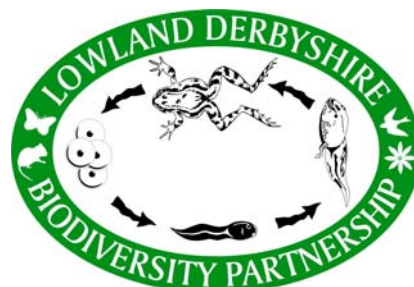


**LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE  
LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

**STANDING OPEN WATERS  
PONDS, LAKES and CANALS  
HABITAT ACTION PLAN  
2005 - 2010**



Prepared by the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership



Finalised September 2005.

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## STANDING OPEN WATERS ACTION PLAN

### PONDS, LAKES AND CANALS

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**TREND IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE:** Historical decline both in extent and quality of the habitat, particularly in the second half of the twentieth century. Evidence suggests both are still declining

**ESTIMATED EXTENT IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE:**

- 2000 – 3000 ponds (best estimates, based on the number of ponds shown on Ordnance Survey Landline maps, excluding garden ponds and adjusted based on survey data from South Derbyshire (DWT, 2003));
- 69 lakes (approximately 1030 hectares, the largest (Carsington Water) is 293 hectares);
- 6 canals, of which Erewash Canal, Trent & Mersey Canal and Chesterfield Canal are wholly or partly navigable and Cromford Canal, Nutbrook Canal and Derby & Sandiacre Canal are abandoned for navigation with many sections infilled.

**NATIONAL BAP HABITATS:** Standing Open Water (broad habitat type); Mesotrophic Lakes & Eutrophic Standing Waters (priority habitats)

**ASSOCIATED NATIONAL BAP PRIORITY SPECIES THAT HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE:**

Water Vole, Otter, Pipistrelle bats, Reed Bunting, Bittern, Great Crested Newt, White-clawed Crayfish, Grass-wrack Pondweed, Pennyroyal and Beaked Beardless-moss.

**ASSOCIATED LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE BAP AUDITS:** Derby City Pond Survey (2004-05)

**SPECIES FOR WHICH STANDING OPEN WATER IS A KEY HABITAT IN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE:** See Appendix 1 in the document 'Wetland Habitats in Lowland Derbyshire'

#### Vision for Standing Open water in Lowland Derbyshire

A landscape where field ponds are features, in the appropriate landscape, especially in areas where they were historically. Ponds in floodplains are given a degree of protection from poaching but are also allowed to dry out naturally where temporary ponds are a natural feature of the landscape. Lakes will have natural features such as marginal vegetation, islands, deep areas and shallow margins and will have associated areas of reedbed or swamp. The value of waterbodies and their surrounding marginal vegetation for use by water voles, great-crested newts, other amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates is understood and their needs are appreciated by users of waterbodies. Restoration schemes along the Trent valley have the potential to create a spectacular series of wildlife rich wetlands filled with open water, reedbed, swamp, and marshes. These habitats will once again make a significant contribution to the diversity and distinctiveness of our landscapes.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Background information on standing open waters, including ponds, lakes, and canals and their distribution in Lowland Derbyshire can be found in the document 'Wetland habitats in Lowland Derbyshire'.

## 2. FACTORS WHICH HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON STANDING OPEN WATERS

An impact ✓

A significant impact ✓ ✓

	Historic	Current
<b>Land Management</b>		
Neglect of ponds as a result of increased availability of mains water/loss of grazing livestock (in some areas)	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Increase in livestock density (in some areas), leading to puncturing of pond lining, eutrophication, loss of emergent vegetation	✓	✓
Infilling of ponds for agriculture, development and other uses	✓ ✓	✓
Neglect/infilling of canals no longer in use	✓	✓
Intensive use of surrounding land leading to loss of associated habitat such as semi-natural vegetation, hedges, walls	✓ ✓	✓
Lowering of water tables due to drainage, abstraction, flood protection or drought causing drying out and gradual loss of sites.	✓ ✓	✓
Flood prevention measures, river control, canalisation, and loss of connectivity between rivers and floodplain, leading to loss of natural processes and succession.	✓ ✓	✓
Increasing pressure from recreational users		✓ ✓
Conversion of ponds to fisheries		✓ ✓
Restoration of navigation to canals (at some sites)		✓
<b>Pollution</b>		
Agricultural improvement of surrounding land, resulting in eutrophication, increased siltation and pollution from agricultural chemicals, slurry and silage	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Increasing urbanisation, resulting in increased run-off of pollutants	✓	✓
<b>Invasive species</b>		
Invasive non-native plant species, notably aquatics ( <i>Crassula helmsii</i> , <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> , <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> ), and marginal plants ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> , <i>Fallopia japonica</i> )		✓ ✓
Inappropriate stocking with fish	✓	✓
Increase and spread of non-native animals, particularly Zebra Mussel, Signal Crayfish, American Mink and Canada Goose	✓	✓ ✓
<b>Others</b>		
Natural succession through siltation to swamp	✓	✓ ✓
'Ornamentation' of ponds and lakes		✓

