

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 14: September 2004



Welcome to the belated August edition of the LBAP Newsletter. I apologise for this delay, but 'Best Value for Biodiversity in Scotland', the new guidance of good practice to help public bodies embed biodiversity across all their service delivery areas, has now been completed and is available to everyone who may want a copy (see below).

This is also a time for everyone to get involved with the various reviews that are coming out of the Biodiversity Reporting Information Group (BRIG), see page 12 and 13 for more information, although LBAP Officers will be receiving a separate e-mail regarding habitat targets very shortly.

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)

Best Value and Biodiversity in Scotland

A handbook of good practice for public bodies

After some incredibly frustrating last minute changes requested by one partner, the publication finally made it onto my desk at 3pm on 8 September, ready for the **workshop on 9 September**, held at SNH Battleby as a part of SNH's Sharing Good Practice programme; a time of high blood pressure and palpitations. 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 developed the links between the main principles of best value, sustainable development, and biodiversity conservation in Scotland, through all local authority service delivery areas.** During the day delegates were given the opportunity to share their own experiences of the best value and biodiversity processes through discussion, field trips and group sessions. Notes of the day's proceedings will be available shortly. Delegates will automatically get a copy, but if you couldn't make the event but would like to get a note of the day, please get in contact. Also, **if you would like a copy of "Best Value and Biodiversity in Scotland"**, please e-mail Jo Lenthall as soon as possible.

A big thank you to everyone who helped get this publication into print, especially to Astron whose professional conduct dissipated a lot of my stress in the final weeks, and ensured the workshop did have a document to work with!

Contact: Jo Lenthall, Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum
joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk

LBAP/LP seminar, Battleby, 13 October 2004

The new Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and the SBS bring about changes in the context in which biodiversity processes are delivered in Scotland, as part of the UK's overall contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Meeting these new requirements will necessitate more effective communication between UK, Scottish and Local partnerships. Linking local and national elements to improve biodiversity conservation delivery in Scotland, and the UK as a whole, has been the subject of discussion for some time, and this event will focus on increasing communication, improved co-ordination and reporting of common data and exchanging best practice. Please find a booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Contact: Jo Lenthall, Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum
joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk

Consultation on Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plans, Draft Research Strategy, and Indicator Sets

The consultation period for the final draft Implementation Plan supporting the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Research Strategy and the Indicator Set ends on 30 September 2004. If you are responding from an LBAP partnership, please could you get your responses to me as soon as possible, to enable me to respond from the LBAP Network as a whole. Full details of the consultation, including the cover letter, plans and action tables are [at www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/biodiversity). If you have any queries please contact biodiversityconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Scottish Biodiversity Week 2005

SBW2005 is 21-29 May, and International Biodiversity Day is 22 May. If anyone has had any thoughts about holding events during this week, and are looking for volunteers aged 16-30 years, please do get in touch with me for further details.

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

Local Biodiversity Updates

Argyll & Bute

Argyll celebrates Red Squirrel Week. Argyll & Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership supported Red Squirrel Week with a workshop at Inverawe on **Sunday 12 September 2004**. The red squirrel is a flagship species in this LBAP. Janie Steele (Recreational Officer, Forest Enterprise Scotland) lead the workshop supported by the LBAP. There was practical information on spotting signs of red squirrel, how to do a survey etc. Red squirrel numbers remain stable in Argyll with no reports of grey squirrel in new areas. Interest in red squirrel has grown as people see them as regular visitors to gardens attracted by what's on offer on their bird tables. The red squirrel has inspired a number of new initiatives in Argyll eg the Lochgoilhead Community Trust (funded by Community Action for Biodiversity European Grant scheme) is carrying out a project where Jim Sim (project manager) is particularly concerned about road kill incidents. The trust will run a number of surveys with the local school, the Outdoor Centre and local people, install a rope bridge to reduce road fatalities and commission a red squirrel sculpture. Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park ranger service has set up a Red Squirrel Group and will be holding a number of events throughout the NP shortly.

