pick up on aspects of the topics from the morning sessions and other issues associated with urban wildlife sites. This site is a Green Flag award-winning open space in this heavily urbanised part of Broxtowe Borough. Parts of the park have recently been designated as a Local Nature Reserve and the park has an associated community involvement.

Day 2, held in Derbyshire, is primarily aimed at 'Friends of' groups, community groups and people working within the voluntary sector. Workshops will look to give a greater understanding of species that use urban and brownfield environments as well as exploring a variety of issues that some groups may find difficult to address.

There will be plenty of opportunities within the event to share experiences amongst like minded individuals as well as meet other groups and individuals both from within your county but also 'across the border'.

Attendance at the Annual Forum is free but places must be booked in advance using the booking form. There will be a maximum of three places per group/organisation. This will allow as many groups/organisations to attend as possible



Saturday 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. Funding for biodiversity projects**– most biodiversity projects require funding and this is often seen as a barrier to starting the project. There are a good variety of funding sources to suit projects both large and small and this workshop will explore these and provide some hints and tips to successful applications. The workshop will be led by Lorna Wallace from the Community Education Centre in Bolsover.
- 2. Writing management plans** – management plans are often viewed as being big and unwieldy documents that take a long time to write. They do not however, have to be like this and are in practice a useful document showing a vision for the site and some practical steps to take to achieve the vision. The workshop will look at the practicalities of writing a site management plan. The workshop will be led by Derbyshire Countryside Service.
- 3. Publicity for biodiversity projects** – biodiversity projects are usually good news stories and are often lapped up by the local media. Funders often require a press release as part of their conditions and the media can be a difficult environment to penetrate to get coverage. This workshop will explore how to make a good press release and get wider publicity for your projects. The workshop will be led by Gill Grievson from the Greenwood Partnership.
- 4. Wildlife surveying**– the basis for habitat management is knowing what you have on site before you start. This workshop will explore some basic principles on wildlife surveying and how to monitor habitats to see if your management is having the desired effect. The workshop will be led by local experts.
- 5. Reptiles** – reptiles are known to inhabit brownfield and urban environments and have now been added to the UK list of priority species. This workshop will look at the basic ecology of reptiles and their habitats with special attention paid to those species which groups are likely to come across on their sites. The workshop will be run by Chris Monk from the Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group.
- 6. Brownfield butterflies** – Butterfly Conservation has noted that a number of butterfly species associated with brownfield sites are declining and have recently been added to the UK list of priority species. The dingy and grizzled skipper in particular rely on habitats that can be found in the former coalfields. The workshop will explore habitat management principles for these sites. The workshop will be run by the East Midlands Butterfly Conservation.
- 7. Invasive Species** – Invasive plant species are becoming increasingly common in the urban environment and are difficult to manage on sites. This workshop will explore these invasive species and some practical management issues relating to their control. The workshop will be run by Rebecca Brunt and Louise Duffy from the Environment Agency.
- 8. Glow worms** – the glow worm is not a UK priority species but is a characteristic and under recorded species within Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This workshop will provide an introduction to glow worms, their basic ecology and habitat requirements and use a colony in the Mickleover area of Derbyshire as a case study for habitat management. The workshop will be run by Beverley Rhodes from WildDerby and Martin Bradley a volunteer ranger with Sustrans.



Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LBAP Forum 2008



Biodiversity in the urban and brownfield environment

Programme

**10th October 2008 Bramcote Memorial Hall,
Bramcote, Nottinghamshire**

Day 1

9.45 - 10.00	Registration and Coffee
10.00	Introduction, <i>David Jackson, Natural England (Chair for the Day)</i>
10.05	Welcome to Broxtowe Borough and Official Opening of the Event by <i>Cllr Sue Wildey, the Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe</i>
10.10	Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure and the 6C's project <i>Charlotte Gault & Alison Hepworth, East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership</i>
10.35	Green Flags and Biodiversity <i>Phil Beard, Newark and Sherwood District Council</i>
10.55	Questions for speakers
11.05	Coffee Break
11.30	Biodiversity considerations in regeneration and brownfield development – a consultants perspective <i>Neil Crofts, Clear Environmental Consultants</i>
11.50	Green Roofs and biodiversity <i>Jeff Sorrill, Centre Manager, The Green Roof Centre, Sheffield</i>
12.10	Questions for speakers
12.30	Buffet Lunch
13.30	Site visit - Bramcote Hills Park
16.00	Finish



