



## Lowland Woodland HAP Group Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006, EN Office, Bakewell.

### Present:

Tristan Galletly (Forestry Commission) **Chair**  
Glynis Foster (Derbyshire CC)  
Cathy Block (Derbyshire CC)  
Ron Barker (Chesterfield BC)  
William Thornhill (Chesterfield BC)

Tom Watts (Chesterfield BC)  
Carl Hawke (National Trust)  
Debbie Court (LD Biodiversity Partnership)  
**Note taker**

### Apologies:

Steve Holdsworth (Forest Enterprise), Sam Lattaway (National Forest), George Brydon (Derbyshire CC), Leon Hayward (BTCV), Dan Abrahams (English Nature), Peter Lowe (Woodland Trust), Stephanie Birkinshaw (EDWP), Nick Law (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust), Dave Bramwell (Erewash BC), Helen Williams (DEFRA RDS)

### 1. Matters arising

Tristan is still to contact the National Forest to get annual GIS layers for Tender Schemes

**Action: Tristan**

Tristan has had only a few HLS consultations and most of these have been in within the Peak Park. Tristan said he needs to contact DEFRA RDS to build up a better consultation process.

**Action: Tristan**

The list of literature available for woodland management was done and is now available on the website at <http://www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk/news/files/Woodland%20literature.pdf>.

### 2. Project Updates

#### a) Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland under 2ha project.

As Dan Abrahams was not at the meeting, no one could provide an update, but the volunteer is still working his way through the maps.

#### b) East Derbyshire Woodland Project

No report was given as from the Steph was not at the meeting.

#### c) Great Trees of Derbyshire Project

Debbie reported that Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Great Trees of Derbyshire Project had been successful. The £45,250 grant has been matched by money from Derby City Council and the Woodland Trust. The project will:

- Identify potential sites and trees for survey.
- Run training sessions on veteran tree survey techniques for volunteer surveyors.
- Undertake a comprehensive survey of trees across the county and produce a county inventory
- Produce information sheets on veteran trees, the importance and management of veteran trees,.
- Run veteran tree events and courses.

An initial project meeting has been held recently to discuss areas to focus in and the methods to engage volunteers in. The project will be county-wide and therefore also contribute towards the Peak Park LBAP targets too.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust had also recently received money to carry out a hedgerows survey in Chesterfield. Locations of veteran trees will be noted.

Carl mentioned that a MSC student had completed a dissertation on deadwood at Calke and Kedleston.

#### d) GIS project

Tristan reported that the latest on the GIS project was that they had now received a slimmed down version from the consultants. The project steering group were road testing the version and will meet at the end of the week to give their comments back to the consultants. It is envisaged that the CD will finally be available for partners in the next few months.

#### **e) Ancient Woodland Seminar**

The Group had organised, and run, a very successful seminar on Ancient Woodlands and their management on 6<sup>th</sup> May. There were 45 people who attended, mostly private woodland owners. Following a number of short talks the session broke into 3 workshops (woodland surveying, woodland management and woodland archaeology). The afternoon consisted of a choice of three site visits (Derwent Valley, Shinning Cliff Woods and Bow Wood). All of the talks can now be downloaded from the Derbyshire Biodiversity website.

The participants said that they had enjoyed the day and wanted to have similar seminars in the future. The Great Trees of Derbyshire project will be running a seminar for land owners on veteran tree management and the group decided that this would suffice for a seminar for next year. The Group will think about doing another woodland seminar in 2008.

#### **3) Grant aid for woodland**

Tristan reported that applications to the National Forest Tender Scheme had amounted to 9 within the LBAP area covering 64.88ha. Applications for the biodiversity part of the EWGS Woodland Management Grant had amounted to 95ha plus an additional 16ha in the National Forest area. Applications for the EWGS Woodland Improvement Grant had amounted to 38ha plus 16ha in the National Forest. There was also an application currently in for Ogston which was being looked at. Applications for EWGS Woodland Planning Grant had been submitted for 15ha of CBC owned woodland and the Sitwell Estate.

Debbie asked if Tristan could break down the figures into Local Authorities areas so they could be fed into the progress towards the Greenprint targets.

**Action: Tristan**

The Woodland Creation Grant is currently open until the end of August

Tristan reported that the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and the Woodland Management Grant (WMG) opened for applications in November 2005. This will close for existing applicants on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006 and will then be opened for new applicants to spend the remainder of the years money until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. It will open again on 1<sup>st</sup> April for new applications in the new financial year.

Tristan was not aware of any Higher Level Scheme, applications with woodland options within the LBAP area.

