

# Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

## Issue 13: July 2004



Welcome to the July edition of the LBAP Newsletter. As many of you will know, John Sheldon received an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list, for his "services to biodiversity in Scotland": this accolade is also a first across the UK for biodiversity conservation.

My contract has now been extended to March 2007, all the more vital now that the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy has been launched and will shortly be entering the implementation stage. My focus over the last year has been to create Best Value and Biodiversity guidance for Scottish Local Authorities. This is virtually complete now, which will allow me to spend more time co-ordinating the LBAP Network.

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please could you get articles to me by **Friday 27 August**.

Any comments or suggestions for the newsletter are very welcome. If you would like to be taken off the circulation list or want to be included, please e-mail [Jo Lenthall](mailto:Jo.Lenthall)

## Nature Conservation Scotland Act 2004

On 11 June 2004, the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 received Royal Assent. Copies can be obtained from HMSO, and is available at:

<http://www.scotland-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/s-acts.htm>

## Launch of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands"

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "*Scotland's Biodiversity: It's In Your Hands*" was launched at this year's Scottish Biodiversity Forum event by Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Allan Wilson. The event was a big success, with over 300 delegates from a variety of sectors. Conference proceedings are at [www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity). However, the launch of the Strategy is just the beginning and we welcome and encourage your continued input, support and participation as we turn the Strategy into action and begin its implementation.

**Contact:** Kathrina Mannion, Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum on 0131 244 6328  
[kathrina.mannion@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kathrina.mannion@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## Consultation on Implementation Plans

The consultation period for the final draft Implementation Plan supporting the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was also launched on 25 May. Plans are currently being sent out to consultees. Full details of the consultation, including the cover letter, plans and action tables can also be found at on our [at www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity). The consultation period ends 30 August 2004. If you have any queries please contact [biodiversityconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversityconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

## Consultation on Draft Research Strategy and Indicator Sets

The Scottish Biodiversity Forum will shortly be consulting on its "Draft Research Strategy" and "Developing an Indicator Set" (in particular the biodiversity engagement indicators). These will also be available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity).

## Best Value and Biodiversity in Scotland - A Guide for Local Authorities

This guidance will be with the designers and printers over the summer, and will be **launched at a workshop on 9 September at SNH Battleby**. Thanks to everyone who has commented on various versions of the publication, the comments have been very useful in forming the final document. The publication offers best practice guidance to local authorities and other public bodies in Scotland to help mainstream the duty to "*further the conservation of biodiversity*" through the statutory framework for Best Value. **The workshop will develop the links between**

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**the main principles of best value, sustainable development, and biodiversity conservation in Scotland, through all Local Authority service delivery areas.** During the day:

- best value and sustainable development links in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 will be considered;
- biodiversity duty in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 will be considered;
- how the best value review process can be used to deliver biodiversity conservation in Scotland will be discussed;
- practical advice for different approaches of how to benefit biodiversity whilst carrying out best value functions will be considered;
- benefits of incorporating biodiversity into the delivery of all relevant local authority services (using Scottish examples) will be shown;
- delivery through engagement with the LBAP process will be encouraged.

Participants will be invited to share their own experiences of the best value and biodiversity processes through discussion and group sessions. Notes of the day's proceedings will be used to inform guidance being developed for the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Copies of "Best Value and Biodiversity in Scotland" will be available to all.

**Contact:** Jo Lenthall, Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum, 0131 311 6512 [joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk](mailto:joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk)

## Scottish Biodiversity Week

Scottish Biodiversity Week continues to raise awareness of biodiversity at a local level, getting the public involved in activities and events, and reinforcing that what is done locally does have a national impact. This year was a great success with **over 220 events** taking place across Scotland with events and activities ranging from Nature Reserve open days and guided walks, scrub clearance and moth walks to exhibitions and talks, making bird boxes and animal tracking.

**Scotland was one of only nine countries worldwide that celebrated International Biodiversity Day (IBD) on 22 May.** The success of SBW is, as ever, down to the Local Biodiversity Officers who help co-ordinate programmes of events for their area through their partnerships.

In **SBW2005 will be 21-29 May** (IBD will again be 22 May), so get the dates into your calendars!!!

**Contact:** Jo Lenthall, Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum, 0131 311 6512 [joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk](mailto:joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk) for further details.

## Bugs and beasts are Honoured

Scotland's Biodiversity has seen some striking improvements over the last few years, with increasing numbers of capercaillie and New Forest burnet moth, and great crested newt and skylark numbers stabilising. These successes have been helped by the actions that have now led to the development of the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. These are undoubtedly great achievements, the result of a dedicated few changing the face of nature conservation in Scotland and the UK as a whole. In recognition of his role in these achievements, **John Sheldon received an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list, for his "services to biodiversity in Scotland"**. But we can't get complacent, as there is still a long way to go, with 26% of species and 12% of habitats still in decline. Although John has resigned from the SBF, it is therefore reassuring to know that his valuable experiences have not been lost as John remains very much a part of the LBAP Network, being the representative for West Lothian Council where he will now be concentrating his efforts.

