

Scotland update

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy update

A summary report analysing the 108 consultation responses has been circulated to all members of the LBAPO Network, the Strategy Implementation Groups, and the SBF Working Groups. The final strategy document, as designated by ministers, will be launched at the 2004 Forum conference on 25 May 2004, in Glasgow, and LBAPOs get to go for free. Redrafting will be done by the SBF Project Officer (Sarah Hocknell) in conjunction with consultants should be in touch to clarify points raised in your consultation responses.

Implementation Planning

Rural Land Use Working Group - agriculture, forestry, uplands and mountains, freshwater and soil, sustainable rural development, cross cutting issues sub-groups have come back together again. Feedback from the workshop on 23 October will be circulated when available.

Urban and Greenspace Working Group - have looked at different areas of urban environment that support biodiversity and people's interaction with nature. A draft plan will be circulated shortly. They are working up their plan under a series of objective headings, though there will be sectorally specific (eg aquaculture) actions that do not fit here. The workshops are on 24 October (Hutchinson Hall, Glasgow) and 10 November (Dewar's Centre, Perth).

Marine and Coastal Working Group - aquaculture, fisheries, coastal development, transport, energy generation sub-groups have reformed into a single group. A draft plan will be circulated in time for discussion at the workshop 24 November (Dewar Centre, Perth)

Strategy Indicators Working Group - science and social/economic indicators. A set of measurements are being developed to assess the Strategy's progress against its two stated aims (refinement and development of candidate indicators on the state of Scotland's biodiversity; development of social/economic indicators on people's involvement and awareness of biodiversity). The papers are on the website. A consultation on state indicators will be written for late October.

Interpretation Communication and Education (ICE) Advisory Group - contractors (Stevens Associates) are developing an interpretative strategy for biodiversity in Scotland and reviewing existing good practice in delivering biodiversity messages (both delivery of biodiversity messages generally and specific delivery of strategy document to its target audience). This 'new' group met on 2 October and Jonathan Willet, North Lanarkshire is representing the LBAPO Network. The need for a national ICE framework was discussed so that everyone is sending out the same broad message relating to biodiversity in a language appropriate to the audience. Any comments to Jonathan please.

Biodiversity, and the Prime Minister

In "recognition of work to protect the environment and promote sustainable development" both Marina Curran-Colthart (Argyll and Bute LBAP) and Maria Hardy (North East Scotland LBAP) were invited to attend a reception at Number 10 Downing Street, on Wednesday 22 October). They were among 200 people attending the reception, representing projects that involve local people in improving their environment. In his speech, the Prime Minister congratulated those present on all the environmental work taking place across the country, but acknowledged that there is still much to be done to get more people involved. "There were people there from a wide range of different environmental projects, from wildlife conservation to recycling, environmental education to organic farming. It is very encouraging that the government is recognising current environmental work and promoting greater moves towards sustainable development", said Maria. On receiving Argyll and Bute's complete LBAP (no, not the CD version) and North East Scotland's 2003 update leaflet, the Prime Minister was heard to comment that he now has "plenty of bedtime reading"! Well done!!

Argyll & Bute

- 80% of work time is spent on delivering Community Action for Biodiversity; a Community Officer for Cowal, Helensburgh area has been employed, who has three main projects, including MacLeod Homes ('homes' pack for new homeowners)
- 20% of time is spent on the LBAP itself; a paper is being developed on how to keep the LBAP partnership going after the launch (mid-term review on targets etc); a garden for biodiversity leaflet is being produced

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

Ayrshire

Contact: Morven Templeton, Environment Officer, East Ayrshire Council, 01563 554041 morven.templeton@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; Ken Gibb, Sustainable Development Manager, South Ayrshire Council, 01292 616288 ken.gibb@gw.south-ayrshire.gov.uk; Tonia Sobieraj, Policy Officer, North Ayrshire Council, 01294 324131 tsobieraj@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Cairngorms

Contact: Peter Cosgrove, Biodiversity Officer 01479 870520 petercosgrove@cairngorms.co.uk

