



**UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference 10–11 September 2008
Aberystwyth University**

‘Delivering for Nature’

Programme

For more information about the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) visit:
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5155>

Conference Programme

Annual UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference
Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September 2008
Aberystwyth University

Delivering for Nature **Biodiversity – a keystone of Sustainable Development**

Objectives

- Stimulate interest in a topical theme – in this case, the integration of biodiversity into sustainable development;
- Increase understanding of each other's work in order to build a strong common purpose and a vision of how our work contributes to it;
- Build enthusiasm in the partnership by celebrating our collective achievements together;
- Identify the challenges we face and what we need to do to rise to them.

Day 1

- 08.30 Set up of exchange fair displays
- 09.00 Optional field trip to local project
- 10.30 Registration & refreshments, Penbryn Building
- 12.00 Lunch, Upper Dining Room, Penbryn Building
- 13.00 **Chairman's Welcome and Introduction** John Robbs, Director, Wildlife & Countryside Directorate and Chair of the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee A12 Lecture Theatre, Hugh Owen Building
- 13.05 **Ministerial Address** Jane Davidson - Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Welsh Assembly Government
- 13.15 **[Convention on Biological Diversity and Countdown 2010](#)**
Eric Blencowe, Defra (15 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 13.40 **Business & Biodiversity Offsets Program** Kerry ten Kate, Forest Trends (15 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 14.05 **[Introduction to Living Landscapes](#)** Colin Preston, CEO Shropshire Wildlife Trusts, followed by Clive Faulkner, Conservation Manager, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust – **[The Pumlumon Project](#)** (10 mins + 10 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 14.35 Refreshments, Upper Dining Room, Penbryn Building
- 15.00 Workshop Session 1 (5-10 mins intro + discussion)
See Workshop Session sheet for location details, Hugh Owen Building
- 16.15 Exchange Fair/refreshments, Upper Dining Room, Penbryn Building
- 17.30 Close
- 19.00 Evening Reception hosted by Welsh Assembly Government Penbryn Building

Day 2

- 08.30 Registration (opportunity to re-visit exchange fair) Penbryn Building
- 09.00 **Chairman's Welcome to Day 2**
Matthew Quinn, Director, Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing A12 Lecture Theatre, Hugh Owen Building
- 09.05 [The forward process for the UK List of Priority Species & Habitats](#)
Paul Rose, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (10 mins)
- 09.15 [Country Group Update - Wales](#) Liz Howe, CCW (10 mins)
- 09.25 [Country Group Update - NI](#) Ken Bradley, DOENI (10 mins)
- 09.35 [Country Group Update - Scotland](#) Greg Mudge, SNH (10 mins)
- 09.45 **Country Group Update - England** Pete Brotherton, NE (10 mins)
- 09.55 Refreshments, Penbryn Building
- 10.25 Return to Lecture Theatre A12, Hugh Owen Building
- 10.30 **Biodiversity Benchmark Scheme** Amy Mulkern, Partnerships Development Manager, Wildlife Trusts Wales and Howard Park, Biodiversity Benchmark Marketing Manager, Wildlife Trusts (15 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 10.55 [The NERC Biodiversity Duty](#) Joanna Robertson, Countryside Council for Wales & **Local Authority Biodiversity Indicator** David Knight, Natural England (5 mins + 10 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 11.20 Workshop Session 2 (10 min intro + discussion)
See Workshop Session sheet for location details, Hugh Owen Building
- 12.45 Lunch, Upper Dining Room, Penbryn Building
- 13.50 Welcome back by Chairman, A12 Lecture Theatre, Hugh Owen Building
- 13.55 **Summary of workshop outputs** David Parker, Director of Science, Countryside Council for Wales (15 mins)
- 14.10 **Raising the profile of biodiversity in local government – the 'Local Action for Biodiversity' project** Sue Timms, Nature Conservation Officer, Leicester City Council and Gavin Fletcher, Senior Conservation Officer, Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire (10 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 14.30 **Wildlife and Countryside Link perspective** Martin Harper (Head of Sustainability, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) (10 mins + 10 mins Q & A)
- 14.50 Chairman's closing remarks
- 15.00 Close

Exchange Fair and Workshop Programme
6th Annual Biodiversity Partnership Conference
10th – 11th September 2008, Aberystwyth University

Exchange Fair

Day 1 Wednesday 10th September

16.15– 17:30 Stalls from a wide variety of interest groups linked to the conference theme

Workshop Sessions

Day 1 Wednesday 10th September

Workshop Session at 15.00pm. Delegates may choose one session to attend on Wednesday afternoon. Outputs from each breakout group will be recorded with a plenary summary presentation on Thursday at 13.55pm.

1 Biodiversity Toolkit
ALGE, Steve Moon

The toolkit aims to provide 'finger tip' access (via a 'one-stop-shop') to an interactive web based biodiversity information resource - aimed at planning and ecological professionals working within the planning system.