## Local Biodiversity Updates

### Argyll & Bute

- **Whales, dolphins and red squirrels are stars of local conference** Work with whales, dolphins and red squirrels were just a few of the projects put under the spotlight at the Argyll and Bute Biodiversity Conference, which took place on Thursday 27 May 2004. Delegates from all over Argyll and Bute, Scotland and the UK converged on Oban's Corran Halls to make Argyll and Bute's first Biodiversity Conference a great success. At the conference, achievements of those who contributed to biodiversity in Argyll and Bute were celebrated. Awards went to Jackie McBurney (Individual Award for working with Sandbank Primary School on their Eco School award), Jan Dunlop (Community Award for work with the Mull and Iona Community Trust Ranger Service), and to Dr Neil and Mrs Ileene Duncan (Business Award for their commitment to an Agricultural-Environmental Plan in managing their farm). Go to [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity/Biodiversity%20Conference.htm](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity/Biodiversity%20Conference.htm) for proceedings.
- **Argyll and Area survey of agricultural holdings identifies environmental objectives as a key component to sustainability** Hecla Consulting was commissioned by Argyll and the Islands Enterprise and the Argyll and Bute Agricultural Forum to undertake a baseline survey of farm and croft holdings across the Argyll area. The geographic boundary of the survey covered the areas of both AIE and Argyll and Bute Council. The survey research took place between February and April 2003.
- **West Highland Woodland Grazing Project** This project aims to demonstrate how farming and forestry objectives can be integrated. The results of this project will lead to wider public benefit than just within the forestry and farming sectors. Management of key habitats and species alongside important landscape conservation will impact not only on local communities but also on the many visitors to Argyll, in addition to fulfilling some of our national obligations under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

**Contact:** Marina Curran-Colthart, Local Biodiversity Officer on 01631 562125 [marina.curran-colthart@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:marina.curran-colthart@argyll-bute.gov.uk) [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity)

### Ayrshire

**Contact:** Douglas Gardiner, Recycling Officer, East Ayrshire Council, 01563 554040 [douglas.gardiner@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.gardiner@east-ayrshire.gov.uk); Ken Gibb, Sustainable Development Manager, South Ayrshire Council, 01292 616288 [ken.gibb@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ken.gibb@south-ayrshire.gov.uk); Tonia Sobieraj, Policy Officer, North Ayrshire Council, 01294 324131 [tsobieraj@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:tsobieraj@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

### Cairngorms

- Work is progressing on establishing an **aspen propagation unit** and nursery to provide aspen trees (of local provenance) for planting in the Cairngorms area. It is hoped to have this up and running by the autumn.
- Survey work on the **non-native fish project** has started and already identified garden/ornamental ponds as a major threat to the introduction of non-native species to the Spey and Dee catchments.
- Several **training workshops** were run recently by Butterfly Conservation Scotland on netted mountain moth and pearl-bordered fritillary.
- Two projects are in the early stages of development: one on providing **advice on black grouse** to land managers being led by FWAG; the other on a programme of **strategic mink control** in the upper Dee and Spey catchments to protect water vole populations by Aberdeen University and GCT.
- Finally, development of a **small grant scheme for biodiversity** in the Cairngorms is progressing with potential offers of financial support from LEADER+, SNH and CNPA.

**Contact:** Stephen Corcoran, LBAP Officer, 01479 870528, [stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk)

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### Clackmannanshire

- Lynn has now left, and a new officer will be in post shortly.

**Contact:** Biodiversity Co-ordinator, 01259 452639, [www.clacksweb.org.uk/biodiversity](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/biodiversity)

### Comhairle non Eilean Siar

- Nancy Nicolson, presenter of the BBC's Grass Roots and Landward programmes, **launched the Western Isles LBAP during Scottish Biodiversity Week on Thursday 27 May**, in Uist. The LBAP is bilingual with Gaelic and English versions (Council policy) and will be in 2 main parts. A pdf version of the LBAP is available on the Western Isles Biodiversity website <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/biodiversity/planning.htm#>

**Contact:** Anne MacLellan (Mon, Wed am, and Fri), 01870 602425, [amaclellan@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:amaclellan@cne-siar.gov.uk)  
[www.cne-siar.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/biodiversity)

### Dumfries & Galloway

- **Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resource Centre (ERC)** was only established at the beginning of the year but is already beginning, not only to collate existing records, but also to generate additional ones and to make environmental information more accessible. It has also established **BRIDGE (Biological Recording In Dumfries and Galloway rEgion)** at <http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/bridge>, an e-group which enables recorders to keep up to date with information and events in the region. The value of local records centres such as this is already clear - no LBAP should be without one!
- Despite the extremely cold weather that accompanied **National Moth Night events**, resulting in a lack of moths, the number of enthusiasts in the region continues to increase, both through people moving into the area and existing residents taking up moth trapping. Luckily, we now have the ERC to cope with all the new records.
- There has been an excellent response from volunteers to help with the **National Nightjar Survey**. Results from the last survey revealed 80% of the Scottish population in Dumfries and Galloway. This year, every site where they have been recorded in the recent past will be checked by volunteers, with additional areas of suitable habitat being surveyed by paid staff.
- Following the success of the region's first **Wildlife Festival** last year, the Biodiversity Partnership has given the go-ahead for another festival in 2005. Details will be finalised and preparation begun over the coming weeks.

