

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to this bumper summer edition of Biodiversity news. It's been a busy few months and I'll try and give you a snapshot of what's been happening across Herefordshire in the biodiversity world.

This edition includes project updates, local, regional and UK BAP news, and information on national schemes for your delectation.

This edition has a large array of features and articles including a fascinating account of a few projects – mapping BAP priority habitat by AONB's & LRCs as well as progress with the Colwall Orchard project, the National Trusts activities at Brockhampton Estate and "What's that Snake". There are a couple of stories of new or re-discoveries within the county (Great work all recorders!), and a bee story with a bit of good news, which makes a change to hear compared to the doom and gloom to which we are getting accustomed. There is a section on regional partnership news, as well as UK BAP and information on new publications, local and national initiatives.

### Web news

We are currently in the process of overhauling the Herefordshire BAP website. This is a large undertaking and involves a lot of updating of the information that is on the existing site. I will be adding links to all partner projects and organisations and also information on current grant providers. It will also have the updated plans, a background to the BAP process in Herefordshire as well as being constantly updated with news articles and project progress. Meeting minutes, relevant strategies, reporting guidance, and back copies of biodiversity news will all be available.

### UKBAP news

#### Reporting round results

For all those who reported on BARS for the UK BAP reporting round, I would like to report that there is still NO news on the results of this to date but we have been told that they will be published over the summer months, and so when that information is made available, I will send out a bulletin to partners informing them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all again for your input to this.

*Nicky Davies*  
Herefordshire Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator

## A good news bee story



© John Gibbon

A swarm of honeybees took residence in a water tap at Hereford Cemetery. Concerned about the safety of the bees we were put in touch with Suzanne Wenczek (Project Manager for Corporate Programmes in Herefordshire Council and also a Bee Mistress) who advised that the hive ought to be moved as it wouldn't be large enough for the bees to survive the winter. On the 29th June with the kind help of Paul Devine (Project Manager for Corporate Programmes) a hive of approx 40,000 bees was collected and moved to a new home in Pembridge.

It's very refreshing to hear of this story in light of the global decline of the honeybee. The Co-op has launched "Plan-Bee", a new campaign and 10-point plan to help reverse the worrying decline in the British bee population. More information on this can be found at <http://www.co-operative.coop/ethicsinaction/takeaction/planbee/what-The-Co-operative-is-doing-for-bees/>

*John Gibbon, Cemetery Manager*



© John Gibbon

## Conserving and Restoring Priority Habitats on the Brockhampton Estate



**Dyers Greenweed - one of the many species of plant in the old pasture at Old Linceter Farm**  
© Simon Barker

As reported briefly in the April issue of Biodiversity Action, The National Trust has been busy conserving and enhancing a range of BAP habitats at Old Linceter Farm on the Brockhampton Estate, near Bromyard.

Old Linceter is a small, isolated farm with a long history of unintensified management. As a consequence, it supports a diverse range of high quality habitats including unimproved lowland meadow and pasture, traditional orchards, wet woodland and ancient hedgerows / trees. Associated species include Dormouse, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and the Mistletoe weevil *Ixapion variegatum*, new to Britain when discovered here in 2000 by Andy Foster of the Trust's Biological Survey Team.

The tradition of management by extensive grazing is maintained by current farm tenant Mark Hall, but in recent months the Trust has invested to ensure the condition of key habitats is secured for the future.

The central element of the works has been the restoration of over 3ha of traditional orchard, thanks to funding from Natural England's Countdown 2010 grant fund via the Conserving & Restoring Traditional Orchards Project run by The National Trust.

The Trust has also committed its own project funds to clear scrub and bracken which was invading slopes supporting flower-rich grassland, gap up hedgerows and erect fencing to exclude stock from wet woodland adjoining the Linceter Brook.