2 Nature After Minerals: working nationally for business and biodiversity
RSPB, Alice Hardiman, Nature After Minerals Programme Manager

The Nature After Minerals Programme is a new partnership between Natural England and the RSPB. The two organisations are working with mineral planners and industry to help nature after minerals.

3 Building bridges over troubled waters - engaging the hard to reach
DOENI, Jackie Morgan

Biodiversity Implementation Plans - putting biodiversity in the context of Sustainable Development and engaging with those for whom biodiversity is not their primary interest.

4 Valuing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
Aberystwyth University, Dr Mike Christie

The overarching objective of this study is to estimate the value of the changes in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services which will result from the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) by 2010.

Day 2 Thursday 11th September

Workshop Session at 11.20am. Delegates may choose one session to attend on Thursday morning.

- 1 The forward process for the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats**
Representatives of the 4 countries – Liz Howe, Ken Bradley, Greg Mudge and Pete Brotherton

Discussion leading on from the four Country Group presentations

- 2 Education for Biodiversity - How Real World Learning can Encourage Sustainable Development**
Cymru Partnership, Jon Gruffydd, Lifelong Learning Manager, RSPB Cymru, and Chair of the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership; Erika Kluge, Welsh External Affairs Officer, National Trust; Tony Thomas, Chief Executive, Field Studies Council; Phil Burfield, Outdoor Education Policy Officer, RSPB; and Dominic Carmichael, Learning Manager, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

An overview of the role played by Real World Learning partnerships in the delivery and promotion of out of classroom learning. The workshop also explores how out of classroom learning highlights the relationship between biodiversity and sustainable development. This will be illustrated by examples of the educational provision of partner organisations in the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership.

- 3 The Scottish Corncrake: changing the fortunes of farmland wildlife**
RSPB Scotland, Dr Paul Walton, RSPB Scotland Species and Habitats Policy Officer

Corncrakes, once widespread across the UK, declined from the 19th century until, by 1993, there were less than 500 calling males left, restricted to a few Scottish islands.

The UK Corncrake BAP, chaired by RSPB Scotland, has overseen the application of research, the development of management techniques, the establishment of genuine partnerships with farmers and crofters and the close involvement of Government Agriculture Departments. It is now a flagship example of integrated species conservation. The corncrake population decline has been reversed, with over 1,200 calling males in 2007. The next challenge is to expand the species range back into its former strongholds.

- 4 Duties and derelictions – The Big Brownfield Biodiversity Botch**
Buglife, Matt Shardlow, Director

It has become increasingly obvious that the current definition of Brownfield/previously developed land includes a great many sites that are of high importance to rare and endangered species.

Recent work by Buglife has shown over half of brownfield land in the Thames Gateway is likely to be of high importance to biodiversity.

The combination of a new BAP priority habitat (Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land) and rare BAP priority species on sites that are otherwise prioritised for development creates a unique biodiversity conservation dilemma that enables us to explore how biodiversity conservation and the planning system are, and should be, working.

**UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference 2008
10th & 11th September, Aberystwyth University**

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

Day 1 – Wednesday 10th September

Owing to an accident on the rail line to Aberystwyth, two of our session hosts were unable to reach the venue on time to deliver their workshop. The intended workshops 'Nature After Minerals' and 'Building bridges over troubled waters' were cancelled with delegates transferring to the 'Biodiversity Toolkit' workshop.

We owe Steve Moon, the host for the 'Biodiversity Toolkit' workshop, a huge thank you for stepping into the breach and providing a session to numbers far greater than intended.

The workshop hosts were asked to come back with two key messages, two main issues or two outputs to feed into a summary session presented by David Parker of CCW on Day 2.

1) Biodiversity Toolkit

Steve Moon kindly stepped in as the original workshop host, Mike Oxford, was unable to take the session. The toolkit aims to provide 'finger tip' access (via a 'one-stop-shop') to an interactive web based biodiversity information resource - aimed at planning and ecological professionals working within the planning system.

Following the presentation, the group were given a handout with a number of questions - please find results below:

Development Control and Management

Q1: *What BAP habitats and species should be a priority over the next 12 months (e.g. bats and barn owls are being covered with the pilot – as shown in the ppt presentation?)*

- Mudflats
- All priority species
- For ponds – Lesser silver water beetle
- Maybe focus on habitats connected to species protected by legislation – Dormice, etc
- The species we have the most information for?
- Perhaps implement systems we already know about
- Water voles

Q2: *How much detail should the toolkit cover? Simple messages in each section or detailed coverage? The toolkit is aimed at Local Authorities, ecologists, etc.*