### 3. CURRENT ACTION

#### 3.1 Designated Sites

- Standing open water occurs within fifteen SSSIs in lowland Derbyshire, although it is only a notified interest feature at four of these: Cromford Canal, Hilton Gravel Pits, Morley Brick Pits and Ogston Reservoir.
- There may be as many as 635 ponds and 44 lakes within Wildlife Sites. Policies exist in development and local plans which seek to afford these sites some protection.
- Local Nature Reserves which include open water include: Forbes Hole (Erewash), St Chads (Erewash), Oakerthorpe (Amber Valley), Elvaston (South Derbyshire/Derby), Pennytown Ponds (Amber valley), Red River (Amber Valley) Pioneer Meadows (Erewash), Pewit Carr (Erewash), West Park Meadows (Derby), Allestree Park (Derby), and Chellaston Brickworks (Derby).

#### 3.2 Current Initiatives

- As part of the Wildlife Sites Initiative and the Water for Wildlife Project, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust survey and provide management advice to Wildlife Site owners on a rolling programme.
- The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), also provide management advice to farmers and landowners.
- The Severn Trent Water BAP lists standing waters and eutrophic waters as a target habitat for their activities. They are currently working on improving the reservoir-side habitat on many of their sites by including on-side ponds, encouraging fringing vegetation and scrapes.
- A large number of mineral restoration schemes which have planning permission and agreed have large wetland features including ponds and lakes.
- Under Countryside Stewardship agreements, 52 ponds have been created and 36 restored in Lowland Derbyshire since 1994, resulting in just over 2ha of new or restored standing open water habitat.
- In the National Forest, 16 ponds have been created and 25 ponds have been taken into management under the tender scheme within rounds 1-10.

#### 3.3 New initiatives

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are currently pursuing the lease or ownership on a number of key wetland sites.
- The Environmental Stewardship scheme will include options for ponds, scrapes and other wetland habitats.
- The National Trust currently have plans to enhance the quality of their ponds and lakes by habitat management and working with associated fishing clubs.

#### 3.4 Land management of LBAP partners

- **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust** own and/or manage a number of reserves which have ponds, lakes and canals as a feature. These include Cromford Canal, Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI, Morley Brick Pits SSSI, Barton Pool, Carr Vale Flash, Erewash Meadows, Mapperley Wood, Oakerthorpe, Golden Brook Storage Lagoon, and Wyver Lane.
- **Derbyshire County Council** has a number of countryside sites with ponds lakes and canals including Pewit Carr LNR, Shipley Country Park, Williamthorpe ponds, Peter Fidler, Cromford Canal, Nutbrook Canal, Chesterfield Canal, Elvaston Castle LNR, Pleasley Pit Country Park and Tibshelf Ponds
- **Chesterfield Borough Council** own a number of sites with ponds lakes and canals interest including Poolsbrook Country park, Queens Park and Holmebrook Valley Country Park.
- **Erewash Borough Council** own a number of Local Nature Reserves with ponds lakes and canals interest including Forbes Hole LNR, and Pioneer Meadows
- **Amber Valley Borough Council** own a number of countryside sites with ponds lakes and canals interest including Pennytown Ponds LNR,
- **Derby City Council** have recently carried out some habitat creation at The Sanctuary which includes a lake and some small ponds.
- **Severn Trent Water** own and manage a number of large reservoirs in the LBAP area including Carsington, Ogston, Linacre, Staunton Harold and Foremark. Some of their sites also have small ponds associated with wetlands.

- **British Waterways** own various sections of canal in the LBAP area as well as a number of small reservoirs including Butterley Reservoir and Codnor Park Reservoir.
- **National Trust** have a number of lakes, and ponds within their estates including: Stainsby Mill Pond, Stainsby Pond, Row Ponds, Carr Ponds, Great Pond and Millers Pond at Hardwick Hall. Betty's Pond, Thatch House Pond, Mere Pond, North Gate Pond and Ticknall Quarry Ponds at Calke Abbey and a series of six lakes at Kedleston Park.

### 3.5 Research and surveys

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust carried out a pond survey in South Derbyshire in 2003.
- Derby City Council carried out a pond survey within the city of Derby in 2004.
- Water depth/silt depth survey at Kedleston Lakes in 2004
- Aquatic macrophyte survey of Great Pond and Millers Pond in 2005
- Ecological survey of Betty's Pond, Mere Pond and Thatch House Pond in 2005.
- As part of the Wildlife Sites Initiative and the Water for Wildlife Project, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust survey Wildlife Site on a rolling programme.

