



MID DERBYSHIRE *LOCAL*
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
January - December 1999



The Mid Derbyshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan is supported by a partnership of over 50 organisations, including local authorities, government agencies, business and voluntary conservation organisations. It forms part of the Derbyshire Local Agenda 21 programme. The partnership aims, through the Plan, to conserve and enhance our local wildlife.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

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Many Thanks

to all Partners who provided information for this Second Annual Report

Derby City Council
Derbyshire County Council Environmental Services and Environmental Policy Officer
Chesterfield Borough Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
Bolsover District Council
Amber Valley Borough Council
Erewash Borough Council
South Derbyshire District Council
The Three Valleys Project
Forest Enterprise
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

No report received, but some information included concerning:

Derbyshire Biological Records Centre
Environment Agency
The National Forest
Derbyshire Ornithological Society
Derby Natural History Society
Country Landowners Association

Annual Reports of Working Groups

The membership, chairs and secretariat of all the working groups are set out in Appendix A

Report of Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Group [TWG] has met four times between April 1999 and March 2000 to continue work on the priorities which were identified in the first annual report:

- X **Finalise *Habitat and Species Priorities within each Natural Area***;
- X **Finalise *Guidance on Biodiversity targets and the Planning system*** ;
- X **Finalise *Guidance on Habitat Creation and Enhancement***;
- X **Encourage the many existing countryside, landscape and nature conservation projects to more clearly address biodiversity targets through refining their objectives.**
- X **Develop monitoring systems** to allow assessment of progress towards local and national BAP targets for individual projects, the Local BAP, Local Agenda 21 sustainability indicators, Regional Biodiversity Forum, and UK BAP. Also to enable grant aid bodies to more clearly judge the contributions of individual projects.
- X **Introduce BAP issues and targets to specialist audiences of advisers, land agents, land owners etc. through events.**
- X **Identify possible projects to attract grant aid from English Nature's Action on Biodiversity budget** for 2000/2001 and beyond.
- ? **Organise a major event in autumn 2000** to review and publicise progress and refocus efforts.

Conclusions:

Each one of these priorities will require a considerable amount of concentrated work to complete. Individual members of the TWG have found it impossible to make the necessary commitments of time. None of these priorities have been met. In addition, developments in relation to the national BAP process and regional activity and co-ordination have increased. Given this situation, the TWG consider that these priorities will not be met in the foreseeable future.

The TWG are concerned that LBAP partners are not receiving either the support or encouragement they need in order for national and local BAP targets to be met. The added complexity of there being three LBAPs within the county (Mid Derbyshire, Peak District and National Forest) puts particular pressures on partners. In response to these concerns, the TWG have prepared a discussion paper (*see attached paper on IMPLEMENTATION*) which identifies an urgent need for a co-ordinator to enable the implementation of the Mid Derbyshire LBAP to be given new impetus. It would seem sensible to seek common ground with the other two LBAPs on this matter, and perhaps initially seek funding for one co-ordinator to assist with all three.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Steering Group:

1. recognise the need for a co-ordinator;

2. ask the TWG to seek discussion with other local LBAPs on this matter;
3. cost and research a funding package.

Report of Habitat Subgroups

Introduction

In the First Annual Report it was recommended that each subgroup review its role and objectives and consider how best to organise itself to achieve these. In response to this recommendation, there has generally been a simplification of the groups and their work, some of which has been linked with other existing projects and initiatives. However, the clarification of objectives has indicated the usefulness of some meetings and activities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Habitat sub groups now continue to pursue their objectives and report regularly to the TWG.

Grassland and Farmland Habitat Subgroup

Though the group failed to meet in the last year, several dates being cancelled due to non-availability of members, there has been progress on last year's priorities:

- X **Review role and organisation and refinement of CSS targeting:** the most useful role of this group may be to consider in detail the Countryside Stewardship targets and make appropriate representations to MAFF on behalf of all partners at each target round. This will be considered further.
- X **Completion of grassland surveys.** DWT done this (see their report under habitats) and consideration of results and implications for targets for action;
- X **Establishment of three year grassland management project funded initially by English Nature:** This project has been successfully started with establishment of the Conservation Machinery Ring machinery purchased for use by all members.
- X **Consider monitoring needs:** DWT are

doing this with the TWG, but limited progress.

Woodland Habitat Subgroup

This group has been linked with the East Derbyshire Woodland Project, so that at least one EDWP meet each year considers biodiversity targets and issues.

