



eastofenglandbiodiversityforum

Newsletter

July to September 2010

Contents *(hyperlinked)*

- [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
- [Hertfordfordshire Biodiversity Partnership](#)
- [Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership](#)
- [Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership](#)
- [Suffolk Greenest County Fund Now Open to Applications](#)
- [South West Environment Network](#)
- [News from Biodiversity is Life](#)
- [Impact Assessment Consultation](#)
- [Biodiversity: Commission Seeks Views on Future Options for EU Biodiversity Policy](#)
- [Environmental Education Trade Show](#)
- [Wicken Fen Vision – ePetition Update](#)
- [County Wildlife Sites – The Nation's Hidden Treasure!](#)
- [Lowland Habitat Directory](#)
- [Making Space for Nature – Report by Sir John Lawton](#)
- [Plant Wise Needs Your Help!](#)
- [Fen Management Handbook](#)
- [Comic Relief's Older People's Programme](#)
- [Veolia Cre8 Funding Challenge Launched](#)
- [Diary Dates](#)

The East of England Biodiversity Forum website has been updated with new BAP habitat targets for the region for 2010-2015. Please go to this link for more information www.eoebiodiversity.org

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The Orchard Group



The Orchard Group went through all Phase 2 sites and pulled out CWS candidates, identifying about 30 potential sites, to be put forward over the next two years. The Plum Weekend held on the 14th and 15th August was a great success, with good press/publicity coverage. The Phase 2 Orchard Survey Report is now available online at <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/publications.php> (OrchardPhase2Report). Phase 3 Orchard Surveys are still ongoing, with deadwood invertebrates, fungi and lichen in autumn. Breeding bird surveys found tree sparrows, turtle dove, stock dove, little owl and bullfinch. South Cambridgeshire District Council has a focus on orchards, and is supporting several community orchards, they are also organising some orchard workshops later in the year, to be delivered by Bob Lever from East of England Apples and Orchards Project.

'Our Natural Environment 2010'

A document for for key decision makers in Local Authorities and in the Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnerships, is available online at <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/publications.php> (OurNaturalEnvironment) looking at facts, figures and trends related to our natural environment in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, eg condition of SSSIs, County Wildlife Sites, BAP habitat, sites designated as Local Nature Reserves, coverage of Agri-environment schemes and public participation.

Future Project Opportunities for LBAP Projects

Future project opportunities were discussed in the Biodiversity Projects Group, and the following projects are being fleshed out further:

- ④ Somersham-Chatteris Disused Railway Corridor: improve grassland habitat and highlight importance as a corridor
- ④ Cambridge Chalk Rivers and Tributaries: potential projects for access and biodiversity improvements with community involvement, supporting BAP species otters and water voles; invasive species element
- ④ Barn owl support along River Ouse and other rivers: barn owl boxes on trees and posts in key locations
- ④ Internal Drainage Boards BAPs: developing management plans, based on survey work; identifying the best locations for habitat improvements and biodiversity features
- ④ Community grassland and woodlands: improved management of community woodland and grasslands; encourage new community woodlands and grasslands on additional sites; target woodland areas from 50 year vision; possibly also including community orchards/hedgerows

It would be good to find out if similar projects are happening elsewhere across the EoE to learn from them!

