

## **AVON BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Background**

The Avon Biodiversity Partnership was formed in 2000 with the creation of a steering group. It has developed since then to encompass a wide range of statutory and non-statutory bodies, and now has over 45 organisations and groups interested in nature conservation in Avon (see appendix 1). The list of partnership members is not exclusive and new partners are both welcomed and needed, especially from the business, academic and private sectors.

#### **Aims**

The BAP identifies what needs to happen for Avon's most valuable habitats and species and for cross-cutting issues such as education over the next ten years.

The main aims are to:

- Champion and promote local biodiversity and its distinctiveness;
- Implement actions in order to achieve the objectives and meet the targets outlined in the BAP
- Facilitate communication and sharing of best-practice and skills;
- Seek opportunities for joint projects;
- Monitor biodiversity and biodiversity action;
- Report back annually on its achievements;
- Increase amount and access to biodiversity data.

#### **The Role of Partners**

We hope that by forming a biodiversity partnership across the whole Avon area it will encourage more effective joint projects and achieve more for biodiversity on the ground.

All partners are invited to:

- endorse the Avon Biodiversity Action Plan
- lead on specific targets and actions in the Avon BAP where appropriate.
- attend the Annual Partnership Day and contribute to project working groups arising from this.

#### **Annual Partnership Day – function and structure**

Partnership members and other relevant organisations will be invited to attend the Annual Partnership Day.

The purpose of the Annual Partnership Day is to:

- keep partners up-to-date with biodiversity projects across the former county of Avon

Website: [www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk](http://www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk) Email: [matthamilton@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:matthamilton@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)  
Avon Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator: Matt Hamilton, c/o Avon Wildlife Trust,  
32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR Tel: 0117 917 7270 Fax: 0117 929 7273  
Registered Charity Number: 280422

- facilitate face-to-face information exchange and networking
- investigate and begin to develop biodiversity project ideas

The Annual Partnership Day will be split into two parts:

- during the morning session a series of presentations will be given on relevant projects taking place in the former county of Avon as well as regional and national developments
- during the afternoon a series of project development workshops will be run. These workshops may lead to the formation of project groups that run throughout the year to oversee the funding and running of a project.

## Web Forums

Four web forums exist to enable the exchange of best practice, sharing of information and discussion of relevant topics. Each web forum has a chair who is responsible for steering and moderating discussion their forum. The names of these forums and the areas they cover are outlined below:

Web Forum	Habitat/Species Action Plan or Topic
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable farmland</li> <li>• Species-rich grassland</li> <li>• Hedgerows</li> <li>• Elements of Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh</li> <li>• Elements of Purple moor-grass and rush pasture</li> <li>• Cross cutting actions for farming and private ownership</li> </ul>
Coastal and Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuary</li> <li>• Coastal and Floodplain grazing marsh</li> </ul>
Water and Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing open water</li> <li>• Reedbeds and sedgebeds</li> <li>• Watercourses and floodplain</li> <li>• Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh</li> <li>• Elements of Purple moor-grass and rush pasture</li> <li>• Water vole</li> <li>• White-clawed Crayfish</li> <li>• Cross cutting actions for water and wetlands</li> </ul>
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland</li> <li>• Wood pasture and parkland</li> <li>• Dormouse</li> </ul>

### **Feedback and communication**

1. Minutes of steering group and annual partnership meetings will be available via the website (<http://www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk/>)
2. The BAP Co-ordinator will send out a monthly e-bulletin to keep partners up-to-date with project, funding and national news
3. BARS will be used to report on specific actions

### **The Avon BAP and other BAPS in Avon**

While the Avon BAP provides an over arching conservation strategy for Avon, it overlaps both spatially and technically, in terms of shared aims and objectives, with other BAPs in Avon. The majority of the Avon BAP's work will be at a landscape scale (i.e. governed by the distribution of habitat, rather than man-made boundaries such as Unitary Authority areas)

The content of all these action plans are informed and guided by national and regional targets so that their implementation is firmly linked to national and regional priorities. However, the plans also seek to reflect local conservation priorities and the values of local people.

The Avon Biodiversity Partnership facilitates closer partnership working between all these groups and enables cross-boundary projects to take place.

### **National and Regional Biodiversity Action Plans**

In addition the Avon Biodiversity Partnership keeps in contact with other LBAPs in the SW region as well as the South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership, and promotes and enables the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan through regional and local biodiversity action in line with the England Biodiversity Strategy.

## **Appendix 1 Avon BAP Partners**

### **Partnership Steering Group Members**

Avon Wildlife Trust

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Bristol City Council

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Natural England

Environment Agency

Forestry Commission

West of England Partnership

North Somerset Council

South Gloucestershire Council

### **Partnership Members**

Astra Zeneca

Avon Bat Group

Avon Gorge and Downs Project

Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group

Avon Frome Partnership

Bristol Living Rivers Project

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Bristol Natural History Consortium

Bristol Naturalists' Society

Bristol Ornithological Club

Bristol Water

British Waterways

British Association of Shooting and Conservation

Website: [www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk](http://www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk) Email: [matthamilton@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:matthamilton@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)  
Avon Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator: Matt Hamilton, c/o Avon Wildlife Trust,  
32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR Tel: 0117 917 7270 Fax: 0117 929 7273  
Registered Charity Number: 280422

Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers

British Horse Society

BTCV

British Trust for Ornithology

Cotswold AONB Partnership

The Deer Initiative

The Duchy of Cornwall

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Forest of Avon

Forest Enterprise

Fountain Timber

Hawk and Owl Trust

HM Prison Service

Internal Drainage Board

Marine Conservation Society

Mendip Hills AONB

North Somerset Levels and Moors Project

National Trust

Oldbury Power Station

RSPB

Severn Estuary Partnership

Sustrans

Tortworth Estate

UWE

Wessex Water

Wrington Parish Council