



Lowland Woodland HAP Group Meeting 19th July 2007, National Forest office, Moira.

Present:

Tristan Galletly (Forestry Commission) **Chair**
Cathy Block (Derbyshire CC)
Glynis Foster (Derbyshire CC)
Sam Lattaway (National Forest)
Ruth Baker (Derbyshire County Council)

Richard Hayden (Forestry Commission)
Dan Abrahams (Natural England)
Nick Law (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust),
Debbie Court (LD Biodiversity Partnership)

Apologies: William Thornhill (Chesterfield BC), Albin Smith (Forestry Commission)
Carl Hawke (National Trust) George Brydon (Derbyshire CC), Leon Hayward (BTCV), Peter Lowe (Woodland Trust) and Hazel Earnshaw (Severn Trent Water)

1. Matters arising and action points from last meeting

For action WD7 Dan distributed a draft candidate Woodland SSSI list at the last meeting and requested comments. No further comments were received.

2. Brief Project Updates:

a) Great Trees of Derbyshire Project

Debbie distributed a project update received from Anna Evans the project officer
Work undertaken by DWT January – June 2007:

Survey:

- 3 training sessions organised and run at Long Clough, Markeaton Park and Haddon Hall. 52 people in total attended the 3 courses, which means we now have over 100 volunteers. Thanks to Dan, Debbie and Beverley and for assisting with these. Attendees have all 'adopted' some 1km squares near where they live in which to start looking for veteran trees.
- Survey combining this systematic searching of 1km squares with ad-hoc records from other sources.
- Results:
 - Over 2200 records inputted and mapped so far.
 - Distribution at the moment still reflects surveyor effort to a degree.
 - Gaps still exist which need to be targeted in 2007.

Awareness-Raising:

- Gained a lot of coverage in local media, particularly Radio Derby, who have put a page on their website about the project, encouraging involvement by their listeners.
- Articles in local newsletters e.g. Derbyshire Biodiversity News.
- Project leaflet developed and printed. Value of veteran trees leaflet re-printed.
- 'Woody' on tour at Belper Library, Tapton Lock Visitor Centre and Sinfin Library.
- Project promoted at events around county, e.g. Ancient Tree Forum event at Kedleston Hall. Talk also given to Dronfield and District Natural History Society.

Other work:

- Meeting with Woodland Trust re: Ancient Tree Hunt and working together.

Ancient Tree Hunt Website is <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>.

In addition there was some discussion on the qualifying girth size of hawthorn trees. Dan said that the 1m girth guide had been based upon national guidance.

b) Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands under 2ha

Dan reported that the work on mapping Ancient Woodlands under 2ha had been completed for the area covering Sanderson's 1835 map (20 miles from Mansfield). We now need to look at old maps outside this area such as Tithe and Enclosure maps. Glynis and Cathy agreed to look at map coverage at the County Council.

Action: GF & CB

Dan to send the GIS layer to Nick Law for cross-referencing with Local Wildlife Sites. **Action: DA**
Dan to talk to Keith Kirby to see what evidence was required to add these sites to the Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory for England. **Action: DA**

If anyone is aware of other sites which need to be added - send maps to Dan **Action: All**

c) GIS Project

There had been staff changes at the PDNPA which was holding up the map production. Tristan will be meeting with Chris Gibbons soon to discuss it. Glynis raised concerns about potential contradiction with the Landscape Character work and requested suitable 'health warnings' were used and reference was made to the Landscape Character work.

Debbie had done a quick analysis of the PAWS restoration GIS layer that was produced by the project. This showed that many PAWS sites had been missed off and this needed completing to be useful.

d) Forest Schools

No report - Stephanie Burkinshaw was on maternity leave.

e) National Forest

Sam gave a quick update. The National Forest Tender Scheme was not running this year. An alternative programme 'Changing Landscapes' was being developed and was due to be presented for EU consultation and approval soon. They are hoping to launch the scheme at the end of the year.

3. Ancient Woodland Project

In preparation for the LBAP Delivery Plan progress towards the ASNW targets could do with a boost. She circulated a discussion paper for an Ancient Woodland Project which could help address this. It was agreed to form a small working party (Dan, Tristan, Nick and Debbie) to take this forward. Discussion suggested we needed to concentrate on a pilot area eg Derwent Valley as this:

- included the World Heritage Site,
- Included honeypot tourism spots
- had a good concentration of Ancient Woodland,
- was adjacent to some woods restored by the Ravine WoodLIFE project

There was also some discussion regarding woodfuel burners within the Project.

Nick said that a Local Wildlife Sites Condition Assessment report was due in the autumn. This would provide more detail on Local Wildlife Sites and their condition. A quick review of ASNWs showed that a low percentage were in favourable condition.

Debbie to convene working group meeting in September **Action: DC**

5. Grant Aid

Tristan reported that they are still unable to sign contracts until a formal budget agreement had been made with the EU. The Woodland Creation Grant scheme deadline had been extended until end of Sept instead of August. Sitwell Estates had submitted a Woodland Plan and should go through for certification soon. Chatsworth Estates were now certified and in EWGS.

Debbie to circulate spreadsheet showing ASNW and PAWS in EWGS and under Forest Plans. She requested comments and alterations by the next meeting. **Action: DC & All**

6. Woodland data issues

Tristan to circulate an up to date Forestry Commission GIS layer for Indicative Woodland. **Action: TG**

7. Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests

DEFRA has produced a strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/rddteam/pdf/0706forestry-strategy.pdf>.

There was also a 'Woodfuel Strategy for England' available at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fce-woodfuel-strategy.pdf/\\$FILE/fce-woodfuel-strategy.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fce-woodfuel-strategy.pdf/$FILE/fce-woodfuel-strategy.pdf).

One of the aims is to bring 50% of woodlands not under a Woodland Grant Scheme into management for woodfuel supply.

8. Partner updates

National Forest – Looking at Habitat connectivity issues in the National Forest.

Derbyshire County Council – the Linacre Woodland Festival is 18/19th August. They have a new Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Bolsover Countryside Partnership to carry out woodland work in Bolsover. They have also doubled their SLA with Bolsover Woodland Enterprise. The free tree scheme will run this winter.

Forestry Commission – Richard reported that they had acquired a 18ha site at Hartshorne. This is currently arable and would be planted up in 2008/9. In addition they had also acquired 11ha at Catton Lane which was planted up 2006/7. Richard was now hoping to carry out a veteran tree survey of their holdings within his patch.

9. 2008 Woodland Seminars

Woodland Seminars for 2008 were discussed and surveying was agreed as a suitable topic. Nick will discuss DWT availability and input with DWT colleagues so we can see how else to involve such as DoS, DaNES, etc it could also include Veteran tree surveying etc. possible locations included Cromford Community Centre and the village Hall at Hlland Ward. May was the preferred timing. **Action: NL**

10. Date of next meeting

17th January 2008 10 – 1pm at Location to be confirmed either Natural England offices or County Hall.

Tristan asked for suggestions for speakers. Suggestions included Neil Riddle and someone talking about deer.

Tristan to follow up. **Action: TG**

Following the meeting there was a field visit to Tempe Farm Tender Scheme, Leicestershire. Suggestions were made to include a visit to an older Tender Scheme for comparison next year.

Debbie Court
26th July 2007.