

# Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan News

*Welcome to the sixth edition of Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan News. 2007 is certainly proving to be a busy year for the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Partnership. The review of the Wiltshire BAP is now underway, the Partnership recently hosted a Conference in conjunction with Swindon and Cotswold Water Park BAPs, and the new Wiltshire BAP website is under development. Read on to find out more...*

## Welcome to Bill Jenman...

Bill Jenman has now replaced Amanda Miller at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in the role of Biodiversity Manager, with responsibility for Coordination of the Wiltshire BAP. In his previous role Bill worked on the South Downs Way National Trail, and prior to that was Reserves Manager and a Trustee at Sussex Wildlife Trust. You can contact either Bill or Sarah with any BAP related questions or queries—contact details at the bottom of the page.



*Issue 6 August 2007*

## Biodiversity Duty Conference a Success

On 27th June the Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park BAP Partnerships got together to host a Conference entitled: "Public Bodies and Biodiversity: Conserving Wildlife in Wiltshire" at the Science Museum Swindon.

The Conference, provided guidance to nearly 100 delegates mainly from public authorities on fulfilling their duty to have regard for biodiversity under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006.



*Delegates at the Conference enjoying a talk from Harry Barton of the Northmoor Trust*

Delegates enjoyed keynote speeches from Harry Barton, Chief Executive of the Northmoor Trust, and Mike Oxford of the Association of Local Government Ecologists. Liz Emerson, Procurement and CSR Manager at BT, and Matt Moore from the Science Museum presented case studies illustrating some of the things public bodies can do.

There were also workshops on Land Management, Planning and Sustainable Design, and delegates were treated to a local food lunch.

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## Wiltshire BAP Review—update

The first drafts of the new Wiltshire BAP Habitat and Species Action Plans have now been completed.

The review process began in March this year, with a General Meeting attended by over 50 representatives from the Partnership - from organisations ranging from Wessex Water, to the RSPB.



*BAP Review General Meeting - March 2007—St. Andrew's Church Hall, Devizes*

Eight workshop sessions were then held over a two week period in April and May, and it is as a result of the hard work of around 65 attendees from 35 different organisations, that this first round of drafts has now been produced.

If you haven't received the first drafts, please contact Sarah. The consultation period ends on 17th August. After this any comments and amendments will be merged to create second drafts, ready for a second round of workshops. The dates for these workshops are as follows—please let Sarah know if you would like to attend.

Monday 24th September - **Bats**

Monday 1st October - **Built Environments**

Wednesday 10th October - **Neutral and Calcareous Grassland**

Friday 12th October - **Rivers and Streams**

Thursday 18th October - **Standing Open Water**

Monday 22nd October - **Farmland Habitats**

Thursday 25th October - **Woodland, Wood-pasture and Hedgerows**

## Contact us!

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## National, Regional, Local...

*LBAP Conference dates published:* The next national LBAP Conference is to be held in Exeter from Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th September. Go to [www.keystone-group.co.uk/lbap](http://www.keystone-group.co.uk/lbap) to reserve your place. Neil Pullen from Swindon BAP Partnership will be giving a "BAP Bite" detailing the successes of the Conference, and Sarah and Neil are working together to run a workshop on BAP communication with the local community.

*Now published - Nature Map, a Planners Guide: Helping to Shape Spatial Planning for Biodiversity in LDFs:* This document written by Mike Oxford on behalf of Biodiversity South West can be downloaded from: [http://www.swenvo.org.uk:80/nature\\_map/downloads.asp](http://www.swenvo.org.uk:80/nature_map/downloads.asp)

*Staff changes in the South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership:* **Neil Sherwood** has now replaced Rachael Fickweiler, as the South West Assistant Biodiversity Coordinator. He can be contacted by email at: [Neil.Sherwood@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Neil.Sherwood@naturalengland.org.uk)

*Cotswold Water Park BAP update:* The Cotswold Water Park BAP review is nearly complete! Contact Gareth Harris for more information - [gareth.harris@waterpark.org](mailto:gareth.harris@waterpark.org).

*Latest Grazing Animals Project (GAP) newsletter :* Download it from [www.grazinganimalsproject.org.uk/gap\\_news\\_archive.html](http://www.grazinganimalsproject.org.uk/gap_news_archive.html)

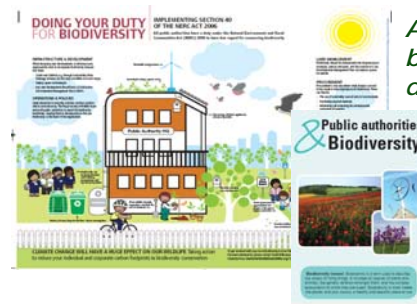
*July UK Biodiversity News now available:* It can be downloaded from <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/bn39.pdf>.

*July 2007 STREAM (Strategic Restoration And Management of the River Avon SAC) project newsletter now available:* contact Elaine Swiffen to be added to the mailing list: [elaine.swiffen@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:elaine.swiffen@naturalengland.org.uk).

*Living River Project launched:* this Heritage Lottery funded project aims to increase awareness and appreciation of the River Avon and its tributaries. Visit the website: [www.livingriver.org.uk](http://www.livingriver.org.uk)

## Biodiversity Duty Conference continued...

Proceedings from the Conference will be available shortly, please contact Sarah if you would like to receive these.



*An A3 poster, A5 leaflet and A4 biodiversity checklist were produced for this event, please contact Sarah if you would like a copy of any of these, stating the quantity, and whether you would prefer to receive them in electronic or hard copy format.*

Defra have now published two documents providing guidance on the duty: one for local authorities and one for public bodies. Please contact Sarah if you would like a copy of either of these (hard or electronic copy). Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust have produced guidance specifically for Parish Councils.



*Guidance documents produced by Defra and BBOWT*

## Websites update...

The Wiltshire BAP website is still under construction, but will soon be live at [www.biodiversitywiltshire.org.uk](http://www.biodiversitywiltshire.org.uk). The Swindon BAP website has now been published - go to [www.biodiversityswindon.org.uk](http://www.biodiversityswindon.org.uk) to see it for yourself. Also don't forget the new portal to biodiversity and biodiversity action planning in Wiltshire at [www.biportal.org.uk](http://www.biportal.org.uk)



Left: Biodiversity Swindon, Right: Wiltshire Biportal

## UKBAP Species Review Now Published!

The revised UK BAP Priority Species list has now been published by the UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG). The list is contained in the final report of the Species and Habitat Review (<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/bapgrouppage.aspx?id=112>) and is in the process of being submitted to Ministers. View updates on the UK BAP website to find out when final approval is granted: [www.ukbap.org.uk](http://www.ukbap.org.uk)

The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats presented in this paper contains 1149 species and 67 habitats in 65 plans. The current list of UK BAP priority species, identified nearly 10 years ago, includes 577 species through a combination of species action plans, grouped species plans and species statements. The majority of these species have been reselected but 123 (including for example, the **Adonis Blue** and the **Pipistrelle**) are now excluded from the UK priority list of species and habitats. The species have been selected taking into account international responsibility, population decline, and threat. All original priority habitats have been reselected and additional habitat selection has raised terrestrial habitats from 32 to 40 (including for example **Traditional Orchards**) and marine habitats from 17 to 25.

Contact us with any news, articles, or information that you would like to go in the next Wiltshire BAP newsletter - next edition: December