Contact: Marina Curran-Colthart, Local Biodiversity Officer on 01631 562125 marina.curran-colthart@argyll-bute.gov.uk www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity

Ayrshire

Contact: Douglas Gardiner, Recycling Officer, East Ayrshire Council, 01563 554040 douglas.gardiner@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; Ken Gibb, Sustainable Development Manager, South Ayrshire Council, 01292 616288 ken.gibb@south-ayrshire.gov.uk; no current contact, North Ayrshire Council, 01294 324131

Cairngorms

Contact: Stephen Corcoran, LBAP Officer, 01479 870528, stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk

Clackmannanshire

Contact: Biodiversity Co-ordinator, 01259 452639, lbond@clacks.gov.uk, www.clacksweb.org.uk/biodiversity

Comhairle non Eilean Siar

- The **Western Isles LBAP** was launched on 27 May 2004. The introductory document "Our Nature – A Framework for Biodiversity Action in the Western Isles" and the three HAPs and SAPs are available at <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/biodiversity/planning.htm#>.
- The **next phase of action plans** are to be drafted by November 2004 with public consultation early in 2005. Phase 2 SAPs - Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, Corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*, Irish lady's tresses *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*. Phase 2 HAPs are cereal field margins, machair and blanket bog
- At the launch of the **Western Isles Woodland Strategy** in January 2004 the Scottish Executive announced additional funding for woodland planting in Western Isles through Locational Premium, which came into effect on 1 April 2004. Uptake has been considerable with 246 hectares of planting/regeneration being progressed. Establishment of a native tree nursery is also being progressed and existing private nurseries have expressed interest in collection and propagation of seed from island native woodland species.
- Phase 2 of RSPB Scotland's **Southern Isles Corn Bunting Project** recently commenced. Corn bunting numbers have severely declined in Benbecula and North Uist and phase 1 of the project provided a winter feed source in troughs in areas that still had corn buntings. RSPB Scotland is reasonably sure that the declines are related to changes in agriculture and seed

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availability. Survey work has shown that corn buntings rely heavily on arable stacks for winterfeed. Phase 2 of the project is to find a way of seed being made available that fits in with the crofting system. Arable stacks have largely disappeared from North Uist and Benbecula as most areas have turned to using big bale silage. Crofters in targeted areas are being offered financial incentives to harvest a small percentage of their crops in the traditional manner ie cutting using a binder, formation of small stooks and ultimately large stacks.

- RSPB Scotland is considering the **creation of nectar/pollen rich grasslands** for the Great yellow bumblebee *Bombus distinguendus* and the Northern colletes bee *Colletes floralis*. This would involve management agreements with crofters over small areas of cultivated machair, which would be managed on a traditional four-year rotation of two years arable crops and two years fallow. The second year of arable cropping would be undersown with a suitable seed mix to create rich feeding areas for bees. This would then be grazed down in early autumn. The arable crop would be harvested traditionally with a binder and provide winter feed for corn buntings.
- A **Schools Education Programme** is being developed and aims to incorporate biodiversity and issues such as countryside access with art.

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

Dumfries & Galloway

Contact: Peter Norman, Biodiversity Officer, 01387 260172, peter.norman@dumgal.gov.uk
www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity

East Dunbartonshire

Contact: Paul Baker, Biodiversity Officer, 0141 578 8642, paul.baker@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

East Lothian

Contact: Stuart Macpherson, Biodiversity Officer, 01620 827242,
smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk www.eastlothianbiodiversity.org.uk

Edinburgh

- **Edinburgh BAP Phase 2 launch** is taking place on 17 November at Holyrood Park Education Centre. Design and publication work is well underway, and launch event preparation is our focus at present.
- Various implementation projects include: **survey of key non-designated grassland sites**, which FWAG have been funded to carry out by SNH, EBAP and West Lothian Council. **Juniper regeneration:** further to funding being secured from MoD Defence Estates, fencing work at our source site of juniper within the Pentlands is underway. The area is being extended to provide a nursery area for planting out new plants, from earlier cuttings, being returned by Forest Research. A rolling annual project of cuttings, propagation and planting out is ongoing with support from MoD, EBAP, BTCV Scotland, Pentland Rangers, Plantlife, Forest Research. In the longer term we will plant out at identified local sites for re-introduction, undertake propagation from seed to enhance genetic diversity of stock and engage in research for natural regeneration methods.
- Grant applications to the **SBF Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme** are being submitted for a river restoration project on the Niddrie Burn and for work in Corstorphine Walled Garden (BTCV Scotland).
- Sue has been involved in **judging the 'Wildlife Garden' category** of the new 'Keep Edinburgh Growing' gardening competition. Competition was fierce and the winners will be announced at a ceremony on 2 September. There will be joy, heartache and tearful thank-you speeches all round!

