

Regional Update

NOVEMBER 2006

www.wmbp.org

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GrantScape

GrantScape has released details of its Biodiversity Challenge Fund for 2007 and is inviting applications for projects aimed at creating, conserving or enhancing the biodiversity of England and Wales. **This year's Challenge Fund has approximately £2 million available, and grants will be between £200,000 and £400,000.** Details of the application process and deadlines will be available from Nov 2006. The deadline for applications is expected to be in March. [Watch this space.....](#)

Landscapes for Living

Terra Consult, have now been appointed to work with the WMBP on this project to take forward the Vision for large areas and the opportunity mapping. The outline timetable for this work is as follows:

- Oct/Nov – Preparatory Work
- Dec – Regional Visioning and Preliminary Mapping Workshop
- Jan/Feb 07 – 6 Sub-Regional Workshops
- Feb/Mar 07 – Final Regional Workshop
- Mar 07 - Final Map and Framework for Sub-regional
- Mapping process April 07 on - Feed into RSS Phase 3 Review; Sub-regional mapping process

The **Regional Visioning Workshop will take place on Thursday December 14th**, Shrewsbury - there will be a formal invitation to attend distributed in due course, but, in the meantime, do make a note of this date.

National Pond Monitoring Network Newsletter.

Pond Conservation is the UK national charity working For Life in Fresh Waters through research, education, , training, practical conservation, projects, and influencing national and international policy.

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01865 483189 www.pondnetwork.org.uk

Pond Conservation: www.pondconservation.org.uk

New Biodiversity Duty on Local Authorities

From the 1st October 2006, all LAs and other public bodies will have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions. The duty aims to ensure that biodiversity becomes a natural consideration in policy and decision-making. The duty extends to all public bodies, including regional organisations such as Regional Assemblies, Regional Development Agencies and Government Offices. Defra is producing guidance to assist public bodies in implementing this duty.

The guidance will need to consider the roles and responsibilities of a wide range of Government departments, agencies and publicly funded organisations and their relationship with biodiversity.

A Workshop is to be held on Friday 17th November 2006 at the Leeds Hilton Hotel, Neville Street, Leeds,
To **reserve a place contact** paulette.amadi@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Breathing Places

£4.5 million of BIG Lottery Fund money is up for grabs through the **BBC Breathing Places** campaign:
Application deadline: 13 December 2006

Biodiversity News

Link <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/bn36.pdf>

SITA Enriching Nature

Projects supported to date are:

Site/Project	Organisation	Funds
Middleton Lakes	RSPB	£175,000
Workhouse Coppice and Benthall Edge Wood	Severn Gorge Countryside Trust	£25,000
Black Redstart Green Roof Habitat Creation	Groundwork, Birmingham	£174,968
Woodland Revival at Coombes Valley	RSPB	£22,930
Ponds Restoration and Celebration Project	HART	£21,666
Native Woodland Restoration in Hereford	River Wye Preservation Trust	£24,746
Veteran Tree Work at Pipers Hill Common	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	£15,086

Deadline for next round of applications is December 29th.

WMBP contacts are:

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