Much of the work has been carried out by contractors A & P Forestry, under the direction of Estate Warden Iain Carter, with valuable contributions from volunteer groups. Their efforts,

combined with ongoing grazing by cattle and sheep, should ensure that Old Linceter Farm continues to support a diverse range of habitats and species in the future.

Simon Barker  
Regional Nature Conservation Adviser  
The National Trust



Restoring a damson orchard © Les Rogers

### England Woodland Grants Scheme update - Reversing Decline in Woodland Birds

Wild birds are considered a good indicator of the general state of health of our wildlife and the countryside, and have been chosen as one of the Government's 15 headline indicators of progress towards sustainable development.

The 'Quality of Life' indicator shows woodland bird populations falling by 20 per cent among 33 species in the last 25 years. Some of these, such as the Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker, Spotted Flycatcher and Willow Tit, have declined by more than 50 per cent since the late 1960s.

The new WIG Grant is now open for applications and can provide up to 80% of the cost of eligible operations. These could include preserving dead trees to provide natural next sites; thinning; coppicing; controlling grazing, creating glades and ride widening and other operations. See the guidance notes concerning the full details of the new WIG grant for the region at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf/\\$FILE/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf/$FILE/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf)

## Against the Flow

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Plantlife, the UK charity that aims to protect wild plants and habitats has launched a nationwide survey in partnership with several other conservation organisations entitled "Against the Flow" to determine how widespread invasive pond plants are across the UK and to locate garden centres that are still selling these plants. This will inform Plantlife's work in the future to target their work to effectively protect aquatic habitats.

A survey form can be downloaded from <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-get-involved-againsttheflow-surveyform.html>

## Farm Wildlife Info

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The farmwildlife.info website is an unbranded, partnership website featuring case studies, a lively online discussion forum, calendar of events, and information library of partner materials. Anyone can contribute to it, and it is already viewed by 200-300 people every day.

Please check out the June 2009 update from the [www.farmwildlife.info](http://www.farmwildlife.info) website - giving a summary of key discussion threads from over the last few weeks.

## Buglife publication - Managing Priority Habitats for Invertebrates

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Many of the leading national experts were enlisted to help develop understanding of the habitat requirements of invertebrates associated with the 32 Biodiversity Action Plan Priority habitats. Information has been collated on habitat management requirements for a number of invertebrate groups ranging from millipedes (*Myriapoda*) and Snails (*Mollusca*) to Lacewings (*Neuroptera*), ground beetles (*Coleoptera: Carabidae*) and bees (*Hymenoptera*).

This information is now available to everyone with an interest in land management and nature conservation. To view a summary of this information online, please click on the [Managing Priority Habitats for Invertebrates](#) link. The full reports are available on CD from Buglife - to obtain a copy, please call 01733 201210 or email [info@buglife.org.uk](mailto:info@buglife.org.uk).

## A message from Butterfly Conservation

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After a one year break, in which we produced the Conservation Review: 2000 - 2008 (this can be viewed at [www.butterfly-conservation.org/conservationreview](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/conservationreview)), Butterfly Conservation has produced an update bulletin.

The Bulletin includes updates on conservation efforts for a broad selection of highly threatened moths and butterflies across the UK. In addition further articles about Lepidoptera recording, National Moth Night, Butterfly Conservation reserves and Butterfly Conservation Europe are included. There is also a selected Bibliography covering 2007 and 2008.

In order to reduce production costs and help us maximise funds for conservation work, the Bulletin is primarily being distributed electronically, as a PDF. The Bulletin can be downloaded from [www.butterfly-conservation.org/lepidopteraconservationbulletin](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/lepidopteraconservationbulletin).

We hope you agree that the Bulletin is an invaluable opportunity to provide feedback on a wide range of projects and we hope you find it of interest. In order to judge the value of this Bulletin Butterfly Conservation would like to hear from you; if you feel this annual update should be continued please email [lepconsbulletin@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:lepconsbulletin@butterfly-conservation.org) or phone Bernadette Noake on (01929 406004).

