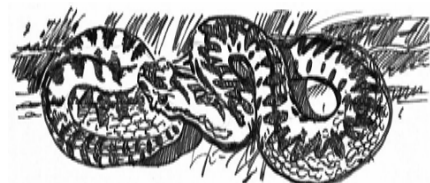


Progress towards targets

This year has seen significant progress made towards achieving the targets set out in the BAP. The following are just a few of the highlights.

- Reedbed**
Target: Increase by 100 hectares the area of reedbed by 2010, providing in so doing there is no conflict with other habitats and species.
Current progress: 18.5 hectares.
- Water Vole**
Target: Establish ongoing surveys to monitor the status of water vole and mink in Lincolnshire.
Current progress: Annual monitoring of 8 known water vole sites is carried out by the Environment Agency. The Rivers and Wetlands forum is currently seeking funding to repeat the 1999 County Otter and Water vole survey.
- Ponds, lakes and reservoirs**
Target: Create 100 new ponds per annum on land of low conservation importance in Lincolnshire. (i.e. 1,000 ponds by 2010)
Current progress: 57 ponds.
 N.B. this target may already have been met but it is difficult to learn about every pond created or lost.
- Coastal saltmarsh**
Target: Increase the area of saltmarsh in Lincolnshire by 520 hectares by 2015.
Current progress: 0 hectares
 N.B. Planned managed realignment works on the Humber and the Wash will create 2,318 hectares.
- Heathland**
Target: Expand the area of managed heathland and peatland/raised bog by 100 hectares by 2005.
Current progress: 8 hectares
 N.B. The Coversands Project will result in the creation of a further 250 hectares.
- Hazel pot beetle**
Target: If feasible, re-establish the beetle to former sites or establish at suitable sites by the year 2005.
Current progress: Introduced to 1 suitable site and rediscovered at 1 former site.
- Calcareous grassland**
Target: Re-create another 100 hectares of calcareous grassland by 2005.
Current progress: 28 hectares.
- Meadow, pasture and grazing marsh**
Target: Restore 100 hectares of meadow, pasture and grazing marsh by 2010.
Current progress: 18 hectares.
- Ancient Semi-natural woodland**
Target: Restore 800 hectares of ancient woodland sites to appropriate native broadleaved woodland habitat, including linking to existing ancient woodlands, by 2010.
Current progress: 176 hectares (includes new woodland planting and restoration).
- Churchyards and cemeteries**
Target: Produce management plans for 100 sites by 2005.
Current progress: 16 sites have management plans which take wildlife into account.
 N.B. Progress limited by lack of resources for advisory visits and production of management plans.



Creation and restoration of large areas of heathland will benefit species such as adder.

Other Progress

- On 18th October 2001 the Lincolnshire Rivers and Wetlands conference was held at The Lawn in Lincoln. The conference was organised by the Rivers and Wetlands forum with funding being secured from English Nature and Lincolnshire County Council. Over 70 people involved in wetland conservation attended the event. A summary document was produced giving details of some of the major wetland projects currently underway in Lincolnshire. Copies of the document are available from the Implementation Manager and all the papers are on the BAP website.
- The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has received a grant of £365,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to run an Education and Community Action Project (ECAP) over the next 3 years. This project will help to deliver many of the necessary public relations and education actions highlighted in the BAP.



National surveys have shown that otters have begun to recolonise their former ranges. This is most probably due to increased availability of good quality habitat and improvements in water quality.

- The Farmland and Grassland forum has taken an active role in lobbying DEFRA on the implementation of agri-environment schemes. Issues relevant to the BAP have been raised with regional decision makers in the hope that schemes such as Countryside Stewardship will be targeted according to local BAP priorities.
- FWAG and English Nature have recently received confirmation of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a Conservation Grazing Network. Funding will be available for a part time project officer to run the project, which will involve setting up a database of areas requiring grazing and the graziers. There will also be funds for a mobile cattle handling system to assist with livestock management on isolated sites, as well as training for local people and running events.