- Planners would like to be able to click onto something that tells them about a particular species
- We don't have the research
- Simple messages linking to more detail – an overview
- What to do and where to do it? Where to recover species? What species are already there?
- Links to Local Records Centres? Could maybe provide information on where species are?
- More guidance on habitats – where priority species are most likely to occur – beneficial info for planners. Species like bats are everywhere
- Information on enhancement of habitats – guidance on biodiversity and mitigation for planners
- The information should be accessible by everyone – not just for planners
- LBAP should be included in this information
- Targets for habitats and species – benchmark for Local Authority? (Flagged in toolkit – only National Targets can be there)
- Could there perhaps be links to BARS?
- Predictive mapping? Potential sites? (Toolkit shouldn't flag up unless sophisticated)
- Planners need to request knowledge
- Need to use toolkit to promote biodiversity

Q3: *What are the priority 'problem areas' that the toolkit should seek to improve? For instance -*

Simple understanding of the ecological requirements of various habitats and species

Quality of ecological surveys

Design and delivery of mitigation and compensation measures

Increasing opportunities for enhancement

Understanding of how legislation and policy should be applied

Other?

- LDFs – phase 1 habitat survey? Localised issues to draw on
- Have tools in one place – for planners, ecologists, consultants.
- Planners are improving – now there is a more holistic approach from planners. Looking at long term and short term plans
- Too much expected from the toolkit? It is hosted on the Planning Porthole site
- England is losing species – incomplete LRC coverage

Q4: *Have we got each of the sections approximately right in the CD toolkit? How could the content for these be improved or merged? What do we need to emphasise with the titles?*

- Need another search mechanism on species?
- Flag up positive actions
- Could an ALGE online forum be set up?

Q5: *Are there any offers of help/contributions for any elements of the toolkit?*

- Decide on the species you wish to feature, then can decide on who can help?
- Buglife – people need to know what to look for (potential for toolkit – where to go for information, where information came from, know information needs to be sought). Better guidance needed
- Recognised Industry standards
- Shortage of Bat Surveyors/Invertebrate Consultants. Focus expertise on sites that need invertebrate ecologists
- Conservation status management plan?

The two key messages the group felt were important are:

- **Could an ALGE online forum be set up?**
- **The targeting of species that developers frequently come across, in particular, the ones that we know a lot about**

2) [Valuing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

Workshop presenters Dr Mike Christie and Dr Tony Hyde are working on a research project at Aberyswyth University - The overarching objective of this study is to estimate the value of the changes in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services which will result from the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) by 2010.

Following the presentation, the workshop group were given a questionnaire and asked to comment. Please find below some of the feedback on the questionnaire.

- There was a lot to read
- Questionnaire does not have quantifiable benefits i.e. ‘increase of ten trees’
- No increased benefit for increased money – “I don’t want to choose any option”
- There are other trade offs. What about my tax bill?
- Order of the sheets – the cheapest one should come first

- People will go straight to 'no change' – due to cost
- Compare biodiversity to the total bill of Iraq!!

Results of exercise

- Doesn't reflect how people feel – sample size
- Links between questions – they interact e.g. nature reserve and more species

The two key messages the group felt were important are:

- **Should we accept reality? The public don't understand 'biodiversity'**
- **How information is presented is critical. David Attenborough versus a government Press Officer. Communication is key**

Day 2 – Thursday 11th September

1) The Forward process for the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats

Representatives of the 4 countries – Liz Howe, Ken Bradley, Greg Mudge and Pete Brotherton - leading a discussion following on from the four Country Group presentations

Q1 concern that despite devolution there wasn't much consistency between the different groups in the different countries. Would it not be better to have more consistency? Also concerned at 9 groups in Wales – not sure there's enough people to run them.

Responses:

1) There are some slight differences – in Wales we decided to separate hedgerows and cereal field margins from grassland and heathland. We do not think there is a problem finding chairs or members for the groups, but it may be more difficult to get species representation. The correspondence between the countries is not too bad at UK level. Also, we don't have to assume that having groups means having lots of meetings - these can be virtual.

2) We don't like calling them habitat groups because they are not just about habitat conservation – they are designed to integrate species conservation delivery. In England there is concern that our 9 "BIG" groups are too big – grouping too much together – so there is more of a concern that we should have a larger number of groups rather than fewer.

Q2 In England there is a feeling that our system was more complicated. Is there going to be some guidance about how LBAPs might fit and how this will affect reporting?

Response:

1) There is some guidance already about the role of the different levels. Having just nine groups actually represents a simplification – compared with up to 45 groups before, and with the framework integrating species into that. Clarity will come from delivery plans which will address delivery of BAP targets for the first time. Real opportunity for all of us to be much clearer on who is doing what. Agencies such as NE, EA and FC have clear role to deliver. Questioner – we have regional targets

Q3 This new approach is going to be hugely challenging; the big issue for me is how we are going to measure success. We should try to get agreement now about when we are going to measure what success has been and how we are going to measure success.

Q4 One of the key things we need to get right is to have a really good evidence base; until we have got that we don't know whether we are winning or losing. How much consistency is there between administrations about local record centres? I get the impression there is a lot of inconsistency in quality of data across the board e.g. on distribution of calcareous grassland. Until we have got that really strong evidence base there is a danger we are running around like headless chickens.

