

## Scotland update

### **Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Biodiversity Matters**

*The consultation is complete with over 120 responses received, most in support of the vision and aims of the strategy. These will be used to develop the strategy, with a view to publication in early 2004, and a launch at the end of May 2004.*

**Implementation Planning** - The strategy lays out high level aims for biodiversity, but the implementation plans (in conjunction with existing UKBAP HAPs, SAPs, and LBAP) will detail how these will be achieved. The plans set out key actions for the next three years and will be reviewed in 2007 for the next three-year period. Specialist groups are considering the effectiveness of current actions, based on Lead Partner & LBAP reporting, constraints & blockages to action and the new actions that may be needed to achieve the long-term vision.

**Rural Landuse Working Group** - divided into agriculture, forestry, uplands and mountains; freshwater and soil, sustainable rural development and cross cutting issues

**Urban and Greenspace Working Group** - looking at different areas of the urban environment that support biodiversity and people's interaction with nature.

**Marine and Coastal Working Group** - aquaculture, fisheries, coastal development, transport, energy generation.

**Strategy Indicators Working Group** - developing a set of measurements for the progress of the strategy against its two stated aims; refinement and development of candidate indicators on the state of Scotland's biodiversity, and development of social/economic indicators on people's involvement and awareness of biodiversity

**Education & Communication Advisory Group** - Stevens Associates (contractors) are developing an interpretative strategy for biodiversity in Scotland (overseen by Interpret Scotland and SBF) and reviewing existing good practice in delivering biodiversity messages.

Forum Conference 2004

*If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please get text to me ([Jo Lenthall](mailto:Jo.Lenthall@scotland.gov.uk)) by Wednesday 15 October 2003.*

## Local Updates

### **Argyll & Bute**

**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)

### **Ayrshire**

**Contact:** Morven Templeton, Environment Officer, East Ayrshire Council, 01563 554041 [morven.templeton@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:morven.templeton@east-ayrshire.gov.uk); Ken Gibb, Sustainable Development Manager, South Ayrshire Council, 01292 616288 [ken.gibb@gw.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ken.gibb@gw.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**

**Contact:** Peter Cosgrove, Biodiversity Officer 01479 873630 [petercosgrove@cairngorms.prestel.co.uk](mailto:petercosgrove@cairngorms.prestel.co.uk)

### **Clackmannanshire**

Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership (CBP) launched their Biodiversity Action Plan on 12 July at the Alva Highland Games, 500 wildflowers were planted by CBP members and volunteers. The planting marked the beginning of phase II for the CBP, which will be less writing and more

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implementation of the LBAP. The 3rd and final tranche of plans will be produced next spring. A colourful summary document and CDs of the full LBAP will be available in September 2003.

Practical Action:

- At the end of June, the Water & Wetland Working Group of the CBP held water vole and otter survey training. Rosemary Green instructed CBP members and volunteers on how to look for and identify these mammals' signs. The course was popular and sixteen people are now trained and keeping track of records.
- CBP has recently posted a questionnaire out to all of Clackmannanshire's teachers asking for feedback on the Biodiversity Calendar for Schools. So far, comments have been positive. However it is teacher responses that will determine whether a second batch of calendars will be produced for next year (running from March 2003 to February 2004 – for an electronic version please contact Lynn).
- On 20 August, the chairs of the Woodland and Farmland & Grassland Working Groups of the CBP and Arndean Farming Company will host a farmland walk. Information on the new Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme will be discussed and a horse logger and other woodland machinery will be working on site. The walk starts at 2pm at Dollarfield Farm and refreshments will be provided. The walk is free, however booking is essential. Please contact Scott Nisbet at FWAG (01786 870 185) for more information and for booking.
- Bat Talk and Walk: following the success of last year's event, the CBP is hosting an evening of bats with Neil Middleton on 13 September. The evening will start at 7pm at the Strathallan Hotel in Dollar, £2 charge. For a fun and interesting evening, including a slide show and use of bat detectors, please contact Lynn – booking is essential.

