

Regional Update

SEPTEMBER 2006

www.wmbp.org

email: enquiries@wmbp.org



FUNDING ISSUES

The 3 year Rebuilding Regional Biodiversity project has finished and funding for future activity is currently being reviewed. Funding problems at Defra has meant that English Nature's contribution to regional activity is currently under review and it is likely that their funds will now not be forthcoming. The WMBP is having to review the budget for this year and is looking at ways to increase support for all activities in the future. It is obviously important that the partnership builds a solid base for the future and will be looking at ways to increase the contributions it receives from partners and others.

Landscapes for Living

This is an exciting and ambitious new initiative to which seeks to develop a 50 year vision and landscape opportunity map for the Region. Led by the West Midlands Wildlife Trusts on behalf of the Partnership it will build on existing proposals such as the BEAs, Strategic River Corridors and Green Infrastructure and seeks to integrate these into a comprehensive vision for the region. So far the project has organized a very successful trip to Holland, a report of this trip is available for those who wish to know more and to trip to Shropshire to see the 'Back to Purple' project. Workshops and further visits are planned see Events for details

Breathing Places

This is a new BBC initiative and further information is provided on the separate sheet. Our local contact is Keith Benton Tel 07703403295
e-mail keith.benton@bbc.co.uk

Alex Kinnersley

Alex has worked as the Regional Biodiversity Manager for the last 3 years and her hard work, enthusiasm and professionalism has been one of the main reasons the Partnership has succeeded in 'raising the game' for biodiversity across the Region and why this region is regarded as a beacon of good practice. She will be returning to Worcestershire LBAP following the birth of her second child. We all wish her Good Luck.

EVENTS

September 15th – Site visit to Severn Avon Vales Project – Further details contact –
(brian.smith@environment-agency.gov.uk)
September 27th - Herefordshire Natural Environment Networking Event – further details contact Geoff Parrott (gperrott@herefordshire.gov.uk)
October 7th – Shropshire LBAP Wider Partnership Meeting – further details contact
Dan.Wrench@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)
October 19th – WMBP Meeting 1.30pm to 4.30 – Further details contact – (Jeff.edwards@english-nature.org.uk)

Regional Biodiversity Strategy The WMBP is currently preparing a Delivery Plan to ensure that activity is across the region is directed towards delivery of the RBS. The Partnership is also reviewing it's **Terms of Reference** and Structures to facilitate effective participation by all. Working sub-groups are to be established to take forward specific areas of work. The **Data sub-group** is to be reconvened and a new group is to be established to consider **Climate Change**. An additional new group is to be established in conjunction with the Forestry Commission to consider **Woodland Biodiversity**. Anyone interested in participating in any of these groups should contact Jeff.
Next WMBP Meeting - The next full WMBP meeting will be held on **Thursday 19th October 2006**, starting at 1.30 p.m., in Room Gc & Gd 1 at the WM Regional Government Offices in Birmingham.

Healing Through Nature

The report of the WMBP workshop held in May is now available on the WMBP web site.

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)

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