Responses:

On Q3, we are going through the 2008 reporting round. In terms of measuring our success we need to remember the 2010 target and the suite of indicators that we have published to measure our progress towards it, and the fact that there will be a successor. But this does not answer the question how we are going to assess whether this approach is working.

The 2010 target is a classic. Everybody has their own version of what success looks like.

The UK Biodiversity Partnership published Biodiversity Indicators in your pocket as an agreed baseline and this would be updated in 2009. The four administrations across the UK and Wildlife and Countryside Link had signed up to it. The methodology for the Red, Amber, Green assessments was agreed by all and set out clearly in the document.

Q3a Yes, but how will you assess success to generate the indicator on priority species and habitats in three years' time.

Responses:

This is a challenging task in BRIG's work programme.

The targets will be the measure of our success. There will be new targets for new habitats as soon as we can get them. The indicator suite is good. At the moment we are looking at direction of travel, but there is a wider question about what is real success, other than direction of travel.

Great, let's have those discussions so that we are not still having arguments about what is success in 2015.

On LRCs, NE and Defra are completing the LRC network and NE have just been allocated money from Defra's innovation fund giving others confidence in investing in LRCs. The new remit sets out clearly what the LRCs are expected to do.

We have got 4 record centres in Wales that are multi-county and they work to clear expectations. We have good knowledge of habitats in Wales. So there is complete coverage of LRCs in Wales, set up to modern standards with a lot of input from CCW.

Scotland does not have anywhere near full coverage of LRCs – lot of gaps and issues over funding.

It's difficult to work towards Regional targets if there is not up-to-date information about the distribution of habitats within a region; we need more money to re-do Phase 1.

We have reviewed the quality of the habitat inventories according to currency and a number of other criteria and looked at the costs of doing full up-dates. There are scary resource issues and we have to do it in chunks but LRCs will be charged with taking this forward. For example, we are doing new inventory of orchards and there are plans to do post-industrial mosaic land soon. The role of the BIGs is to help mobilise national resource about what they see as the real priorities but the home for the inventories is really the LRCs. The problem is when people don't believe them. We need to develop the process to allow rapid updating so that people can feed in corrections where they discover them – LRCs should have that facility in future.

In Wales we are looking at remote sensing solutions to this. Could use satellites for widespread habitats – satellite imagery is getting much better. Could do better at mobilising more historic data that we have got lots of in CCW but is not available more widely. Questioner – we need new survey not just a desk-based accumulation of surveys that were done for other purposes.

The NGOs do an amazing job on species but it really is for Government including Local Government to prepare accurate information about habitats.

Q5 To change tack – one worry is inflexibility in the RAG assessments – the flooding over the last 12 – 24 months has had a significant impact on work in Oxfordshire to re-create 400 ha of MG4 /MG5 meadows recreation (mesotrophic grassland/flower-rich hay meadows). It would be preferable to take a community approach to management – botanical, invertebrates, birds, rather than managing for individual species, which are dynamic. My NNR doesn't look like an NNR anymore - have we got MG4/MG5 in the right place? It might be that we need to progress to inundation grassland if flooding becomes more frequent. Our habitats are very fluid and don't necessarily tick the boxes we set out to do in the first place.

Comments:

We have set ourselves up for failure in a system where the dynamics might be the same but the players on the stage are shifting and if we have set all our objectives by reference to the players on the stage. In Northern Ireland the problem is that even the dynamics are shifting!

None of what I have heard so far invalidates the approach of setting targets.

That's a general point – we have set targets for habitat expansion and these things take decades – but sometimes our best efforts are thwarted by wider environmental change. Over time we need to think about how we set challenging objectives that are not so inflexible – we are letting a contract with Defra money to look into this in more detail.

Q6 You referred to a document, “Making the links” – is this about to come out?

Responses:

That came out in 1998.

That made the links between the species and the habitats, but it didn't tell you what niches the particular species needed in those habitats. In Natural England, we are producing one report for each of the BIGs about the niches that need to be created for the relevant priority species and that will be available at the end of October. Wales are doing similar work and this will be made available via the searchable web-based resource that JNCC referred to in their presentation.

Often can only meet species needs by involving experts, and by people talking to one another.

At the local level there is a lack of knowledge of species needs and we need more species people. In Wales they are setting up a system whereby the species lead may not know the answer but like the man in the cheesy AA advert, they “know a man who does”.

Sometimes there are species that only occur on one or two sites and there it is a species recovery matter not a role for national groups.

Q7 With the complexity that the new system has offered it is difficult to know whether it is going to be better but our one criticism of the old system was that you didn't know what different groups were supposed to be doing. Particularly national to local integration. The new system is more fragmented because of devolution. Looking from the top down it looks much more complicated.

Response: Would you have wanted to stay with what we had before?

A: not sure that the new approach actually solves the problem that we had before. On Record centres it looks like you are making good progress, but not sure about the rest.