For any further information about getting the Clackmannanshire LBAP, or to ask about events or general biodiversity in our area please contact Lynn Campbell.

**Contact:** Lynn Campbell, Biodiversity Co-ordinator on 01259 452639

[lynncampbell@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:lynncampbell@clacks.gov.uk)

## Comhairle non Eilean Siar

**Contact:** Diane MacPherson, 01870 602425 [dmacpherson@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:dmacpherson@cne-siar.gov.uk)

## Dumfries & Galloway

**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

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

## East Lothian

- A **wildflower meadow** was created in a formal park in Musselburgh using a mix of wildflower annuals; very colourful, very successful. The intention is to keep this as part of the park landscape. Maintaining an attractive winter landscape may be difficult though.
- A project to benefit the **northern brown argus** was established in two local sites. One required the erection of a sheep enclosure, the other required removal of scrub to maintain an open habitat. Butterfly egg numbers and rockrose plant size (ie the food plant) will be used to monitor project success.

**Contact:** Stuart MacPherson, Biodiversity Officer 01620 827242

[smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk)

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## Edinburgh

**Contact:** Susan Steel or Caroline Peacock, Biodiversity Officers 0131 469 3920

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

## Falkirk

Anna will be going on maternity leave from the beginning of October. The post for maternity cover (about 6 months) will be advertised by the end of August in the Scotsman and Countryside Jobs Service). Details can be obtained from Anna if anyone is interested.

**Contact:** Anna Perks, Biodiversity Officer on 01324 504863 [anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk)

## Fife

- On 20 June the 2nd edition of the Fife LBAP "**Action for Biodiversity**" was launched in Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy by Professor Aubrey Manning. A number of attendees planted wildflowers as part of the Beveridge Park Biodiversity Project (see March Newsletter).
- The LBAP launch was part of the '**Take a Pride in Fife Campaign**'. This ran throughout June, being a range of environmental activities based around the Take a Pride in Fife (TAPIF) Strategy launch (into which the LBAP is fully integrated), which will implement the environmental theme of Fife's Community Plan. Practical action coming out of the LBAP contributes to targets in TAPIF's Natural Heritage and Community Learning & Development sections.
- To guide development of practical biodiversity action, the LBAP identifies **priority areas** for the next three years. These priorities (with clear practical targets) are based on a target review where partners agreed to take forward specific actions. These projects and practical action will be the focus of the LBAP over the next three years, and the development of these projects is the LBAP's priority.
- Currently looking into expanding the Fife LBAP **River Enhancement Project**. Thanks to input from many partner organisations, a number of farmers in the Lochore area are now using traps to control feral American mink. Trapping is also operating in Lochore Meadows Country Park, one of the few strongholds for Fife's water vole population.
- A review of the LBAP will be in three years. A **Biodiversity Monitoring Framework** is being finalised to meet the needs of effective monitoring and accurate reporting on LBAP progress.
- **Nestboxes** have gone up throughout Beveridge Park. A planting day, involving a number of schoolchildren and environmental volunteers, took place in June. This project is co-ordinated by the LBAP and Fife Council's Community Services.

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

## Glasgow

### Action Plan Development

- Biodiversity Awareness Strategy content completed. Document design at final draft stage.
- Monitoring Report (2002/03) completed.

### Habitat and Species Action Plans

- Palmate newt population survey – site visits completed.
- Reptile survey on two heathland areas initiated.
- Water Vole monitoring at Early Braes; associated wetland enhancement initiated.
- Snowberry clearance works carried out at Garscadden Burn Park.
- Wetland and open water created at Castlemilk by SWT, also edge planting carried out at Castlemilk Park pond.
- Greater butterfly orchid survey carried out at Lainshaw Drive local SINC.
- Grassland surveys continuing.
- Bat surveys carried out at Linn Park.