**Contact:** Peter Norman, Biodiversity Officer, 01387 260172, [peter.norman@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:peter.norman@dumgal.gov.uk)  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity)

### East Dunbartonshire

- The Biodiversity Partnership last met in March. It was hoped the LBAP would be launched during the summer, but three action plans from FWAG and British Waterways were delayed until September 2003, and the LBAP was also held up until the end of the financial year by the Corporate Press Office. **The LBAP will now be launched in September 2004.**
- **Species Action Plans:** four new plans written, bringing the total to 13.
- **Habitat Action Plans:** five new plans written, bringing the total to 13 Habitat Action Plans plus four Habitat Statements.
- **Press:** two adverts in local press, design a logo schools contest completed, leaflets distributed on wildlife subjects. Contribution to the farming IACS calendar.
- **Implementation:** **Bog rosemary** (150 cuttings planted out at Lenzie Moss, more cuttings planted and grown on, some seed taken). **Mud snail** (pond partially scraped out (drier areas and where overgrown), second mud snail colony started in captivity, surveys for the species started). **Juniper** (100+ branches layered, cuttings taken but unsuccessful, survey for the species locally completed). **Farmland bird II** (five feeding stations established, tree sparrows coming to three stations totalling 23 birds and fencing installed on main tree sparrow site in preparation for hedgerow planting and tree planting. 60 nest boxes for tree sparrows erected. Bird surveys

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continued, identifying main farmland bird areas of importance). **Great crested newt** (surveys begun, revealed 8 colonies (with 54 individuals at one site). **Small pearl-bordered fritillary** (surveys showed low numbers). **Raised bog** (hydrological and topographical study at Low Moss, conifer removal on test area at Low Moss to look at levels of regeneration, management under discussion). **Bats** (colony saved during bridgework, and boxes installed on completion of works, surveys showed possible presence of Natterer's bats (tbc)).

- **Planning:** All major applications with environmental impact commented on, with biodiversity mitigation proposed to contribute towards goals of the Biodiversity Plan: including Katrine Project, Strathkelvin Retail Park, and Kirkintilloch Initiative. These have resulted in extensive mitigation proposals, and biodiversity management plans to be produced as conditions, which will provide high biodiversity gain (including nest boxes for tree sparrows, new wetlands for mud snails, additional hedgerows, tree planting, pond creation, and species-rich grassland and raised bog management. Uptake rate of recommendations for smaller applications is not known as planning doesn't have a monitoring methodology.
- **Fund raising:** SNH: £225 for bog rosemary and £3000 for survey equipment. Paths for All: £1,000 for silver birch conservation for hedges. East Dunbartonshire Council: £500 for mud snails (project through Lennoxton Initiative). Tarmac: £625 for the farmland bird project. £400 for hedging, £50 for bird seed, and £150 for nest boxes secured by Milngavie's RSPB Wildlife Explorers group for local biodiversity work, and £400 for RSPB Kirkintilloch Wildlife Explorers group. Liaison between Planning and SNH resulted in an additional £72,000 secured for Low Moss raised bog conservation. An additional £5,000 was provided by East Dunbartonshire Council for raised bog work, and £225 for bog rosemary.
- **Education:** Design-a-Logo presentation, Scottish Game Fair, Lennoxton Initiative volunteer group (nest box making, nest box inspection training, bog rosemary culturing, juniper cuttings planting), Mugdock Ranger Service and volunteers farmland bird survey techniques, Bats on the Glazert, Volunteer week nest box making event. Other Biodiversity related walks offered through Biodiversity Partnership included 13 events.

**Contact:** Paul Baker, Biodiversity Officer, 0141 578 8642, [paul.baker@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:paul.baker@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

## East Lothian

- **Grey partridge numbers increase by 33% in two years.** The Grey Partridge Project in East Lothian is now entering its third summer of creating suitable partridge habitat and counting partridges on farms. On the 20 farms taking part since the beginning, grey partridge numbers have increased overall by 33% in that time. Other farmers have joined the project since the start and numbers, similarly, are increasing overall.
- **10 urban wildflower meadows** created in the last year. Most of them quite small but full of colour and well received by the public.

**Contact:** Stuart Macpherson, Biodiversity Officer, 01620 827242, [smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk) [www.eastlothianbiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.eastlothianbiodiversity.org.uk)

## Edinburgh

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[susan.steel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:susan.steel@edinburgh.gov.uk) [caroline.peacock@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.peacock@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## Falkirk

- Anna is currently working Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays, BUT the process of recruiting a job share is nearly complete so there will be full coverage again, by the end of July.
- Contact:** Anna Perks, Biodiversity Officer on 01324 504863 [anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk)

## Fife

**Contact:** Rachel Sherman, LBAP Co-ordinator on 01592 413437 [rachel.sherman@fife.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.sherman@fife.gov.uk)  
[www.fifedirect.org.uk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk)

## Glasgow

- Over 900 school children have taken part in the Glasgow City Council Land Services and Scottish Natural Heritage '**Sowing and Growing**' biodiversity project so far, all have had a chance to plant their own wildflower seeds to grow and plant in their school grounds. The project continues after the schools' summer holidays.
- The **Glasgow Reptile Survey** is well underway, with all sites having had a preliminary survey. Detailed surveys of key sites are now beginning.
- An **Allotments and Biodiversity project** has been initiated. The project hopes to raise awareness of biodiversity through engaging plot holders in recording local species and the publication of a 'best practice' booklet. Currently a selection of allotments is being visited by the Biodiversity Officer to identify examples of biodiversity being incorporated and where improvements could be made.
- Annual **LBAP monitoring reports** from Lead Partners have been collated for distribution.
- A **grassland management review** is being discussed with the Council's Land Services with the aim of introducing (or retaining) grazing and/or meadow management of unimproved grassland sites.
- **Survey, monitoring and management work** of LBAP plant species continues: toothwort, burnet-saxifrage, sheep's-bit and bluebell.
- Liaison with developers is taking place over **mitigation wetland creation** at an area of marsh to be damaged during flood control developments at Brock Burn, Darnley.
- The Biodiversity Officer is also working with BTCV over **conservation management tasks** at several sites in the west of Glasgow
- The Biodiversity Officer is inputting to the next stage of the **Council's Parks Review** by contributing to the 'sustainable environment and allotments' focus group, looking at management practices and opportunities, and linking with other projects on access and healthy living.

