Cheshire region Biodiversity News

Winter 2010/11
Volume 3 Issue 2

This newsletter is aimed at anyone in the Cheshire region with an interest in biodiversity including site rangers, planners, conservation staff, species recorders, local community groups, families and individuals.

The Cheshire region Biodiversity News is produced two times a year.

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CrBP YouTube Channel

The CrBP now has its own YouTube channel.

Set up in May the channel was off to a flying start with video footage of an otter in Cheshire filmed late April 2010.

There are now three different clips of Cheshire otters available to view on the site!

To visit the channel and see the footage visit

http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCrbp

The Largest Urban UK Regeneration Project

In November 2010, the "Wirral Waters" scheme was granted final approval by the Secretary of State after previously being granted Planning Permission by Wirral Council Planning Committee.

Wirral Waters is a 17 million sq ft regeneration scheme – the biggest ever of its type anywhere in the UK – and will transform the economic fortunes of Birkenhead and Wallasey, as well as Wirral and the broader Liverpool City Region. The £4.5 billion investment planned by Peel Holdings is now set to become a reality, offering the hope of over 20,000 new jobs over 30 years, and is predicted to see Wirral becoming an international waterside destination rivalling cities such as Sydney, New York and Shanghai.

In early January, Prime Minister David Cameron and Lord Heseltine visited the site. Cllr Jeff Green, Leader of Wirral Council, said: “I am delighted to have welcomed David Cameron to see for himself what a difference this development will make to Wirral and ... recognise the significance of what is being achieved here through strong partnership working between Peel and the Council.

Wirral Waters is part of Peel’s “Ocean Gateway”, a regional vision to establish the River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal as an economic powerhouse and environmental assets connecting two City Regions.

Year of the ...

2010 was the **International Year of Biodiversity**. More news about its achievements can be found on page 2.

Following on from its success, the UN have confirmed plans to designate 2011 to 2020 as the **International Decade of Biodiversity**.

2011 was declared the **International Year of Forests** by the United Nations to raise awareness and strengthen the sustainable forest management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

2011 is also the **European Year of Volunteering** (EYV) and celebrates the 10th anniversary of the UN International Year of Volunteers. It aims to promote and facilitate volunteering in the EU and to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

NGO Initiative for UN Decade of Biodiversity

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS · 2011

The European Year of Volunteering 2011

Concerns over Mersey Barrage

Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust have echoed concerns raised by the RSPB over proposed plans to build a tidal barrage across the Mersey estuary to generate renewable energy.

An 'impounding barrage' is one of two technologies identified by Peel Energy Limited in a recently published shortlist of options for generating power from the Mersey's tidal flow.

Much of the estuary is recognised as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds under European legislation, and is also a 'Ramsar' site – a wetland of international importance.

The Wildlife Trusts believe the construction and operation of such a barrage could cause significant damage to the estuary and have a devastating effect on the internationally-recognised populations of birds, and other wildlife.

The announcement of the proposal comes just months after the Government shelved plans for a £30billion pound scheme on the Severn estuary in the south west, which also faced strong opposition from local and national nature conservation groups on environmental and flood-risk grounds.

http://www.merseytidalpower.co.uk/

Life on the Mersey: CrBP Partnership Event 24th September

This years' CrBP Partnership event was held at Wigg Island on the 24th September 2010.

The day was a resounding success with presentations from Peel Holdings (Management) Ltd, NWDA, Mersey Gateway Project and Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

After lunch delegates viewed right across the River Mersey as they stood on the Wigg Island viewing platform and then proceeded to enjoy a walk around the island lead by on site Ranger Bill Morton, and Artery of Life Project Officer Anthony Brandreth.

River Mersey. Photo: Paul Oldfield

CrBP Small Grant Scheme

The small grant scheme funded by a Service Level Agreement with Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire East, Warrington and Halton local authorities was re-launched following previous successful rounds of the grant scheme.