Clackmannanshire

- post has a **3 year extension** until June 2006
- a **summary document** of the full LBAP will soon be published, which will include a CD of the full technical LBAP covering all 17 HAPs and 20 SAPs
- the 3rd and **final tranche** (further 6 HAPs and 10 SAPs) will be produced by spring 2004
- a successful **farmland walk** on woodlands; a successful water vole/otter training day; an unsuccessful fishers evening
- **golf and biodiversity seminar** mid-November 2003
- **LRC issues** – hoping to get own GIS to cover/deal with planning applications

Contact: Lynn Campbell, Biodiversity Co-ordinator on 01259 452639 lynncampbell@clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle non Eilean Siar

- Anne returned to work as **part-time Biodiversity Officer** on 15 September (Monday, Wednesday (am) and Friday), post is now permanent
- 5 draft action plans (4 HAPs, 1 SAP) have been produced. 3 will be the subject of a **public consultation** exercise commencing late October. External contractors will undertake the consultation and it is hoped to launch this first phase of plans early IN 2004. The remaining 2 draft plans need further work before going to consultation.
- A university student was employed during the summer to draft a **framework for biodiversity** in the Western Isles. The framework will accompany the finalised plans when launched next year.
- An **Aquatic Plant Training Day** was held on 2 July and was attended by 11 people who felt it was both interesting and informative.
- SAC held 2 seminars on **Good Practice in Environmental Management** in Lewis and Benbecula. Both were well attended and it is intended to hold similar events in the future.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



- Display and presentation on the LBAP and in particular the draft Saline Lagoons HAP was given at the Annual Meeting of the **Loch nam Madadh marine SAC Forum**.
- A **Biodiversity Audit** review is to occur over the next few months. Consultants produced the audit in 2002 and a lot of further information has already been made available.

Contact: Anne MacLellan, 01870 602425 amaclellan@cne-siar.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

- At least 60 organisations or individuals have made some contribution to the LBAP targets, many are well publicised, but often those carried out by small voluntary groups, farms or local communities don't get the recognition they deserve. Hence the LBAP Steering Group is investigating setting up a **local biodiversity award scheme**. The LBAP has received several awards since its launch in 1999, so perhaps its time we started giving as well as receiving!
- **Wildlife tourism** is becoming more important in rural areas such as D&G, and many tourism businesses are rapidly becoming aware that a significant proportion of their business is linked to the natural heritage. The recent opening of the Galloway Kite Trail, co-ordinated by RSPB Scotland, has emphasised this point with several local tourist businesses around the Loch Ken trail signing up to get involved. The trail was made possible by a grant from the Making Tracks project, set up to encourage nature-based tourism following the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001 and administered by the Tourist Board. Further projects are expected in the near future.
- Building on the Galloway Kite Trail success, the Biodiversity Partnership are considering how **better marketing co-ordination** might enhance wildlife experiences for visitors to D&G eg promote a region-wide network of activities as part of a weeklong wildlife festival. Similar techniques have already been used with some success by those promoting the region's arts and crafts and built heritage.
- Despite being a local priority habitat, comparatively little is known about **ancient wood pasture** in the region. During preparation of the recent Annan Catchment Co-ordination Plan which has important wood pastures, but with very little information on their location, history and ecology. The Catchment Planning Officer hosted a funding bid meeting for the study and management of these habitats. Another group is looking at ash woods, so the D&G native woodlands are attracting much needed research and management.
- **Non-native woods and biodiversity**; this is a very significant resource with almost a quarter of D&G covered with plantations. Good progress has been with projects aimed at species found in these plantations. The 'Red Squirrels in South Scotland Project' is close to identifying priority woods for this species – large plantations with suitable management can help protect the reds from their grey cousins. Continued spread of the grey is gaining pace with the inevitability they'll colonise most of D&G outside priority woods.
- A **Southern Upland Partnership** co-ordinated project has recently started with HLF support to identify a number of black grouse leks in the Southern Uplands, providing appropriate public viewing facilities, and enhancing the surrounding habitats.
- Volunteers, crucial in assisting black grouse work, are also providing essential information on other local priority species including nightjars, water voles and fritillary butterflies. A **regional records centre** is being set up to store this information, promote its use, and encourage further recording; long overdue but very welcome, especially as it was identified as a key objective in the LBAP. Although funding is in place for Solway Heritage to host the centre for the first two years, it is hoped that this will provide the time necessary to demonstrate the value of such a centre.