Response: I look forward to the BIGs telling us where we are against delivery of habitat targets. This will be used to identifying where the real gaps are.

Q8 Would like to be able to see on a PC the whole chalk grassland resource in England – what would be helpful is to see a visual representation of who had responsibility for delivering what. Help determine priority in terms of spending time and resources. Once we have got this we will have a much better picture of what we need to buy in to.

Comments:

Worth saying that there is a new project called OPAL in collaboration with NBN delivering polygon –based data over web-based application.

Response:

Agreed that we need better data, but we have got enough data to be able to get on with things. Chalk grassland is one of the better-documented habitats. have you looked at *Nature on the map*?

To distill out what people want most, the group concluded :

(1) If we knew what habitats were where and what quality they are and if we could then overlay on that what was being done for those habitats ideally using existing mechanisms (LRCs, BARS) as far as possible.

The group was happy to let others work out the technological solution to this – this would probably involve creating a link between BARS & NBN.

(2) We need to work out how we are going to determine success and by when this is going to be measured - biological outcomes!

Post 2008 reporting. This is a major concern for the BIGs. The task is for BRIG to work on, initially.

(3) The system needs to give people the confidence that it provides added value, so that they have a reason for getting involved in it (this applies to involvement in their LBAP or giving records to the LRC) so people can see what contribution they are making to the bigger picture

2) Education for Biodiversity - How Real World Learning can Encourage Sustainable Development

Cymru Partnership, Jon Gruffydd, Lifelong Learning Manager, RSPB Cymru, and Chair of the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership; Erika Kluge, Welsh External Affairs Officer, National Trust; Tony Thomas, Chief Executive, Field Studies Council; Phil Burfield, Outdoor Education Policy Officer, RSPB; Dominic Carmichael, Learning Manager, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; and Roger Finn, Assistant Chief Executive, Gwent Wildlife Trust

An overview of the role played by Real World Learning partnerships in the delivery and promotion of out of classroom learning. The workshop also explores how out of classroom learning highlights the relationship between biodiversity and sustainable development. This will be illustrated by examples of the educational provision of partner organisations in the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership.

The group were given key questions to discuss:

How do you think Real World Learning (RWL) can support the work you do?

How do you think RWL can support the biodiversity agenda?

How do you think RWL can support sustainable development?

Are you doing anything at present to support RWL?

How could you support RWL?

Important to get out and see the real thing

What is the agenda?

- Influence councillors
- Involve everyone
- Engage the public
- Engage business in biodiversity
- Engage funders
- Lifestyle change
- High level influence on policy
- Develop a love of nature
- Engage local people
- Engage future customers in water efficiency
- Protect biodiversity and encourage enjoyment
- Relationship with schools and their surroundings
- Influence decision makers
- Inform the general public and councils
- Engage community groups

The key aims are:

- **To provide, support and promote out of classroom learning**
- **To enthuse everyone about wildlife**
- **To enthuse people and encourage them to become ecologists, etc**

3) The Scottish Corncrake: changing the fortunes of farmland wildlife

RSPB Scotland, Dr Paul Walton, RSPB Scotland Species and Habitats Policy Officer

Corncrakes, once widespread across the UK, declined from the 19th century until, by 1993, there were less than 500 calling males left, restricted to a few Scottish islands. The UK Corncrake BAP, chaired by RSPB Scotland, has overseen the application of research, the development of management techniques, the establishment of genuine partnerships with farmers and crofters and the close involvement of Government Agriculture Departments. It is now a flagship example of integrated species conservation. The corncrake population decline has been reversed, with over 1,200 calling males in 2007. The next challenge is to expand the species range back into its former strongholds.

The biodiversity process has worked well for the Scottish Corncrake. Corncrakes used to be everywhere in the 19th Century but now its main strongholds are Northern Scotland and the Scottish Islands.

For the Corncrake conservation mechanism to work, you need agricultural co-operation.

- Farmers to delay mowing
- Pro-active conservation schemes – site acquisition or management
- Pro-active – Agri-environment schemes. Corncrake specific management

Since efforts started in the 1990's the population has increased but not the range of these birds. Range expansion is tricky.

What are the options?

- German gentleman is breeding Corncrakes in his garden
 - Captive breeding? – people don't want their wild birds taken away
- Hemp harvested in winter? Also biofuel crops harvested in winter (corncrakes need cover - April to end of August – therefore late mowing required).
- Corncrake friendly mowing – from the centre out
- Increased funding needed
- Tourism resulting from Corncrakes
- Areas managed for species not habitat
- Still need support

Lessons:

- Decide what you want
- Gather information that will allow you to get it
- Consistent effort and investment in partnership
- People on the ground – Very important. Oil the wheels – help people to do what needs to be done
- Local Biodiversity Officers – trained in what to do – on the ground implementation. Needs high density of officers. Retention and recruitment can be a problem due to low wages
- Policy and fundraising – not as good as those on the ground. It is expensive -not something that could be done for every species.
- Cost of 'on the ground' officers is quite high.