The successful appllicants of the 2010 round were: Henbury Parish Council, Cheshire Landscape Trust, Friends of Runcorn Woods, Trafford Mill Trust, RECORD, and Friends of Norley Rural Skills Centre. Projects that showed value for money and contributed towards LBAP Targets were awarded funding. To find out more visit www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk

Achievements of International Year of Biodiversity 2010

The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) won the influential Green Award for the Best Green International Campaign. This marks the first time that the Green Awards have recognised a global campaign. IYB achieved its goal to raise awareness of the value of, and the need to conserve biodiversity.

Despite some success stories, UN members have failed to meet targets set in 2002 to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. At Nagoya COP10 delegates met to report back on progress so far and to make critical decisions on how to manage global biodiversity for the future.

This has caused the UN to declare 2011 to 2020 its **Decade of Biodiversity**.

Shooting and the Hazel Dormouse

On the face of it you may be wondering where the link is. Well read on and the relationship between these two seemingly unusual bedfellows may become a little clearer. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) has been running the Green Shoots Project in Cheshire for the past 10 years. The project aims to recognise, build upon and coordinate the shooting community's valuable contribution to biodiversity conservation. In 2010 BASC submitted a funding bid to the SITA Trust to provide funding for a new project called the South West Cheshire Dormouse Project. The funding bid was successful and the new project which aims to link the habitat from the Wych Valley into Cheshire to permit dormice to spread from their current location up to the Sandstone Ridge which has high connectivity of woodland and hedgerow habitats will form a major part of the Cheshire Dormouse Strategy.

Creating a new hedgerow connection

The start point of the project is to use current best practice guidelines for connecting dormouse habitat in the Natural England Countdown 2010 funded Hedgerows for Dormice project managed by Peoples Trust for Endangered Species. This recommends establishing two hedgerow connections between each key woodland, both to increase the speed at which dormouse colonise new woodlands and to safeguard against one route become defunct. As part of the bidding process we identified where possible two routes between key woodlands that we will validate through survey. We did this in the same manner as PTES, studying aerial photographs and combining that with existing knowledge of the land.

Volunteers, e.g. the shooting syndicate shooting over the land or a local group who have access to the land, will form a key part of the project which aims to leave a network of trained and motivated volunteers to manage and monitor the habitats provided through and after the life of the project. We will also use volunteers with permissive access to the land, such as Cheshire Wildlife Trust volunteers and other local groups, particularly on the initial surveying of the proposed route.

We will use trained volunteers to survey the hedgerows and woodlands along the proposed route. This detailed data provided on the condition of the linkages will enable the project to target work to achieve condition of existing habitat, rehabilitate damaged habitat (gapping up for example) and create habitat in the correct locations. The final route on each landholding will be agreed with the landowner and a funding mechanism identified e.g. Higher Level Stewardship. There may be circumstances where it's not possible to target existing funding mechanisms and in these cases we have a budget to carry out the required work.

Woodland and hedgerows connected together form the main routes of transit for wildlife across farmed land and this project will achieve this to the standard required to provide a valid dormice network of linked habitat. The project will achieve a functioning ecological network for not just dormouse but a range of bat, mammal, insect, fungi and plant species which require such networks. Each site where we agree a habitat linkage feature will be given a management plan to achieve and then maintain favourable condition of the habitat in the long term. The habitat created under this project is the same as that required for game and rough shooting. It is for this reason that the shooting community will commit long term effort to maintain the habitat in the condition required to the benefit of the dormouse and game species.

We will establish a system where we get trained volunteers to adopt a linkage feature or a group of dormouse nest boxes and report on progress back to BASC and the Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership. This is vital so that we have local people who are interested in the habitat provided through the project who will look after it in the long term.

Ben Gregory

British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Cheshire Bluebell Recovery Project

The Cheshire Bluebell Recovery Project was set up in 1996 in direct response to the increasing loss of one of our most beautiful woodland wildflowers.

The native English bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, is suffering a decline across the UK due to threats which include loss of woodland habitat, wild bulbs being dug up for sale as well as damage to them by the trampling of leaves and hybridisation with the non-native Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*.