Some progress has been made with the priorities identified:

- X **Review role and organisation:** see above;
- X **Identify and establish demonstration woodlands and ensure knowledge of these:** no progress but some though has been given;
- X **Provide a forum for consideration of FC grant aid and guidance in relation to achievement of BAP targets, possibly opening the subgroup to a wider audience:** some progress through EDWP
- X **Consider monitoring needs:** EDWP

has been very helpful in identifying monitoring needs and collecting information.

Wetland Habitat Subgroup

The subgroup has met twice in the past year. Progress has been made with priorities:

- **Role and organisation:** An indoor meeting will be held to share experiences and review the objectives of the many current projects with an impact on wetland habitats and species. One outdoor meeting to share technical knowledge was also planned.
 - **Liase with current projects re BAP targets** It is still the case that many targets can be delivered through these projects. The River Rother Wildlife Strategy and the Erewash Wildlife Report are both being reviewed for a second edition to sharpen biodiversity targets.
- X **Consider wetland seminar including wet woodland** – this has been replaced by a more informal outdoor visit
- X **Wet grassland and relationship with priority species:** needs work
- X **Otters and Rivers Project** - ongoing
- X **Monitoring needs:** needs work .

Planning subgroup

This group has not met this year.

Priorities remain as before:

- It is becoming clear that what is needed is a form of supplementary planning guidance, whether formal or informal, to include both BAP and Natural Area considerations. Some work has been done on this by the TWG. The group should meet again following the distribution of a draft. The Guidance will then be finalised, taking into account any related progress on the Structure Plan Review, including biodiversity policies;

Promotions subgroup

This group has not met.

The relationship with Agenda 21 initiatives is still of concern..

Report on Derbyshire Biodiversity Network

The establishment of the *Derbyshire Biodiversity Network (DBN)* is a response to the monitoring and recording needs which the three Local BAPs for Mid Derbyshire, Peak District and National Forest, would impose, together with the implications for Derbyshire of the creation of the *National Biodiversity Network (NBN)*. The successful establishment of the DBN is seen as a priority for the success of the Local BAP

In 1999 The Steering Group (*Derby City Biological Records Centre, English Nature, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Peak Park Authority, Derbyshire County Council*) prepared a DBN draft development plan on which it has, so far, informally consulted local authorities only.

This consultation has prompted further consideration of the relationship between funding for this element of the county's biodiversity work and other elements, including the Wildlife Sites Initiative and Taking Action for Biodiversity. The aim remains to secure long term resources for maintenance of species records (presently undertaken by the DBRC) and for survey work and maintaining of records for habitats, such as the Derbyshire Wildlife Sites Register. Involvement

of volunteers who provide many of the records which will be required for monitoring BAP targets is seen as vital.

The DBN Steering Group will continue to liaise closely with the TWG to identify the most appropriate way forward.

PARTNER'S ACTION

Introduction

Partners were asked to report their activities between January – December 1999. This report includes a summary of all reported activities that are new work or provide an interesting or innovative approach to contributing to BAP targets. It is not exhaustive, though most reports have been mentioned in some form.

It should be noted that many ongoing projects first mentioned last year, have not necessarily been listed again this year. Some have been listed without details as 'ongoing'

The intention is to provide Partners with an indication of the scope of work and ideas which might prove useful in considering their own future contributions to BAP targets. The Report indicates the wide variety of action that does contribute.

Partners were referred to the targets in the summary document *>Habitat Action Plans Target Summaries* March 1999. The targets contained in this document will be reviewed at the end of 2000.

For explanation of abbreviated names of Partners - see list of contributors.

Focus on Species

Birds

- X *DOS* *Derbyshire Avifauna Project:* ongoing
- X *DOS* *Record Computerisation for records.* ongoing

Bluebells

- X *DWT* *Bluebell survey* 1997/8 Report

Water Vole

- X *DWT* *County wide survey of water voles.* Report originally 1999, will be launched 2000. 40 key monitoring sites selected with funding from EA co-ordinator employed in 1999 to co-ordinate volunteers.
- X *DBRC* *All water vole records* have been updated onto DBRC computers. Ongoing.
- X *Three Valleys Project* *Survey of Rother* and training of volunteers and staff.

Otter Species Action Plan

- X **DWT** *Otters and Rivers Project Officer* for key species of otter, water vole and crayfish plus advice and direct action on wetland habitat creation and management. Over 50 surveyors trained for surveys of Trent, Wye and Derwent. Ongoing. Otters present on Dove and being monitored. Otters found on Derwent. One floating and one artificial holt constructed.

Native Black Poplar Species Action Plan

- X *Derby Natural History Society and DBRC* Undertaking survey of native black poplars. Ongoing. Much demand for native black poplars to plant.

X

Crayfish

- X *Three Valleys Project* *Crayfish project with EA* - monitor native population and remove non-natives . Ongoing.