## RSPB: Help stop the killing of birds of prey

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The RSPB has recently set up a collaborative campaign to highlight the plight of birds of prey who are vulnerable to persecution and egg collection by a few individuals and why these illegal activities are continuing within the British Isles even though these magnificent birds are fully protected under law and have been for decades. To support this campaign, the RSPB is asking people to sign a pledge to show their support of the work that the RSPB is doing to fight for protection as well as letting those that kill them know that society is watching them.

To sign the pledge online, the web address is <http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/birdsofprey/index.asp>

## Colwall Orchard Group



*Tim Dixon leading a guided walk through Broadwood orchard*  
© Colwall Orchard Group

The Colwall Orchard Group has now completed its first season of winter management and a full year of traditional community events. The volunteers have pruned a total of around 250 trees in nine orchards, which has made a significant difference to the number of trees lost during the past winter's storms.

This summer the group's work is being dominated by a second stage Big Lottery Fund application. The Orchard Group, in collaboration with the Colwall Allotment Association has been invited to bid for funds to buy land to create The Colwall Village Garden, a community orchard and allotment site.

It is an ambitious project, and will create a unique public open space for the village as well as a site for food production and a focus for orchard volunteering and events. Local involvement will be essential to our success, so we will be increasing our public profile in the next few months in the hope of attracting ideas and support for the site.



*Big Blossom Picnic* © Colwall Orchard Group

Already orchard volunteer numbers have grown to 73, and we have more than 200 signatures of support for the Village Garden, mainly from a stand at the Colwall CE Primary School's summer fete.

In the orchards, the 50 new traditional varieties of apple, pear and plum that we planted in the winter are looking well. They have had some formative pruning, and we hope to plant more like them this coming season with grant money from the National Trust and the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are pleased to have been able to give Kate Merry, the National Trust's orchard project officer an informal tour of about 10 of our orchards. It was a glorious sunny day to show off the work we have been doing, and she couldn't resist checking some of the trees for noble chafer frass.



*Looking at Noble Chafer Frass*  
© Colwall Orchard Group

At the end of March we invited the Bulmer Foundation to carry out a Community Evaluation of one of the orchards we manage. It was an enlightening experience. Dave Marshall has developed a formal technique for evaluating the environmental, economic and social value of orchards in Herefordshire. He hosted an evening of invited guests of 25 residents from around Snatford Orchard. We collected specific financial information from the landowner and tenant farmer, and used accepted values for the environmental and biodiversity elements of the evaluation.

We were pleased to find that local people appreciate Snatford for its wildlife, landscape and heritage value, and interested to discover a significant level of concern about the lack of management in the orchards. In conclusion residents ranked the social value of the Orchard Group: The impetus for community action and the focus for village events, as of greater value than the economic or biodiversity value.



**Elsie, Freddie, Tim, Rosie, Lorraine & Jessica  
Bocking © Colwall Orchard Group**

Our May Day Bank Holiday started early, with a Dawn Chorus walk, led by our own Bird Brain of Britain, Tim Dixon. The turn out nearly overwhelmed the local pub, The Chase Inn, which provided breakfasts for the 50 or so early risers. This was a tremendous show of support for a local event based largely on word of mouth.

Later in the morning about 75 people, mainly young families, joined us in Snattford Orchard for our Big Blossom Picnic, despite a lot of competition from other local May Day celebrations. It is an idyllic setting of 20 acres of apple and cherry orchards, with old willows around a brook in the centre. Dr Roger Key kept the children amused for hours, literally, with his fantastic bug hunt. We had the use of a geodesic dome, where Eekbatik ran a children's art workshop making bunting. With a nature trail and guided walks, the feedback from this event has been very positive and we are expecting it to be much bigger next year.