## 4 ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

### 4.1 National Targets

- Maintain the condition of all important sites currently judged as in favourable condition.
- Initiate action to restore to favourable condition (typical plant and animal communities present) other important sites that have been damaged by human activity.
- Ensure that no further deterioration occurs in the water quality and wildlife of the remaining sites.

### 4.2 Regional Targets

Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG8) sets the following targets.

- In addition to any existing management agreements, create 1,000 ponds by 2010

No other targets are available at the time of writing this HAP.

### 4.3 National Forest

The National Forest LBAP has a HAP for standing open water and has the following targets:

- Create one new water body of at least 1ha each year until 2010
- Create 5 small ponds each year until 2010
- Restore 5 water bodies each year until 2010

#### 4.4 Lowland Derbyshire

##### Objective 1

##### **Maintain the extent and condition of the best known standing open water habitats**

Target Initiate measures by 2006 to achieve favourable management on 100% of SSSI's where standing open water is a notified interest and 50% of all standing open water county Wildlife Sites by 2010 with an emphasis on site supporting priority BAP species.

##### Objective 2

##### **Increase the linkages between groups of isolated ponds**

Targets

- Identify priority areas for action and then identify target for creation of new ponds by 2007.
- Increase the area of standing open water managed for nature conservation in the Trent Valley and ensure it is under sympathetic long-term management.

### 4.5 Main factors likely to affect achievement of targets

#### *Resources and Land management*

- Availability/adequacy of financial incentives for wetland management or creation.
- National and regional initiatives/objectives *i.e.* Rural Development Regulation.
- Opportunities for standing open water expansion through land reclamation or restoration.

#### *Conflicts with other Conservation priorities*

- Resolution of conflicts between habitats of high value.
- Potential conflicts with archaeological.

#### *Conflicts with other users*

- Increased recreational use of canals, including restoration of navigations.
- Demand for additional fishing waters and angling management.

#### *Practical difficulties and lack of knowledge*

- Inadequate survey/base data for the habitat itself and the species it supports.
- Constraints of habitat creation within shadow of airports.

**5 ACTIONS**

LDWAG = Lowland Derbyshire Wetland Action Group (all of below)  
 EN = English Nature, EA = Environment Agency, DEFRA = Dept. of Environment Food and Rural Affairs  
 DWT = Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, NT = National Trust, LA = Local Authorities, ST = Severn Trent Water,  
 FWAG = Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, BW = British Waterways, GEV = Groundwork Erewash Valley,  
 WSP= Wildlife Sites Panel

	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>TIME-SCALE</b>	<b>LEAD AGENCY &amp; Partners</b>
	<b>DATA COLLATION</b>		
SOW1	Collate existing information on the distribution of standing open waters and identify gaps in knowledge. ( All objectives)	By 2005	<b>DWT/LDWAG</b>
SOW2	Compile and distribute register of standing open water sites from existing data and where possible include additional information on status, habitats and species that may be present and initiate a programme for regular updating ( All Objectives)	By 2005	<b>DWT/EA/EN/BW</b>
SOW3	Ensure that the register is easily available for use and updating by relevant organisations	Ongoing	<b>DWT/EA</b>
	<b>SURVEY</b>		
SOW4	Initiate or complete detailed habitat surveys where gaps exist. (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>DWT/ EN/EA/LA</b>
	<b>EVALUATING THE IMPORTANCE AND CONDITION OF SITES</b>		
SOW5	Agree methodology for the evaluation of standing open waters and the identification of 'Wildlife Sites' (All objectives)	Complete	<b>DWT/WSP</b>
SOW6	Agree definitions of favourable condition of varying types of standing open waters, including requirements of important species (All objectives).	By 2006	<b>LDWAG</b>
SOW7	Agree guidelines for management to achieve favourable condition, particularly guidelines on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify priority sites for conservation, restoration, recreation;</li> <li>• Restoration, re-creation, management techniques</li> </ul> (All Objectives)	By 2006	<b>LDWAG</b>
SOW8	Review coverage of standing open water SSSIs and notify further sites as appropriate (Objective 1)	Ongoing	<b>EN</b>
SOW9	Review coverage of standing open water Wildlife Sites and select further sites as appropriate (Objective 1)	Ongoing	<b>DWT/ WSP</b>
	<b>RESEARCH</b>		
SOW10	Define suitable methods for removal of illegally introduced fish from water bodies where they are harming biodiversity (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>EA</b>
	<b>INVASIVE SPECIES</b>		
SOW11	Develop and implement a strategy for the control of <i>Crassula helmsii</i> , <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> and <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> and any other appropriate invasive species (All Objectives)	2007-2010	<b>DEFRA/LDWAG</b>