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### Awareness Raising

- Biodiversity talks for public presented at the Glasgow Science Centre on 'National Mammal Day' (July).
- Permanent Biodiversity displays created at new Springburn Open Museum and Lethamhill Golf Course, Hogganfield LNR.
- Special Educational Needs Education Pack for woodlands completed.
- Funding secured for development of a city-wide Woodlands Education Pack.

### Community links

- Biodiversity promotions held at eight local Community Open Days around the City.
- Meeting held with Black Environment Network to promote links with ethnic minorities and refugees.

**Contact:** Keith Watson or Carol Maclean, Biodiversity Officers on 0141 287 5665

[keith.watson@land.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:keith.watson@land.glasgow.gov.uk) [carol.maclean@land.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:carol.maclean@land.glasgow.gov.uk)

<http://wildlife.glasgow.gov.uk>

### Highland

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

### Midlothian

Helen Dunlop has started as Midlothian's Biodiversity Officer, in early August. The first meeting of the Midlothian Biodiversity Partnership was on 18 August 2003.

**Contact:** Helen Dunlop, Biodiversity Officer, Midlothian Council, 0131 271 3462

[helen.dunlop@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:helen.dunlop@midlothian.gov.uk)

### NE Scotland LBAP

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

### North Lanarkshire

- Two months into the job and I feel like an **old hand**, well a new start asked me where everything was and I knew! I'm getting my head round the biodiversity issues in NL, lots of development going on, which can have a big impact both positive and negative.
- The biggest change is **being part of a big team** who are all involved with some strand of biodiversity community projects, planning applications, policy and management. Quite a change from my previous post (not a criticism Stirling) and I am sure that the "lone wolf" situation is more common with LBAPOs. So I have been figuring out where I can work most effectively and make the greatest positive impact.
- The **five working groups** are just starting to meet, the woodland group had the first meeting. We have had a good response with 5-7 members of each group. We are trying to streamline number of actions that partners are responsible for, to reduce action overload. We're also looking to tie the actions in with organisation's work plans so that they can budget time for the actions when their work plans are being written and not trying to squeeze them in later on. This will help with the achievability of actions and their monitoring ..... So currently I'm waiting for the rest of the working groups to meet and set objectives before I get projects etc started. Having the chance to get a good feel for the area and find out just what is going on has been very useful as lots is going on and there are many potential projects to get involved with.
- I've been working closely with the **NLC Planning and Environment team**, who are organising presentations to all the Development Control Officers in the autumn, which I'll be feeding into and helping deliver. The first stage of the new Local Plan is about to begin and there will be a biodiversity representation there from the beginning. With our Ecologist and the Landscape team we have submitted a design brief for biodiversity to the Lanarkshire

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Housing Association, as well as putting forward biodiversity conditions for the Council's Interim Housing Land Strategy - Design Parameters for New Housing Developments.

- **Biodiversity Audit** - may take a while to get sorted out as there are no funds this year to get the 1989 Phase 1 survey digitised. However, SNH are planning to Phase 1 survey NL in 2004 for their records. This data will be very useful in allowing us to compare the two data sets to see what habitat change there has been over 15 years and also find out what we have at the moment. Through SNH I have received the most up to date information about our raised bogs and it seems we have more area in total and more area in good condition than we previously thought, which is nice.
- **Local Record Centre** - is in stasis at the moment, we are waiting to see the SNH policy paper on LRCs before we decide what we are going to do. CARSE the Central Scotland is in a similar position. Myself and Jenny, our ecologist, have been co-opted onto the BRISC steering group.
- **Swift hot spot maps** - areas identified by Clare Darlason have been circulated to the three area ranger services to help them focus their recording on the key swift areas.
- I have drafted new text for our **website**, which I hope will be on-line soon.
- I am preparing for a **moth identification night** to be held at Palacerigg Country Park on 16 August. This is in partnership with Butterfly Conservation and to encourage local recording of moths. We hope to run a similar workshop next year for butterflies specifically looking at some local priority species small pearl bordered fritillary, green hairstreak and the large heath (not recorded here but lots of suitable habitat).
- All that and I helped judge the NLC wildlife garden competition.