- When money is taken away, will they survive?
- Agriculture needs heterogeneous landscapes – monocultures – mosaics are best
- Agriculture part of Government must be involved
- Farmers do care about wildlife

Key Messages:

- **People needed on the ground**
- **Heterogenous mosaics of habitats = biodiversity (hemp corps/cosmetic industry crops – look at new products and diversity – evening primrose)**

4) [Duties and derelictions – The Big Brownfield Biodiversity Botch](#)

Buglife, Matt Shardlow, Director

It has become increasingly obvious that the current definition of Brownfield/previously developed land includes a great many sites that are of high importance to rare and endangered species.

Recent work by Buglife has shown over half of brownfield land in the Thames Gateway is likely to be of high importance to biodiversity.

The combination of a new BAP priority habitat (Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land) and rare BAP priority species on sites that are otherwise prioritised for development creates a unique biodiversity conservation dilemma that enables us to explore how biodiversity conservation and the planning system are, and should be, working.

Key topics:

Novel methods of habitat creation

- Find examples of prestige schemes that show how biodiversity has been integrated in a slick way.
- Stress the use of contaminated sites for biodiversity as a suitable end use.
- Make positive suggestions about what might be done to incorporate biodiversity in letters of objection under planning process.
- Work with developers to retain habitats when developing.
- Lobby local authorities to include appropriate policies e.g. Sheffield green roof policy
- Lobby local authorities to include SUDS in Local Development Frameworks – use the clout of Government Agencies
- Stress cyclical re-use of sites – e.g. dumping dredging spoil
- Collect good examples from outside of London

- Talk to Defra, WAG, etc to get drivers to implement SUDS
- Promote the multifunctional benefits of habitats to developers e.g. biodiversity for flood risk management

Awareness raising

- Put urban and brownfield site action plan on BARS
- Biodiversity toolkit will feature urban and brownfield
- Liaise with CABE
- Get involved with the media e.g. forthcoming Grand Designs programme in Swindon
- Get other NGOs to produce posters and leaflets on urban species
- Talk to the landscapes profession re: habitat creation in new developments
- Use the continuing professional development (CPD) framework for planners and other professions to raise awareness
- Highlight the international experience e.g. Germany, and collect case studies

Observations

- Other Local Authority departments – unaware/uncaring
- Sites of potential importance already allocated for development
- Need to raise importance of brownfield sites in Local Development Frameworks
- There are significant land shortages for development and the profile of brownfield sites is too low to save them
- Biodiversity community needs to act to raise profile of brownfield sites and their conservation status

What needs to be done?

- Need to identify the agencies and departments responsible for identifying sites
- Need to be pro-active in identifying the interest of sites before they are earmarked for development
- Need to influence development of supplementary planning guidance
- **Look to novel methods to re-create brownfield sites e.g. Green/Brown roofs**
- Post-quarrying restoration may need to have its objectives/end state modified

Questions:

- Has the battle already been lost?
- Have most important sites already been developed?
- Will an economic down-turn be good for brownfield land supply?
- Why are non-diverse Greenfield sites so emotive for the public when development is proposed?
- Why are sites which have “blended into the landscape” not being dealt with as prescribed under PPS 3?
- Why do local authorities not regard brownfield rare species with the same care as rare species on designated sites?

- The target for housing development on brownfield land seems to “trump” biodiversity conservation.
 - Local Authority members need to be educated on the importance of brownfield sites.
 - Need to feed into review of greenbelt on the enhancement of biodiversity on development sites
 - Need to work with other bodies to emphasise their duty under the NERC Act, e.g. English Partnerships, Royal Mail, National Trust, etc
 - There is no money available for brownfield biodiversity conservation in-situ, only for relocation
 - Will the economic down-turn influence local authorities to allow developments with lower standards for biodiversity conservation?
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- More use could be made of PP7 in England
 - Developers are wary of allowing biodiversity to develop on derelict sites in the interim in case it will prevent later development
 - Draft TAN 5 in Wales might be of use
 - Economic down-turn may cause private funds to dry-up
 - Land Restoration Trust has promoted some interesting funding models for brownfield sites
 - Community infrastructure levy – a successor to Section 106 agreements e.g. as used in Milton Keynes
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- We are living on the legacy of the 60’s and 70’s – where are the new sites coming from?
 - What happens when eutrophication/succession occurs?
 - Why don’t we appreciate the ability of nature to regenerate but instead feel obliged to actively restore sites?
 - Local Communities often demand “restoration”
 - Need to work with e.g. CADW, English Heritage, etc to conserve historic postindustrial landscapes
-
- How do species survive in the wider landscape?
 - How do species move between sites?
 - How do we build specialist habitats into attractively restored sites on a landscape scale – rather than insist on saving slag-heaps?
 - Some local communities wish to see the retention of old industrial heritage landscapes as a link to a vanished past.