- X *DBRC* *Records* ongoing

Glow Worm

- X *DBRC* Database maintained.

X

Raptors and Owls

- X *DCC Countryside Service North East Derbyshire Nest Box* project ongoing.

Invasive non-native species

- X *Three Valleys Project* *Himalayan balsam control* : Pilot project Sud Brook, Linacre area.. Ongoing with monitoring.

Derbyshire Biological Records Centre

Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) continues to be involved in the BAP Technical Working Group. 50,000 plus records added to computer in past year, total now about 300,000.

Derbyshire Flora 2000 project ongoing.

Through the Derbyshire Biodiversity Network plans are being drawn up to create a biological recording network across the county, linked to the National Biodiversity Network.

12 key actions

These are a few examples of action at the more strategic level.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>X Joint Derbyshire and Derby Structure Plan. Preparation of biodiversity policies seeking to protect national and locally important species and habitats. Modifications made and final adoption awaited.</p> | <p>step in reviewing the Local Plan an Issues paper was published at the end of 1999 for consultation. Environment issues are an important aspect of policy which will need to be reconsidered in light of recent government guidance, the Structure Plan review and circumstances</p> |
| <p>X <i>SDDC</i> <i>Local Plan Review.</i> As first</p> | |

within the district.

- X ***NEDDC Local Plan*** Incorporate the protection of habitats and species in statutory development plan. Adopted January 1999.
- X ***NEDDC Using local species in planting***. Free tree scheme; three WGS sites stocked with local species.
- X ***Local Environment Agency Plans*** have been published for several catchments in the county, with biodiversity issues included.

Habitat Action Plans

Woodlands

including new planting, management of existing and work on ancient and semi natural woods.

- X *Derby City Chaddesden Wood LNR*. Ongoing management of ancient woodland.
- X *Chesterfield Borough Council EDWP* 2.7ha native trees planted at Hady Lane, Crow Wood, Holmbrook Valley Park.
- X *Chesterfield Borough Council West Wood*. Management of this ASNW and plantation woodland.
- X *Chesterfield Borough Council* 1700 trees planted in various locations
- X *Derbyshire Dales DC* Preparatory work for woodland management plan for Matlock Woods SSSI as part of Matlock Parks Restoration Programme.
- X *NEDDC designation of TPOs*. Halting the loss of ancient broadleaf woodland. Ongoing.
- X *NEDDC Raise awareness* of value of woodland through partnership in EDWP, Free trees, promotional activities, Tree warden activities. Ongoing.
- X *NEDDC* 1250 trees planted in various locations.
- X *AVBC EDWP* activities. Promoting grants, providing advice, targeting advice on key areas for regeneration and linkages.
- X *AVBC* 1408 trees planted in various locations.
- X *EBC Woodland Strategy*. New woodland planting and management ongoing.
- X *SDDC Partner in creation of Repton Millennium Wood* 5.4 ha.
- X *BTCV Volunteer work* 781 days
- X *DCC:* Considering active management of woodlands and establishment of overall management plan for woods in its ownership, several plantations managed in past year.
- X *Three Valleys Project Frith Wood & Linacre Estate* management works.
- X *Forest Enterprise Shining Cliff* Implementing SSSI management plan, continuing.
- X *Forest Enterprise Whitwell wood* Implement Ginny Spring Management Plan.
- X *BTCV* Woodland management and woodland planting at various sites.
- X *DWT Survey of ancient woodlands under 2 ha*. Ongoing.

Wet woodland

- X *AVBC Wyver Lane* New planting 2w.4 ha.

Grasslands.

- X *DWT Grassland surveys* Finished Phase 1 survey for the whole of the BAP area, with EN funding. A major achievement towards the three year targets. More detailed surveys must now begin for sites which show promise, along with owner contact and advice. Some of this work was carried out through the Wildlife Sites Initiative in 1999. Funding secured for

2000 from English Nature for more work.

- X **BTCV** Management of Crabtree wood SSSI and Brearley Wetland LNR.
- X **Three Valleys Project:** management of grasslands at Frith Wood and Bluebank Pools, proposed LNR.
- X **AVBC** *Hammersmith Meadows* Management statement completed.
- X **DCC** *Hallam Meadows and Pewitt Carr Local Nature Reserve, Blue Bank Pools.* management started in compliance with successful Countryside Stewardship applications.

Calcareous Grassland

- X **DCC** *Magnesian limestone sites at Pleasley* Management started in compliance with Countryside Stewardship.

Farmland

- X **AVBC** Wildlersley Farm, Belper. Managed as organic farm.