> "Propagating thousands of English bluebell bulbs is helping to fight the loss of this beautiful, native woodland wildflower."

Cheshire Wildlife Trust, alongside the Mersey Forest and RECORD have taken the lead in helping to promote the English bluebell within Cheshire. This unique project has helped to conserve the native bluebell by propagating thousands of new bulbs from local provenance seed at Barrowmore Estate over the last six years.

Further funding through WREN, the Linley Shaw Foundation, The Mersey Forest and Cheshire West and Chester Council has given the project a boost to continue propagation and now plant these bulbs into local community woodlands across the Cheshire region over the next two years.

Collected seed drying ready for sowing.

WREN
Waste Recycling Environmental

Cheshire Bluebell Action Project

To find out more about the Cheshire Bluebell Recovery Project visit www.record-lrc.co.uk

To find out more about the Cheshire Bluebell Biodiversity Action Plan visit www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk.

Sarah Bennett

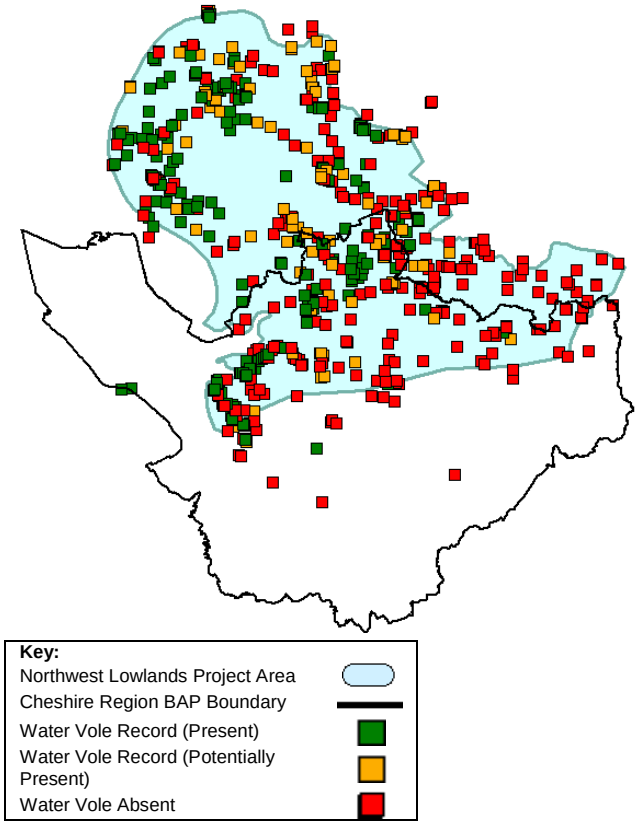
Cheshire region Biodiversity Manager

Northwest Lowlands Water Vole Project

Water voles have long been an icon of British wildlife, and were once common on our ponds and waterways. As our fastest-declining native mammal they have become a rare and welcome sight and the Northwest is an important area for the species. Funded by the SITA trust and Esmee Fairburn Foundation, the Northwest Lowlands Water Vole Project was established in order to assess water vole populations in the Northwest region and to safeguard their future. The project started in April 2008 and funding currently ends in March 2011.

The NWLWV Project has made a significant contribution to water vole conservation in the Northwest, through targeted mink trapping, practical advice and support to land owners and site managers and contributions to management plans. Recovery of some populations is already evident due to conservation efforts as part of the project.

Over the last three survey seasons a total of 628 sites have been surveyed by the project officers, with the help of volunteers. That's around 300 km of rivers, canals, ditches, streams, lakes and ponds.



Water vole survey records between 2008 and 2010

Water voles were present at around 37% of the sites surveyed and there were signs of possible presence at a further 17% of sites. Compared to the rest of the region, water voles records were slightly lower in Cheshire with water voles present at 30% of sites surveyed and signs of possible presence were found at 13% of sites.

On closer inspection populations in Cheshire are quite varied. Water voles are almost completely absent from central and east Cheshire, with only a few small and isolated populations holding on such as those recorded at Lindow Common in Macclesfield and Wade Brook in Northwich.

