



**Wiltshire
Biodiversity
Action
Plan**

Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan News

Issue 1 – June 2005

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Wiltshire BAP news – we hope this will be the first of many editions to keep partnership up to date with progress towards the targets set for Wiltshire in the 2002 publication. The newsletter will also be an opportunity to share ideas and to promote opportunities for involvement in the actions of the plan.

Wiltshire BAP Coordination – staffing changes

Two new members of staff are now in place at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to assist with the coordination of the Wiltshire BAP. Amanda Miller and Amber Rosenthal started at the end of last year and have been busy getting up to speed with the achievements of the plan to date.

These positions are supported by English Nature, Wiltshire County Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Defra's Environmental Action Fund.

In addition both staff also work for the Trust on planning responses, with Amanda heading up the Trust's Biodiversity Team. For those who have not already done so, there will be an opportunity to meet Amanda and Amber at the forthcoming Forum Meeting.

Amanda Miller

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☎ 01380 725670 ext 360

Thank You!

A big thank you to all partners who continue to be actively engaged in the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

The publication of the first action plan for the county of Wiltshire was a significant achievement and has been a highly successful exercise in partnership working, bringing together a great number of partners with influence over the future of biodiversity in the county.



Valuable lessons have been learnt from the process of drawing up the plan and the first few years of implementation. With major changes in policy and funding also occurring over this period, it is an important time for ensuring continued momentum and future commitment. It will also be crucial to review our original objectives to ensure we are acting with the latest information to hand, and working closely with other major BAPs influencing the county such as the Cotswold Water Park BAP and the recently launched Swindon BAP (see overleaf).

Amber Rosenthal

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FORUM MEETING
THURSDAY JUNE 23rd 2005
9:15am – 4:30pm
Assembly Room
Devizes Town Hall

*Celebrating the Achievements of
the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action
Plan – past, present and future!*

We hope to see as many partners represented as possible on the day which is scheduled to include reports on progress, a chance to input into aspects of future development and local site visits to view BAP activity on the ground.

Individuals and partner organisations (including representatives from each of the action plan working groups) will already have received invitations to the event and confirmation must be received by 15th June 2005.

An agenda and details of the meeting are being distributed with this newsletter – for more copies or to discuss arrangements for the day please contact Amanda or Amber.

National & Regional News

National Reporting & Target Reviews

2005/06 is an important time for the UK BAP process as it sees a full national reporting round by all Lead Partners (usually national organisations who lead on delivery of national species and habitat action plans) and local BAP partnerships.

The process is being coordinated online using BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System) and the results will be published in spring 2006. The report will examine achievements against targets enabling comparison to the 1998 and 2002 reports as well as analysing national threats and opportunities.

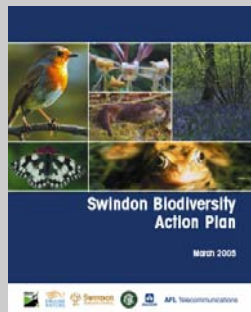
At the same time the national action plans and the lists of UK BAP species and habitats are also being reviewed.

South West Regional Nature Map

A project to map key areas for biodiversity, together with surrounding land that has potential for restoration, in the South West is well underway. The map will be used to focus 'landscape- scale' projects, and to show where BAP habitats may be maintained, restored or re-created. It will also guide choices for sustainable development, for example as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy, help with targeting of the new Environmental Stewardship agri-environment Scheme and be a focus for the development of partnership activity for biodiversity in the region.

A new Biodiversity Action Plan for Swindon!

A BAP for Swindon Borough was launched on 19th March 2005 to an audience of some 70 partners including local MPs, businesses, conservation organisations, the Borough council and local community groups. The launch was the culmination of two years work by the Swindon BAP partnership and was coordinated by Neil Pullen, Swindon Wildlife Officer at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.



The BAP has been developed to recognise the particular issues relating to a large and rapidly expanding urban area. Its publication presents the opportunity to run the BAP alongside the Wiltshire plan in order to achieve overall targets for the area.

In addition to the BAP itself an accompanying leaflet entitled "How you can get involved" has been produced and a website is planned for the near future. For further information, to obtain a copy the leaflet or to enquire about the working groups which will be formed to guide implementation of the plan please contact Neil.

Neil Pullen
✉ neilp@wiltshirewildlife.org
☎ 01793 526228

Habitat & Species Action Plans Update

Neutral Grassland

A new group to oversee the neutral grasslands action plan is currently being formed and will be led by Tim Frayling of English Nature. Tim will also be heading up the action plan for grasslands under the Swindon BAP so that the work of the groups will produce a coordinated effort for this special Wiltshire habitat.

Standing Open Water

In a similar vein, Simon Pickering of the Cotswold Water park will lead an amalgamation of the Standing Open Water groups for the Wiltshire, Cotswold Water Park and Gloucestershire BAPs.

Anyone interested in participating in either of these groups or providing habitat plan specific feedback should contact Tim and Simon directly:

Tim Frayling
✉ tim.frayling@english-nature.org.uk
☎ 01380 737014

Simon Pickering
✉ simon.pickering@waterpark.org
☎ 01285 862777

Our other habitat and species action plans have been forging ahead with projects and initiatives to continue to deliver positive action for biodiversity. Here's a taster of some of the successes highlighted by the action plan working groups: **look out for more information on the display stands at the Forum.**



WOODLAND
102.58 hectares of new woodland created in the Braydon Forest

Picture courtesy of I. Briscoe
Forestry Commission

CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND
Restoration of chalk grassland at new RSPB Normanton Down reserve

RIVERS, STREAMS & ASSOCIATED HABITATS

Two year project to increase the speed and diversity of flow along a 200m stretch of the Upper Avon

Monitoring, Reporting & Communication

Technical reporting

Work is underway to produce a follow up to the first Wiltshire BAP progress report. **Partners will be approached for data on activity since April 2003, using streamlined reporting forms, which will be disseminated in June/July 2005.** The report itself will be technical in style and will help the working groups in particular to re-focus action and to review the plans as necessary.

Forum newsletter

As well as providing a mechanism for general communication the newsletter will be used to publish a summary of progress as a companion to the technical report. **If any partners wish to contribute to future newsletters then please let us know.** We hope to publish at least once a year.

Celebratory publication - a partnership project?

The publication of a celebratory three year report has been suggested, along the lines of those produced by Durham and Staffordshire. **Would this benefit the Wiltshire BAP? If so, how do we achieve it? We will be looking for your answers at the Forum meeting.**

Website - watch this space!

A Wiltshire BAP website has been suggested and ideas are being developed. **We would like your input into the content and functionality of the site—again there will be a chance to put forward views at the forthcoming Forum meeting.**