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Contact: Susan Steel or Caroline Peacock, Biodiversity Officers 0131 469 3920
susan.steel@edinburgh.gov.uk caroline.peacock@edinburgh.gov.uk

Falkirk

- The **Biodiversity Officer post is again covered full time** as Caroline Peacock came into post at the start of August. Caroline will work the first half of the week, and Anna the second half.
- **Monitoring and survey work** for key priority species is ongoing.
- The focus of the coming months is to **identify priority implementation projects** and complete the next (possibly final) set of action plans and species statements for this phase of the FBAP.

Contact: Anna Perks and Caroline Peacock, Biodiversity Officer, 01324 504863
anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk caroline.peacock@falkirk.gov.uk

Fife

Contact: Ross Spalding (temporary contact), 01592 413437 ross.spalding@fife.gov.uk
www.fifedirect.org.uk

Glasgow

Contact: Keith Watson or Carol MacLean, Biodiversity Officers on 0141 287 5665
keith.watson@land.glasgow.gov.uk carol.maclelan@land.glasgow.gov.uk
<http://wildlife.glasgow.gov.uk>

Highland

- Janet Bromham is now on maternity leave (gave birth to a healthy boy, a couple of weeks early, at the end of August). Her replacement, **Alice Brown started work on 1 September**, and is based in Highland Council Headquarters in Inverness.
- **Six Highland BAPs** have been produced to date, covering the areas of Caithness, Sutherland, Wester Ross, Ross & Cromarty (East), Skye & Lochalsh and Lochaber. The Inverness & Nairn Plan is due to be launched on 11 September. This completes the first phase of the Highland Biodiversity Project, and the funding partners are currently considering options for a second phase.
- Visit the project's **website** www.highlandbiodiversity.com for further details.

Contact: Alice Brown, Biodiversity Officer, 01463 702274 alice.brown3@highland.gov.uk
www.highlandbiodiversity.com

Midlothian

Contact: Helen Dunlop, Biodiversity Officer, Midlothian Council, 0131 271 3462
helen.dunlop@midlothian.gov.uk

North East Scotland

Contact: Maria Hardy, LBAP Co-ordinator, 01224 711120 maria.hardy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk

North Lanarkshire

- **Water Voles.** At a meeting with other LBAPOs in late June it was agreed to wait until the SNH Strathclyde and Ayrshire water vole survey was complete before decisions were made on how to further water vole conservation locally. A "Water Voles in Scotland" conference is planned to look at what is happening here and elsewhere, and to report on the SNH water vole survey and its findings. Interestingly, it seems that water voles do better in wetlands and marshes, than watercourses when mink are present....

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- **Magic Moss Days.** 5 days of celebration were held with varying numbers of participants. Lessons learned: you can't compete with a bouncy castle, and don't put your marquee close to the bog if it's remotely difficult to find and there is a hoaching visitor centre half a mile away! However, the final Moss Day attracted 40 folk and was a great success, two attracted just over 20 folk, the rest under 10. Those that attended were local to the mosses so it did raise their awareness, and they found out just how deep the peat was.
 - **Nature Exchange.** Jonathan was fortunate enough to be selected for a Nature Exchange to eastern Germany. He visited a wood festival, saw the black clad journeymen carpenters (has a picture if you are interested), dipped out on beaver but saw dams, chewed trees and flooded areas. Met foresters, local conservation officers, and Dirk from the Swiss Saxony National Park who thought "we were a funny group"..... (taken as a compliment!). The most interesting thing brought back from the trip was that all the rural area is hunted by someone who pays the landowner to hunt it and compensates for any damage eg wild boar damaging crops or fences. Quotas for game bags are decided between the hunter, conservationists and the landowner. Very different from our way of doing things.
 - **Thistle TV.** An outside broadcast looking at pond life and dragonflies, where the sun shone and there was a lot to see. However, his agent has still had no enquiries, so is thinking of getting a new one!
 - **SBGS.** Is frantically filling in the application form to make the deadline. Proposals include farming small grants scheme, trial wild bird cover plots, local record centre funding (to get data sorted and accessible) and a community grant scheme.
- Contact:** Jonathan Willet, North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Officer, 01236 780636
willetj@northlan.gov.uk

