

PEAK DISTRICT BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

CRAYFISH ACTION PLANS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20.03.06

PRESENT:

Dan Abrahams (Chair) - EN Lowland Derbyshire Conservation Officer

Marion Andrews – EN White Peak Conservation Officer

Nick Mott - SWT Otters and Rivers Project

Paul Mortimer - NT South Peak

Simon Hiley – NT Kedleston Hall

Debbie Court – Lowland Derbyshire LBAP Officer

Phil Wormald – Environment Agency

David Smith – Peak National Park Ecologist

1. APOLOGIES:

Emma Broad EA

Carl Hawke NT

Philip Precey DWT

2. INTRODUCTIONS

DA detailed the scope of the group (crossing 2 LBAP areas) and each member introduced themselves

3. ACTION POINTS FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

EN to request survey info from EA – Done

EA to carry out further sheep dip education – Ongoing

EN to distribute national crayfish conference abstract & proceedings to rest of group – Done

EA to circulate regional crayfish strategy to group – Done

EA to send crayfish records to Nick Moyes for updating database – Ongoing

PDLDCAG to agree survey methodology across 2 BAP areas – superceded by National Monitoring Methodology

NT to facilitate summer/autumn surveys in the Dane – unknown if done or not

DCC to facilitate summer/autumn surveys in the 3 valleys – Not done

PDLDCAG to promote student research projects on crayfish – Ongoing

EN to continue with Lathkill introduction – on hold whilst Ben Le Bas is in France

Severn Trent Water to facilitate Carsington introduction – Done

4. RIVER DOVE CRAYFISH PLAGUE

This formed a lengthy discussion. PW provided the background to what had happened on the Dove, and when. EA have spoken to Leadmill fishing club regarding keeping more white clawed crayfish.

MA detailed that survey work is to be planned for May/June 2006 to establish whether plague is still present in the catchment, and the potential for re-introduction of white-clawed crayfish.

PM raised issues for the National Trust relating to individuals surveying for crayfish without co-ordination, and what control measures need to be established to prevent the spread of plague.

NM also raised the issue of an apparent lack of co-ordination from crayfish surveyors.

The group agreed that liason with the fishing clubs on the river needs to be established to develop a protocol for reducing the risk of plague. PW to liase with Tim Jacklin (EA fisheries) on this issue with a view to organising a consultation meeting.

AP: EN/EA to arrange survey work in May/June 2006.

AP: MA to draft a protocol for fishing clubs for just after Easter.

AP: EA to arrange a meeting with the fishing clubs

5. SITES & ACTION

- NM** Survey work was carried out on the Hamps near Winkhill. Only Signal crayfish were found
Survey work on Black Brook only found signals.
Survey work on the Upper Dane only found Signal crayfish.
A potential Turkish Crayfish was found at Wetton Mill
A Leaflet on Managing Woody Debris in Rivers & Streams was circulated. All thought it was an excellent publication.
- PW** RSPCA introduced signal crayfish to a pool in Nuneaton. EA spoke to them regarding this.
Stone pool, Lichfield – lost white clawed-crayfish
PW did an interview with Radio Derby regarding the River Dove Crayfish Plague
PW talked about the new “fixed engine” byelaw on watercourses in the Midlands which stops the removal of crayfish
- DC** In Lowland Derbyshire, the revision and updating of Wetland HAPs is in progress
There is possibility of a White-clawed crayfish SAP.
- SH** The Markeaton and Mercaston Brooks project has received a survey of the watercourses.
White-clawed crayfish were found, and no evidence of signal crayfish were found.
- PM** National Trust has completed its nature conservation strategy for the East Midlands which includes action relating to White-clawed crayfish. Home Farm Pond on the Ilam estate could be used as a refuge in the future (due to be de-stocked)

6. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE PEAK DISTRICT SAP

DA went through the Action Plan with members of the group feeding information as to what progress individual partners had contributed to actions. The overall picture was that many of the actions were still outstanding, and not a great deal of progress had been made since 2000.

AP: DA to forward details regarding what had or had not been actioned to the BIG.

7. FEEDBACK FROM THE NATIONAL BAP GROUP

Nick Mott is waiting to hear from Stephanie Peay regarding the minutes of the last National BAP group. She is also interested in coming up with a list of Ark sites within the Peak District.

AP: NM to circulate minutes of the National HAP group

AP: PDLDCAG to compile a list of Ark sites within the Peak District

8. ACTION FOR 2006/7

AP: EA/EN to commission Crayfish surveys of the River Dove.

AP: DC to co-ordinate a species action plan for Lowland Derbyshire – a half day session with interested parties at Kedleston is to be arranged

AP: EA/EN/NT – co-ordinate gaps between licensed surveyors

9. AOB

The issue of Funding for capital works was raised by Nick Mott. It was suggested that the Esmee Fairbank Foundation or Powergen be contacted regarding funding a crayfish project in Derbyshire/peak district/staffs.

AP: NM to email partners regarding the project brief.

Date of Next Meeting Mon 12th March 2007.