



# Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Forum 2006



## *Rebuilding Lowland Derbyshire's Grasslands for the Future.*



**14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 10 – 3.30pm**

**at the Genesis Centre, Alfreton**

A programme of talks, workshops and displays on grassland and grassland management by Local Biodiversity Partners

This event is supported by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, Countdown 2010 and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation



## Rebuilding Lowland Derbyshire's Grasslands for the Future

Grasslands is the theme of this years Annual Forum.

Semi-natural grassland is a precious resource and like many other counties in England, Derbyshire has seen a significant decline in the resource within the county. Information from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust estimates that there is only 1,746ha of species-rich semi-natural grassland left in lowland Derbyshire. This represents a 91% decline in the resource from surveys carried out in 1982/3. Within the area of grassland remaining 942ha is classed as neutral grassland, 698ha as acid grassland and the remaining as calcareous grassland.

The Lowland Derbyshire Semi-natural Grassland Habitat Action Plan sets many challenges for the Partnership. Firstly we need to protect the current resource and prevent any further losses. Much of this grassland is not within favourable condition and needs management to restore it. Habitat creation is also very important and we need to target appropriate areas to link existing grasslands together to prevent further fragmentation.

Many LBAP partners are working towards the local grassland targets by protecting grassland through policy and legislation, managing their own land, managing land on behalf of others, advising other land owners or grant aiding grassland management/restoration/creation.

This Forum will be an opportunity to share experiences.

For more details on the Forum see the programme overleaf.

Attendance at the Forum is **free** but **places must be booked** in advance using the booking form.

### **Two important local projects to work on grasslands have recently gained external funding:**

#### **1. Value in Meadows Project**

This Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Project which will support landowners in protecting and restoring valuable species-grassland. It will also aim to compile a database of local seed and help establish a local grazing scheme with landowners.

#### **2. Wild About Grasslands Project**

This Groundwork Erewash Valley Project will work with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to support local "Friends of" and community groups to work on grasslands on Local Nature Reserves and other identified grassland sites within the former coalfield part of Derbyshire.

### **Workshops: Delegates will have an opportunity to attend 2 workshops:**

- 1. Surveying and assessing grasslands** – this workshop will look at methods used to survey grasslands, key indicator species and ways of assessing grassland condition.
- 2. Resources for managing grasslands** - this workshop will look at the practicalities of managing small areas of grasslands including funding, machinery and working with volunteers
- 3. Grassland creation from scratch** – this workshop will draw upon the experiences of Flora Locale from creating grasslands and the various methods which can be used.
- 4. Grassland restoration** – this workshop will look at the reasons why grasslands fall into unfavourable condition and need restoration and the various methods which can be used.



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## Programme

10 – 10.15	Registration and Coffee
10.15	Welcome by Chair of the Lowland Derbyshire Grassland HAP Group <i>Dan Abrahams</i>
10.20	The Lowland Derbyshire LBAP 2005/6: An overview <i>Debbie Court, Biodiversity Project Officer</i>
10.40	The Value in Meadows Project <i>Nick Smith, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</i>
11.00	Lessons learnt from a grassland creation project at Hardwick Hall Carl Hawke, National Trust
11.20	Coffee, displays and networking
12.00	Buffet lunch
12.40	Bus leaves for site, where 2 workshops will take place, the other 2 will remain at the Genesis Centre
12.55	Workshops – Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveying and assessing grasslands <i>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</i></li> <li>• Resources for managing grassland <i>Groundwork Erewash Valley</i></li> <li>• Grassland creation from scratch <i>Flora Locale</i></li> <li>• Grassland restoration <i>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</i></li> </ul>
1.55	Workshops – Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveying and assessing grasslands <i>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</i></li> <li>• Resources for managing grassland <i>Groundwork Erewash Valley</i></li> <li>• Grassland creation from scratch <i>Flora Locale</i></li> <li>• Grassland restoration <i>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</i></li> </ul>
3.00	Bus leaves site
3.15	Arrive back at Genesis Centre- tea/coffee
3.30	Finish