**Contact:** Keith Watson or Carol MacLean, Biodiversity Officers on 0141 287 5665  
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<http://wildlife.glasgow.gov.uk>

## Highland

- **5 of the 7 Highland LBAPs** have now been completed, and should be available on our website shortly.
- **Website** will hopefully be live next month [www.highlandbiodiversity.com](http://www.highlandbiodiversity.com)

**Contact:** Janet Bromham, Biodiversity Officer, 01463 702274 [janet.bromham@highland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.bromham@highland.gov.uk)  
[www.highlandbiodiversity.com](http://www.highlandbiodiversity.com)

## Midlothian

**Contact:** Helen Dunlop, Biodiversity Officer, Midlothian Council, 0131 271 3462  
[helen.dunlop@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:helen.dunlop@midlothian.gov.uk)

## North East Scotland

**Contact:** Maria Hardy, LBAP Co-ordinator, 01224 711120 [maria.hardy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:maria.hardy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
[www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk)

## North Lanarkshire

- **First North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Forum** on 31 March. Low but very enthusiastic attendance. Three Community Council representatives attended and these contacts will be followed up and local projects initiated.

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- **Bluebell survey** launched on the Council web-site and through local press. Results to be published in August 2004.
- **Swift mitigation measures** (boxes) fitted to one council house in a swift nesting area. From this links with the housing department were developed and a meeting regarding the location of the next year or two's refurbishment/redevelopment in relation to swift nesting areas should soon be organised soon. From this swift mitigation measures could be incorporated into the tender process, design and budget! Rather than being tacked on at the very end of the project.
- All **outstanding peat extraction consents** in North Lanarkshire have been identified. Only one area of operational peat extraction, one site is dormant and the others relate to opencast and quarrying operations.
- **(Non) Grass cutting experimental area** growing well, a patch of 20+ common spotted orchids has sprung up on one of the sites. The cuckoo flower is now over. I will try to delay cutting until August to allow the orchids to set seed. A report to be drafted in September.
- **Reptile training day**, 22 May, run jointly with NL Council and Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (CARG) at Palacerigg Country Park, Cumbernauld. 12 attended. Sunny day, interesting field visit, no reptiles, but 3 toads and 3 green hairstreak seen though.
- **Green Hairstreak and Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary Identification and Ecology Day** run jointly with NL Council and Butterfly Conservation Scotland on 19 June, 9 attended. Cloudy morning, but sunny afternoon with 1 toad and 6 SPBF's seen, on three new sites in Palacerigg CP.
- Delivery of the first 15 of 40 **barn owl boxes** courtesy of Scottish Coal; 4 erected on farms in the area, 2 to be put up in Palacerigg.
- **Annual report completed**, achieved all the targets set! New workplan produced for the coming year.
- Further **local TV appearances**; spring flowers, dawn chorus and swifts, swallows and house martins.
- Talk to SEPA staff advising on the **Water Framework Directive** implementation nationally on Biodiversity and Ecological Linkages.
- **SUDS training event** for North Lanarkshire planners, roads and flooding staff organised to be run in autumn this year.
- Attended **SNIFFER meeting**, on behalf of the LBAPO network, regarding priorities for research on Urban Biodiversity.
- Organised meeting in, late June, for **Western and Central Scotland LBAPO's** and others regarding the delivery of the UK Water Vole SAP at a local level, if this is happening and if not what can we do about it.

**Contact:** Jonathan Willet, North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Officer, 01236 780636  
[willetj@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:willetj@northlan.gov.uk)

## Orkney

- **Community Gardening Pilot Project** funding bid is being resubmitted in the July round of Transforming Your Space.
- **Orkney Biodiversity Record Centre** - has secured funding for an initial stage of development of technology and services it can provide (computers, plotter, GIS including 3D mapping facilities, customisation of Recorder 2002 and training).
- OLBAP is taking part in a study by the **Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University**. The study will investigate the nature of the LBAP and LRC process and the stakeholders involved, where the blocks are and the concerns and opinions of the biodiversity workers on the ground.
- **Orkney Community Environment Awareness Network (OCEAN)** has produced an Environmental Calendar. A six monthly calendar of all the environmental events taking place in Orkney.
- A series of talks and presentations will run during August and September on **Soil Biodiversity** to encourage the agricultural sector to work on sustainability more widely. It is going to be run by OLBAP, SNH, and FWAG.

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### Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde

- Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde **LBAP was successfully launched** on 1 April.
- **Petrina Brown** started as the new Biodiversity Officer on 14 June 2004, but isn't currently online, so please continue using Jenny as the temporary contact until further notice.