In June our first cherry trees received some attention. Stone fruit trees must always be pruned in-leaf, when the sap is rising. The cherries in Broadwood Orchard are about 40 years old and have grown very tall and disorderly. A good turn out of volunteers meant 23 of the most unbalanced and at risk trees benefited from restorative pruning. Tim Dixon, chairman of the orchard group, gave us an impromptu demonstration of pruning for fruit production on a younger tree and it was inspiring to see order and light being brought to a dense, confused canopy.

Also, Dr Keith Alexander has carried out a saproxylic invertebrate survey for us. It's one of the activities funded by our National Trust Orchard Countdown 2010 project grant. We know there are noble chafer beetles

living in some of our orchards and hope to find other rarities, which is why we leave dead wood in the trees when ever possible when we are pruning.

*Ruth Kiely*



## New Fungi at Lower House Farm

Following a meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group on 7th August, and having a short time to spare waiting for my lift home, I wandered into the back garden at Lower House Farm intending to take a look at the 'log pile' – often an interesting source of fungal diversity. However, on this occasion I did not get that far. To my left I saw some large white brackets on one of the old apple trees in the old orchard adjacent to the farmhouse.

These large white brackets, some 4 – 5 inches across, were seen growing in tiers up the trunk of the tree. It was fairly easy to take a small sample of the soft juicy flesh of these remarkable fruitbodies with my tiny penknife. I had not seen the fungus before, but thought I knew the genus to find it in, so armed with the small sample I returned home to try and identify it.

Following much searching I thought I had it nailed, *Aurantioporus fissilis*, but just to be sure I sent the specimen off to Kew for confirmation or correction, it fitted all the macro details; turned pink where damaged etc. but Peter Roberts at Kew responded with a close relative – *Spongipellis spumeus*. Both species are considered rare and although both have been recorded in Herefordshire before, the *Spongipellis* records were back in the 1800's. There are, interestingly, three records from Herefordshire of both these species on the FRDBI (Fungus Records Database of Britain and Ireland) managed by the British Mycological Society, with the *Aurantioporus fissilis* records being most recent. Where better to have come across such an exciting find – on the Herefordshire Nature Trust's own back door step!

*Sheila Spence  
Herefordshire Fungus Group*

## What's That Snake? - An Inspirational Wildlife Project for Herefordshire



'What's That Snake?' is a two year Heritage Lottery Funded project with additional funding from the Malvern Hills AONB and Wye valley AONB and is run by the partnership of the Herefordshire Amphibian and Reptile Team (HART) and Herefordshire Nature Trust. The project has now been running for nine months and has already reached at least 5000 members of the public through its school visits, roadshows, survey training, and talks. This far exceeds initial expectations for the project and shows the great interest out there for Britain's less understood wildlife.

During the main reptile activity seasons of spring and summer the project has focussed on training teams of volunteers to survey their own sites and record all findings. The first locations to have volunteer recorders are on the Malvern Hills, Fownhope and Ross-on-Wye, with more training planned in 2010 for other parts of the county. All the sites have old records or anecdotal accounts of reptile presence. Records are vital in determining where healthy populations exist and where urgent work is needed to prevent the decline of threatened populations.

It was planned for surveyors to make at least four visits to their chosen or allocated site. However all have proved extremely enthusiastic with many making far more visits to their site and returning great recorded sightings and photos of not only adders, grass snakes, common lizards and slow-worm but even Herefordshire's first sighting of a black adder.

Many Herefordshire schools now have wildlife areas within their grounds and through the project can learn how to attract some of our more unusual native species. Slow-worms and grass snakes are the species most

likely associated with gardens, parks and the more built up areas. We happily encourage birds with feeders and nest boxes but to have a slow-worm basking on the compost heap or grass snake swimming in the garden pond is a really notable and exciting encounter when you realise how secretive these creatures are.

Feed back from the classroom visits has been fantastic; children really engage with the reptiles and become very animated. It always impresses both the teachers and myself how much knowledge children absorb and in some schools I have encountered potential future reptile enthusiasts, reminding me of my own school days. Talking about our native reptiles and their habitats creates wildlife interest for future generations.

