

WEST MIDLANDS BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Delivering the Regional Biodiversity Strategy



Regional Update

FEBRUARY 2007

www.wmbp.org

email: contact@wmbp.org

WMBP - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Partnership's annual conference is now being organised. It will take place on the **24th April** at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. The conference will include keynote speakers covering a range of subjects including delivering biodiversity within the rural and urban areas and a review of the changing legislative framework that affects our work. There will also be a series of workshops to consider new ways of working to achieve our objectives. Please earmark the date in your diary – further information about the conference will be circulated shortly.

Climate Change

The new sub group has now met twice and is developing an interesting range of projects. The Regional Assembly has signed the 'West Midlands' declaration and will be producing an Action Plan. The group will be developing a series of best practice guidance notes and an adaptation strategy which it is hoped will be included within the Regional Action Plan and all other county level climate change action plans. A set of Adaptation Principles has already been developed and are available on request. For more information contact – Jeff Edwards. The draft revision to PPS 1 deals with how the planning system should take account of climate change and can be downloaded from the <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140>

Data and Monitoring

The lack of adequate baseline data for habitats and species continues to create problems for monitoring and for strategic planning. The 'regional habitat data project' seeks to develop a single GIS layer of all priority BAP habitat within the region producing a new regional 'nature on the map' facility available to all. The final comprehensive map will require a lot of time and resources but work has commenced on the production of an initial map identifying all known areas and a strategy will developed to complete this. For further information contact Amanda Pearce (Tel 01902 693194).

Also - The LRCS have organised a Workshop to investigate: **Options for a regional biodiversity network** - Thursday 22 March 2007. Further details from Dave Lowe Tel: 01926 418060 - davidlowe@warwickshire.gov.uk

Trees Woods and Forests

The first meeting of the new sub group was well attended and work has commenced on the development of a range of specific projects for the group to tackle. For further information please contact Justin Milward (Tel 01761 463434).

GI rules?

The Regional Assembly have recently published the Green Infrastructure prospectus which sets the benefits and methodology for planning with nature and green open spaces. It is hoped that this will be used to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the region. Each new growth point will also need to consider how to accommodate GI into their plans. For more info go to the RA web site – www.wmra.gov.uk

Landscapes for Living

Further information about this project, the vision and opportunity map is available at: <http://www.wmbp.org/landscapesforliving>

WMBP contacts are:

Steve Holliday (Chair): steve.holliday@rspb.org.uk
Jeff Edwards (Regional Biodiversity Coordinator) jeff.edwards@english-nature.org.uk Tel: 0121 213 4933 (mobile: 07766 968661)