**Contact:** Jenny Gough (temporary contact), [jenny.gough@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.gough@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

### Scottish Borders

- **Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy** – continued work on the woodland strategy. Consultation workshop held on 16 June. Draft strategy to go out for public consultation by end of July 2004.
- Scottish Borders LBAP 3 year **Business Plan** out to LBAP partnership for consultation.
- Held **biodiversity training event** with consultancy for Development Control officers at Scottish Borders Council.
- **Draft Borders Species and Habitats of Conservation Concern** produced, to be finalised in next couple of months.
- Derived from above, drafting a **guidance note for Planners and Developers** on the Borders Species and Habitats of Conservation Concern.
- Developing a new system to appraise **Planning Applications for biodiversity impacts**, in conjunction with Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre and SNH. Proposed to go live with Planning department at the beginning of September.
- **Scottish Borders Council's Archaeology and Countryside Section** is holding an exhibition (featuring the LBAP) "Into the Countryside – Access, Wildlife and Archaeology" 3July-23 Aug at Harestanes Countryside Visitors Centre.
- **Game Conservancy Trust** held a UKBAP grey partridge demonstration event at a farm near Gordon, featuring the Borders LBAP Farming for Partridges and Sparrows project.

**Contact:** Andy Tharme, Natural Heritage Officer, 01835 826514 [atharme@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:atharme@scotborders.gov.uk)

### Living Shetland

**Contact:** Nicky Davies, Biodiversity Officer, 01595 690832, [livingshetland@fwag.org.uk](mailto:livingshetland@fwag.org.uk)

### South Lanarkshire

- Completed review of the **Hamilton Greenbelt** on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council Planning Department.
- Completed Phase I of **Aspen SAP** project. Data accrued on the distribution of aspen in the Clyde Valley, male and female plants identified and genetic analysis of cuttings proceeding (Forestry Commission Scotland).
- **Bogs, Bings & Beasties Exhibition**, 26 July to 8 August at the Hamilton Low Parks Museum. Further details available in the events section of LBAP News.
- **Biodiversity Banks** Phase II ensuing with over 500 people involved in nine new urban wildflower meadows. There are now 18 Biodiversity Banks across South Lanarkshire.
- Felling has begun in a number of the **Clyde Valley Woodlands**. This process includes the use of a Clydesdale horse (Dandy) to extract the timber.
- Tree nursery under construction at **Leadhills** including a polytunnel for use by the local community for village enhancement projects and acclimatising juniper, aspen and other tree species for upland planting.
- Thanks to **Melanie Craig** a student from Bell College, Hamilton who had the pleasure of job shadowing a Biodiversity Officer for 10 weeks. Your input was invaluable. Good luck with the sheep and goats.

**Contact:** Scott Riddell, 01355 806858, [scott.riddell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:scott.riddell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Stirling

Contact: Chris Waddell, 01786 442875 [waddellc@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:waddellc@stirling.gov.uk)

## Tayside

- Tayside's "**Wild and Wonderful**" Biodiversity Exhibition in Perth Museum was officially opened by Simon Pepper (WWF Scotland) and will remain open now until Christmas.
- The '**Safe Homes for Sand Martins**' project (Broughty Ferry beach) appears to have been an outstanding success. Within weeks of being made, a number of sand martins set up home and recent sightings have numbered at least 50 adults. The site is proving to be very successful with the local community which is taking a great interest in its safeguarding.
- **Perth & Kinross Squirrel Group** - this group has now been revived and will be reviewing old transect surveys as well as introducing new ones across Perthshire. Tayside's Red Squirrel Action Plan is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft stage and includes details of the Dundee Bio-DiverCity Red Squirrel Project as well as overall proposals for its management throughout the region.
- All 3 local authorities in Tayside are considering future nest conservation policies/projects for **swifts on public buildings**.
- A **Small Blue Butterfly Survey** is under way in rural Angus to determine if the species is still present inland. Angus Ranger Service is helping BCS with the project.
- Two sub-groups will be taking an "**outreach**" stance on highlighting biodiversity issues in the area. On 22 July the Woodland sub-group, led by Forestry Commission Scotland, will tour the Comrie Woods area (West Perthshire) to discuss the various management techniques being employed. All are welcome. On 8 September, the Upland sub-group, led by Martin Price of the Institute of Mountain Studies (Millennium Institute, Perth) and Stephen Corcoran, the Cairngorm LBAP Officer, will meet in Glen Prosen. The tour will also be open to Scotland's Moorland Forum and anyone with an interest in upland issues.
- A number of **Backyard Biodiversity Day** events were held throughout Tayside – further details will be reported in a future issue.
- The **Building Better Biodiversity** series of lunchtime seminars continues with recent subjects including 'managing urban grassland for biodiversity' and 'watercourse management for otters and water voles'; there will be a wet grassland site visit in July to tie in with SEPA's talk on their Habitat Enhancement Initiative.

Contact: Catherine Lloyd, Biodiversity Officer, 01738 476481 [tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net](mailto:tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net)

## West Dunbartonshire

Contact: Rod McCreath (temporary contact) [rod.mccreath@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:rod.mccreath@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

## West Lothian

- The **West Lothian LBAP has been reviewed for approval** in the autumn. The strategic approach to habitat action has been re-endorsed by the partnership, to deliver biodiversity as an integral part of the West Lothian sustainable development partnership programmes.