Hertfordshire Biodiversity Partnership

- Several partners attended the Thames and Tributaries IBDA (Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Areas) workshop in London earlier this month which looked at refining the IBDA boundary and identifying an overarching set of objectives for the IBDA (divided broadly into the following themes – biodiversity, climate change adaptation, community engagement and accountability and Green Infrastructure). Since the IBDA has been extended in geographical scope into Hertfordshire it is hoped the IBDA will contribute to the aims and objectives of the Hertfordshire Key Biodiversity Areas and reflect opportunity areas identified in the Thames wide Regional Habitat Creation Plan produced by the Environment Agency.
- Land Use Consultants (LUC) have won the contract to produce Green Infrastructure Plans (GIPs) at a district level scale for the participating Districts and an overarching 'Strategic Highlights' Green Infrastructure Plan (SHiP) for Hertfordshire and the Green Arc area. The Biodiversity Partnership was represented at the briefing event held last week for stakeholders across Hertfordshire and parts of Essex.
- HEF have awarded the Biodiversity Partnership £5k for a Biodiversity Projects Fund set up to enable the delivery of partnership activities in support of the Hertfordshire BAP. Some guidance notes and a Project Fund application form have been drawn up for further discussion and approval at a Partnership meeting being held next month.
- Information on the priority actions or 'signposts' needed for the conservation of UK BAP Priority Species present in Hertfordshire has been collated from the 2007 BRIG (Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group) report and the priority habitats that they are associated with identified from a Natural England Research Report published earlier this year. The next step will be identifying how the Hertfordshire BAP can contribute towards species conservation at a more local level.
- Herts Woodland Forum are in the process of revising the Woodland Action Plan for Hertfordshire identifying actions to protect, conserve and restore native woodland habitats over the next 5 years. A particular focus will be on the South Herts Woods Living Landscape and the role the Forum will play in its delivery.
- The Traditional Orchards Action Plan for Hertfordshire is now available on the HEF (Hertfordshire Environmental Forum) website at: http://www.hef.org.uk/nature/traditional_orchards_habitat_action_plan_june_2010.pdf. HOI (Hertfordshire Orchards Initiative) members are busy co-ordinating their Apple Day events taking place across the County throughout October. A few volunteers from HOI took part in an OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) workshop to identify mosses growing on fruit trees from a local orchard.
- PTES organised a hedgerow survey workshop in Hertfordshire in early August for volunteers who want to get involved in their Hedgerows for Dormice Project for the Chilterns area (which has been extended to cover the whole of Hertfordshire). This also proved an opportunity for OPAL to promote the OPAL Biodiversity Survey for hedges which is being run by The Open University and has been developed in partnership with Hedgelinek – more information is available at: <http://www.opalexplornature.org/BiodiversitySurvey>
- Partners are also working with PTES on their Traditional Orchard Inventory Project, ground truthing potential traditional orchards sites they have identified on Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs.

Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

Late summer and early autumn are traditionally the busiest times of year for the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, and this year has been no exception! Highlights since the last meeting of the Regional Biodiversity Forum have included:

- The organisation (jointly with Suffolk) of the sixth Annual Seminar on Planning and Biodiversity. This attracted over 60 participants from the two counties, including many development control officers and forward planners. One of the highlights of the day was a presentation by Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive of Buglife, who talked about the value of Open Mosaic Habitats and Buglife's legal efforts to conserve this habitat and a suite of rare invertebrates at West Thurrock
- The organisation (together with the Castle Museum, NBIS, UEA and NWT) of a special biodiversity conference for sixth formers. The event was held to mark the International Year of Biodiversity and attracted nearly 100 students from four of Norwich's top schools. The day featured a biodiversity debate as well as a series of interactive workshops on issues such as invasive alien species, biological recording, ecological networks and the international dimensions of conservation. It was sponsored by CUE-East and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
- The announcement of this year's Community Biodiversity Award winners. The awards recognise the achievements of some of the most innovative and successful community wildlife projects in the county, and are to be presented by Steve Scott at a special ceremony at the Assembly House in Norwich
- The finalisation of the arrangements for our Annual Biodiversity Forum on 6th October, which is expected to attract over 100 participants. This year's forum is being organised around the theme of 'Biodiversity and Economics', and will feature presentations from a range of national, regional and local initiatives
- The completion of a working draft of the action plan for Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land. A meeting was also held with Buglife's Brownfield Officer, to discuss a possible project to identify and map the most important Open Mosaic Habitat sites in Norfolk's growth points

The Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative has continued to make excellent progress, and many field-level control and eradication projects were undertaken during the summer. The Brecks Biodiversity Audit has also continued apace; the report of the first phase is to be formally launched at an event on 30 November, involving Natural England's Chief Scientist (Tom Tew), the Chief Executive of Plantlife (Victoria Chester), the Forestry Commission's Senior Ecologist (Jonathan Spencer) and others.

News from Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

Sixth Annual Suffolk and Norfolk Planning Seminar

This annual event has become increasingly popular with the planners of our two counties, as it provides up-to-date information about the latest developments and best practice related to biodiversity, spatial planning and development control, as well as a unique opportunity for networking. This year over 60 planners came together for the event on 9th September, organised and supported by the Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships.