Warrington holds high numbers of water voles and they are fairly common along its streams despite the urban landscape.

The marshland habitats on the fringe of the Mersey estuary at Frodsham (including Frodsham Marsh, Elton Marsh and Hapsford Meadows) provide excellent habitat for water voles and a network of 18 populations have been identified over an area of 15 km^2.

> "Water voles are now expanding and re-colonising areas".

Agricultural ditches and streams off the River Gowy and provide important habitat where water vole populations are doing well. Working in partnership with BASC's Green Shoots project, mink, a voracious predator of the water vole, have been controlled along the River Gowy corridor. A re-survey in 2010 found 32 burrows and 45 latrines where only 2 old burrows had been recorded in 2008, indicating that water voles are now expanding and re-colonising areas.

Looking forward we will be using the results to implement a strategy to safeguard water voles' future in the county. The most important focus will be to link up isolated populations by through improving habitat. We are currently seeking funding to help safeguard vulnerable populations identified in North Cheshire. We also want to extend surveys outside the current project area to see how populations are faring in the south of Cheshire

Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

SITA trust

Andrea Powell

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Environment Agency Projects

Water Vole Habitat Creation in the Gowy Catchment

The Environment Agency's Operations team based at Winsford Depot have excavated a network of ditches for water vole in the Gowy catchment. The Biodiversity team managed this project, which led to the creation of over 300 metres of ditches.

Before work

This work is specifically designed for water voles, but could also benefit a wide variety of other species - such as otter, reed bunting, lapwing, lesser silver water beetle, eels and dragonflies.

During work

David Pym of Morley Hall Farm, kindly gave permission for this work to proceed on his land adjacent to Back Brook, near Bridge Trafford, Chester (NGR SJ 455 709).

After work

This Environment Agency led project was an ideal opportunity to work with the landowner, the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, the North West Lowlands Water Vole Project and the Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership to create invaluable water vole habitat in this part of Cheshire.

The Environment Agency is the national lead organisation for the conservation of the water vole in the UK, and has a legal duty to promote the conservation of flora and fauna dependent on aquatic habitats. The Environment Agency is committed to enhancing water vole recovery across the country by better integrating the species' needs into habitat based work.

> "Work could also benefit species such as reed bunting, lapwing, eels and dragonflies".

Duncan Revell
Environment Agency

Otters' Successful Recovery

The Otter's successful recovery continues in Cheshire.

In October, the Environment Agency published the Fifth Otter Survey of England. The report can be found on the Environment Agency's website:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/110740.aspx

Otter spraint

This was the first national survey since 2002, and the results were extremely encouraging. Otters, which almost disappeared from England in the 1970s due to the toxic effects of pesticides, were found in every county in England (with the exception of Kent).

The survey showed that:

- The number of sites with evidence of otters nationally has increased tenfold in 30 years, with positive site records increasing from 5.8% in 1977-79 to 58.8% in 2009-10.
- Since the last survey in 2002, positive site records in the North West have increased from 29.6% to 52.6%.
- In Cheshire, otter evidence was found on the rivers Gowy, Weaver, Wheelock, Dane, Wincham, Bollin and Goyt.
- In the South West and the River Wye catchment, otter populations have probably reached maximum capacity, with those in Northumbria, Cumbria, Wessex and the upper Severn close to that.
- The otter's recovery has already exceeded the 2015 targets set in the UK BAP.
- The Environment Agency has predicted that the species will now fully recover across England in less than 20 years.

"Otters are on their way to a full recovery, including evidence of otters in rivers across Cheshire".

The otter population has recovered mainly thanks to a ban on harmful pesticides put in place in the 1970s and legal protection. The species has also benefited from habitat enhancement and a significant improvement in water quality over the past 30 years, bringing fish back to rivers that were once grossly polluted.

Otter surveying on the River Dane

The Environment Agency wishes to thank members of the Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership who assisted with the survey. It has been a great example of effective partnership working, without which a survey of this scale could not have been completed.

