



Riparian Species Group

Action Points
10th September 2007
Matlock Town Hall

Present: Cass Worman, Natural England (Chair), Debbie Court (LBAP Partnership), Shirley Freeman (DWT), Helen Perkins (DWT), Cathy Cooke (DCC), William Alves (DDDC)

Apologies: Gemma Gregory, Andy Pollock (DCC), Nichola Baker (CBC), Deanne Gow (British Waterways), Martin Christmas (EA), Ben Young (STW), Simon Hiley (NT), Lucy Wetzler (NEDDC).

1. Purpose and viability of the group

1.1 It had been suggested that one group should co ordinate LD actions for the existing and new riparian species on the UK BAP priority list. The relevant UK Priority BAP species are: White-Clawed Crayfish, Water Vole, Otter, European Eel, Atlantic Salmon, Brown Trout, Harvest Mouse, and Polecat. The following non native species could also be covered by the group: American Mink, Signal (and other non native) Crayfish. There were several other species of local importance and interest which such a group could also take account of, especially in relation to delivery of actions for the above i.e. Daubenton's Bat, Brook Lamprey, Bullhead, Stone Loach and Water Shrew. Dan Abrahams had queried whether it might be better to have one group to cover the two LBAP areas. This possibility had been discussed at the last PD Water Vole Group meeting, but it was felt that the large extent of the area covered could constrain participation (i.e. in terms of traveling times for people e.g. in Yorks, Cheshire, South Derbyshire etc) and that potentially the group would be too large. A Riparian Species Group was also being established in the PD.

1.2 CW reported on a recent meeting between the Derbyshire Police Wildlife Liaison officers and conservation organizations. **It was agreed to copy papers and minutes of the group's meetings to the WLOs.**

2. White-Clawed Crayfish

2.1 HP summarised the minutes of the last meeting of the UK BAP Crayfish Steering Group and notes that had been received by TWTs from Stephanie Peay (SP), crayfish advisor to TWTs. Main issues were: problem of EA consenting of licenses for trapping introduced crayfish and of trapping being done for conservation purposes was contentious as it could encourage greater interest in developing introduced crayfisheries and result in further illegal introductions. SPs view is that trapping always fails to eradicate any populations of signals. Biocide treatment being tried by EA on Ribble-encouraging news from some previously treated sites in Scotland.

2.2 CC reported that after 3 year's of trapping of signal crayfish at Moss Valley by DCCs 3 Valleys Project, this initiative had now been abandoned.

2.3 DC went through the LD Crayfish action plan. Priorities were:

2.3.1 Data collation (data on both extant populations of WCC and on signals and other non natives was not thought to be comprehensive/up to date).

- **ACTION ALL: copy all crayfish data (natives and non natives) for LD to Nick Moyes (Derby Record Centre) and also to Helen at DWT so we can ensure any new data available for our next meeting.**

Known sites for WCC at current time: Markeaton Brook system, Barlow Brook, Carsington, Calke, Staunton Harold, Mease and thought to be present at Codnor Park Res. Status at Moss Valley unknown.

- **ACTION HP: consult with SP re need for monitoring of known populations and methodologies**

2.3.2 Creation of Ark Sites (target is 4, 1 per catchment).

SP was working with CBC on creation of Ark Site at Holmebrook Valley C Park. She had undertaken comprehensive survey in Chesterfield area. NT had regional action plan for crayfish which outlined actions at Kedleston, Calke etc.

- **ACTION DC: circulate SP report and NT action plan and put on website if possible**
- **ACTION CC: consider whether there were any potential Ark sites on DCC land**

2.3.3 Bringing sites into sensitive management via a) agri environment schemes: Markeaton system: 80% in ELS, Carsington may go into HLS and b) Wildlife Sites system: many of key sites already WLS

2.3.4 Hygiene: EA current actions unknown.

- **ACTION HP: contact EA to check current guidance and ensure copies of current documents available**

3. Water Vole

3.1. Actions from last meeting. Targets had been revised to reflect new national targets (updated action plan on LD website). Literature not as yet disseminated to Parish Councils. WA suggested this could be sent out via DCs. DC reported that Hardwick had received £500 grant for habitat works for water voles.