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

### Orkney

**Contact:** Nadine Russell, Orkney Biodiversity Officer, 01856 888760

[nadine.russell@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:nadine.russell@orkney.gov.uk)

### Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, and Inverclyde

- Approximately 350 Backyard Biodiversity Day posters, giving tips on how to improve biodiversity in the garden, were handed out around schools, libraries, garden centres and DIY stores in the area.
- The Countryside Ranger Service ran a Biodiversity stall and word search competition, based on the poster, at Barshaw Gala Day in Paisley. We had nearly 100 entries, the winning tiebreak was Biodiversity's Brilliant because ... "I love nature and I think the kingfisher is lovely because of its colours."
- As a result of the biodiversity poster, we have been approached to provide information about wildflower meadow creation. Half an acre of small-holding has been prepared for seeding, the rest has been planted as orchard, and native hedges and shrubs reinstated.
- Glasgow Airport is interested in contributing to the implementation of the LBAP. They are especially interested in tree planting for national tree week.

**Contact:** Nicki Dunn, Biodiversity Officer, 0141 842 5281 [nicki.dunn@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicki.dunn@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

### Scottish Borders

- The LBAP project, **Farming for Partridges & Sparrows** for grey partridge and tree sparrows, continues. A biodiversity breakfast was held at a demonstration farm near Gordon in July with over 30 people attending (including farmers involved in the project in 2003 and those on the waiting list to join in 2004). Talks were given by myself (Scottish Borders Council), GCT and RSPB Scotland, site visits were made to discuss management of Wild Bird Cover under the project and also the management of wetlands and grass margins. A breakfast of bacon and sausage rolls was supplied by another project

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demonstration farm at Peelham. There was good feedback from the farmers and the project is going well.

- **Habitat Action Plan** drafts. Native Woodland, Rivers and Burns, and Maritime Cliff and Slope are almost ready for printing. Lowland Farmland, Upland Heath and an Urban HAP are progressing.
- A revised LBAP priority species list the **Borders Species of Conservation Concern** (BSoCC) has been produced by SBC, Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre and SNH. There are 807 species in this list, which includes all designated species from international through to locally scarce. This list will form the basis for natural heritage appraisals under the Local Plan and future development proposals considered by Development Control.
- I have begun **sustainability appraisals for settlements** under the review of the Local Plan. A major component of this is an assessment of LBAP habitat and species (BSoCC) priorities to be included for consideration in settlement appraisals. There will also be the opportunity to include policies for biodiversity in the Local Plan. The Local Plan review is likely to take up a major part of my work programme over the next 2-3 months.
- I have been engaged in discussions with SBC's Environmental Strategy co-ordinator and the LBAP Urban Habitat Working Group about progressing a **Greenspace audit** for the Borders. This may be led by the New Ways process.
- I am currently drafting a guidance note on **Wind farm developments** and natural heritage for use by Development Control and developers.
- As part of the Steering Group for the **Tweed Catchment Management Plan**, I have been assisting the development of this plan, which is to be published by Tweed Forum in the autumn.
- I attended the launch of the **Tweed Valley Osprey project** near Pebbles.
- I assisted a **ranger-led walk** along the Berwickshire Coast. This was the first in what is hoped will be a series of walks to flag up LBAP habitat issues through the ranger-led walk programme. We hope to include walks for other habitats next year, including upland habitats and lowland farmland. I spotted peregrines, porpoises and a minke whale for the group, so maybe they will invite me back!