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

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



East Dunbartonshire

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

East Lothian

- preliminary study has been developed to determine the possibility of protecting **northern brown argus habitat** in the Lammermuir Hills. A fenced enclosure was erected around the site and food plant and egg numbers were recorded. After eight weeks there was evidence that the food plant had increased in bulk despite the surrounding grassland remaining closely nibbled by sheep. The project will continue next year with amendments based on this summer's experience. Full details available on request.

Contact: Stuart MacPherson, Biodiversity Officer 01620 827242
smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk

Edinburgh

- **review of plan** since November
- **8 revised HAP** groups
- **interdepartmental groups** formed within council
- post now **permanent** (2 half-time job shares)

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

Falkirk

- Anna has gone on **maternity leave**, as of the beginning of October.
- Maternity cover (about 6 months) has been advertised

Contact: Anna Perks, Biodiversity Officer on 01324 504863 anna.perks@falkirk.gov.uk

Fife

- After **publication of the 2nd edition** of the LBAP, co-ordinating target implementation is priority. Links made with leads and project planning ongoing.
- **LBAP River Enhancement Project** – more mink control field visits have taken place, and the number of participants continues to grow.
- **Habitat enhancement plan** for Duloch Park being taken forward by BTCV Scotland.
- Second planting day planned as part of **Urban Core Project**.
- **Wood to Go** continues to provide nestbox materials to community groups.
- Development of **Biodiversity Monitoring Framework for Fife** is underway, in partnership with FERN (formerly Fife Nature).
- Working with **Transportation** on inclusion of biodiversity considerations in flood study in east Fife.

Contact: Rachel Sherman, LBAP Co-ordinator on 01592 413437 rachel.sherman@fife.gov.uk

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



Glasgow

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

Highland

- **6 LBAPs**; Caithness – launched; Sutherland – launch October; Kyle – consultation finished, launch November; Wester Ross – consultation finishes November, launch January; Cromarty – consultation finishes end 2003, launch February; Lochaber – consultation finishes January/February, launch March
- **Inverness and Nairn** – awareness raising booklet
- **Badenoch and Strathspey** – mostly covered by Cairngorms National Park
- **'Know your Patch'** project
- the only Highland SAP is **red squirrel**, roadsign project
- **Marine Innovation award**, extension for 3 years
- grant scheme – **24 projects** have benefited
- post extended to **March 2004**

Contact: Janet Bromham, Biodiversity Officer, 01463 702274 janet.bromham@highland.gov.uk

Midlothian

- **started** early August
- **3 HAPs**, into which SAPs are being integrated
- **roadside verges** project

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

North East Scotland

- various HAPs being **implemented**
- there is a proposal for a 6-month contract **water vole officer** (would be employed by University of Aberdeen)
- **Business and Biodiversity** – project ongoing, have an Officer in place (Jonathan Young) who's done over 30 visits
- **wildlife garden** promoted
- **web** being updated

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

North Lanarkshire

- **16 Action Plans** written, but no formal delivery and monitoring mechanism for the plans until LBAPO appointment in May.
- meeting this autumn – to ensure the LBAP is set into partnership member **work plans** for the next financial year – followed by meeting in spring to review said work plans.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



- working to reduce the numbers of actions in the existing plans to make **implementation** easier for partners.
- working with planners to raise awareness of biodiversity with **Development Control** staff, standardising responses to biodiversity issues in planning responses in conjunction with the NLC Ecologist, looking to produce a constraints map on GIS for planners and developers highlighting key biodiversity habitat zones within NL
- **hedge training day** – 25 November (flailing, best practice), for farmers and Council grounds maintenance staff. All adjacent local authorities will be invited.
- **LBAP training** – Plas Tan y Bwlch, next one April 2005, LRCs and reporting
- raises awareness of **publications of interest** to the LBAP Network and beyond - Scottish strategy for red squirrel conservation March 2003, produced by the Squirrel Group; Space for nature, Woodland Trust; Priority Habitats for Wales.

Contact: Jonathan Willet, Biodiversity Officer, 01236 780636 willetj@northlan.gov.uk

Orkney

- **2 new posts** (community gardening pilot project, green gym), but serious issues with own post as Orkney Islands Council is unsure of responsibility under the Nature Conservation Bill and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, although it's now been confirmed to continue to December 2004
- involved in many **strategies** (open space, minerals, container hub (huge marine issue), fisheries)
- **Environment Education Forum** – working on education in all areas.