Mike Oxford, of the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE), focused on the new Biodiversity Planning Toolkit, for which a pilot was launched in August. The aim of the toolkit is to help the planning community contribute to the conservation, enhancement and sustainable use of bio- and geo-diversity. The toolkit has a traditional website which provides relevant information and an **Interactive Landscape** with animated scenarios to provide clarity on various aspects of bio- and geo-diversity conservation.

To take a look at the toolkit pilot visit: www.biodiversityplanningtoolkit.com

The presentations covered a wide range of topics including views from planners on evidence-based Habitat Regulations Assessment and access to biodiversity data and ecological services; those of Mott MacDonald, a management, engineering and development consultancy, on whether monitoring and mitigation really works; and Gen Broad, Suffolk's Biodiversity Officer, gave some examples of the county's public bodies demonstrating implementation of the NERC (2006) Biodiversity Duty.



Matt Shardlow, CEO of Buglife, gave an entertaining and enlightening

*Mike Oxford (ALGE) describes the interactive landscape on the Biodiversity Planning Toolkit
Photo Su Waldren*

presentation about the high conservation value of some open mosaic habitats on previously developed land (a Priority Habitat) and their lack of effective protection. He cited the example of West Thurrock Marshes, a Brownfield site famous for being home to over 1,200 species, many of them extremely rare, but which could not be protected from development. Buglife: *"If you can't protect the second best invertebrate wildlife site in the UK, what's safe?"*

The feedback has been extremely positive with the majority of responding participants rating the event as 'excellent' or 'good' and all requesting that a similar event be run in 2011.

'Thank you!' to South Norfolk District Council for generously hosting the event, to the participants for making the event such a great success and to Scott Perkin who shouldered most of the seminar organisation in 2010.

Working with Communities - Invertebrates in the Orwell Estuary

Around 30 adults and 30 children met on the exposed shores of the Orwell Estuary on 4th August to see what life they could find in this huge muddy expanse. Ipswich Borough Council Wildlife Ranger Richard Sharp and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit (SCHU) hosted the event. Also on hand to help with invertebrate identification were Gen Broad, Suffolk Biodiversity Officer, and local bait digger Mark Sessions.

We were able to see some of the estuary's varied wildlife at first hand – lugworms, periwinkles of various colours, barnacles and a chiton. These primitive molluscs are sometimes known as Coat-of-mail shells because of the 8 overlapping plates on their backs. Although common, they are often overlooked, as they are so small, only growing up to 2 cm long. The family who found the chiton were very excited, making this a memorable and an educational day.



*Left: Families looking for life in the Orwell Estuary
Below: Chiton in the Orwell Estuary
Photos Gen Broad*



For the children, getting their wellies stuck and being covered in sticky mud was all part of the fun! Events like this are great for getting in touch with the nature living around us, thank you to Ipswich Rangers and SCHU for arranging the event.

Suffolk's Review of the Biodiversity Action Plan

Following the Natural England (NE) review of 2007 and the 2008 NERC Act Section 41 list, we have determined that Suffolk has more than 200 Biodiversity Action Plan species. Clearly we could not write Action Plans for all these species! So to make the task manageable and in line with NE guidance, Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership and Suffolk Biological Records Centre have identified which species can be included within Habitat Action Plans. This is an exciting step forward towards our plan to re-launch the Suffolk BAP later this year.

Gen Broad, Suffolk's Biodiversity Officer, has collated information from various sources into a vast spreadsheet detailing the relevant information such as species habitat requirements, Suffolk locations and, fundamental to any conservation success, some ideas for actions. The actions are intended to be simple, practical and achievable at a local level. See Fig. 1 for the general format of the species spreadsheet.

The next step is to incorporate these details into the revised Habitat Action Plans following consultation with each Species Adviser.