Already 'What's That Snake?' has visited 14 schools in the county, seeing over 1000 children, and the response has been tremendous. The project has planned to visit up to 30 more schools during its two year period. With such positive feedback a What's That Snake? DVD and worksheet pack for schools is being planned.

As part of its season of community road shows, WTS shared the Malvern Hills Conservators stand at The Three Counties Show in June, meeting over 2000 people. The live reptiles were a big attraction with the children, many of them dragging reluctant parents over to have a better look! It was surprising how many people misidentified the grass snake on display as an adder and the common lizard as a newt, which just illustrates the need for projects like this.



What's That Snake also took part in Wildplay events at Shobdon, Aconbury, Hergest Ridge (Kington), Queenswood and Coppet Hill (Ross on Wye) with guided walks for parents and their children.

A species identification recording leaflet has been produced by the project with a return section for details of peoples reptile sightings and this has been distributed at events and is available from the Herefordshire Nature Trust. A reptile habitat management guide for landowners will soon be available. There is also a web page linked to the Herefordshire Amphibian and Reptile Team ([www.herefordhart.org](http://www.herefordhart.org)) site to keep the public informed of the Project's activities.

If you would like to come along to one of the training events, pass on any records of snake or lizard sightings, book a talk for a school or group, or for more information about this project then please contact me, Nigel Hand, Project Officer, at The Hereford Nature Trust Tel:01432 356872

*Nigel Hand  
Project Officer  
Hereford Nature Trust*

## A new BAP species discovery for the UK found in Herefordshire

A single male was taken in a quarry pond in Herefordshire on 10 July 2009. The quarry pool is over 150 metres in length by about 40 metres wide with angular broken rocks around the edge. Sixteen other species of water beetle were recorded there as well as great crested newts. The nearest known site for this beetle is just over the border into Wales in the River Wye at Glasbury (SO1839) during a coleopterists' meeting in June 1987. The first record for Britain was also from stagnant water, by Mrs Edith Wollaston, wife to T.V. Wollaston, at Slapton Ley, South Devon in 1869. The last English record was also from South Devon, in 1908 in the River Teign, Christow, by G.C. Champion.

*Bidessus minutissimus* is a Biodiversity Action Plan species. It is currently rated as Red Data Book 3 and is likely to be regarded as Vulnerable using regional IUCN criteria. A more detailed paper is in preparation.

*Will R C Watson*





One Day Conference: The Future of Parkland Trees  
To be held at  
Weston Park Staffordshire  
Thursday October 1st 2009 9:15 to 5:00



**Speakers and Outline Programme**  
John Sales, Gardens Consultant  
*Parkland Trees- origins, ideology, conservation*  
Dr Keith Kirby, Natural England  
*Veteran trees from 'little ice age to future heat wave'*  
Ben Bennett, Midland Tree Surgeons  
*Pathogens in the Parkland- current threats & future impacts*  
James Cartwright, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust  
*Ensuring tree safety in parklands*  
Jill Butler, Woodland Trust  
*Securing a future for parkland trees- changing policy & guidance*  
**Lunch**  
Afternoon inspection of trees in Weston Park  
Accompanied by  
Terry Merchant and Martin Gee

Booking Form: To Rebecca Morgan C/o South Staffs Council, Wolverhampton Rd, Codsall, Staffordshire WV8 1 PX. Tel. 01902 696000 Cheques only.  
Made payable to SGPT before Sept.15th 2009. Cost: £45.00 pp. inc. lunch.  
Name.....  
Address.....  
.....Postcode.....