Contact: Nadine Russell, Orkney Biodiversity Officer, 01856 888760
nadine.russell@orkney.gov.uk

Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde

- HAPs and SAPs **nearly ready for publication**
- Barshaw (Paisley) **gala day**
- **LRC issues**, basically lack of funding

Contact: Nicki Dunn, Biodiversity Officer, 0141 842 5281 nicki.dunn@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Scottish Borders

- **Local Plan Review** - carrying out environmental assessments for Local Plan
- **farming for partridges and sparrows** - phase two in progress, signing up more farmers for 2004, monitoring of passerines to begin in October, co-ordinated by RSPB Scotland.
- Scottish Borders Council has initiated the process to produce the next **Indicative Forestry Strategy** (Landscape Architect and myself) – scoping brief in progress
- **greenspace audit** - SBC is putting together a proposal for a greenspace audit (led by Amenity Services), seeking SNH funding
- SBC is, this autumn, to set up management for **northern brown argus and small blue** at two Council owned sites.
- increasing number of **Windfarm EIA** or scoping reports being dealt with by Natural Heritage Officer/Development Control

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



- next LBAP partnership **Steering Group meeting** is on 2nd October.

Contact: Andy Tharme, Natural Heritage Officer, 01835 826514 atharme@scotborders.gov.uk

Living Shetland

- **Agri BAP** out for consultation at the agriculture shows
- **Roadside BAP** (have leaflets printed and being distributed, issue with landslides though!)
- four and a bit **Community Plans**, one launched, predominantly island focussed
- working with **Mammal Group** – porpoise watching
- 10 years since **ESA** started, trying to get people inspired, writing poems etc
- want to do **Marine BAP**, coming to Perth for Marine strategy workshop
- **contract finishes** at Christmas, secure funding needed urgently

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

South Lanarkshire

- LBAP will be officially launched on **24 November** (tbc), including both the technical working document and a summarised public summary document.
- **Avon Water Catchment Plan** - this project would hope to mirror or exceed the achievements of West Lothian Council, FWAG & SAC on the River Almond, where small-scale farm grants were offered as an incentive to local farmers. Project aims are:
 - develop and co-ordinate partnership working
 - address diffuse pollution eg nutrient runoff
 - flood mitigation activities on the Avon Water in hand with broader flood mitigation initiatives on the River Clyde
 - rural regeneration linked with tourism and access initiatives
 - conservation and enhancement of biodiversity eg Clyde Valley Woodlands SSSI/SACs, fisheries (salmon), water voles, otters etc
- information on many of the above issues and activities are currently being pooled before proceeding with a formal strategy.
- salmon on the **Avon Water** - salmon distribution on the Avon Water is currently restricted to the river's lower reaches where it meets with the River Clyde (believed to be associated with weirs acting as an impediment to salmon migration). As salmon is an LBAP species, SLBP is looking into the potential to adapt the weirs to allow salmon access to the upper reaches of the river.

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

Stirling

- **Chris Waddell** started as Stirling's LBAPO on 15 September.

Contact: Chris Waddell, 01786 442875 waddellc@stirling.gov.uk

Tayside

- volunteer authors are preparing the **2nd tranche** of the LBAP. End January 2004 deadline should ensure drafts go to consultation next spring, with possible publication date of end 2004. Tayside is currently working on a further 27 HAPS and 55 SAPs for this 2nd tranche.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



- much interest has been created by the '**Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services**' booklet, now circulated to all councils in Tayside (Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross), as well as community planning committees and councillors. From this, projects are now likely to go ahead within the NHS, and changes made to the Perthshire Housing Association's Design Manual.
- liaison with a quarrying company in Tayside (Aggregate Industries) is leading to **practical biodiversity projects** on the ground, as well as plans for individual BAP-type reports to be prepared for each of their sites.
- **lunch-time seminars** for local authority staff are popular with about 20 people attending each. Information packs are being sent to those expressing interest but could not attend. Seminars will continue into summer 2004.
- **half-day workshops** are planned to give local authority staff more in-depth information. The first will be "Hedge Cutting for Biodiversity" demonstration to contractors in November, led by Angus FWAG. Other subjects in the pipeline include 'The Care of Veteran Trees' and a 'Biodiversity and Planning Practice' workshop.

