

17th September 2007

Water and Wetland Focus Group Meeting

Pondways: Progress April - August 2007

Previous progress:

- *Six Publicity Events*
- *30 volunteers recruited from the local community through public meetings, newsletter, email and website publicity*
Widely publicised through local conservation groups/environmental organisations (over 70 volunteer enquiries)
- *Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group (ARAG) has reinvigorated with many of its members volunteering for Pondways*
- *Final survey form devised with BRERC*
 - *incorporates other national survey methodology (NARRS and NPMN)*
- *Two Training Days organised to take place at Stockwood LNR (BCC/AWT)*
- *A further £10,000 funding from Natural England received at the beginning of March - Pondways Project Officer position extends to four days per week from April*

Since April:

- Successfully sent out all the volunteers with an Accredited NE GCN licence so ahead of schedule in survey effort
 - some ponds couldn't be surveyed due to anomalies, permissions etc therefore number dropped slightly to around 90
- Surveyed at least 80% of ponds which meets the HLF target - forms still being returned as final surveys were end of August
 - majority of volunteers have given lots of time and worked really hard
 - early results show a number of the ponds had been lost and not many GCN records
 - will go out this autumn/winter to ascertain pond presence for 2008
- Ready to analyse data and HSI values - BRERC
- Due to NE funding Pondways surveying private sites in 2008
 - consulted with experts from Pond Conservation and Herpetological Conservation Trust on best way of targeting ponds, mixed views! Will be finalised shortly and planned/permissions sorted through winter for 2008 season
- Held invertebrate training day for Pondways volunteers with Dr. Mike Tynen, Aquatic Invertebrate Officer from Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- Recruited a volunteer to the Biodiversity Team to assist with running of Pondways and volunteer support
- Website outline agreed and ready to be launched in autumn
- Budget regularly checked and to plan, application for 2008 funding due in October
- Article in new issue of *Wildlife* about pond networks and creating a pond