



Lowland Wetland HAP Group Meeting

27th September 2007, DWT Offices, Belper.

Present:

Helen Perkins (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)
Emma Dagless (Natural England)
Chris Monk (Derbyshire County Council – Countryside Service)
Deanne Gow (British Waterways),
Jim Lee, (National Trust)
Debbie Court (LD Biodiversity Partnership) **Note taker**

Apologies:

Ellie Anderson (Environment Agency - Leeds Office), Leon Hayward (BTCV) and Beverley Rhodes (Derby City Council),

1. Mater Arising

Outstanding action points:

1. Debbie to check reedbeds in sewage treatment works with Severn Trent Water and Yorkshire Water and add sites to GIS layer as appropriate. **Action: Debbie**

2. Annual Forum (wetland theme)

Debbie reported that 112 people had booked on the Annual Forum on 11th October, the vast majority of which were from the Lowland Derbyshire area. The five workshops were designed to look at wetland species and further BAP action on ponds.

The delegates packs will include information on wetland projects and copies of the wetland and wetland species available literature.

3. Wetland Projects

a) Water for Wildlife Project

Helen reported that DWT had recently received £60k from the Tubney Charitable Trust for the next three years. The project will concentrate on the Dove and Erewash catchments and the first exercise is likely to be gathering existing information together to identify opportunities. Philip Precey left DWT at the end of August for a job in Cambridgeshire. To help fund the shortfall in project costs DWT put in a SITA landfill tax bid last week. This project will cover water vole work in the White Peak, Carsington and on the River Derwent and Cromford Canal as far south as Whatstandwell. SITA requires 10% match funding which is currently being sourced.

b) Derby Ponds Project

Derby City held its annual day of Pandomonia on 10th June 2007 with events and awareness raising activities. Almost every pond in the city now has a pond warden and the City Council is in discussions with Ponds Conservation Trust about expanding the project beyond the city boundary and applying for funding.

c) Mercaston and Markeaton Brooks Project (MMB Project)

The MMB project is a catchment sensitive farming project based around the Kedleston Hall lakes. It aims to reduce the amount of silt going into the brook and tributaries. FWAG has been working with landowners and has managed to get 80% of the catchment into Entry Level Scheme. National Trust is monitoring the sediment levels in the lakes.

d) The River Poulter Project

This is a similar project based within the River Poulter catchment. The project is now within its second year and has started to work with landowners to achieve similar results to the MMB project.

e) Moss Valley Project

A similar project just started within the Moss Valley area (between Eckington and Sheffield).

There was a feeling amongst the group that there was the potential to have projects of this type in other areas including the Erewash catchment and the Doe Lea valley.

4) UK BAP Review

Debbie explained that following the UK BAP review there had been a few additions to the priority habitats and species lists. The list of habitats had been increased to 65 and now includes all rivers, rather than just chalk streams, and ponds. The LBAP does not have any SMART targets for ponds:

It was agreed to add the following:

- Create 30 new ponds by 2010 (Achieved through National Forest Tender Scheme, Grounds for Change Project, land restoration, HLS etc)
- Restore 30 ponds by 2010

The UK priority species list had grown from 391 to 1149 and additional relevant species include common toad, grass snake, atlantic salmon, brown trout, eel, harvest mouse and polecat. The Riparian Species group would include the fish, harvest mouse and polecat but it was agreed that a few relevant actions could be written for common toad, grass snake and grass-wrack pondweed and added to BARS.

Action: Debbie

5) BARS

Debbie showed the group the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk) and how to add progress reports and pull off reports. Debbie to send round a BARS instruction sheet and to visit partners to discuss their individual actions.

Action: Debbie

6) Riparian Species Group

The Lowland Derbyshire water vole and crayfish groups have been combined into one group which will also look at related riparian species such as fish, harvest mouse, polecat and otters. The group is chaired by Cass Worman (Natural England) and met earlier in the month. Debbie to put minutes from the meeting on the Derbyshire Biodiversity website.

Action: Debbie

7) Data Issues

Work had been carried out on a number of habitat GIS layers:

- Canals layer complete
- Main rivers layer complete
- Lakes layer complete
- Pond mapped in Bolsover, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and some of the Derby ponds. DWT will map pond in rest of the county using Master Map
- Reedbed layer complete (except for sewage works reedbeds)
- Swamp, mire and tall herb fen layer needs some work

Action: DWT

8. Partner Updates

National Trust – Jim reported that they had received funding from Bolsover District Council to carry out some habitat works for water vole and they were working closely with the anglers on site for the benefit of wildlife.

9. Date of next meeting

14th February 2008 at 10am at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Offices, Belper.

Debbie Court
27th September 2007.