Problems

- One of the major requirements for the successful implementation of a local BAP is the availability of good quality information. The lack of an effectively functioning local record centre poses a threat to the success of the BAP process in Lincolnshire. High priority should be given to establishing such a centre.
- The local BAP process needs to be integrated into all sectors. At present the business sector has not been fully integrated into the BAP partnership. Efforts should be made to fully involve business in the BAP process in Lincolnshire.

Financial Report

BAP funding to March 2002

Item	£
Receipts	
Carried forward	9,256
Funding	19,956
LWT Admin Contribution	2,073
Total Receipts	31,285
Payments	
Implementation Manager Post and on costs	18,587
Admin charge	2,073
Travel costs	1,867
Sundry costs	278
Total	22,805
Surplus carried forward	8,480

These accounts have been audited by Streets and Co as part of their audit of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for the year to 31 March 2002

BAP funding to March 2003

Funder	£
Balance of funds brought forward	8,480
Boston Borough Council	2,200
East Lindsey District Council	2,000
English Nature	3,000
Lincolnshire County Council	2,600
Lincolnshire IDBs	1,840
Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service	20
North Kesteven District Council	2,200
South Kesteven District Council	2,500
West Lindsey District Council	2,000
LWT Admin contribution (estimate)	2,500
Total Income	29,340
Projected Expenditure	
BIM Salary and on costs	19,054
Recruitment costs	1,400
Travel Costs	2,060
Producing reports	600
Training	600
Admin costs (estimate)	2,500
Sundry costs	500
Total Projected expenditure	26,714

Estimated funds carried forward 31 March 2003 **2,626**

Chairman's Report

You will see from the financial statement that partners have continued to support the full time officer post, now renamed to reflect the emphasis on implementation. The finances have been audited as part of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's accounts and figures are produced by its Finance Manager.

It is worth noting that the Rivers and Wetlands (RW) Forum has raised additional funding for project work, including £7,500 from Cleanaway Ltd through Anglian Water Environment Partnership, and £8,000 from the Environment Agency for training workshops on crayfish and water vole. More detail is available through the Rivers and Wetlands Forum.



Research being carried out at Lincoln University will further the understanding of the requirements of the Pasqueflower.

I have tried to attend as many forum meetings as time permits. One of the major concerns of each forum is the need for a central database into which all records can be stored. The need for a record centre is urgent. Progress towards setting up a centre should be central to the Steering Board agenda in the coming year.

The Urban Forum launched a 'Garden and Allotments' survey with a view to collecting data for an action plan. As was the case with the hare survey the response has been marvellous, with over 500 survey forms being returned either on paper, or via the on-line survey from on the BAP website. It will take some time to sort out all the responses.

Partners directly involved in conservation activities continue to work towards targets. The statutory organisations such as English Nature, Environment Agency and Drainage Boards all have conservation delivery on their agenda and they still find time to support the local BAP.

There has been considerable activity at regional level. All the local BAP representatives meet regularly through the East Midlands Regional Biodiversity Forum. As a result of forum activity the first part of a regional environment strategy has been published by East Midlands Regional Assembly. A further glossy brochure emphasises the biodiversity. All this activity helps to raise the profile of the work of local BAPs.

This is the last annual report from Darren Clarke. He is leaving to take up a post as Field Officer with the Humber Industry and Nature Conservation Association. The BAP has made steady progress during his tenure of office and we are grateful for all his hard work and endeavour. We wish him well in his new appointment

Finally, on behalf of members attending Steering Group and Working Group meetings, I thank all the organisations for their continued support. Progress is very encouraging.

D F Wright
Chairman Steering Group

The Future

The advent of the Community Strategy process in Lincolnshire represents an excellent opportunity to ensure that issues relevant to biodiversity conservation are kept at the forefront of local authority thinking. The BAP partnership is in an excellent position to input into the preparation of community strategies.

Not only are there members of the BAP partnership in each of the areas that will be producing a community strategy, but we are able to offer our expertise in setting up, and holding together a diverse partnership working towards a common goal. Such experience will be invaluable to those charged with the preparation of the strategies. We must, therefore fully engage in the process of community strategy preparation.