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

## Living Shetland

- AgriBAP is under consultation at Agriculture Shows around Shetland.
- Marine BAP is being discussed. However, due to a current lack of future funding, this is just going to be briefly touched upon, with a view to get things going later.
- More SAPs and HAPs are coming in, and more people have been approached about a porpoise action plan. It has been agreed to write a HAP for the strandline, Karen Hall (SNH) and myself are putting that one together.
- Trees/woodland plan to be discussed at the very beginning of September.
- Community BAPs will be launched at village halls and shows, starting with the Yell Community BAP (written by Hazel Gray) at the Yell show at the beginning of September.
- Roadside BAP is ongoing.
- We will be holding a couple of guided walks, one on Unst, the others on St. Ninians Isle in conjunction with the Geology and Biodiversity Day and the "Rock On!" geology festival. Help has been agreed by SNH, North Isles Ranger, and South Mainland Ranger.

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

## South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership

- Scott Riddell is now in post and hopes to become familiar with all of the sub-group representatives and the steering group in the near future. Now that the South Lanarkshire LBAP has been published, a less technical version will be developed for public circulation. This will be supported through an official launch of the document later this year.

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- **Clyde Valley Woodlands:** work is soon to begin at Chatelherault Country Park and the Avondale Gorge on woodland re-structuring and regeneration. This is to be initiated as part of the continuing development of the Clyde Valley Woodlands forest habitat network and is supported by European LIFE funding and various local partner organisations.
- **Plant Invaders:** in conjunction with North Lanarkshire Council, SLC will re-launch 'Plant Invaders!' an initiative intended to determine the current distribution of 3 pest plant species in Lanarkshire; giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and rhododendron. This data should inform the manner in which these species are controlled in future.
- **Biodiversity Banks:** the original plan was to create 6 wildflower meadows in South Lanarkshire. In fact the project successfully created 9 wildflower meadows! With the support of Powergen, Central Scotland Countryside Trust and SLC these 'Biodiversity Banks' involved a number of schools and community groups in the nurturing of wildflower seed, before planting out in spring 2003. Signs were erected to celebrate the communities' achievements as well as highlight the project to a wider audience. It is testament that so far, all signs remain intact and bear no traces of vandalism. A community polytunnel was also erected at Hamilton Grammar School, supported by SL Greenspace, providing a useful educational resource and a nursery for future biodiversity projects. SLC Land Services will maintain all meadows while SLC Ranger Services are responsible for botanical monitoring. Further communities have expressed interest in the project and there is an intention to carry this work forward.

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

## Stirling

Chris Waddell will be starting as Stirling's LBAP during September, and will hopefully be joining us at the LBAP Network meeting at the end of September.

**Contact:** Glenda Diack (temporary contact), 01786 442875 [diackg@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:diackg@stirling.gov.uk)

## Tayside

- **A Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services** – This (20 pages) is being circulated to all departments in the three Tayside local authorities. Believed to be the first booklet of its kind in Scotland, it will be very much a working document creating dialogue and giving the chance to share best practice – each suggestion has a tick box next to it so that departments can report on how they are integrating biodiversity into their work.
- **Lunch time Seminars** – May, Camperdown, Dundee, Clare Darleston, Concern for Swifts (Scotland) launched our series of lunch-time seminars for Local Authority staff. The three local authorities have each agreed to host two of these seminars in the next year. Future subjects will include "An Overview of Badgers in Tayside"; "Planning for Barn Owls", "Bats in Bridges and Buildings", "Verges and Wildlife Corridors for Reptiles and Amphibians" and "Managing for Otters, Water Vole and other Priority Biodiversity Species".
- **Half Day Workshops** - Local Authority and private contractors will be invited to a demonstration of 'Hedge Cutting for Biodiversity' in November and plans are afoot for a practical event covering 'The Care of Veteran Trees'.
- **Green Tourism** - Funds-permitting, a "Where to See Wildlife" poster is to be prepared for inclusion in c23,000 bedroom folders. A bookmark, featuring a priority species such as dotterel, is also planned to raise awareness of the need for walkers to control their dogs on upland paths.
- **Species Action Plans** - in preparation include red squirrel, brown hare, bat species, barn owl, toads and frogs, common lizard; newt species, Arctic charr, small blue, Birch moth species, and upland heath moth species.
- **Backyard Biodiversity Day' (BBD)** - The day was celebrated across Tayside – Angus Ranger Service offered Local Patch ID events at Arbroath and Kirriemuir Museum. Perth & Kinross Ranger Service led a major BBD event at Battleby involving 289 children from 15 schools; SNH, the NTS and the Atholl Ranger Service were all involved. The event was