Duncan Revell
Environment Agency

Monitoring and Protecting White-Clawed Crayfish Populations in the Weaver Catchment

This summer, the Environment Agency conducted surveys to monitor the status and health of two key white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) populations in the Weaver catchment.

The Environment Agency is the national lead organisation for the conservation of the white-clawed crayfish in the UK, and has a statutory duty under the Environment Act (1995) to promote the conservation of flora and fauna dependent on aquatic habitats.

The legally-protected white-clawed crayfish is the UK's only native species of freshwater crayfish, and has recently been classed as "*globally endangered*" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. They are also one of the Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership's priority species.

White-clawed crayfish

Thankfully, the two separate white-clawed crayfish populations surveyed in the Weaver catchment were healthy and relatively unchanged from previous surveys. Nevertheless, the biggest threats to these native crayfish populations are:

- **the introduction of crayfish plague** (*Aphanomyces astaci*), a highly invasive species of oomycete (water mould) native to North America. This fungus utilises the invasive, non-native American signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) as it's host vector, and is lethal to white-clawed crayfish causing mass mortalities.
- **the introduction of invasive, non-native crayfish** e.g. American signal crayfish, which directly out-compete native crayfish for food and habitat (as well as transferring crayfish plague).
- **pollution events** e.g. synthetic pyrethroids (sheep dip), raw sewage, milk spillage.

The Environment Agency and Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership will continue to invest every effort in protecting these native crayfish populations from the above threats.

Crayfish surveying

Biosecurity is top priority and advice will continue to be given to landowners, local commercial fishery owners and members of the public to reduce the risk of introducing crayfish plague. Every effort will be made to prevent the introduction of invasive, non-native crayfish, such as signal crayfish.

Environment Agency incident responses to pollution events in this catchment include procedures to mitigate the impacts upon native crayfish e.g. a crayfish rescue. The Environment Agency's incident hotline (0800 80 70 60) continues to be publicised.

The Environment Agency has recommended that the Cheshire Wildlife Trust look at designating these key sites as *Sites of Biological Importance* because of their regional importance.

Duncan Revell
Environment Agency

Count Me In!
Celebrating Biodiversity!

It all started with humble beginnings when Chester Zoo partnered with a number of organisations and created a project with one aim…to "create Wildlife Recorders of the Future" – open to all ages, abilities and completely free thanks to generous funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Nearly two years on and this project, in partnership with rECOrd, has delivered 26 wildlife events, including a Celebration Day which took place on the 24th October at the National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port. The wind was brisk but the sun was shining brightly and the nip in the air was no match for everyone's enthusiasm on the day!

The event was a great success with over 100 people in attendance. Workshops, expert talks and guided walks were held throughout the day. There were also canal boat trips, a themed quiz and an awards ceremony for junior achievers encouraging them to make wildlife recording a lifelong hobby.

Jeff Clarke has been involved as a wildlfe expert and volunteer throughout the project. **"It was wonderful to see so many people so obviously enthused and captivated by the idea of biological recording and learning new identification skills. This is a genuine cross-generational project which will clearly benefit biological recording in Cheshire for many years to come. More importantly it gave a huge number of people a real interest in their natural world. Seeing the excitement on the faces of young and old alike, as they gazed at their first Hen Harrier, Adonis Ladybird, Palmate Newt, Elephant Hawkmoth and much, much more was a joy to behold."**

Sue and her family have also been involved from the very beginning, originally joining to spend time together and learn about local wildlife as a family. **"We now see the wildlife around us in a completely different way. It's as if our eyes have been opened and we cannot now go for a walk without noticing the variety of nature all around us."**

"Possibly the greatest achievement of [Count Me In!] is the lifelong legacy to my grand-daughter, [just 5 years old when she first joined the project], she has absorbed so much insight into her world that she and others like her will become the ambassadors for conservation in the future."

Tears of joy were flowing by the end of the awards and speeches at the Celebration event. The past two years have seen the Count Me In! project team work hard to achieve its outcomes, filling regional gaps in recording and holding workshops to spark and increase peoples interests in biodiversity. But it's the unintentional outcomes and relationship that have formed which have been the biggest surprise.

