



Lowland Wetland HAP Group Meeting

15th February 2007, Shipley Country Park, Heanor.

Present:

Philip Precey (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)
Emma Dagless (Natural England)
Beverley Rhodes (Derby City Council),
Chris Monk (Derbyshire County Council – Countryside Service)
Deanne Gow (British Waterways),
Emma Broad (Environment Agency – Upper Trent)
Debbie Court (LD Biodiversity Partnership) **Note taker**

Apologies:

Jo Mosley (Environment Agency- Lower Trent)

1. Mater Arising

Outstanding action points:

1. Philip still to send his pond survey form to Debbie to be put on the website **Action: Philip**
2. Debbie to check reedbeds in sewage treatment works with Severn Trent Water and add sites to GIS layer as appropriate. **Action: Debbie**
3. Philip to send Jo current wetland layers. Jo and colleagues to send additional sites to Philip.
4. Dan said that Natural England has been approached by a GIS student who is willing to carry out voluntary GIS work. Dan and Philip to liaise over providing volunteer with a GIS pond project. **Action: Dan/Emma & Philip**
5. Environment Agency monitor GQA (General Quality Assessment) using invertebrates. Rivers are then graded A-E. This is carried out on a rotational basis on a number of fixed points on main rivers. They also carry out chemical monitoring, plant and fisheries surveys. Jo to find out which sites are monitored. **Action: Jo**

Chair of Wetland Group – Jo said that principle it would seem sensible for the Environment Agency to chair the wetland group but in practice they are having another review in March/April of the role of area biodiversity staff and can't commit to any additional work until they find out how this affects their jobs. She has raised it with her line manager.

2. Data

Chris sent round a pdf showing Japanese Knotweed records (Attached to these minutes).

Chris had also sent around an updated GIS layer of great crested newt records. If anyone wants a copy of this then they should contact Chris.

Emma said that the River Corridor survey information is from the late 1980s and early 1990s. River Habitat Survey (RHS) sites have been done in the last few years. Debbie received, via Jo, a list of RHS sites for Derbyshire. She will circulate this and request more information on those sites in lowland Derbyshire. **Action: Debbie**

Canals - Deanne said that they had a British Waterways owned canal GIS layer area which showed lines of the canals and a layer showing BW ownership. Deanne said she would prepare a canals GIS layer and send it to Debbie for dissemination amongst the group. **Action: Deanne**

Debbie is meeting with DWT soon to discuss GIS layers and dissemination amongst the LBAP Partnership. This is likely to involve the drawing up and signing of data exchange agreements.

Rivers – The Environment Agency has a GIS layer of 'Main Rivers' and may have a layer of Critical Ordinary Watercourses (COWs) which may have a significant flood risk. Jo said she will chase up her EA contacts and distribute to all.

Action: Jo

3. Wetland targets

Standing Open waters

Target 1 – Initiate measures to achieve favourable management on all standing open waters in SSSIs – Achieved on all lakes and ponds but only achieved for two out of three units (5.43ha 54%) of the Cromford Canal!

Target 2 - Initiate measures to achieve favourable management on 50% of standing open waters in Wildlife Sites – This is as yet unknown, but Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are undertaking a condition assessment of Wildlife Sites which will be published this summer.

Target 3 - Identify areas for action then identify target for pond creation by 2007 – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are currently putting together funding bids for the extension of the water for Wildlife Project. The target areas will be Erewash valley, Chesterfield canal and Rother valley, Trent valley and Lower Dove, and West Derby wetlands. It was also suggested that Derby should be put forward as a target area for pond creation. A target is yet to be agreed.

River and Streams

Target 1 – Ensure all sites that qualify as SSSIs and Wildlife Sites are designated by 2010 – It is very unlikely that Natural England will be designating any wetland SSSIs before 2010. The River Habitat Survey information might be able to help target areas of river for future Wildlife Site designation.

Target 2 - Get 300km of river and stream into appropriate management agreements by 2010 – Reporting on this target needs some consideration. Help may be achieved from ELS and cross-compliance as a 3 metre buffer strip should be left adjacent to rivers and streams. Through the Markeaton and Mackworth Brook Project 80% of the Markeaton and Mackwork Brook system is now within the Entry Level System.

