



Lowland Wetland HAP Group Meeting

7th September 2006, Shipley Country Park, Heanor.

Present:

Philip Precey (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)
Will Thornhill (Chesterfield BC)
Dan Abrahams (English Nature)
Jo Mosley (Environment Agency – Lower Trent)
Debbie Court (LD Biodiversity Partnership) **Note taker**

Apologies:

Chris Monk (Derbyshire County Council – Countryside Service)
Beverley Rhodes (Derby City Council),
Deanne Gow (British Waterways),
Anja Nonnemacher (Environment Agency- Lower Trent)

1. Mater Arising

Philip still to send his pond survey form to Debbie to be put on the website

Action: Philip

Debbie spoke to Emma Broad at the Environment Agency (Upper Trent) about River Corridor Surveys and their coverage. They now have a complete coverage for their area.

The pond in Derby City with Floating Pennywort has been worked on but the plant returned. BTCV are now working on the site again.

Debbie spoke to the Derbyshire Flora group about recording invasive species to at least a 6 figure grid reference.

2. Data

Jo said that the Environment Agency use ARCVIEW. They have GIS layers for water voles, otters, crayfish and other layers on the Protected Species database. They also try and capture data from licence applications. It would be very useful if this new data could be sent to Nick Moyes at Derby Museum so that it can be included in the Protected Species database.

Action: Jo

EA –Lower Trent do not have any habitats mapped. They have adhoc coverage of River Corridor Surveys and River habitat surveys. Jo to check which areas have been surveyed.

Action: Jo

DWT have sent water vole and otter layers to all Local Authorities planning departments.

Lakes – Middlemarch completed a lakes (>2ha) inventory for the county. This is fairly accurate and includes 109 sites for Derbyshire covering 1,768ha. This is for the whole county and will include a few sites in the Peak District too.

Reedbeds – 19 sites have been mapped on the DWT habitat inventory. This adds up to 27.3ha and is fairly adhoc. Some new reedbeds needs to be added to this.

Debbie also to check reedbeds in sewage treatment works with Severn Trent Water and add sites as appropriate.

Action: Debbie

Swamps/tall herb fen - 137 sites are identified on the DWT habitat inventory, but this includes point data where swamp/tall herb fen is known on the site but has not been mapped. This adds up to 137ha. This does not currently include SSSIs so Dan will send SSSI NVC GIS layers to Debbie and Philip.

Action: Dan

Mires - 24 sites are currently mapped on the DWT habitat inventory which totals 8.9ha.

Jo said it would be very useful for EA to know where these known wetland habitats are. They may also be able identify additional sites. Philip to send Jo current wetland layers. Jo and colleagues to send additional sites to Philip.

Action: Philip & Jo

Canals – Currently there is no canal GIS layer. Debbie to ask Deanne if British Waterways has one. If not create one.

Action: Debbie

Ponds - Philip mapped every pond marked on landline on a GIS layer. The sites are marked with a dot, so areas of pond can not be calculated. Philip also started a GIS layer of ponds that are marked on the OS map but do not exist on the ground and those which do exist. Derby City's Pond Survey collected information on 69 ponds. This information has probably been digitised, Debbie to find out. The information from the National Forest also need to be added into a pond GIS layer.

Action: Debbie

Dan said that English Nature 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 & Philip

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 would distribute to all.

Action: Jo

3. Wetland actions

Debbie said she would go through the actions in the 4 wetland Habitat Action Plans and make comments on those which have been achieved/partly achieved and send round al for comments before entering on BARS.

Action: Debbie

4. Wetland literature

Debbie has produced a list of available literature for wetlands and wetland management. Following a discussion it was agreed to add the Environment Agency's new Code of Conduct for Japanese Knotweed and the Wildlife Trust's Wetland Habitat Restoration handbook. Everyone to have a look at the list and send any alterations / additions to Debbie.

Action: All

5. Invasive Species

Plantlife is running their Plant Invaders survey. They are collecting records of Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and New Zealand Swamp Stonecrop. Details of the project can be found at <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/PlantInvaders/index.asp>. Chris Monk has sent his Japanese Knotweed records to Plantlife in exchange for any records they receive from Derbyshire. Philip agreed to send any DWT records to Plantlife.

Action: Philip

Chris Monk has a GIS layer of Japanese Knotweed records. Following some discussion it was agreed to send this layer to partners and encourage partners to send new sightings to Chris Monk . (chris.monk@derbyshire.gov.uk) so that a master layer is kept.

Action: Chris

6. Monitoring

Each of the partners gave an update on what wetland features they monitor.

Environment Agency – They 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

English Nature – Each SSSI unit is monitored every 6 years. On some sites the habitat is monitored and on some sites the birds/invertebrates are monitored. The Environment Agency monitor flow rates and water levels on Ginny Springs and Mercaston.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Monitor the presence or absence of ponds. Also monitor water levels on some reserves. In 2007 they will produce a report on the condition of Wildlife Sites.

7. Partner Updates

Derby City – Beverley Rhodes reported that the Derby City Pond Project is due to receive a national Green Apple Award. Following the Pandomania day in April the WildDerby has launched a Pond Warden Scheme which has had 2 meetings since. A handbook will be produced in the future. All of the ponds identified from the Pond Survey have been added to the Derby City Alert map.

Severn Trent Water - Planted 0.2ha of reedbed at the northern part of Carsington Reservoir and 0.25ha of reedbed at Witches Oak Water. Planting this summer has meant that a further 9ha of reedbed will be planted. Witches Oak Water will eventually have 16ha of reedbed. Dan reported that Severn Trent Water is planning to plant a 2ha reedbed at Ogston Reservoir.

Environment Agency – Routine plant monitoring has recorded Grass-wrack pondweed on the Erewash Canal. Grass-wrack pondweed is a UK Priority BAP Species and was last recorded in Derbyshire at the Derwent and Trent confluence a number of years ago. Historically it was in the Cromford and Derby and Sandiacre Canal and there have been plans to reintroduce it to the Cromford Canal, (at Cromford Wharf) under English Nature's Species-Recovery Programme.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Money for the Water For Wildlife Project and the Water Vole Project runs out on 31st March 2007. They are currently producing proposals and talking to potential funders.

Chesterfield Borough Council – Will reported that 6 highland cattle will be grazing the wet grassland on Brearley Wetland LNR soon. Work is still progressing on declaring Norbriggs Flash a Local Nature Reserve.

8. LBAP Update

The 2005/6 Annual Report will be due out in the next couple of weeks.
The 2006 Annual Forum is on 14th September. Next years theme could be wetlands.

9. Any Other Business

The Environment Agency (Lower Trent) will be looking to fund project work in Lowland Derbyshire. It has to be near a Main River. If anyone has any ideas contact Jo Mosley.

Action: All

Debbie asked if the Environment Agency could chair the wetland group in the future. This could be split between the Upper Trent, Lower Trent and Leeds office. The Forestry Commission chair the woodland group, English Nature chair the Grassland group. Debbie will continue to take minutes and prepare agendas etc but it is quite difficult chairing and taking notes. Jo to ask colleagues.

Action: Jo

10. Date of next meeting –15th February 2007 at 10am at Shipley Country Park, Heanor.

Following the meeting some of the group went to find the grass-wrack pondweed on the Erewash canal.

Debbie Court
7th September 2006.