Key Topics

- **Awareness raising for members and officers, landscape profession**
- **Novel methods of habitat creation**
- Managing the brownfield resource – as it ages; - as sites come and go
- Funding
- Under-representation on LBAPS, etc

**6th Annual Biodiversity Partnership Conference
10th – 11th September 2008, Aberystwyth University**

Session Presenter Biographies

Day 1

Steve Moon (ALGE Toolkit)

Steve Moon has been the Council's ecologist in Bridgend County Borough Council for 12 years and has been an active member of ALGE since its formation in the mid 1990s. He has been both Treasurer and Chair of the Association and is now the Welsh representative on the ALGE Committee. He has extensive knowledge of the work and capabilities of local government to deliver biodiversity conservation across all service areas and functions. He has been closely involved in the development of the Web Based Biodiversity Toolkit concept since its initial conception.

Alice Hardiman (Nature After Minerals)

Alice Hardiman studied at Cambridge and York universities before starting work on the Minerals Restoration Potential project at the RSPB in 2005. Since October 2007, Alice has been working on the Nature After Minerals programme, a new partnership with Natural England.

Jackie Morgan (Building Bridges)

Jackie Morgan is a founder member and director of EcoSeeds, a not-for-profit company that specialise in habitat creation projects. The company also has a 10 acre nursery where they organically produce local provenance wildflowers to sell as seed and plants. For 12 years she worked with local councils in the North and South of Ireland, conservationists, other NGO's and private landowners on the practical establishment of a variety of habitats.

She was seconded to the Dept of Environment (PEPG) in May 2006 in order to assist Government Departments to develop Biodiversity Implementation Plans as recommended in the First Report of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group. Her current role is to deliver training and awareness raising materials on the practical application of increasing biodiversity to enable Govt. Depts to deliver on the ground actions within their BIP's

Dr Mike Christie (Valuing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan)

Dr Mike Christie is currently a lecturer in Environmental Economics at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS), Aberystwyth University. His educational qualifications include a BSc (Hons) Agriculture (University of Aberdeen) and his PhD on '*An economic analysis of the provision of recreation improvements in the Grampian countryside*' also at Aberdeen University. Mike's main research interest is in environmental valuation. Recent research activities include economic evaluation of countryside recreation, water quality, coastal defence, agri-environmental schemes, biodiversity, and geo-diversity. These studies have utilised a range of valuation methods including travel cost models, contingent valuation, choice experiments and contingent behaviour models. More recently, he has focused on developing an ecosystems approach to valuation, which is the focus of the paper presented at this conference.

Day 2

Liz Howe (The forward process)

After studying for a PhD in reptile thermoregulation I got my first job with NCC as a Phase I habitat surveyor in 1986. After many of the then traditional short contracts (bat work, management plan production) I ran the Phase I survey team for 10 years to its completion in 1997. During this time I took on the role as CCW's herpetologist as well. I am currently the species team leader, responsible for overseeing all the species specialists in Headquarters. I am involved with BAP at the UK level (BRIG and its subgroups) and have just passed on the role of terrestrial science rep at WBP to my colleague Jan Sherry.

Ken Bradley (The forward process)

Ken Bradley has been in the Department of the Environment for the past 20 years during which time he has been involved in many aspects of the Department, most notably in the Minister's Private Office and subsequently in Local Government Division dealing with district council issues. He moved to Environmental Policy Division in June 2003 where his responsibilities include policy and legislation relating to the Habitats and Birds Directives, review of the 1985 Wildlife Order, as well as Biodiversity issues and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Greg Mudge (The forward process)

Currently work for Scottish Natural Heritage where I am Manager of SNH's Biodiversity Action Programme and also Manager of the Terrestrial Ecosystem 1 Unit. Within the Scottish Biodiversity Forum I chair the Scottish Biodiversity Action Coordination Group. My career history includes spells with the research sections of RSPB and WWT, with NCC and JNCC. Previous roles in SNH were as Senior Ornithological Adviser and as Area Manager for West Highland.

Pete Brotherton (The forward process)

Pete is Natural England's lead for biodiversity, which spans delivery, policy and strategy development. He is currently heavily involved in establishing the new integrated delivery framework for BAP in England. Pete is a member of the England Biodiversity Group, and was previously chair of the UK BAP Targets Review group and a member of the UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group. His previous roles include Species Recovery Manager, Head of English Nature's Biodiversity Unit and Senior Biodiversity Information Officer, during which time he was involved in setting up the Biodiversity Action Reporting System. Before joining English Nature at the end of 1999, Pete was an academic and was field coordinator of the Kalahari Meerkat Project, recently featured in the BBC's *Meerkat Manor*

Jon Gruffydd (Education for Biodiversity)

Jon, a Welsh-speaker originally from Neath, in Wales, has a degree in Geography from the University of Wales, Lampeter, and a PGCE from Oxford. He has taught Geography and Environmental Studies in secondary schools in Britain and overseas. Prior to joining RSPB Cymru in 2006, he was Manager of a residential outdoor education centre that specialised in Geography and Ecology field studies for students of all ages. Now, as Lifelong Learning Manager with RSPB Cymru, he oversees all their formal and informal education provision across Wales, including five field teaching sites, and runs workshops in outdoor education for PGCE students at Welsh universities. He is responsible for the development of RSPB Cymru Education policy, with reference to policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and Westminster, and for the advocacy of the RSPB cause through education. To this end, Jon works with a wide variety of external environmental

and educational organisations and agencies, and is currently chair of the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership.