Contact: John Sheldon, Co-ordinating Officer, 01506 775278 [John.Sheldon@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:John.Sheldon@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Continued overleaf ...**

## Events

### South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership

#### Bogs, Bings & Beasties - Sat 26 June to Sun 8 August 2004

##### Low Parks Museum, 129 Muir Street, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire

South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership is pleased to announce the opening of the Bogs, Bings & Beasties exhibition at Hamilton Low Parks Museum on Saturday 26 June 2004. South Lanarkshire Council will be running a series of events from the museum and the Hamilton Low Parks Nature Reserve during the period of the exhibition. Activities will include photography workshops, arts and crafts, pond dipping, wildlife gardening and mini-beast safaris. Come along and find out how much fun you can have learning about the biodiversity on your doorstep. For further details on the exhibition, events and activities please contact Hamilton Low Parks Museum on 01698 328 232.

##### Bogs, Bings & Beasties Events Programme 2004

###### Sunday 27 June 2004 – Garden for Life, Low Parks Museum

Find out how to be more wildlife friendly in your garden. FREE, fun hands-on activities for all the family including, healthy herbs, natural dyes, facepainting and arts and crafts. You don't need a garden for get the most out of this event - just a windowsill! Drop in between 12.30-3.30pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Heather Macleod, Countryside Ranger Service on 01698 426213.

###### Tuesday 6 July - JUNK MODELLING

Recycle rubbish into amazing works of art. Drop-in 1.30-3.30 pm. Suitable for age 5 and over.

###### 9, 10 and 11 July 2004 - 'BOGS, BINGS & BEASTIES at LOW PARKS'

Discover some of the weird and wonderful creatures who live in the secret world of the Low Parks ponds. Inspired by your discoveries? Return to Low Parks Museum and create your own bug or beastie in our craft activity then visit the Bogs, Bings & Beasties exhibition. Suitable for 6-12 year olds provided they are accompanied by an adult. Outdoor clothing and footwear is essential.

Booking essential. Meet at the Visitor Centre Reception Desk in Low Parks Museum.

Start time: 1pm (duration: approx. 3 hours, bring a snack for a the break)

Please book in advance with Low Parks Museum Reception, tel. 01698 328232

###### Friday 16 July - NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

We'll take you into the Low Parks Nature Reserve to take digital photo studies. Collect natural materials and return to the Low Parks Museum and create your own natural sculpture to photograph and keep on a CD. Booking only. 1.30-3.30pm. Suitable for age 8 and over.

###### Saturday 17 July - NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

As above. 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm.

###### 20, 22 and 27 July - JUNK MODELLING

Recycle rubbish into amazing works of art. Drop-in 1.30-3.30 pm. Suitable for age 5 and over.

###### 30 and 31 July and 1 August 2004 - 'BOGS, BINGS & BEASTIES at LOW PARKS'

Discover some of the weird and wonderful creatures who live in the secret world of the Low Parks ponds. Inspired by your discoveries? Return to Low Parks Museum and create your own bug or beastie in our craft activity then visit the Bogs, Bings & Beasties exhibition. Suitable for 6-12 year olds provided they are accompanied by an adult. Outdoor clothing and footwear is essential.

Booking essential. Meet at the Visitor Centre Reception Desk in Low Parks Museum.

Start time: 1pm (duration: approx. 3 hours, bring a snack for a the break)

Please book in advance with Low Parks Museum Reception, tel. 01698 328232

###### Sunday 8 August 2004 - PLANTS, PILLS & POTIONS

Find out about some of the oldest natural remedies known to humankind. With the Countryside Rangers learn about the folklore and healing properties of herbs, many easily found in and around Hamilton. Returning to the Low Parks Museum, with the help of a professional herbalist, make your own potions. Suitable for all ages. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an

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adult. Outdoor clothing and footwear is essential. Meet at the Visitor Centre Reception Desk in Low Parks Museum.

Start time: 1pm (duration: approx. 3 hours, bring a snack for a the break)

Please book in advance with Low Parks Museum Reception, tel. 01698 328232

## Butterfly Conservation Scotland

### More Butterfly and Moth Workshops!

The hugely successful "Butterfly Guardians for Scotland" project (funded by HLF and SNH), is now drawing to a close, with the last volunteer workshop (in a series of 16) taking place at Greenhead Moss Community Nature Park in North Lanarkshire on 10 July. The project has been outstanding, with over 100 new volunteers recruited in the first year alone to help survey Scotland's butterflies and moths, with that figure set to double with the interest being taken in this year's workshops. The success of this method of recruiting and training volunteers has attracted much attention, and this summer we are working with Forestry Commission Scotland to recruit and train volunteers to help staff initiate and carry out monitoring of high priority butterflies on FCS land; such as the pearl-bordered fritillary, chequered skipper and northern brown argus. One workshop has already taken place near Lochgilphead. The remaining five are:

<b>Thu 1 July</b>	<b>Lochaber</b>	<b>Allt Mhuic Nature Reserve, near Fort William</b>
<b>Tue 6 July</b>	<b>Argyll</b>	<b>Appin &amp; Glen Creran, near Oban</b>
<b>Fri 16 July</b>	<b>Perthshire</b>	<b>Kynachan, near Tummel Bridge, Perthshire</b>
<b>Thu 22 July</b>	<b>Inverness-shire</b>	<b>Glenmore, near Aviemore</b>
<b>Wed 28 July</b>	<b>Borders</b>	<b>Tweed Valley</b>

We have also received funding from the Craignish Trust and others to run two workshops in the Tayside area. These are as follows:

**Sat 14 Aug, Knock of Crieff, Perthshire - Introduction to Butterfly Identification and Recording Methods**

**Fri 20 Aug (8pm-midnight) and 21 (9-10.30am), House of Dun, Montrose - Introduction to Moth Recording**

Places on all the above workshops are limited, so if you would like to reserve a place, please contact Julie Stoneman at the Stirling Office (0870 7706151 or [jstoneman@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jstoneman@butterfly-conservation.org)) for further information and a booking form. All workshops are free and run from 10am to 4pm unless otherwise stated.