**Saturday 11th October,
Pleasley Landmarks Centre,
Pleasley, Derbyshire**

Day 2

9.45 – 10.00	Registration and Coffee
10.00	Welcome by <i>Dan Abrahams, Natural England</i>
10.05	What is the value of urban and brownfield sites <i>Dr Peter Glaves, Biodiversity and Landscape History Research Institute.</i>
10.30	Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group <i>Ken Lomas, Chair Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group</i>
10.50	Friends of Bingham Linear Park <i>TBC</i>
11.05	Questions for speakers
11.15	Coffee Break
11.30	Workshops – Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for biodiversity projects <i>Lorna Wallace, Community Education Centre</i> • Writing management plans <i>Derbyshire Countryside Service</i> • Publicity <i>Gill Grievson Greenwood Community Forest</i> • Wildlife surveying <i>local experts</i> • Reptiles <i>Chris Monk, DARG</i> • Brownfield Butterflies <i>Bill Bacon and Jane Ellis, Butterfly Conservation</i> • Glow worms <i>Beverley Rhodes and Sustrans Rangers</i> • Invasive Species <i>Rebecca Brunt & Louise Duffy, Environment Agency</i>
12.45	Buffet Lunch
13.45	Workshops – Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for biodiversity projects <i>Lorna Wallace, Community Education Centre</i> • Writing management plans <i>Derbyshire Countryside Service</i> • Publicity <i>Gill Grievson, Greenwood Partnership</i> • Wildlife surveying <i>local experts</i> • Reptiles <i>Chris Monk, DARG</i> • Brownfield Butterflies <i>Bill Bacon and Jane Ellis, Butterfly Conservation</i> • Glow worms <i>Sustrans Rangers</i> • Invasive Species <i>Rebecca Brunt & Louise Duffy, Environment Agency</i>
15.00	Coffee Break
15.20	Shirebrook from pit to park, a case study. <i>Ted Wooddisse, Nottinghamshire County Council</i>
15.40	Lowland Derbyshire LBAP & Nottinghamshire LBAP <i>Debbie Court & Chris Jackson</i>
15.50	Final discussion and round up
16.00	Finish



Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LBAP Forum 2008

10th - 11th October 2008

Booking Form

I am able / unable to attend the Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LBAP Forum (Please delete as appropriate)

Name: _____

Position / Job Title: _____

Organisation/Local group: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Day you would like to attend **Friday/Saturday/both** (please delete as appropriate)

I would like my details adding to the delegates list **Yes/No** (Please delete as appropriate)

I would like to bring a display **Yes/No** if yes which day Friday/Saturday/both (please delete as appropriate)
If yes please provide details eg approx size so we can allocate space. (All displays should be up by 10am and removed by 2pm on Friday and after 4pm on Saturday)

Special dietary requirements:

Saturday 11th Oct only

Workshops:

Please choose the workshops you would like to attend with a first (1) second (2) and third (3) choices:

- Funding biodiversity projects
- Writing management plans
- Publicity
- Wildlife surveying
- Reptiles
- Brownfield butterflies
- Invasive species
- Glow worms

All bookings for the two days are being made through the Greenwood Community Forest Partnership so please return this form to Greenwood Partnership, The Sawmill, Rufford Country Park, Ollerton, NG22 9DG, telephone 01623 827322 or e-mail greenwood@nottsc.gov.uk.

By Monday 29th September 2008

If you have any queries regarding the content of the event please contact either Debbie or Chris

Debbie Court 01629 585611 debbie.court@derbyshire.gov.uk

Chris Jackson 01159 774213 chris.jackson@nottsc.gov.uk.

Further copies of this programme and booking forms can be downloaded from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity websites www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk and www.nottsbag.org.uk.

Further information, including a location map will be sent out to delegates after 29th September.