Erika Kluge (Education for Biodiversity)

Erika has been Welsh External Affairs Officer with the National Trust since April 2006 and works to advocate the Trust as a cause with a range of external partners, helping to showcase the Trusts expertise in Heritage and Learning issues as well as influencing and shaping external policy development. Prior to this, Erika was Information and Development Coordinator for Forest School Wales, a pan Wales charity that operates as a networking hub to support the increasing number of Forest School Leaders across Wales and the information and guidance they need for developing Forest schools. Previous to this, Erika's background has mainly been in the heritage arena, working for the Heritage Lottery Fund in the East Midlands and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs based in Nottingham. Erika is originally from Swansea and has a degree in Archaeology and Ancient History from the University of Wales Lampeter (1998) and a Masters Degree in Heritage Management from the Ironbridge Institute (University of Birmingham 2001).

Phil Burfield (Education for Biodiversity)

Phil graduated from Imperial College, London, with an MSc in Environmental Technology. He specialised in environmental economics and policy, and researched the educational backgrounds of staff at English Nature, and how these influenced their skills development and attitudes towards sustainable development. Phil started work at the RSPB in September 2005. He has produced consultation responses on the Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom, and also produced the Real World Learning Partnership's Out-of-Classroom Learning guide and arranged its distribution to every primary and secondary state school in England. Over the last year, Phil has also worked with colleagues on education policy in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Dr Paul Walton (The Scottish Corncrake)

Natural history is a preoccupation - birds, insects, marine life, ponds, fossils - but I also like people. First degree Zoology from Aberdeen Uni. I have worked overseas: surveying river dolphins in Pakistan, and eagles in Peruvian cloud forest, researched bird migration in deserts of the Middle East and bushy-crested hornbills in Borneo. Spent two years seeking and establishing reserves for the endangered Western tragopan in the Karakoram front-ranges, N Pakistan. I was then a Researcher at Glasgow University studying the diving behaviour and feeding ecology of kittiwakes, shags, guillemots and arctic terns in Shetland, then the effects on the Braer oil spill. I then undertook a PhD on the diving and breeding behaviour of the black guillemot in Papa Westray, Orkney. I am now Species and Habitats Policy Officer for RSPB Scotland.

Matt Shardlow (Duties & derelictions)

Matt worked at the RSPB nine years completing an MPhil in the restoration of invertebrate populations in a mixed arable and grazing farming system and overseeing the management and monitoring of non-avian biodiversity on the RSPB's 115,000ha of nature reserves. In 2002 Matt helped to set up a new charity Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust of which he is now the Chief Executive Officer. Buglife is the only organisation in Europe committed to saving all invertebrates; the charity has eight members of staff and a growing portfolio of conservation projects. Priority work areas include the sustainable management of brownfield sites; saving endangered Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species; and improving the health of freshwater ecosystems. Matt has been a Management Committee member of Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) and is an active member of the WCL Biodiversity Working Group, representing the partnership on Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG).

**Field Visit to
Dyfi National Nature Reserve**

10th September 2008

**6th Annual Biodiversity Partnership Conference,
Aberystwyth University**

Coaches will depart from the Porters Lodge, University of Wales, Aberystwyth at 9.00am on Wednesday 10th September, to return by 12.00 noon. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, please indicate on the reply slip that you wish to attend.

Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come-first served' basis so book early to avoid any disappointment.

Field trip destination

Dyfi is an exceptionally rich site, for both wildlife and geology, with a wide range of internationally and nationally important habitats and species, extending over 3792 hectares. This natural richness is reflected in the multiple site designations it holds.

The whole estuary is of European importance and forms part of the Llyn peninsula and Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as the Dyfi Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Cors Fochno-Dyfi RAMSAR site which includes the raised bog at Borth. Cors Fochno is also a SAC in its own right.

The Dyfi is Wales' only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and this designation is in the process of being expanded to cover the whole of the Dyfi catchment.

Being a coastal site climate change and sea level rise is a particular issue for the Dyfi NNR. The idea of managed retreat is being explored. This will be the focus of our brief site visit.

For general information please visit the following:

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-landscapes--sites/protected-landscapes/national-nature-reserves/nature-reserves-of-west-wales/dyfi.aspx>

Please note timings are estimated only and we cannot take responsibility for events beyond our control that may cause proposed timetable to slip.