CMI! events have provided a starting point for friendships to blossom, families to connect, and different generations of people to find common ground. The doors have been pushed wide open and offshoots of interested people now get together outside scheduled workshops for social and wildlife recording fun.

As the International Year of Biodiversity comes to an end, we are confident that the project will continue to benefit the region for years to come and are greatly encouraged by the initiative shown by participants to record wildlife on their own. However, enthusiasts have told us that without expert guidance and some of the more expensive equipment and identification tools provided through CMI! events, they have found they are unable to record wildlife as effectively as they were when supported by CMI!

We are working hard to find external funding, develop the project further and secure the future for a full Count Me In! programme. In the meantime a mini version of CMI! will be supported by the zoo, until summer 2011. This will provide continued encouragement and maintain momentum for wildlife recording activities to all those who have been touched by the project. It will also give new participants a small taste of what the Count me In! experience is all about.

For more information contact Karen Lawson, project coordinator, at CountMeIn@RECORD-LRC.co.uk or on 01244 383749.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS CHESTER

RECORD

ef Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

heritage lottery fund LOTTERY FUNDED

Peatland Restoration – filling up the *carbon* sink

Cheshire's peatlands are our most valuable natural carbon store

Governments around the world recently pledged to reduce CO_2 emissions dramatically by 2050. With no obvious mass alternative to fossil fuels, the targets seem impossible so how can restoring peatland help?

Here in Cheshire, our Ice Age history has provided us with a unique and remarkable natural solution to CO_2 production: in the 10,000 years since the glaciers retreated and left us with boggy areas of ground, the natural development of peat in those areas has acted as a sponge for CO_2, absorbing the greenhouse gas and trapping it within the wet ground indefinitely.

Tree and scrub removal from this internationally protected rare floating bog is preventing gallons of water being lost to the atmosphere helping to maintain open pools valuable to dragonflies and damselflies.

Peat is an accumulation of layer upon layer of sphagnum moss, built up over 1000's of years. The top most actively growing layer absorbs CO_2, while decomposition of lower layers is slowed down by an acidic watery bed meaning the CO_2 remains trapped in the bog rather than being re-released into the atmosphere…UNTIL the ground either dries out or is dug up. Over the last 300 years, the UK peatland resource has been severely damaged by draining, cultivation and extraction to produce compost for horticulture; all of which cause peat bogs to dry out. Colonisation by trees, such as silver birch quickly follows sucking out more water and the process of carbon capture is reversed to carbon release.

> "When peatlands dry out or are dug up for peat they RELEASE the carbon they have stored over thousands of years."

Natural England report that if all 584 million tonnes of carbon stored in English peatlands were lost to the atmosphere, this would be equivalent to 2.14 billion tonnes of CO_2, which is around five years of England's annual CO_2 emissions.

Studies indicate that a restored 'wet' bog with a growing layer of sphagnum moss can remove and store on average 2.8 tonnes of CO_2 per Ha/yr (after accounting for methane emissions). Compare this to a dry bog which can release between 14 and 28 tonnes of CO_2 per Ha/yr and, even worse, peat extraction which releases around 600 tonnes of CO_2 per Ha/ yr.

Extensive scrub removal early in 2010 helped rewet this fragile fen and preserve an open character essential for marsh violets and Lesser Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries to thrive.

But it's not all bad news: Our remaining peat bogs are being re-wetted and restored, a process that takes time but which can halt the re-release of CO_2 already trapped in the peat and re-start the absorption of CO_2 from the atmosphere.

And the best news of all? A thriving peatland can work as a natural CO_2 sponge for large amounts of CO_2 while being a home to remarkable wildlife species at the same time. These areas in turn then become amazing places for people to visit.

Action on our Nature Reserves

CWT manages 66Ha of peatland across 8 sites. As part of our ongoing restoration of this precious resource a number of special projects are underway. All of Cheshire's remaining peatlands are fragments of their former extent, struggling to stay wet whilst the land around them is drained for agriculture or afforested. The restoration of our peatland nature reserves focuses on finding ways to manage water levels to create the ideal conditions for active peat formation.