Name	Habitat Action Plans	Habitat requirements	BAP Actions	Local Information	Conservation designations	Further information
Common cuckoo	Mixed deciduous woodland, Wet woodland, Wood pasture and parks, Hedges, Orchards, Fens, Lowland hay meadows	Woodland edge, scrub, wetland where host species found (eg reed warbler, meadow pipit, dunnock). Feeds in tall herb and scrub. Abundant inverts needed esp caterpillars	Maintain low thick vegetation in hedges, bramble & scrub	Declining summer visitor and passage migrant. Recorded from: Thetford, Orfordness, Minsmere, Levington Creek, Landguard, Long Melford, North Warren and Aldringham Walks, Bawdsey, Lowestoft. Records from 81 localities.	Red List 2009, NERC S41 2008, BAP 2007.	JNCC species page - www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5163 . BTO birdfacts: http://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob7240.htm RSPB factsheet: http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/c/cuckoo/index.aspx
Red-shanked carder-bee	Arable field margins, Lowland heathland, Hedges	Scrub edge and tussocks to nest in; tall sward grassland; large scale flower-rich resource; with resource present spring-late summer.	Manage sward height to maintain optimum flower level; survey for new sites, monitor existing sites.	Records from: Woodbridge, Maids Cross Hill, Southwold, North Warren, Ipswich, Icklingham, Eye, Center Parcs - Elvedon, Alton Water, Beck Row.	NERC S41 2008, BAP 2007.	JNCC species pages: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5169 Edwards, R., & Telfer, M, 2001. BWARS Provisional Atlas of the Aculeate Hymenoptera of the British Isles and Ireland.
Flat sedge	Fens, Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh	Native perennial of open areas in marshes and fen meadows. Rare and declining.	Use agri-environment schemes to address lack of grazing/cutting, eutrophication and falling water tables. Survey for new sites, monitor existing ones.	Probably lost from W. Suffolk by 1960. Formerly widespread in coastal marshes & Broadland. Records from Sizewell, Smear Marshes Reydon, Barnby Broad.	Red List Vulnerable 2005, NERC S41 2008, BAP 2007.	JNCC sp page http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5171 , Sanford, M.S. and Fisk R 2010. A Flora of Suffolk, D.K. and M. N. Sanford, Ipswich

Suffolk Greenest County Fund Now Open to Applications

Suffolk County Council's Greenest County Fund offers funding to voluntary and community groups wishing to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects that are 'visionary' and forward thinking, in line with Suffolk County Council's Greenest County mission.

Grants of up to £25,000 are available to voluntary and community groups that want to significantly reduce their carbon footprint and inspire others locally. Funding is retrospective but where up-front costs are unavoidable, the Fund may consider releasing part of the grant in advance of the necessary expenditure.

Grants are intended to fund up to 25% of project costs and applicants must be able to provide evidence that the remaining 75% of costs will be met by an external funder.

Funded projects must be completed within two years.

Applications can be made at any time.

South West Environment Network

The SWEN 2010 Environment Priorities were launched on 30th March and a downloadable pdf is available here: [SWEN 2010 Environment Priorities](#). The discussion of the Environment Priorities at the 30th March plenary fully endorsed SWEN's direction and confirmed the long wish list of things to do given the resources.

As Richard Cresswell from the Environment Agency indicated in his opening delivery, partnerships and effective networking are now more important than ever with the current reduced resource availability. He emphasised the strength of SWEN is the Network itself which is key to delivery of the priorities.



News from Biodiversity is Life



Pupils from Charter School with their 10m long biodiversity banner © Cool It Schools

Towards Nagoya COP10

If you haven't tried dabbling with social media now is a good time to try it out. The Natural History Museum, working with several IYB-UK partners launched the [Big Nature Debate](#) on Monday, a primarily Social Media campaign to help draw attention to the importance of the outcomes of the CBD COP10 which is now only weeks away.

The Big Nature Debate was launched with a specially commissioned Mori poll which highlighted how less than 12% of the public had any awareness of the CBD COP10 or its significance - appalling when you compare this with the media interest and hype which accompanied the Copenhagen Climate Summit in November 2009. We hope you will contribute By sharing the links with your friends, colleagues and through your networks, You can join the Twitter activity around it (messages are Tweeted using the hashtags #naturedb8, and/or #IYB), you can follow the blogs, and if you register you can join the forum discussion which is emerging. The Big Nature Debate is also calling for questions to challenge the expert panel which will discuss the issues at the Natural History Museum on Oct 7 in advance of the Nagoya COP.