## Priority Moth Surveys for Volunteers In Scotland, 2004

BCS is still looking for volunteers to help with surveys for two key moth species. The surveys are important to give a better picture of their current distribution and status in Scotland, and will allow us to undertake detailed surveys and research at occupied sites and aim to encourage sympathetic land management.

**Square-spotted Clay:** Conduct larval searches at other sites with older records (Barcaldine, Corran Ferry and Arisaig; Ayrshire, Peebleshire, Dumfries-shire, Kircudbrightshire) or light-trap for adults at these sites from late July to end August.

**Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth:** In Scotland there are colonies in the Cairngorms, Moray and Easter Ross and in the west from Argyll north to Wester Ross. They can sometimes be attracted to flowering sprigs of lilac taken into the field.

**Want to get involved?** Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in any of these surveys to allow us to co-ordinate them more effectively. No skills or previous experience is necessary and everyone is welcome. We can also provide more information on old records, survey forms and further advice on survey techniques. For further information contact: Tom Prescott, Conservation Advisor, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Mill House, Mill Road, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, PH21 1LF. Tel 0870 77061539. Email [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

## **"Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace"**

### **Scottish Greenspace Forum cluster group event, 23 July 2004**

The SGF "Natural Greenspace" cluster group, in conjunction with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Greenspace Scotland, is running a one-day seminar on Friday 23 July 2004 at the Cumbernauld Theatre in Cumbernauld. The seminar will include presentations, site visits and workshop sessions covering the topics of quality, accessibility and biodiversity in greenspaces. This seminar will act as the first stage of the activities of this cluster group and will be followed by web-based discussions and further meetings. [Click here](#) to download a flyer. The other SGF cluster groups will also be launching their activities over the next few weeks – details will be included in future Greenspace Scotland e-bulletins and will be posted on the Greenspace Scotland website - [www.greenspacescotland.org.uk](http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk) If you are a greenspace practitioner and would like to join the SGF, please email Deryck Irving at [deryck.irving@greenspacescotland.org.uk](mailto:deryck.irving@greenspacescotland.org.uk)

## **Bat Conservation Trust**

### **Helping the UK's bats – the National Bat Monitoring Programme**

Now summer has arrived bats can be seen at dusk foraging in parks, farmland, woodlands and wetlands around the UK, and female bats will be forming maternity roosts, typically in cavities around the edges of buildings. The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) is looking for more volunteers to take part in surveys at bats' foraging and roosting sites as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). Established in 1996, the aim of the programme is to provide accurate monitoring data on which to base conservation advice relevant to the needs of the UK's bats.

There are several different NBMP surveys catering to different levels of knowledge and experience. More help is needed with field surveys and this is where the participation of wardens and rangers can be particularly invaluable. A bat detector is required but if you don't have access to one then they are available on loan from BCT. The simpler of the two field surveys is the Daubenton's Bat Waterway Survey, as Daubenton's bats are relatively easy to identify by the way they feed close to the surface of the water. If you have some experience of identifying noctule, serotine and pipistrelle bats then your help is needed with the NSP field survey.

Alternatively, if you know of a roost in your area then you could take part in the Roost Survey. Another option is the Sunrise Survey, which simply involves walking a route of your choice at dawn and looking out for bats swarming before they enter their roosts. But whatever surveys you take part in you would be making a valuable contribution to bat conservation while experiencing the pleasures of observing these fascinating mammals. For more information call the Bat Conservation Trust on 020 7501 3625, email [nbmp@bats.org.uk](mailto:nbmp@bats.org.uk) or go to <http://www.bats.org.uk/nbmp> where you can sign up online.

## Lead Partner Articles, Policies and Strategies

### Butterfly Conservation Scotland

#### Revamped website

The Scotland pages of our website have been re-vamped, which should make it easier to find out what's going on and where to send your records [www.butterfly-conservation.org/bcuk/scotland](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/bcuk/scotland). Any feedback on the contents of the website would be most welcome.

### Glow Worms

Jonathan Willet is co-ordinating a Scottish Glow Worm survey for 2004. There are few recent records for this species (mainly for the 1970s and from early 1990s, from Argyll, Strathclyde and Galloway). It is thought they're declining, but we really don't know. All the available records from CEH Monk's Wood have been collated, which can be used as a starting point for re-survey of historic sites. Glow worms are certainly under-recorded so there is scope to get new records. Jonathan will list areas where glow worms have been recorded and asks if others could circulate it to field staff, and to anyone who may be interested. If you're interested in going out and having a look, please contact Jonathan who will send out the relevant information. July is peak glowing time and if anyone is doing a nightjar survey it would be great to combine the two. Also the knowledge of gamekeepers and estate staff would be great to tap into, so far this had yielded two new colonies from Loch Awe this year. Glow worms have been recorded in: Argyll, Ayrshire, Cumbrae, Caithness, Dumfriesshire, Galloway, Inverness-shire, Kirkcubrightshire, Midlothian, Perthshire, Renfrew, Stirling, Skye, Sutherland.