- **ACTION HP & DC: liaise re addition of water vole advice leaflets to LDBAP pack for Parish Councils to be disseminated via District Councils.**

3.2 Partner actions since last meeting.

3.2.1 DDDC: WA reported no water voles seen this summer along DDDC section of the Derwent. Flooding may have caused losses?

3.2.2 DWT: SF reported good signs along Cromford Canal at HPJ with 9 seen in that area during one dusk visit and 8 seen on one visit at the turning circle nr Gregory's Tunnel. Several spot check sites visited: Ecclesbourne nr Wirksworth water appeared polluted, no signs found; Havenhill Dale Brook, Dove catchment – none found at this historical site; Coppice Brook, Belper good population. SF also due to check Walton Dam and Somersall.

- **ACTION DC: raise awareness of water vole presence with Friends of Belper Park**

HP reported DWT monitoring programme on schedule- so far declines noted at Erewash Canal site (one colony which included an all white individual had disappeared within a few days) otherwise no major losses or declines. New site found by Trevor Taylor near Barlow Brook. DWT and BW had employed BTCV to do three additional days of veg clearance works along disused Cromford Canal at Lower Hartshay, with an additional day on the adjacent stretch in private ownership. HP had advised DCC on footpath works nr Nutbrook (no water vole issues) and with WA visited proposed pond restoration project

in Whitworth Park (Groundwork). Additional water vole training day attracted 15 new volunteers. HP working 0.5 days per week for TWTs co ordinating water vole work nationally and had attended last meeting of UK BAP Water Vole Steering Group (main issue legislation – getting full protection for the water vole would take a long time and require amendment to WCA to allow licensing). Philip Precey had now left DWT and his post had been advertised internally. Future WfW work would be concentrated in Dove and Erewash catchments. A SITA bid was being submitted for water vole work in the White Peak.

3.2.3 DCC Works soon to commence on mending breach at Chesterfield Canal. Evidence suggested water voles had shifted from the de watered area and that populations along the canal were stable overall. Though mink were reported occasionally by anglers, none had been recorded on the raft. Works were planned to enhance two wetland areas: at Peter Fidler NR and along the Doe Lea. Works also may be proposed for Pinxton Wharf. Need to sustain mink control along Cromford Canal was discussed – population still vulnerable and very important for raising awareness about water voles amongst public. SF reported that at least one of rafts on Derwent nearby not being deployed.

- ***ACTION CC: liaise with Cromford Canal Rangers re sustaining mink control (HP can help with new materials etc)***
- ***ACTION HP: contact Cromford Fly Fishers to check they are still running mink rafts along Derwent***

3.2.4 LBAP Partnership. DC reported response to the Wetland Forum on 11th October had been very encouraging with over 80 now booked.

4. Delivering actions for other riparian species

4.1 There were no plans to write any more species action plans, but actions for the new UK BAP species could simply be added to BARS. UK targets and plans for the new species were not yet available. It was agreed that the priority for the moment was collecting and collating data for the species listed

- ***ACTION ALL: provide information at or before next meeting on data held on riparian species listed under 1.1 (HP will follow up with EA)***

4.2. Other possible members of the group were discussed. Large riparian owners such as Chatsworth, Strutt, Key Estates may be relevant as well as On Trent Project, Friends of Markeaton Brook, FWAG (Tina Bardell). Forum on 11th may provide opportunity to make other contacts. EA may be able to advise re relevant fisheries contacts.

- ***ACTION HP: add FWAG, Ruth Needham (On Trent), Friends of Markeaton Brook to circulation list for next meeting and any others considered appropriate.***

5. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12th February, 2008

Carsington Water

Meeting: 10.30- 1.00

And after lunch outdoors to look at STWs crayfish project, habitat creation works for water vole, mink control etc.