Orkney

- In the middle of drafting our **3-year LBAP business plan**.
 - The **Orkney Local Record Centre** had been given approval and funding to upgrade all their systems and additional services through a new ArcView 9 GIS and 3D analyst programme. The two projects will be working closely on mapping projects in the future.
 - **Orkney Community Environment Awareness Network (OCEAN)** produced their first calendar of environmental events in Orkney. 8000 copies were produced and distributed. They are in the process of putting together the winter calendar, which will be ready for distribution the end of October.
- Contact:** Nadine Russell, Orkney Biodiversity Officer, 01856 888760
nadine.russell@orkney.gov.uk www.orkneybiodiversity.co.uk

Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde

- **Petrina Brown** started as the new Biodiversity Officer on 14 June 2004, and is now online.
- Contact:** Petrina Brown, Local Biodiversity Officer, 0141 842 5281
petrina.brown@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Scottish Borders

- **Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy** – second draft of strategy in progress, public consultation to now begin in September.
- **Scottish Borders LBAP Management** now formed to help steer the 3-year LBAP Business Plan.
- Screening of all **Planning Applications** for biodiversity impacts, in conjunction with Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre and SNH to begin at start of September.
- **Scottish Borders Biological Recorders** group now fully constituted
- Butterfly Conservation Scotland/Scottish Borders Council/SNH survey of small blue butterfly in Scottish Borders failed to find small blue at any of the formerly occupied sites or potential sites (kidney vetch sites), **possible local extinction of small blue**.

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- **FCS/BCS butterfly workshop** held at Wakerburn in July. Focus on recording in the Tweed Valley Forest.
 - **Grassland management for northern brown argus** to be carried out by Scottish Borders Council at Coldingham Bay.
- Contact:** Andy Tharme, Natural Heritage Officer, 01835 826514 atharme@scotborders.gov.uk

Living Shetland

Contact: Nicky Davies, Biodiversity Officer, 01595 690832, livingshetland@fwag.org.uk

South Lanarkshire

Contact: Scott Riddell, 01355 806858, scott.riddell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Stirling

- In September the **third volume of the Stirling LBAP** is due to go out to consultation, and will contain another 28 HAPs and SAPs.
 - 22 August saw a very successful **Flanders Moss open day** with over 170 attendees. Contributors included SNH, Stirling Council Rangers, Mugdock Country Park Rangers, SWT, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Forth Environment Link. LBAPO had a stand looking at Bog Biodiversity and Historical Geography/Ecology of the bogs of the Carse.
 - A **Hedge Installation/Maintenance training day** is planned for November, joint initiative between Stirling and Clacks - more details nearer the time.
 - A secondary launch of the **Stirling Biodiversity Grant Scheme** will be in the next month, mainly because subscription to the scheme this far has not been as good as expected!
 - Am working closely with staff at **Plean Country Park to examine biodiversity enhancement**, including hedgerow creation, woodland expansion, revised meadow management regimes and pond creation.
- Contact:** Chris Waddell, 01786 442875 waddellc@stirling.gov.uk

Tayside

- A special afternoon presentation "**Living Roofs - Linking Sustainability with Biodiversity**" by **Dusty Gedge** has been arranged for 11 October, the day before the next LBAPO Network Meeting. Everyone's welcome (pre-booking essential via tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net). Dusty Gedge is a leading expert in 'green' or 'living' roofs and has a key role in London's Canary Wharf Living Roofs Project. He is also the leading enthusiast of the successful Black Redstart SAP. Check out the website: www.livingroofs.org.
- Another meeting open to all will take place on Thursday 7 October (10.30am - 12 noon) in Dundee - "**Best Value and Biodiversity in Scotland: A Handbook of Good Practice for Public Bodies**" by **Jo Lenthall, Scottish Biodiversity Forum**. Pre-booking essential again via tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net.
- Two Partnership sub-groups held **site visits** this year - the woodland sub-group had a summer tour of the variety of woodlands at Glen Lednock, Comrie, west Perthshire. The upland sub-group linked with the Cairngorms LBAP on 8 September to have an autumn tour of the Cairngorms Moorland Project at Glen Prossen, Angus.
- As part of the "**Building Better Biodiversity**" series of short seminars organised by the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, SEPA hosted a meeting in July to highlight their Habitat Enhancement Initiative. An afternoon site visit included a newly-established wet grassland near Perth which is being successfully managed for lapwing and curlew.
- Butterfly Conservation Scotland undertook **three volunteer training workshops** in Tayside this summer. Nine attended a very successful day at Tummel Bridge, the first in a series of workshops to help monitor Forestry Commission Scotland sites across Scotland. A more general butterfly workshop for 11 people was held in Crieff; working with Perth & Kinross Council Ranger Service where participants were shown how to tell similar species of the area

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apart. An additional 16 volunteers attended a moth workshop at the NTS property, House of Dun near Montrose. John Knowler, the Vice County Recorder for Stirlingshire, helped participants identify moths - 20 species were seen including the beautiful broad-bordered yellow underwing, silver y and flounced rustic.