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over-subscribed and such a success that SNH has proposed running the event next year too.

- **Salmon in the Classroom Project** - Tayside's proposed project is to go Scotland-wide, led by SNH. £3k funding had been pledged in Tayside, pilot project will take place in Angus.
- **Harris Moore Environmental Education Awards** - As one of the judges for these Awards I was treated to visiting several schools in Perthshire. The environmental projects varied from an 11-pupil school near Pitlochry (raised flower beds on their tarmac playground), and a nursery school in Perth (sensory garden), to a private girls' school near Blairgowrie (renovated its curling pond), and a school on the outskirts of Dundee (transformed its grounds to share with all manner of wildlife).
- **Swallow, swift and house martins** - pilot surveys continue in five areas: Pitlochry (lead, NTS), lowland Angus and Dundee (lead, Angus and DCC Ranger Services), Broughty Ferry (lead, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project) and Scone (lead, a volunteer). They (BFEP) have also run a "Walk with an Expert" evening with Concern for Swifts (Scotland) to raise awareness.
- **BFEP's 'Silvery Threads' summer project** - series of workshops giving local children the opportunity to try different crafts using locally-grown reeds, willow, rushes and flax and to understand the biodiversity of each of the habitats in which these plants grow.
- **Angus Show** - The Partnership shared a marquee with the Angus Countryside Initiative and Angus FWAG, which proved to be excellent in publicising the LBAP.
- **👉'Go Wild in the Garden'** - A simple full-colour leaflet and A3 laminated poster has been prepared to use at various shows and events this summer. They were launched by the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service at the Perth Show and will be used later in garden centres and to interest allotment societies, churches and schools in gardening for biodiversity.

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

### West Dunbartonshire

**Contact:** Lesley Rogerson, Environment Officer, 01389 738254 [lesley.rogerson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.rogerson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

### West Lothian

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

**Continued overleaf ...**

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### Other News

#### **Volunteers needed to clean up our coastline.**

#### **Beachwatch 2003 - the UK's biggest beach litter blitz!**

The Marine Conservation Society's annual Beachwatch litter survey and clean-up will be taking place over the weekend of 20–21 September 2003. Beachwatch has been running since 1993 and is the most extensive beach clean and litter survey in Europe. Every year, thousands of volunteers give up a few hours of their weekend to help clean up the coastline, supporting MCS's campaign to reduce litter on our beaches and at sea. MCS is looking for volunteers to get together with family, friends or colleagues and help to make Beachwatch 2003 the biggest beach clean yet!



Litter is unattractive, potentially harmful to humans and wildlife and can affect local economies through lost tourism and clean-up costs. MCS believes that beaches are important public spaces and should be clean, safe and litter-free. Beachwatch volunteers help achieve this! During Beachwatch 2002 2,598 volunteers, collected over 241,285 items of litter from 229 beaches across the UK (43 in Scotland). There are four major sources of litter on UK beaches: recreational beach users (39.1%), fishing activities (14.6%), sewage outfalls (3.9%) and shipping (2.2%). Whilst Scotland had the second lowest density of litter in the UK, levels were higher than in 2001. Over 50% of the litter found was plastic, which accumulates in the sea and may persist for decades on our beaches.