	<b>MONITORING</b>		
SOW12	Agree methodology for and implement effective monitoring of standing open waters. Ensure that the results are collated and used to update the wetland register. (All Objectives)	By 2006	<b>LDWAG</b>
	<b>CONSERVATION ACTION AND INCENTIVES</b>		
SOW13	Consider key wetland sites in any programme of acquisition/lease/management of nature reserves, including LNRs (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>DWT/EN/LA</b>
SOW14	Consider recommending reviews of agri-environment schemes and agricultural support measures to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting gives adequate priority to standing open water at national, regional and local level</li> <li>• removal of non-native species is encouraged where appropriate</li> <li>• restoration of ponds and lakes is financially attractive</li> <li>• new wetland creation is encouraged in appropriate locations</li> <li>• encouragement is given to the production of long term management plans</li> </ul> (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>LDWAG</b>
SOW15	Monitor agri-environmental schemes and consider reviewing appropriate options if they do not address key BAP issues that DEFRA has responsibility for. (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>DEFRA</b>
SOW16	Review management of as many sites as resources allow within conservation agreements both inside and outside SSSIs; where necessary agree management to ensure maintenance or restoration or favourable condition. (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>DEFRA/ EN/ DWT</b>
SOW17	Consider negotiating purchase/lease of priority sites where this would be the most effective way of achieving conservation objectives and when a negotiated conservation solution has not succeeded. (Objective 1)	Ongoing	<b>LDWAG</b>
SOW18	On land owned by LBAP Partners, ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management maintains and where possible enhances the value of wetlands and standing open water</li> <li>• options for the restoration of wetlands and standing open water are reviewed</li> <li>• opportunities for new wetland creation are taken, where appropriate.</li> <li>• opportunities for involvement of local communities in site management are taken where possible</li> </ul> (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>DWT/LAs/GEV/ST/NT/ BW</b>
	<b>MANAGEMENT AND CREATION ADVICE</b>		
SOW19	Make guidance available to landowners/managers and conservation organisation staff on restoration and creation techniques (All Objectives)	Ongoing	<b>LDWAG</b>
SOW20	Consider establishment of demonstration site(s) as a focus for discussion of best practice for protection, management, education, restoration,	By 2007	<b>LDWAG</b>

	and re-creation. (All Objectives)		
	<b>REGULATION</b>		
SOW21	Ensure all planning applications and General Development Orders are adequately assessed in relation to their impact on standing open water; that loss or damage to wetlands is avoided; and that opportunities for enhancement and creation are considered in relevant planning decisions (All Objectives)	Ongoing	LA/DWT/EA/EN
SOW22	Ensure policy documents, including Local Contributions documents and Local Development Framework Documents, include appropriate guidelines for the safeguard, enhancement and creation of standing open water. (All Objectives)	Ongoing	LA/DWT/EA/EN
SOW23	Take account of known standing open water sites in determining and reviewing both groundwater and surface water abstraction consents. (All Objectives)	Ongoing	EA
	<b>AWARENESS RAISING</b>		
SOW24	Share information on wildlife importance and management needs of key conservation, restoration and re-creation sites, with the landowners/managers, including feedback from surveys. ( All Objectives)	Ongoing	DWT/EN/EA
SOW25	Increase awareness amongst landowners/managers, local communities and conservation organisations of the importance of the habitat for wildlife and other values. (All Objectives)	Ongoing	DWT/ EN/EA

## 6. RESOURCES

It is envisaged that the majority of actions proposed will be carried out by the relevant organisations using current resources. These include:

- continuing investment by landowners and managers managing their land sympathetically continuing management of wetlands in the ownership of conservation organisations or public bodies
- English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme for public and private statutory sites, and Reserves Enhancement Scheme for conservation bodies

The Environmental Stewardship is a two tier scheme comprising of a Entry level and Higher level scheme. The Entry Level Scheme (ELS) is designed to encourage a large number farmers and land owners into environmental management. A number of options under ELS will aim to protect soils and water courses, for example; soil, nutrient and manure management plans; management of grasslands with low inputs and buffer strips/ grass margins. The Higher Level Scheme (HLS) will be highly targeted and discretionary. HLS will offer options to protect watercourses and waterbodies, create and enhance associated wetland habitats and carry out capital works e.g. bank fencing, management of waterside trees. The Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) is a whole farm scheme similar to ELS, open to all farmers who manage all or part of their land organically and who are not receiving aid under the organic Aid Scheme or the Organic Farming Scheme.

### Additional resources will be required to:

- Aid in the production and maintenance of the proposed registers, including site survey and administration (2005 onwards)
- Implement effective monitoring (ongoing).
- Provide financial incentives for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of existing priority wetland (ongoing), and the creation of new ponds.
- Enhance management of sites in the ownership of conservation organisations.