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## AONBs and Local Records Centres: leading the way in mapping Priority Habitats

BAP Priority Habitats (“Priority Habitats”) represent some of the best habitats that the UK has to offer. Their scope covers familiar habitats (such as Lowland Meadows, Traditional Orchards and various native woodlands) to those less familiar (Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land, Inter-tidal Mudflats, Mud Habitats in Deep Water). Whilst recognising the value and quality of these habitats, the question of where exactly they exist is in fact less certain than one might realise. In some cases only preliminary and generic work has been undertaken to identify the exact location of the habitats within the provisional National Habitat Inventories. Doubts have been expressed as to the accuracy of the Inventories (Hewins et al. 2005). Often – where exact habitat boundaries were not known - this led to “overlaps” where there is an apparent occupancy of multiple habitat types within one larger site. Clearly it would be advantageous to gather source data and map individual habitats within such larger sites to the correct Priority Habitats. Reporting for Biodiversity Action Plans is difficult without such local appraisals, evaluations and checks.

Research undertaken by HBRC for the Malvern Hills and Wye Valley AONB Partnerships (Price & Roe 2007) recommended that Priority Habitats Inventories were one priority for future action. Thankfully a major piece of work had already been undertaken in South-west England (the “South West Pilot” see Burke & Totterdell 2004). Among other things the South West Pilot had mapped and improved the Inventories, and had developed appropriate mapping protocols. It had also produced baseline Priority Habitats Inventory for Gloucestershire. Once such “desk study” was completed, targeted field survey could then be undertaken to investigate areas without such habitat data, or to gather new survey data to improve upon older assessments, and the data used to inform conservation action.

The creation and refining of such a Priority Habitats Inventory across two AONBs is a major task involving two countries, 2 country agencies, 4 Local Records Centres (LRCs) and 4 LBAP partnerships. Building on previous Priority Habitats mapping undertaken

by Herefordshire Biological Records Centre we were able to train six LRC officers to assess and digitise the habitats. Once training was completed, paper and digital datasets which had been provided by Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, Malvern Hills Conservators and Worcestershire County Council were used alongside data already held by the LRCs to assess against Priority Habitats definitions. This required a translation from the source habitat assessment (for example a Phase 1 Habitat or an NVC community code) to given Priority Habitats type and the recording of levels of confidence in the assessment. Confidence in interpretation is based mainly on type, quality and age of data and standard data capture tools and data formats are used.

Whilst the mapping has yet to be completed across the whole of both AONBs, the existing data has been made available on licence to the AONB Units, Local Authorities and statutory agencies to support their work. Paul Esrich, Manager of the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership said “The availability of detailed Priority Habitats maps to support decision-making is of great value. This data is currently being used to assist the targeting of Environmental Stewardship advice in the AONB.” The data could also be used to inform BAP reporting, and to feed into National Inventory reviews undertaken by Natural England.

The work would not have been possible without funding from the Malvern Hills AONB and the Wye Valley AONB Partnerships or the match-time that has been provided by LRCs to complete key areas of mapping. Thanks also to the officers within CCW, NE and other organisations for providing access to their data. Outside of the AONB areas further development of the baseline “desk-study” Priority Habitats data is planned: LRCs are seeking support and partners to fill the Priority Habitats gaps! Beyond this, it would be hoped that pro-active site survey could be initiated.

*Stephen Roe, Herefordshire Biological Records Centre  
Paul Esrich, Malvern Hills AONB Manager*

## England's Biodiversity Framework - 'Securing biodiversity'

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The England Biodiversity Group has published a new framework to drive the work on priority species and habitats in England. The framework aims to build on the strengths of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), promote landscape-scale delivery and embed an ecosystem approach in our delivery of BAP.

Defra has appointed Natural England its lead delivery body for the England Biodiversity Strategy and for taking forward the new biodiversity framework for England.

### Aims of the framework

The purpose of the new framework is to:

- encourage the adoption of an ecosystem approach and embed climate change adaptation principles in conservation action,
- achieve biodiversity enhancements across whole landscapes and seascapes,
- achieve our priority habitat targets, placing an emphasis on habitat restoration and expansion,
- enhance the recovery of priority species and better integrate their needs into habitat-based work,
- support the restoration of designated sites,
- support the conservation of marine biodiversity,
- improve the integration of national, regional and local levels of delivery,
- improve the links between policy-makers and biodiversity practitioners,
- strengthen biodiversity partnerships (national, regional and local).