Please contact: Jonathan Willet, North Lanarkshire Biodiversity officer, [willetj@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:willetj@northlan.gov.uk)

### Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group

#### To 2005 and beyond... BAP Reporting and Reviews

The UK BAP helps coordinate and drive conservation work at national and local levels through identifying priorities for action and setting biological targets for the recovery of species and habitats. Since 1995, a total of 436 UKBAPs and about 150 LBAPs have been published. The plans, and the targets set within them, were based on the best information available at the time. However, we do not live in a static world: the threats faced by our species and habitats, the opportunities for their conservation, and the amount we know about them, change. It is consequently important that we regularly report on progress and periodically re-assess our species and habitat priorities and targets, in order to keep the BAP relevant. 2005 has been chosen by the UK Biodiversity Partnership as the year for the first full review of the UKBAP. This will involve three components: (i) a national reporting round integrating local and national information; (ii) a review of the targets set for UK priority species and habitats; and (iii) a review of the UK priority lists themselves. This work is being coordinated by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) on behalf of the UK Partnership Standing Committee. A summary of the processes and a timetable (see next section) can be found at the end of this note.

#### Reporting on progress

The next three-yearly reporting round will take place in 2005. This will again employ user-friendly technology (remember the online system in 2002?), this time using the web-based Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) that will be available from October 2004. LBAP reporting will be carried out between July and September 2005, and Lead Partners will report from October to December 2005. This staggered reporting will enable LPs to take account of LBAP information to provide a more integrated report than has been possible in the past. BRIG is also looking at ways of incorporating information from sources other than LPs and LBAPs to produce a more complete over-view of progress. Analysis will start immediately after the reporting round has ended and, as in 2003, the final report should be available at the June UK Biodiversity

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Partnership Conference. A detailed information note will be sent to LPs and LBAPs in early 2005 to explain what information will be requested, so that you can plan and prepare appropriately.

### **Revising UK BAP targets**

The UKBAP targets are in need of revision. Many of the targets set in 1995-99 have either expired or need updating to take account of new information, and some have been met and new milestones need to be set. Additionally, now that conservation is the responsibility of the devolved administrations, country-level BAP targets are required. The target review will begin in July 2004 and, following extensive consultation, will end early in 2006. This will allow the results of 2005 reporting to be taken into account when finalising new target values (nb 2005 reporting will be based on existing BAP targets). In order to make BAP targets SMART and to facilitate the integration of national and local targets, the review will involve changes to both the values of the targets and their structure and format. In July 2004, LPs will be sent full guidance on the terms and objectives of the review.

### **Updating the UK species and habitats priorities**

A sub-group of BRIG, the Priority Species and Habitats Review Working Group, has been set up to undertake a review of the priority species and habitat lists. This will provide a clearly audited process for species and habitat listing, based on sequential applications of scientific and practical criteria, followed by the consideration of appropriate implementation mechanisms. These implementation mechanisms have yet to be decided but they might include a single species plan, a grouped plan, or delivery through other conservation action such as agri-environment schemes or policy-based work. The group is working closely with expert species groups particularly, but not exclusively, in co-operation with the JNCC Species Status Assessment Project. The group will liaise with specialists to develop clear and usable criteria and to resolve any particularly difficult issues e.g. how we measure declines. The Priority Habitat Review and consultation will involve consideration of habitat definitions, gaps in priority listing, and linkages. It is envisaged that the criteria will be developed and agreed by late 2005 with a resultant set of species and habitat lists and recommendations for conservation activity and delivery mechanisms during 2006.

Further information on of these processes can be found under the "Reporting" menu on the revamped UKBAP website (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>). LPs, steering group members and LBAPs will be heavily involved in all three strands of work, and you are requested to make your ideas and opinions known either at the partnership meeting or by sending an email to the UKBAP website (<mailto:admin@ukbap.org.uk>) or to the BRIG secretariat, Ant Maddock (<mailto:ant.maddock@jncc.gov.uk>). For some, the next couple of years will be busy, but we are planning the activities carefully to minimise the workload for all concerned.

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	2004						2005												2006											
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>2005 Reporting</b>							BARS on general release						LBAP reporting			Lead Partner reporting			Analysis and report production											
<b>Priority Species and Habitat Review</b>	Working with existing species expert groups and developing new partnerships to develop criteria and undertake assessments												Development of conservation action and implementation mechanisms																	
	Specialist groups consulted over development of criteria for selecting priority species																													
							Country Group consultation on priority listing criteria																							
	Priority habitat review and consultation												Development of conservation action and implementation mechanisms																	
<b>Target Review</b>	Lead Partners and steering groups propose new or revised targets												Consultation on proposals involving Country Groups, key partner organisations, LBAPs and regional fora						Targets endorsed by UKSC and Country Groups		Refinement of target values after 2005 reporting			Final targets agreed and published						
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2004						2005												2006											

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If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please do get articles to [Jo Lenthall](#), Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum, by 27 August 2004.