In an interesting admission Mike McCarthy acknowledges his part in failing to get to grips with biodiversity loss in his article [It's time I embraced the word 'biodiversity'](#) [The Independent](#) 10/09.10. Though I think I would be quite correct in saying that every partner in IYB-UK has asked the same question *'how do we engage people about biodiversity when so few people understand what the word means'*. Here Mike McCarthy addresses the issue and recognises the need to grow into it. Incidentally I came across an interesting one line definition of biodiversity as 'the sum of the variety in the all the world's genes, species and ecosystems'. Meanwhile [Adam Vaughan in his Guardian blog](#) compares the relative awareness of climate COP's with those of the CBD and explores why there is such a gap in public awareness.

National Geographic Magazine has devoted a special 95 page [Autumn Green Supplement](#) to biodiversity issues in the lead-up to Nagoya, The main editorial piece by Tony Juniper followed a long discussion with the IYB-UK Secretariat.

As I reported last week, we are adding [more information about the CBD COP10](#) to the IYB-UK website.

Other Biodiversity in the news

We all know that to address biodiversity issues in our rapidly changing world we have to be in it for the long-haul, two recent articles contrast the high's and lows, the threats and successes. Like any good B-movie critic the Daily Mirror 10.09.10 delighted in the [threat of the killer shrimp](#), while the Independent 10.09.10 reported that the Red-back Shrike, which was locally extinct in the UK, has established a breeding population on Dartmoor in [the bird which vanished from Britain's shores](#).

Biodiversity – Education for Life

This is a free event for teachers on 19 October at the Science Learning Centre London to find out more about teaching biodiversity and resources available.

IYB-UK website

The [Marine Aliens project](#) has been launched by the Marine Biological Association, Natural History Museum, University of Plymouth and other partners, to monitor alien species such as the leathery sea squirt and slipper limpet which often get into UK waters via the hulls of boats entering our ports and marinas.

E-Day, which falls on Tuesday 17 November, is an initiative asking everyone to commit to small changes to help reduce energy consumption. This year, children are able to support the campaign by making a puppet of an animal they care about to join the [E-Day Ark](#). The Open Air Laboratories Network, launched the [OPAL biodiversity survey](#) last week. The general public are asked to record the plants and invertebrates that live in our extensive networks of urban and rural hedgerows. Our [latest View article](#) by Martin Harvey and Jenny Worthington of the Open University explains how important hedges are as a source of food and shelter for all types of wildlife.

Biodiversity and Business

Given the news this week of the rapidly escalating cost of rice and cotton, and the impacts on this in European markets (in part precipitated by the calamitous eco-disaster in Pakistan) the independent [report on Biodiversity and Economic Growth](#), prepared by the AXA insurance group, makes interesting reading. It has recently been championed by the London Accord, a consortium of financial organisations looking at ethical and sustainable investment. More industries and service providers who are essential contributors to the engine of economic growth are beginning to understand the value of biodiversity, and the risks which the decline in biodiversity and a breakdown in the supply of ecological services will precipitate. The sectors within each concerned industry are beginning to assess these major threats and identify strategic priorities to meet the challenges - strategies which, in particular for those companies that implement them first, will contribute to their value added and growth.

The developing interest from the finance and business sector is something all biodiversity-related organisations need to be watching, not the least because with a changing economic perspective will come opportunities for partnerships.

Impact Assessment Consultation: Post 2010 EU Biodiversity Strategy

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

As part of its regular collaboration with the European Commission (EC) during the pre-legislative phase, and within the framework of their Cooperation Agreement, the CoR participates in the **assessment of territorial impacts** regarding the preparation of the **post-2010 EU biodiversity strategy**.

The present consultation is addressed to local and regional authorities and its main goal is to provide key data referring to biodiversity in view of the assessment of best policy options for the future. It is an opportunity for LRA all around the EU to directly communicate their views to the EC already in the pre-legislative phase and to contribute to the definition of the EU strategy within this important field.

To this end, we invite you to participate in this consultation by responding to a tailored questionnaire available here <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Pages/AssessmentofTerritorialImpacts.aspx>

The online version of the questionnaire is available in English (translations available soon), you can answer the questions in **any EU language**.