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

West Dunbartonshire

Contact: Lesley Rogerson, Environment Officer, 01389 738254 lesley.rogerson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

West Lothian

Contact: John Sheldon, Co-ordinating Officer, 01506 775278 John.Sheldon@westlothian.gov.uk

Continued overleaf ...

Other News

Forestry Commission News

Staff update

Peter Quelch, previously native woodland advisor for Forestry Commission Scotland, has recently taken on the role of Biodiversity Advisor. This job change means working on all types of forest biodiversity, as well as native woodland habitats and species. Together with his student assistant, Rachel Avery, Peter is working on a forest environmental advisory resource database. This will be a database linked to the FC website where LBAPOs and others can search by species or topic to find out what up-to-date guidance is available and how to access it. As well as biodiversity-related topics, the database may also cover cultural heritage and landscape design. It is hoped the database will be up and ready by next spring, in time for a new suite of biodiversity courses to be launched by Forest Training Services at Ae. Peter and Rachel are also in the process of writing a FC Biodiversity Newsletter, which will be distributed to LBAPOs this autumn. For more information on these, or any other projects contact: Peter Quelch, Forestry Commission, Whitegates, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RS, peter.quelch@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or phone: 01546 602518

News from Butterfly Conservation Scotland

Butterfly Recorders' Gathering 2004

Saturday 28 February 2004, 10am-4pm, Cowane Centre, Stirling

This will be of interest to staff or volunteers involved in butterfly recording in Scotland. Presentations will show results from butterfly transects and the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project (BC's general recording scheme). There will be presentations on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the use of butterflies as indicator species, as well examples of survey and monitoring work currently being carried out in Scotland. There will be a small charge to cover costs and booking is required - contact BC(Scotland) 01786 447753 or email scotland@butterfly-conservation.org for further information and a booking form.

Argent and Sable survey at Flanders Moss

BC(Scotland) and SNH held a joint workshop for the Argent and Sable moth at Flanders Moss near Stirling on August 17, led by Dr. Keith Bland from the National Museum in Scotland. The Argent and Sable is a day-flying moth, under-recorded in Scotland due to a paucity of moth recorders, a generally remote habitat and a need for good weather to survey for adults. However, searching for the characteristic larval 'spinnings' is a reliable and less weather dependant method. The workshop surveyed for the species at Flanders Moss NNR and to train participants to identify larval spinnings. The event was highly successful, with 14 larval spinnings found - the first since 1989 (although this reflects a lack of recording rather than any adverse change in habitat, which probably mirrors the situation for much of Scotland). However in England and Wales, where Argent and Sable feed on young birch, surveys show that the species has declined massively. Butterfly Conservation Scotland welcomes any records of this moth. Please send them to us in Stirling, or get contact us for more information. Julie Stoneman, Volunteer Development Officer, BC(Scotland), Balallan House, Allan Park, STIRLING, FK8 2QG, 01786 447753 jstoneman@butterfly-conservation.org or julie.stoneman@btconnect.com
<http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>

Butterfly Guardians for Scotland Project

A new project launched in 2003, funded by HLF and SNH. The project recruits and supports volunteers to increase survey and monitoring work for butterflies and moths. Ten workshops were held in Argyll, and Dumfries & Galloway, with 120 attendees, of whom over 75% indicated

they wanted to actively get involved. The workshops have already resulted in improved and increased general recording and butterfly transect monitoring in both areas. Surveys of UKBAP priority species such as marsh fritillary, pearl-bordered fritillary, northern brown argus and slender Scotch burnet moth have also been carried out. Moth recorders have been trained and are trapping in their local patches. At least five more workshops are to be held in the SW Region in 2004, and BCScotland is actively looking for funding to extend the project into other areas. For more details contact Julie Stoneman: 01786 447753 jstoneman@butterfly-conservation.org or julie.stoneman@btconnect.com

Chequered Skipper surveys at Allt Mhuic Nature Reserve

The chequered skipper is Scotland's most exclusive butterfly, found within a 30km radius of Fort William having become extinct in England in the 1970s. It's very active, males are very territorial and have a swift darting flight, females are more elusive. Identifying breeding sites by observing egg-laying is difficult, especially given the inclement climate of the area. An alternative is to look for caterpillars and their characteristic "double notch" feeding damage on their sole food plant (purple moor grass) in late September and October. BCScotland held two one-day workshops on 28 and 29 September to train volunteers and staff at their new (and only) Nature Reserve at Allt Mhuic on the north shore of Loch Arkaig in Lochaber. The aim of the day was to survey the site and encourage participants to look for larvae in suitable habitat at other sites, with the information helping BCScotland and Forestry Commission Scotland (who manage the site in partnership) to target management to benefit this species more effectively.