Partners

Anglian Water	Lincoln City Council
Association of Drainage Authorities	Lincolnshire County Council
Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire Naturalists Union
British Waterways	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
BTCV	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
Country Land and Business Association	National Farmers Union
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	North East Lincolnshire Council
East Lindsey District Council	North Kesteven District Council
English Nature	North Lincolnshire Council
Environment Agency	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	South Holland District Council
Grantham Angling Association Fly Fishing Section	South Kesteven District Council
Inland Waterways Association	Wash Estuary Management Plan
Lincolnshire Environmental Forum	West Lindsey District Council

Acknowledgements

All those organisations and individuals who have in any way helped with the delivery of the Lincolnshire BAP over the last year deserve thanks.

Special thanks are due to Helen Gregory at Groundwork Lincolnshire for co-ordinating the Gardens and Allotments survey within the City of Lincoln.

The members of the Rivers and Wetlands forum, and in particular Mark Tartelin of Wild Planet Associates, also deserve special recognition for their excellent efforts in securing funding for, and organising the Rivers and Wetlands conference in October 2001.

Contact Details

If you would like to find out more about the BAP please visit the website at: www.lincsbap.org.uk

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Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan

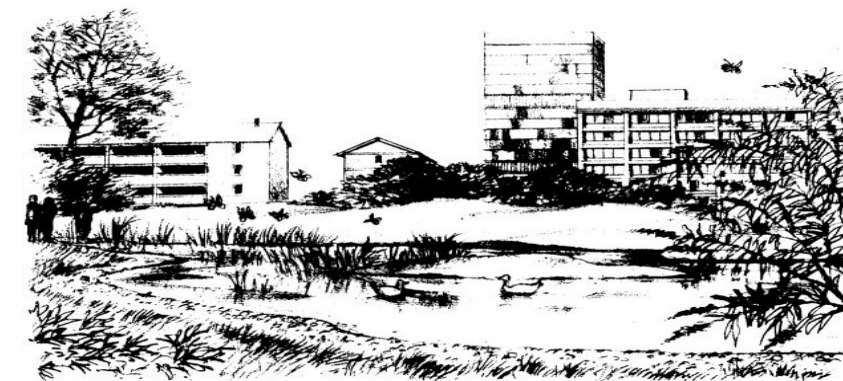
ACTION FOR WILDLIFE IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Annual Report 2002

Introduction

In May 2000 the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan was launched. The major aim of the plan is to safeguard and restore Lincolnshire's biodiversity. Action is currently being undertaken by the members of the BAP partnership.

As reported last year, the Lincolnshire BAP has been selected to trial the new national biodiversity action reporting system (BARS). As a result of using the system, it has been possible to illustrate progress, and in some cases, lack of progress towards BAP targets. This report aims to provide the reader with an idea of the key areas where progress is being made and highlight those areas where more effort is needed.



Access to green space in towns and cities is now widely recognised as being an important component of people's quality of life. These green spaces often provide oases for wildlife in an otherwise hostile environment.

The BARS system also brings local BAPs into closer touch with the national picture. It is hoped that the system will allow the contribution that local BAP partnerships make to be clearly illustrated. The recent government response to the UK BAP steering group's report "Sustaining the Variety of Life", recognises the importance of involving local BAPs by stating, "It is essential that LBAP partnerships are enabled to play a full part in the UK implementation strategy as substantial members of the UK Biodiversity Partnership."

We are now two years into the implementation of the Lincolnshire BAP and excellent progress is being made towards the achievement of the targets that have been set. Where large habitat creation schemes are likely to meet a BAP target, the key is what happens next. These large expanses of habitat need to be managed and monitored in order for them to reach their full potential and provide the maximum benefit for both wildlife and people. We should also realise that reaching a target does not represent an end to our efforts on a particular habitat or species, but rather that we have achieved something positive. This should encourage us to raise our sights and strive for further positive results in the future.

Darren Clarke
Biodiversity Implementation Manager