

## Avon BAP Steering Group – Notes from Biodiversity South West for meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008

1. Recently held a BioSW **partnership meeting, the focus of which was Nature Map**. Outputs of this meeting have been circulated (attached in case you didn't get them Matt). Workshops asked questions about how to take Nature Map forward, particularly through planning, agriculture, visioning and actual on the ground implementation. The Nature Map working Group will be reviewing the outputs from the meeting to draw out key messages and areas of working.

2. The Nature Map working Group are also developing a set of **Working Guidelines** and a procedure for making changes to the definitive regional map. It also sets out suggestions for local and regional custodianship and decision making. These draft guidelines are out for consultation at the moment (copy attached). The consultation will close on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Send comments to me.

3. BioSW will be launching a new **website**. This will include an interactive web based version of Nature Map which uses google maps as its basis. This website and in particular the Nature Map section will be sent out to consultation (likely to be next week for trial) prior to launch to ensure all works well. Likely to be fully launched in May. Address will be [www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk](http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk)

4. Working with **South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership Biodiversity Group** to develop biodiversity adaptation work programme for SW, including influencing the Climate Change Adaptation Plan being developed by the Regional Assembly (see: [http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/ngcontent.cfm?a\\_id=3803&tt=swra](http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/ngcontent.cfm?a_id=3803&tt=swra) ). Initial work will help establish a common understanding of what are the critical sites in the SW in terms of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. A matrix has been developed that will be used to collect this information and I will circulate to the partnership for help with this initial piece of work. If you are interested contact me for further details. In addition we hope to address the question - what might biodiversity adaptation actually look like. To help answer this we will begin by working through a case study – likely to be the River Exe from source to sea. Further details to follow as project develops. I will send further details of this work in separate email to partnership with matrix.

6. **NERC** – we are running 2 pieces of Biodiversity advocacy work –

- a. Workshops aimed at Local Authorities and in particular Chief Exec's, members, principal officers etc. There will be one in each county in region. Being led by Mike Oxford.
- b. Developing Biodiversity Guidance for those public bodies operating in coastal and marine environments. A workshop was held last week with key representatives from the sector to help outline the guidance and highlight case studies. If you have any good case studies please send to me. Completed guidance will be circulated at the end of May to all public bodies operating in this

sector – if you have contacts you would like to receive guidance, again send me details.

7. I am now employed by Natural England, but retain my role as Co-ordinator for Biodiversity South West. My **email address has changed** as of today and I can now be contacted on – [Naomi.brookes@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Naomi.brookes@naturalengland.org.uk) – all other details remain the same. With a change in my employment, Basil Greenwood has stepped down as chair of Biodiversity South West and the **new co-chairs** are Simon Brenman from the South West Wildlife Trusts and Emma Herrera from the Environment Agency.

8. 2008 Biodiversity Reporting Round – JNCC have just published guidance notes for LBAPs and habitat and species leads on the forthcoming UK BAP reporting round. This will start in September and information will be gathered through to November. It is key to note that BARS will be the main tool used for data collection so all LBAPs need to have their BAPs uploaded and ensure reporting is up to date. Paper from JNCC with Matt.

9. Donna Radley has left as Local and National BAP officer to join Plantlife. Her replacement within NE is David Switzer ([david.switzer@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:david.switzer@naturalengland.org.uk)).

10. LBAP conference this year in Cambridge from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July – details will be circulated soon.