Marsh Fritillary Demonstration Day

On 2 October a workshop at Benderloch in Argyll demonstrated the importance of appropriate habitat management to benefit the marsh fritillary butterfly to farmers, conservationists, landowners and their advisors. This species was once widespread in GB and Ireland but has declined severely over the last century (same decline in Europe). Colonies are estimated to be disappearing at 10% per decade (in GB) and Argyll holds some of the most important remaining populations. The butterfly requires quite large areas of damp grassland and/or open moorland with patches of devil's bit scabious, the caterpillar's sole foodplant, where grazing is an ideal management tool to maintain this mosaic (low-intensity extensive cattle grazing preferred). The 30 attendees learnt about the ecology of the marsh fritillary butterfly, its habitat requirements, the importance of livestock grazing and the role of the RSS. Site visits enabled participants to see suitable habitat and search for the characteristic communal 'webs' that the caterpillars live within at this time of year. The workshop was held in partnership with Argyll FWAG, SAC, SNH and Argyll & Bute LBAP.

Towards a National Macro-moth Recording Scheme

Moths are sensitive indicators of the health of the natural environment and a vital part of the food chain. Of the 900 macro-moths that occur in GB and Ireland, many appear to have undergone drastic declines in both abundance and range within the last 50 years. Unfortunately an accurate assessment of their conservation status is impossible with no comprehensive national dataset. During 2003 BC has held exploratory talks with various organisations on the development of a National Recording Scheme for Macro-moths. The aims of the National Macro-Moth Recording Scheme are to raise awareness of moths; encourage and train new recorders; make information available to a wide audience; provide data to identify and promote conservation priorities, influence planning decisions, inform government policy and contribute to scientific research. The first step towards the establishment of a new scheme is the planning phase conducted by BC and supported by the British Entomological and Natural History Society, English Nature, RSPB, Biodiversity Challenge, Biological Records Centre, National Biodiversity Network, JNCC, CCW, SNH, Royal Entomological Society, Rothamsted Insect Survey and HLF. There are many hurdles to overcome, and we need your support. We are holding a series of meetings throughout the UK in December 2003 and January 2004 to engage with moth recorders, explain more about the

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



scheme and listen to your views. There will be guest speakers and workshop sessions. The meeting will be chaired by Dr Mark Young, with speakers from BC HQ and the Rothamsted light-trap scheme. There will also be demonstrations of recording software and traders with moth-related equipment. The Scottish meeting will be at: SNH Battleby Centre on Saturday 13 December 2003 from 10am–4.30pm. Lunch will be provided but numbers are limited, so it is essential you book a place if you wish to attend. Please e-mail bookings@mothrecording.org.uk or write to NMRS (planning), Norfolk House, 16-17 Lemon Street, Truro, TR1 2LS, specifying contact details (name, address, telephone), the number of people attending, (and if any special dietary requirements are required). BCScotland is very grateful to BRISC and SNH for helping to support this meeting. It will also help us tremendously if you can complete our online questionnaire (even if you can come to the meeting) at <http://www.mothrecording.org.uk/index.php>, where there are also more details of the scheme.