- Tayside will be having a field day - or rather a number of **"Field Days"** in 2005 as part of an initiative proposed by the UK Lowland Grassland Steering Group. These events will be loosely themed and other LBAP areas are encouraged to join in. Angus FWAG will run two events next May - a Wildflower Meadow Management event which will include a practical demonstration on planning and planting and a more general Field Day finding out about conservation headlands, buffer strips and wildflower meadows.
- The **'sand martin wall'** on Broughty Ferry's beach has been an outstanding success with second broods being reared and an enormous number of birds using the wall. The local community has been very positive about the project and greater interpretation will be planned for 2005.
- **Dundee Sustainable Building Forum** - excellent liaison is taking place between the Biodiversity Partnership and this local Forum; there will be a chance to add biodiversity items to the proposed Demonstration Sustainable House in Dundee later in the year.
- Linking with the **draft Hospitals, Sheltered Housing and Nursing Homes HAP** a number of hospital grounds enhancement pilot projects are now being proposed. The NHS are aware of the "duty" placed on them by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and may ultimately consider a number of Hospital BAPs.
- FWAG undertook 64 **RSS applications** throughout Tayside last year with a potential grant income on capital items of £1.2m. This would include management of 1,370ha moorland; 170ha species-rich grassland management and creation; and 101km of new fencing – all with UKBAP species in mind.
- The **Grazing Animal Project Co-ordinator** in England is liaising with a number of LBAP Partners to bring a co-ordinated approach to the subject in Scotland. Tayside has two GAPs - highland cattle on Barry Buddon Links, near Dundee (part of an MoD and SNH project) and soay sheep at Ethie Mains, Angus (mentioned in the Tayside's Maritime Cliff and Slope HAP).
- **Dundee BioDiverCity Project** - as part of the Dundee Partnership for the Environment a wide-ranging project is in the process of being set up. It will include artwork/sculptures on a biodiversity theme along the Riverside area of Dundee extending towards Broughty Ferry Castle.
- The **London architects** of a major social housing redevelopment in Perth have met with the Partnership to ensure biodiversity issues are included in the design. Other opportunities with housing associations and developers are arising too.

Contact: Catherine Lloyd, Biodiversity Officer, 01738 476481 tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net

West Dunbartonshire

Contact: Rod McCreath (temporary contact) 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

Events

Scottish Badgers Annual Conference

12-14 November 2004, Kindrogan Field Studies Centre, Perthshire

Celebrating Ten Years of Scottish Badgers

As well as including a wide selection of presentations, workshops and amusements the weekend will have plenty of space for catching up with old badgering friends and making new ones in Kindrogan's informal atmosphere. Phone the organisers **Allan and Heather Bantick** on **01479 831768** or email allanbantick@hotmail.com for application forms.

SSN Annual Conference

18-19 November, Tolbooth, Stirling

Health and regeneration in a sustainable Scotland

The event will bring together professionals, policy makers and practitioners looking at how progressive health and regeneration agendas can benefit from, and contribute to, sustainable development. There is an excellent line up of speakers and workshops, with exhibition, advertising and fringe meeting opportunities available that you may be interested in. There is also a conference dinner and ceilidh to which you are very welcome, regardless of whether you can attend the conference or not. Please pass this information on to your colleagues, contacts and networks, and please book via George Tarvit (george.tarvit@encams.org) as early as possible as spaces are limited.

Lead Partner Articles, Policies and Strategies

Butterflies and Moths mean Business

Butterfly Conservation Scotland is pleased to announce a brand new innovative project starting this autumn to raise the profile of some of Scotland's most beautiful and rarest butterflies and moths. The project will involve linked projects in two areas: the Cairngorms, and Lomond and Rural Stirling.