Hedgerows

- X **Chesterfield Borough Council** 275 m. of new hedge planted.
- X **NEDDC** new hedgerow planting 354 m.
- X **AVBC** *Continue to promote and advise* on management through the Council.
- X **Three Valleys Project** 310 m. of ancient hedgerow managed.
- X **Three Valleys Project** *Hedge laying competition* at Norton Ploughing Match. Annual funding
- X **BTCV 300m** at various sites.

Wetlands

- X **EBC** *Erewash Wetland Project* Launched 1999 to enhance or create wetland habitats for the benefit of wildlife, particularly birds. Benefit many bird species of conservation concern.
- X **DWT** *Erewash Meadows Nature Reserve* New wetland areas completed. Includes scrapes, marsh and wet grassland in an intimate mosaic.
- X **DWT** *Carr Vale Nature Reserve* New wetland areas completed.
- X **DWT** *Otters and Rivers project officer.* Advice and direct action on wetland habitat creation and management. See species action.
- X **Derby City** *Creation of Wetland Areas* in POS in Mickleover.
- X **NEDDC and other local authorities** *Implementation of EA conditions* on planning permissions for protection of water courses.

Rivers and streams

- X **AVBC** Involvement in *River Erewash Wildlife Strategy* 2nd Edition.
- X **BTCV** *Snelstone Stream, Nr Ashbourne.*

Lakes, Ponds and canal

- X *DCC* *Pleasley Reclamation scheme* Ongoing development of open water for waders and ground nesters and dragonfly ponds
- X *DCC* *Bolsover South* Creation of new open water for gulls and waders.
- X *Derby City* Creation of small wetland areas in POS Murray Road, Derby. .
- X *DCC* *Draft Strategy for Management of Water Areas*. Finalised, awaiting adoption.
- X *AVBC* *Ponds Project* under AV Environmental Strategy with Pondlife.
- X *BTCV* Three ponds constructed in Derby City.

Reedbeds

- X *DCC* *Bolsover South Reclamation Scheme* New 1ha reed bed. Completed.
- X *BTCV* *Carsington Reservoir* creation of Reed bed for Severn Trent Water.
- X *DWT* *Carr Vale Flash* 1 ha of new reedbed created.

Swamp/fen/mire

- X *Forest Enterprise* *Whitwell Wood Ginny Spring SSSI* Implementing SSSI management plan to enhance habitats for rare plant species.
- X *BTCV* *management work at Crabtree Wood SSI and Hulland Moss SSSI*

Wet grassland

- X *DCC* *Whistling Meadow, Holmewood* Countryside Stewardship management started.

Heathland

None reported.

Lowland Wood Pasture and Parkland

See Pennytown Ponds.

Roadside Verges

- X *DCC* *initial consideration of roadside verge* management project. No further action.

Scrub

See projects.

Urban

- X *AVBC Treescape Project*
- X *AVBC Ripley Railway Line* surveyed.
- X *Three Valleys Project & DCC Seldom Seen Engine House at Eckington.* Restoration including raptor boxes and bat bricks and boxes completed..
- X *BTCV Three wildlife garden projects at schools in Derby.*

Projects with several HAPs:

CBC Holmebrook Valley 20ha. Unimproved grass, woodland, scrub, marsh. Found to contain BAP species. Habitat action plan being pursued.

CBC Pools Brook Country Park Nature Reserve ongoing. LNR designation planned.

CBC Brearley Park Wetland LNR designation and management plan and work started.

Amber Valley District Council Pennytown Ponds project: including preparation of management plan and action for wet woodland, grassland, wetlands, lakes and ponds, lowland wood pasture and parkland. And scrub.

DWT Wildlife Sites Initiative In 1999 working principally in four LA areas but also carrying out work for DCC and EA. , including resurveying Wildlife Sites, providing advice on management, assessing potential development sites with LAs, carrying out further grassland surveys to identify possible Wildlife Sites. Also 160 potential development sites surveyed to identify important habitats so that they can be safeguarded from development. In 2000 will expand to all district council areas with exception of Erewash and CBC.

DWT Reserves: Continuing Heritage Lottery Fund programme has resulted in the major works at Carr Vale Flash and Erewash Meadows being completed. . See above for details. Imputing records to computer, establishing midweek volunteers and undertaking further capital works on over 30 other reserves continuing as part of programme.

Derby City West Park Meadows Local Nature Reserve ongoing management, including coppicing, grassland management and hedge laying.. Pond management by BTCV.

DWT , FWAG and BTCV taking Action for Biodiversity – a joint project has secured funding for one year to employ 4 staff and support, to take forward all aspects of the Local BAP, including advice, practical action on the ground, co-ordination and publicity. This has taken nearly two years to secure and was originally a for a three year project.