All received contributions will be forwarded to the EC together with a report prepared by CoR Secretariat. This material will serve to enrich and integrate the impact assessment accompanying the final proposal issued by the EC.

The deadline for your contribution is 25 October 2010.



Biodiversity: Commission Seeks Views on Future Options for EU Biodiversity Policy

The European Commission has launched a web-based consultation to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders on policy options for the European Union's post-2010 EU biodiversity strategy. You can access this using this link:

<http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/lfi/DNWA-894GAG>

Environmental Education Trade Show

BedsLife and Lark Rise Lower School in Dunstable are holding an Environmental Education Trade Show on 12 November. The event will bring Bedfordshire's Environmental Educators and schools together, to promote environmental education in the county. The event will include a display hall and a series of short 'taster' workshops.

Groups like the Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water, Bedfordshire Natural History Society, Forest of Marston Vale and the Greensand Trust will be available to talk to teachers and students about programmes on offer, risk assessment and health and safety issues, and to demonstrate their various EE programmes. Schools attending will be represented by a teacher and two students, so the EE providers will have to satisfy two very different audiences! All of Bedfordshire's upper, middle and lower schools will be invited to take part.

We're hoping for a great turnout and lots of fun!

Wicken Fen Vision – ePetition Update

You may already have seen the response from No.10 regarding the recent Wicken Fen Vision petition with 867 people signing it! We need to get to the same point with the Fens IBDA!

It is heartening to see the wider ecosystem service benefits being highlighted as key outputs of large-scale habitat restoration and the food security issue being dealt with firmly.

Her Majesty's Government response can be viewed here:

<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/epetition-responses/petition-view.aspx?epref=wickenfenvision>

County Wildlife Sites: the Nation's Hidden Treasures

What the Project's About

The Wildlife Trusts in the East of England have secured funding from Natural England for a two year project to get County Wildlife Sites (CWS) into Positive Conservation Management (PCM). There are over 6,500 sites in the region, covering an area of approximately 100,000ha. The award of the grant is recognition of the role that the trusts have played in developing the CWS system over many years.

Aims of the Project

The project aims to get 30 or more privately-owned CWSs into Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme (HLS); to aid the trusts and other organisations, often working together in local partnerships, to get further sites into PCM; and to raise the profile of CWSs with landowners and stakeholders.

Current Progress

So far the majority of the interest has centred on flower-rich grassland sites as these are most prone to deteriorate rapidly with lack of management and are a rare feature in the region. Keeping them in good condition involves introducing either grazing and/or mowing regimes, integrated with scrub management. Many of the dozen or so sites chosen so far have not been registered but applications are being developed across four counties, in parallel with the registration process.

The project is a great example of the synergy between a government body and the voluntary sector aiming to deliver conservation benefits for biodiversity in the wider countryside.

Contact Details: nickc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk, 01603 625540, if you have any ideas for sites to go into the project

Updating the Lowland Meadow Habitat Inventory

Additional funding (£26,000) has been spent on updating and improving the accuracy of the lowland meadow habitat inventory in each of our six counties. The work has been carried out by the Wildlife Trust over the summer, targeting existing sites on the inventory where data was over 5 years old and sites for possible inclusion on the inventory. Of the sites surveyed the results show that some lowland meadow sites are still present and in good condition, but others they have deteriorated so will be removed from the inventory. In a few cases sites were perhaps identified incorrectly as lowland meadow, so will also be removed from the inventory, but the good news is that new sites have been suggested for inclusion improving the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the data set. Similar survey work has been undertaken in other regions and once all the survey results are received the habitat inventory will be updated and available for download.

For more information contact Michelle Russell, Natural England Tel 0300 060 2736 Email: michelle.russell@naturalengland.org.uk

Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS

The Lawton report is now available and makes interesting reading:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>

White Paper Response

EEBF are intending to submit a focussed response, we would encourage partners to also respond either individually or through their own organisation on other issues that you feel are equally important as well as reiterating the EEBF message.

Further details on the consultation can be found at: <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment/>

The deadline for responses is 30 October 2010.

Plant Wise Needs Your Help!