At the heart of the project is a programme of free training workshops which will:

- increase awareness of butterflies and moths among local people, especially the front-line staff in tourism-related employment
- provide personal and career development opportunities for conservation, countryside and tourism staff and volunteers
- give tourists and local people an opportunity to see and enjoy this aspect of Scotland's wildlife
- encourage local volunteers to play a part in the conservation and promotion of butterflies and moths

In addition, information leaflets will be published and distributed through a variety of tourism channels, a website will be designed and set up, and the feasibility of creating way-marked butterfly trails in the two areas will be explored.

Julie Stoneman has been appointed the Project Officer and will start consulting organisations, individuals and community groups within these areas in September and October. If you have any good ideas, would like to get involved or would simply like more information please contact Julie on 0870 7706151 or jstoneman@butterfly-conservation.org.

This project is being part-financed by the European Community through the Lomond and Rural Stirling, and Cairngorms LEADER + programme. and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Butterfly and Moth Species Leaflets

Butterfly Conservation Scotland has recently produced colour leaflets on four UKBAP Priority Species; marsh fritillary, argent & sable, netted mountain moth and narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth. These "Learn About" leaflets provide information on identification, life-cycle, foodplants, habitat and suitable land management. They are designed to raise the profile of these threatened and often neglected species to a wide audience including fieldworkers, landowners, conservationists and countryside advisors.

To obtain copies of these leaflets please contact Tom Prescott (email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org Tel: 0870 7706160) Each leaflet is also available electronically in pdf format. The leaflets were produced with financial support from Scottish Natural Heritage.

What can Taxonomy do for YOU?

The 2002 Biodiversity Action Plan reporting round showed that the lack of taxonomic information on British fauna and flora is hampering efforts to conserve biodiversity in the UK. Now is your chance to let the taxonomic specialists know exactly what information you need, whether it be field guides, distribution maps for invasives, lists of protected species or educational materials. As National Focal Point for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the Natural History Museum is carrying out an assessment of taxonomic needs and is asking all those individuals and organisations involved in biodiversity conservation what taxonomic information they need but cannot currently access. The results of the survey will be used to help taxonomic institutions better respond to the needs of biodiversity conservation in the UK, and as an example of best practice for other countries to follow. A questionnaire is being circulated, and responses or requests for more information should be addressed to Alistair Taylor, Tel: 0207 942 5372, Fax: 0207 942 5841 email: a.taylor@nhm.ac.uk.

Plantlife International

Plantlife International's County Flowers campaign may have appeared to end with the announcement of the winners in May this year, but they are now looking to have each County Flower 'adopted' in its respective county. Over the past two months, Plantlife have been discussing with Ministers, Local Authorities and other local groups how they can use their flower. Discussions have ranged from their use as county emblems to using the flowers in promoting Local Authority work in the environment and biodiversity. Plantlife are asking LBAPOs to back the campaign by continuing the debate within their departments and reminding their CEO of the superb opportunity that County Flowers presents to promote local conservation work and local identity and to remind people of their local wildlife. See www.plantlife.org.uk for the list of County Flowers or contact Plantlife on 01722 342730.

'Sustaining Biodiversity' Link Manifesto

Wildlife and Countryside Link recently published 'Sustaining Biodiversity: revitalising the Biodiversity Action Plan process', which is available to download as a pdf from www.wcl.org.uk. Hard copies are available on request from enquiry@wildlife-trusts.cix.co.uk. This manifesto for the future of the BAP process was launched on 17 June in England, and 7 September in Scotland. The former Biodiversity Challenge group of NGOs recently merged with LINK, and Sustaining Biodiversity is the latest in a line of reports punctuating the BAP process at crucial stages and challenging government to make the most of its potential. The manifesto aims to revitalise the BAP process as a whole, and includes references to the importance of LBAPs.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations and Guidance

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations came into force on 21 July and have significant implications for the future delivery of LBAPs. The Scottish legislation will make sure that a wider range of policies, plans, and programmes are considered for their likely environmental effects, and those which may have significant effects will require the preparation of an environmental report. This includes any significant effects the strategy, programme or plan has on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, soil, water and air quality. SEA is intended to 'help achieve a high level of environmental protection' and as a tool for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is consistent with the precautionary principle and the 'no net loss' principle. It is particularly suited to protecting and enhancing biodiversity because it can:

- build biodiversity objectives into plan development.
- provide an opportunity for those with an interest in, and responsibility for, biodiversity to influence plan development.
- identify biodiversity-friendly alternatives.
- focus on the longer-term and larger scales.
- consider all the threats affecting biodiversity in an area, enabling identification and assessment of cumulative effects and impacts.
- suggest effective mitigation strategies to ensure no net loss of biodiversity throughout the development and implementation of plans, allowing sufficient 'lead time' to ensure that effective mitigation can be put in place.
- establish monitoring to provide the necessary biodiversity data and to enable remedial measures to be taken.

'Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners' (EN, EA, RSPB, CCW June 2004) available at http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/planningpolicy/s_e_a.asp is guidance that aims to ensure biodiversity considerations are appropriately addressed in SEA assessments. It will assist in preparing plans and programmes across a range of sectors carrying out SEA, prepare biodiversity reports and comment on biodiversity issues in SEA. The guidance covers the definition of SEA, its legal requirements and how biodiversity fits in; explains step by

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step how biodiversity implications can be considered in SEA and examines the link between SEA and other procedures: sustainability appraisal, 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Directive and project environmental assessment. A 'toolkit' of more specific techniques for promoting biodiversity through SEA is also included.

Update on Biodiversity Action Reporting System

Although BARS will go live during October 2004, its first workshop was held in north Wales on 16 September. BARS will be the main reporting mechanism for the 2005 Reporting Round, although it was originally designed to meet the reporting needs of LBAP partnerships and Lead Partners. As well as being instrumental to the 2005RR, it will also enable you report to your partnerships on all your priorities and plans as and when you need it to. Further information of the workshop will be circulated to LBAP Officers shortly. If any Lead Partner also wants information, please do contact me directly.

Contact: Jo Lenthall, Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum
joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk

Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group

2005 Reporting Group

This group is concerned with setting the questions for the 2005 Reporting Round. Currently it looks as if LBAPs will be asked about interactions with lead partners, integration with local plans and policies, successes and constraints, since the 2002RR. You may be asked to estimate status and trends of UK priorities included in your LBAP. You will be asked to report against your targets for UKBAP priorities. The more reports against targets you are able to provide, demonstrating your successes to the wider community, the better for future LBAP/LP joint working and national support locally.

Update on UK Targets Review

The targets review group has put a considerable amount of work into agreeing the aims of the revised targets for existing plans and the terms that will define them. Minutes of the meetings and a draft timetable are published on www.ukbap.org.uk, in the library, under BRIG. An article has also been included in Biodiversity News. An advice note to lead partners, which will also be circulated to LBAPs, has recently been consulted upon and should be issued within the next couple of months. If you are thinking about reviewing your LBAP, or re-visiting your targets when you enter your LBAP into BARS, do look out for this note. Future links with lead partners and reporting will be made much easier if we are all using the same terms and definitions (for example 'maintain', 'restore', 're-create'). The review is also considering the introduction of targets for 'resilience' of habitats as a way of assessing their ability to withstand the effects of climate change.

Update on UK Species and Habitat Priorities Review

This review is currently concerned with agreeing the criteria which will be used to select new priorities and de-select existing ones. Priorities will be identified by early 2006 and new plans to address them produced later that year.

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Issue 14: September 2004



| | 2004 | | | | | | 2005 | | | | | | 2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 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 |
| 2005 Reporting | | BARS on general release | | | | | LBAP reporting | | Lead Partner reporting | | Analysis and report production | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority Species and Habitat Review | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target Review | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

BOOKING FORM for LBAP/LP Seminar, 13 October, at SNH Battley

Implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
Improved Local and National delivery

I will/will not* be able to attend the LBAP/LP event on "Implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: Improved local and national delivery".

Name _____

Job Title _____

Organisation/Company _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Dietary requirements _____

Please return your booking form (by Friday 1 October 2004) to:
Scottish Biodiversity Forum, LBAP/LP Event Booking Form, Scottish Executive, Area 1-J, Mail
Point 14, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ e-mail: biodiversity@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Poster session – there is a dedicated poster and networking session during the lunch period, although posters and display will be available to look during the whole day. This offers a valuable opportunity to highlight progress of your LBAP, HAP or SAP group so far across Scotland and in the UK as a whole. Deadline to reserve booking space is **1 October 2004**.

For further details of the event and to reserve poster/display space, please contact Jo Lenthall, Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum 0131 311 6512
joanna.lenthall@rspb.org.uk

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please do get articles to [Jo Lenthall](#), Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum, by 22 November 2004.

* Please delete as appropriate