Want to find out more?

Earlier this year Natural England published England's Peatlands – Carbon Storage and Greenhouse Gases, a comprehensive review of the condition of England's peatlands and the vital role they play in combating climate change. You can download the report for free at www.naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NE257

Charlotte Harris
Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Depressed River Mussels in Cheshire

The depressed river mussel (Pseudanodonta complanata) is seriously threatened throughout its European range. It is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and is listed as a priority one species for conservation in the UK BAP strategy. The Environment Agency is the lead partner for the conservation of this rare mussel.

Identifying depressed river mussels

The depressed river mussel is found in fine sediment or sand substrates but avoids silt as this interferes with respiration and feeding. It is most frequently found at the margins of rivers or canals where sediment accumulates.

The Environment Agency has been carrying out surveys this year to extend the known distribution of the depressed river mussel. This survey follows the successful identification of the depressed river mussel on the Llangollen canal in Cheshire in 2009, the first record of this rare mussel on the canal for over 10 years, as well as extending its known distribution for 16km.

Sorting the samples

We have worked with our colleagues in Midlands and Welsh Regions to share skills for surveying and identifying freshwater mussels. Aiming to extend the known distribution of the depressed river mussels beyond Cheshire. The distribution of the depressed river mussel ranges from North Yorkshire to Sussex, the population in Cheshire is at the limit of its North Westerly extent.

Collecting the sample

The Environment Agency are working with British Waterways, The Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership and Cheshire Wildlife Trust to protect this mussel and its habitat.

This includes:

- producing a management plan for the Llangollen canal

- updating the Species Action Plan

- working towards designating the areas where the mussels are present as Sites of Biological Importance

Depressed river mussels

Carol Seddon and Sharon Weaver

Environment Agency

Events

Cheshire East Council
http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure,_culture_and_tourism/ranger_service/ranger_events.aspx

Cheshire West & Chester Council
www.habitatsandhillforts.co.uk/
www.discovercheshire.co.uk

Halton Borough Council
http://www3.halton.gov.uk/leisureandculture/parksandopenspaces/parksandopenspacesevents/

Warrington Borough Council
http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_spaces/whats_on/

Wirral Council
http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/leisure-and-culture/parks-beaches-and-countryside/outdoor-sport-park-activities-and-events

Cheshire Wildlife Trust
www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Count Me In!
http://www.record-lrc.co.uk/c1.aspx?Mod=Article&ArticleID=Countmeineventscalendar

Can you help make this events section better? To advertise your countryside events in the next issue of this newsletter contact sbennett@cheshirewt.org.uk

ISCZ Update

Irish Sea Conservation Zones is a project to help secure a healthy and productive future for the coast and waters of the Irish Sea.

The latest thinking on potential new conservation areas in the Irish Sea is outlined in the Irish Sea Conservation Zones' second progress report. The report shows the current thinking of the project's Regional Stakeholder Group, a group of around 40 people drawn from a diverse range of interests in the Irish Sea. It identifies the sizes, shapes and locations of ten possible new Marine Conservation Zones including, for the first time, zones in inshore waters of the Irish Sea project area, as well as offshore.

However, the locations of Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea identified in the progress report are tentative. The number and dimensions of the potential zones shown in the report are liable to change at later stages in the project through consultation, new information, and as a result of more in-depth consideration. The selected Marine Conservation Zones are the group's first attempt to consider both offshore 'broadscale' habitats on the seabed (mud, sand, gravel and rock) and inshore habitats together.

The work of the Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership is coordinated by the Cheshire region Biodiversity Manager who can be contacted at:

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SY14 8EF
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Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS · 2011

The European Year of Volunteering 2011

NGO Initiative for UN Decade of Biodiversity

2011 is the:

International Year of Forests
European Year of Volunteering
and the
International Decade of Biodiversity

Are you doing something to promote them?

If so, contact sbennett@cheshirewt.org.uk to add it to the Cheshire list.