Beachwatch is the flagship event of the Marine Conservation Society's Adopt-a-Beach project, supported by the Crown Estate and Defra's Environmental Action Fund. The data collected by Beachwatch volunteers also contributes to a worldwide project, the International Coastal Cleanup.

For further information or to register for Beachwatch 2003 please contact the Marine Conservation Society on 01989 567807, [beachwatch@mcsuk.org](mailto:beachwatch@mcsuk.org) or register online at [www.adoptabeach.org.uk](http://www.adoptabeach.org.uk)

#### **News From Plantlife International**

**Grassland Management Leaflet:** The Fungus Conservation Forum, coordinated by Plantlife, have produced a leaflet 'Grassland gems: managing lawns and pastures for fungi' that introduces grassland fungi and provides simple management advice. Lawns, parks, churchyards and even golf courses can be rich in grassland fungi so this leaflet is aimed at a wide audience.

**Pink Waxcap Survey:** the pink waxcap survey will run for a second year, August - December 2003. This survey aims to involve mycologists, conservationists and members of the public to look for the beautiful and easily recognisable BAP listed pink waxcap *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*. Survey forms and copies of the grassland fungi leaflet are available from Plantlife International, [enquiries@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@plantlife.org.uk), [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

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## **Plant Diversity Challenge – developing the UK's response to the 'Global Strategy for Plant Conservation':** [http://www.plantlife.org.uk/html/conservation\\_global\\_strategy.htm](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/html/conservation_global_strategy.htm)

The 'Challenge' is the UK's response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted at the sixth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in April 2002. The Global Strategy sets sixteen outcome-oriented targets. As a Party to the CBD, the UK is obliged to take action to meet these targets by 2010 and must report on progress every four years (2006 and 2010). RBG Kew, Plantlife International and JNCC held a conference at Kew to begin to define the UK's plant diversity challenge. The consultation process on the Global Strategy is now underway and all contributions will be very welcome. Please visit the web site above for a full explanation and access to the documentation.

If you need information on any of the above please contact Amanda Miller, Species Recovery Officer, Plantlife, Tel: 020 7808 0119 Fax: 020 7730 8377 email: [Amanda.Miller@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:Amanda.Miller@plantlife.org.uk) Website: [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

## **Grants for Great Crested Newt Conservation**

The Herpetological Conservation Trust grant scheme for great crested newt conservation has helped to survey ponds and create and restore great crested newt habitat across the UK. Despite having a small budget, the scheme has made many projects possible. Last year alone, 16 projects were funded. The scheme is being run again this year. Anyone can apply for a grant of up to £600 to cover travel and equipment expenses for pond surveys, or to pay for machinery hire or a pond liner, for example. The scheme is administered by Froglife's Great Crested Newt Conservation Co-ordinator, who also provides information and advice on newt ecology, legislation, survey and habitat management. For more information, contact Becca Cleaver at Froglife, 01986 873733, [gcn@froglife.org](mailto:gcn@froglife.org), or visit the Froglife website at [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org). The closing date is Friday 14 November.

## **UK Wetland HAP Steering Group**

The group have produced a new document which can be found on the 'reference' section of the Wetland HAP website. 'Getting Wetter for Wildlife' offers guidance on habitat restoration and creation and aims to help those who are developing projects, that will achieve wetland HAP targets in the UK, to secure funding. The Group has set-out priorities for wetland creation and restoration. Project designers are encouraged to send details to the group for comments and advice. <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/science/wetland/references.asp>

## **UK UPDATE**

### **UK Partnership Meeting Notes Available**

Notes and presentations from the UK partnership meeting 'Biodiversity in the Landscape', held in Perth on 21/22 May are now available on [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)

### **2002 Reporting Round**

As well as the 2002 Reporting Report, a summary of comments and notes of the final meeting to consider these are now available on [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk). A Scottish report is currently being pulled together.