

February 2006

Regional Update

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Welcome to the new Regional Biodiversity Coordinator

Jeff Edwards has recently started as the West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Co-ordinator.

These are new posts, one in each English region, funded by Defra. Jeff is based at the Countryside Agency in Birmingham, and will be working on a range of activities including further development of the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership and support to Local BAP partnerships.

Jeff previously worked for Staffordshire County Council as Principal Ecologist. Prior to this Jeff has worked for Hampshire County Council and the London Wildlife Trust.

Biodiversity Enhancement Areas

English Nature is supporting partnership projects in two of the region's BEAs and has led a desk based assessment of the contribution the 14 BEAs make to regional biodiversity. The output from this work includes maps, brief biodiversity profiles for each BEA and technical guidance. Consultations are being undertaken with local stakeholders to test and refine the work. The consultation is open to all, and BEA information is available at www.wmbp.org/beas.

WMBP Annual Conference

Date for the WMBP conference is **Thursday 2nd March 2006, at the Copthorne Hotel in Birmingham.**

If you have not already had an invitation and would be interested in attending this event, please email alex@wmbp.org

Habitat Targets Report

A summary report of this document is currently being prepared and, with the full document, will shortly be available on the Partnership website www.wmbp.org Contact alex@wmbp.org if you would like more information on this work.

Photographic Competition

The prize-giving ceremony for the Regional Photographic Competition 2005 was held in early January, with the overall winner being Danny Beath for his photograph 'Porcelain Mushrooms'.

The winning pictures will be on display around the region during the year – it is currently up at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's office at Wolseley Bridge – and they will also be on the WMBP website by the end of February.

Regional Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan

As discussed at the last WMBP meeting in January, Jeff Edwards and Alex Kinnersley will be busy during February collecting information to go into the first Delivery Plan for the Regional Biodiversity Strategy. We are looking for activity completed last year (April 05 to March 06), and planned for next year (April 06 to March 07) which contributes to any of the five key challenges in the Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

If you have any information you would like to contribute please contact alex@wmbp.org tel 07963 668034, or Jeff.Edwards@English-Nature.Org.UK

Next WMBP Meeting

The next full WMBP meeting will be held on **Thursday 4th May 2006**, starting at 1.30 p.m., in Room 2 at the Regional Partnerships Centre, Quay Place, Birmingham.

WMBP contacts are:

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