Plantlife update

The Pink Waxcap Survey

Plantlife, British Mycological Society, Association of British Fungus Groups and RSPB have launched the Pink Waxcap Survey again this year, looking for three species of waxcaps, pink waxcap, (*Hygrocybe calyptriformis*), parrot waxcap (*H. psittacina*) and blackening waxcap (*H. conica*). The pink waxcap is a BAP species and is thought to occur more often in GB and Ireland than anywhere else in the world: we are looking for more information to confirm that the British Isles are a particularly special place for it and also to get a better picture of the habitats it prefers. The parrot and blackening waxcaps are more common, but equally attractive waxcap fungi. Although we ran this survey last autumn, it turned out to be a poor year for waxcaps and we got very few returned forms, hence running it again. All three species can be found in a variety of grassy places, particularly where grass is grazed or mown and have had little, if any, fertiliser applied, including fields, churchyards, village greens, parks and garden lawns. Survey forms are available at www.plantlife.org.uk or directly from Plantlife Scotland (0131 248 2859; deborah.long@plantlife.org.uk). The survey does not require any specialist knowledge of fungi but does introduce the wonders of the fungal world. The survey would be suitable for school projects and other non specialist groups. The closing date for receipt of forms is 31 December 2003. If you still have forms from last year, these are fine to use but please remember to send the completed form back to Plantlife at its new Head Office address in Salisbury, at Plantlife, 14 Rollestone Street, Salisbury, SP1 1DX.

Other News

Study on the economic benefits of biodiversity

Many claims have been made in this area, but no evidence exists validating claims of possible, or negative, benefit-effects of biodiversity. The Scottish Strategy Steering Group felt that having factual evidence of these effects would provide a powerful mechanism of inspiring action, particularly to businesses. It was suggested that good practice guidance could be developed from any research conducted. We intuitively feel that there are social and economic benefits associated with good biodiversity protection and that in the absence of biodiversity we would be worse off. However, although SNH is undertaking work to look at the social benefits, there is no proof to substantiate this for economic benefits, and intuitive feeling doesn't advance the case for improving the biodiversity we have. It certainly doesn't tell us anything about how beneficial investments in biodiversity might be in enhancing the economy. It has now been announced that a scoping study to explore how biodiversity contributes to business efficiency is being funded by SNIFFER. The project will explore factor inputs (land, labour and capital). It will look at whether enhanced biodiversity improves the productivity of labour (fewer days sickness, staff more productive?). Does biodiversity enhancement increase access to capital, reduce costs of capital, or increase inward investment? The relationship between biodiversity and key economic sectors in Scotland will be investigated. It is expected that this project will be delivered within the next

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Newsletter

Issue 9: October 2003



nine months (by summer 2004). SNIFFER is currently identifying someone to manage this project but, in the short term, if you would like to find out more, please contact James Curran (james.curran@sepa.org.uk) or Scot Mathieson (scot.mathieson@sepa.org.uk)

Incorporation of Climate Impacts into Scottish Biodiversity Action Plans

The latest climate change predictions for Scotland suggest that (relative to now) winters will become milder and wetter, while summers will become warmer in general. The potential impact on biodiversity is substantial but there are few studies that have considered the likely outcome for species' distribution, phenology, or the possible risk of extinction. Work has concentrated on direct effects, whereas indirect effects eg concomitant changes in land use, may have a more profound impact on species viability. SEERAD has commissioned a study (by NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Marine Biological Association and NERC Sea Mammals Research Unit) that seeks to incorporate climate change impact predictions into BAPs, and their associated targets for habitats and species across Scotland. This should enable management undertaken as part of the biodiversity effort to be carried out with full consideration of the potential responses to predicted change. There are difficulties in predicting climate change impact with certainty. For many BAP species there is insufficient information to outline precise habitat requirements, let alone key factors influencing their distribution or survival. Some are so rare and localised that in the short-term insufficient knowledge will require some informed guesswork that will clearly need to be distinguished as such. The study seeks to raise awareness of species and habitats vulnerable to climate change and wishes to engage the Lead Agencies/Partners and LBAP Officers at the outset. If you have specific concerns or relevant information then we would be happy to hear from you (s.albon@ceh.ac.uk). As we distil likely impacts and draft text outlining climate change measures for possible inclusion in BAP objectives and targets we will consult with all relevant parties.

NFU Scotland Farmland Biodiversity Award, sponsored by RSPB Scotland in association with The Scottish Farmer.

The NFU Scotland Farmland Biodiversity Award aims to encourage, recognise and reward those individuals whose contributions have benefited farmland wildlife. The priority species or habitats have been defined by the LBAP process and by RSPB Scotland. NFU Scotland is very keen to widen the group of farmers (who have to be NFU Scotland members) that receive an application form for this award. If you would like an application form, please contact Marla Cunningham at NFUS Awards directly on 0131 472 4000.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter (or would like to be taken off the circulation list), please contact [Jo Lenthall](#), Scotland LBAP Project Officer, Scottish Biodiversity Forum.