Be Plant Wise is an awareness raising campaign to encourage pond owners and gardeners to buy, use and dispose of aquatic plants responsibly. It launched in February and we were delighted with its success: getting over 200 partners involved in the campaign and delivering the campaign messages; receiving 65 pieces of media coverage in national newspapers, TV and radio and over 11,700 views of the campaign website www.direct.gov.uk/beplantwise. This is largely due to the huge support we received from stakeholders such as you. It is only with your support that we can hope to significantly reduce the spread of invasive aquatic plants.

With the Autumn approaching it is the time gardeners should be thinking about clearing their ponds and we feel that it is perfect time to push forward again with Be Plant Wise Campaign. In order to maintain the momentum that we gained in the Spring and reinforce the messages we are planning a burst of activity in October. We will be focusing on the "Compost with care" message, highlighting the worst hit waterways and we are considering a "Clean up your pond" week.

How can you help?

- **Nominate your worst hit waterways!** Journalists are more likely to pick up the story if we can give them **great case studies, photographs, local spokespeople and give them opportunities to visit** the worst hit waterways. If you are able to help or just nominate a waterway you think we should focus please get in touch.
- **Are you able to distribute our leaflets and posters?** Please let us know and we can supply you with more material.
- **How do you communicate with your customers/members?** Please let us know if we can supply copy, web links or leaflets to include in your communication. Are you doing any activity in October which would link with our composting and pond clearance messages?

We are planning to launch on October 12th so please get in touch by the end of September or as soon as possible. Please email us on beplantwise@nonnativespecies.org or call +44 (0)1904 462159.

NEW! Fen Management Handbook

The RSPB, SEPA, SNH, NIEA, CCW, NE and EA, have jointly collaborated on the production of this practical handbook, aimed at landowners, advisors, and others interested in fen conservation. The book is similar in content and scope to other well known (and loved) publications such as the RSPB's Reedbed management handbook, and aims to share best practice, and give guidance on fen management, restoration and monitoring. It is available to download for FREE from the SNH website who are hosting the book, and we (the editorial panel) are actively encouraging feedback and comments, prior to paper publication next year.

To view or download a copy please click here; <http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/lochs-rivers-and-wetlands/fen/>

Comic Relief Older People's Programme - Launch of New Round

Comic Relief's Older People's Programme aims to support older people in the UK to bring positive change to their communities, enabling them to contribute their time, energy and skills to those individuals who need it most.

Expressions of Interest are invited from community groups and organisations that are targeting their work at older people aged 65 and over.

Comic Relief is looking to fund projects where older people are:

- acting as mentors to vulnerable young people;
- giving support to their peers who may be isolated;
- acting as advocates around the needs and rights of those with caring duties; and
- running social enterprises.

Comic Relief particularly welcomes applications which address the needs of those in the community who experience

the greatest levels of isolation and exclusion.

Grants of between £15,000 and £40,000 are available for up to three years and applicants must be able to demonstrate the active engagement of older people in the development and delivery of the work.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 17 December 2010.

Veolia Cre8 Funding Challenge Launched

The Veolia Environmental Trust has launched a new fund - the Veolia Cre8 Funding Challenge - which aims to help larger, more ambitious projects to improve or create public amenities and leave a legacy for everyone to use and enjoy.

The Challenge is aimed at creative, adventurous, exciting and ambitious projects that will make a difference to people's lives. A maximum grant of £300,000 will be awarded to four schemes that best meet the following eight objectives:

- Involve volunteers.
- Bring generations together.
- Involve the community.
- Help improve health and wellbeing.
- Leave a legacy.
- Benefit all sectors of society.
- Allow those involved to develop new skills.
- Be fun.

To qualify, schemes must be within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site (active or historic) and meet ENTRUST's guidance for public amenity projects. It is expected that schemes from a large part of the UK will be eligible.

Applications for 100% revenue costs or large artworks will not be funded.

The closing date for submissions of an Expression of Interest is 1 December 2010. The winners will be selected in July 2011.



Diary Dates

12 November 2010 - BedsLife and Lark Rise Lower School in Dunstable are holding an Environmental Education Trade Show.

12 November 2010 - Essex Biodiversity Project are holding a conference on Ecosystem Services.