Target 3 – Carry out river restoration schemes on 10km of river by 2010– Schemes are being carried out on the River Dove at Rowchester , the River Mease at Temp Farm (?) and a scheme is planned for the River Trent at Drakelow. Figures are needed.

Lowland Swamps, reedbeds and mires

Target 1 - Ensure that all sites that qualify as SSSIs and Wildlife Sites are designated by 2010 – It is very unlikely that Natural England will be designating any wetland SSSIs before 2010. Most of the known reedbed over 1ha is within a Wildlife Site. The largest reedbed in the county at Elvaston quarry is the only reedbed which is not currently a Wildlife Site.

Target 2 - Achieve management on all reedbeds over 2ha by 2010– Of the four reedbeds which are over 2ha in size two are under management, one is not managed (Elvaston quarry) and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is in negotiations to buy/lease the other site.

Target 3 – Achieve management on 50ha of swamp, mire etc by 2010– 67.81ha of swamp, fen and mire is currently under management (including 10.08ha within SSSI)

Target 4 – Create 20ha of reedbed by 2010 – 18.63ha of reedbed has been planted, including 10.45ha at Witches Oak Water. (A further 5.58ha of reedbed will be planted at Witches Oak Water and Severn Trent Water is planning to plant a 2ha reedbed at Ogston Reservoir, reedbed may also be planted at the DWT Willington reserve)

Target 5 – Create 30ha of swamp by 2010 – Progress towards this target is unknown.

Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Target 1 – Ensure all sites that qualify as SSSIs and Wildlife Sites are designated by 2010 - It is very unlikely that Natural England will be designating any wetland SSSIs before 2010. Lack of complete baseline data makes it difficult at the moment to designate further Wildlife Sites for Floodplain grazing marsh habitat.

Target 2 – Bring 250ha of floodplain grazing marsh into management by 2010 - Progress towards this target is unknown.

Target 3 - Create/restore 50ha of floodplain grazing marsh by 2010 - Progress towards this target is unknown.

Debbie will fill in relevant progress on HAP Actions and targets and will send around a report from BARS to the group. **Action: Debbie**

5. Invasive Species

Chris Monk has sent his Japanese Knotweed records to Plantlife in exchange for any records they receive from Derbyshire. As yet Chris has not received anything from Plantlife in return.

Chris sent round a pdf showing Japanese Knotweed records (Attached to these minutes). Chris to combine his Japanese knotweed databases.

6. Annual Forum

This years Annual Forum will be jointly organised with the Peak District BAP Partnership and is on 11th October 2007 at Masson Mill. The theme is wetlands.

There was some discussion on the form the forum should take. It was suggested that there were a few inspirational talks and most of the emphasis will be on workshops and site visits. Suggestions for talks included Helen Smith (Living Wetland Project), Rebekah Newman (Vision Project), Beverley Rhodes (Mackworth and Markeaton Brook Project) and some talks from local groups who manage sites such as Findern Footpaths Group, Duffield Millenium Group and the Group who look after Lea Meadows. Suggestions for workshops included pond management (Ponds Conservation Trust), pond surveying (Trevor Taylor), White-clawed crayfish (Stephanie Peay), great-crested newts (Chris Monk), water voles (Helen Perkins), and a possible site visit to Lea Meadows.

Debbie will work with Karen Shelley (Peak District BAP Officer) on the programme. **Action: Debbie**

7. Crayfish

Debbie showed the group the completed crayfish Species Action Plan and associated background document. Once a few additions have been made to the distribution map this document will be uploaded to the website and sent around to all relevant partners. **Action: Debbie**

8. Partner Updates

Environment Agency – Emma Broad is leaving the Environment Agency (Upper Trent)

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Money for the Water For Wildlife Project and the Water Vole Project runs out on 31st March 2007. DWT has been successful in gaining little pots of money for small scale water vole work but are still submitting bids for the whole project.

Derby City's day of Pandomonia is 10th June 2007.

9. Date of next meeting –12th September 2007 at 10am at Shipley Country Park, Heanor.

Debbie Court
22nd February 2007.