#### **4. Woodland HAP revision**

Debbie reported that the Lowland Mixed broadleaved woodland HAP had now been revised and completed (copies available on the Derbyshire Biodiversity website). This has the maps in that were discussed at the last meeting.

The wet woodland and lowland parkland, woodland pasture and veteran tree HAPS will be revised once the UK targets have been agreed.

**Action: Debbie**

#### **5. Woodland HAP actions**

Debbie asked Tristan to do some sums to calculate the amount of ASNW, PAWS and semi-natural woodland under management woodland so we can see who we are progressing towards our targets.

**Action: Tristan**

There area number of actions that should be completed by the end of 2006.

1. WD2 and WD3 – Looking at the GIS layers and drawing up a list of sites that should be priorities for PAWS restoration and unwooded sites which would be priorities for woodland creation/linking. It was agreed to set up a meeting in October between Forestry Commission, DWT, National Forest and Derbyshire County Council to use the GIS layer to compile such a list.
2. WD6 – complete the register of Ancient Woodland sites under 2ha. This is likely to be completed by the end of the year and the GIS layer will be disseminated around the LBAP partners.

**Action: Tristan**

**Action: Dan**

3. WD7 – compile a list of candidate woodland SSSIs.

**Action: Dan**

It was also felt that there was a need for LBAP partners to target woodland owners and talk to them about EWGS. This was beyond the resources of the Forestry Commission and the DWT were concentrating more on grassland habitats in the next few years, although some woodland Wildlife Sites will be visited through the Wildlife Sites work. After some discussion it was decided to review the situation after the meeting in October and see what capacity each organisation has for the following year.

#### **6. Partner updates**

**Forestry Commission** – a new list of standard costs is now available on the FC website ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on009-standard-costs.pdf/\\$FILE/ewgs-on009-standard-costs.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on009-standard-costs.pdf/$FILE/ewgs-on009-standard-costs.pdf)). This includes a few new standard costs.

The Woodland Creation Grant also has a new scoring form and EWGS can now be applied for on-line. The Forestry Commission held a Regional Seminar at Calke in May to launch the new Forestry Commission/RSPB Woodland management for woodland birds handbook.

**National Trust** – The aim of phase II of the Hardwick Park Restoration Project is to plant 1,000 trees in the next 3 years. Before planting them the National Trust want to compile a continuity plan for where the trees will go based on historic plans. The wardens are looking into the historic planting for the area. The plan is likely to cost around £6,000 and they need funding to do this, English nature will provide 50% towards it. At Calke one of the tenant farms has been entered HLS and another is in the process of applying. This second one will include 30ha of woodland pasture creation which will extend the wood pasture at Calke. There are a number of old hedgerows on the estate with large trees including one very large crab apple. Carl is also writing a National Trust Wood Pasture plan for the East Midlands.

**Derbyshire County Council** – The revised Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland HAP (including the maps) were used in the recent Lodge House Appeal. The appeal has flagged up the need for a Derbyshire Forestry Strategy. The appeal also has also shown the raised profile of the importance of veteran trees.

**Chesterfield Borough Council** – Completed management plan for Norbriggs Flash potential LNR. There is some scope for a small amount of new woodland on the site. They are waiting to start on work in Cobnar Wood. Also doing some work thinning out some of the plantations. Will has been liaising with the Forest Schools officers to link schools with Chesterfield woodlands.

**BTCV**- Derbyshire BTCV have recently produced an excellent woodland education pack based around Chaddesden Wood LNR in Derby. This can be accessed and downloaded from the <http://www.derby.gov.uk/Environment/WildDerby/wildspacenews.htm>.

#### **LBAP update-**

- The Annual Forum will be on 14<sup>th</sup> September at the Genesis Centre in Alfreton. The theme will be grasslands.
- Debbie is currently compiling the 2005/6 Annual BAP Report
- Since January a HAP has been produced for Ancient and / or species-rich hedgerows and a SAP for the Water Vole. The next HAP to be produced will be the Heathland HAP.

#### **11.. Date of next meeting –18<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 10am at English Nature’s office in Bakewell.**

After the meeting a number of people went a site visit to Matlock Bath to look at the Matlock Parks Project and the work that has been carried out under the Ravine Woodland Project and what is proposed under a recent SITA bid. More information on the Project is available on the Matlock Parks website

<http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/Environment/LandandPremises/ParksandOpenSpaces/Matlock+Parks+Project/?qsNavSetting=max>.

Or contact Alison Baker, The Project Manager at Derbyshire Dales District Council on 01629 761140 or e-mail [alison.baker@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:alison.baker@derbyshiredales.gov.uk).

Debbie Court  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2006.