### Structure of the framework

The framework is organised around four main components.

1. England Biodiversity Strategy Workstreams. (BITs) Implementation of the England Biodiversity Strategy is supported by six sector and five crosscutting workstreams. These groups aim to achieve the best possible policy environment for biodiversity delivery.
2. Biodiversity Integrated Groups (BIGs) will bring together habitat and associated species interests at an England level. Nine groups have been agreed to help set the standards for habitat-based working

and identify and carry out landscape-scale delivery projects.

3. Targeted Species Recovery for those species actions that cannot be carried out through habitat-based work.
4. Regional and Local Delivery. Strong regional and local biodiversity partnerships and improved integration and alignment of national, regional and local work programmes.

## WMBP News

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### Regional Spatial Strategy Review

Phase 3 of the RSS review has formally commenced and runs to August 14th. This will review of the Quality of the Environment section including the review of the Biodiversity Policy and the Regional Habitat Targets. For further information please see the WMRA web site.

The biodiversity partnership has been working hard to ensure that the habitat targets take account of the need to increase the extent of semi-natural habitats across the region to help wildlife cope with the impacts due to changing climate. We have also been seeking to ensure that revision includes the WMBP Regional Biodiversity Vision and Opportunity Map to replace the current BEAs. Further information on the development of the targets can be found on the partnership's web site

'Coping with the impacts of Climate Change', one of the 5 key challenges set out in the [Regional Biodiversity Strategy](#), is recognised as a key driver for the work of the Partnership. To help promote the [West Midlands Climate Change Adaption Principles](#) the Partnership published an advice note for local authorities on [adaptation for biodiversity](#) last year. We are also working with the newly formed [Regional Climate Change Adaption Partnership](#) to help deliver the [Regional Climate Change Action Plan](#).

The Government Office identifies 3 key climate change adaptation issues for this region:

- Flooding - increased risk from river and surface water flooding
- Biodiversity - increased pressure on the natural environment

## WMBP News - continued

Water scarcity - through decreased rainfall and higher temperatures.

The new UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) have recently been published and describe how the climate of the UK might change.

The projections are now available and are provided as aggregated results for administrative regions including the West Midlands.

The Key findings for the West Midlands to 2080s based on the medium emissions scenario are that:

- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.9°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.6°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.4°C.
- the central estimate of increase in summer mean temperature is 3.7°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 2°C and is very unlikely to be more than 6.1°C.
- the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 18%; it is very unlikely to be less than 3% and is very unlikely to be more than 39%.
- the central estimate of change in summer mean precipitation is -20%; it is very unlikely to be less than -43% and is very unlikely to be more than 6%

These new projections highlight the urgency that is required for us all to act now to reduce our carbon emissions and to implement adaptation measures.

## Contact Details

If you require any further information please contact [Nicky Davies](#):

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Website: [www.herefordbap.org.uk](http://www.herefordbap.org.uk)

## The Biodiversity Partnership Management Group

The group consists of the following representatives:

- **Chair** - Juliet Wheatley - Team Leader - Landscape & Biodiversity - Herefordshire Council
- **Antony Muller** – Natural England
- **Joanne Hackman** – County Ecologist – Herefordshire Council
- **Nick Smith** – Forestry Commission
- **Francesca Griffith** – Herefordshire Nature Trust



The Closing date for submitting features for the next edition of Biodiversity Action will be Friday 6th November.

Please send word documents and supporting pictures (high resolution) in .jpeg/.tiff format with picture credit details.

If you have to display logos with your article, please send these as .jpegs also.

Thank you

*Nicky*

The Herefordshire Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator post is joint-funded by Natural England and Herefordshire Council.

*Nicky would like to thank all partners that contributed to the production of this newsletter.*