



Devon Biodiversity Monitoring Framework

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The question

How is biodiversity in Devon faring?

Current knowledge in Devon

- Condition of SSSIs
- Knowledge of the distribution of certain species – Greater Horseshoe / Otter / Cirl Bunting
- Report on Devon BAP every 3 years – but for lots of reasons some SAP/HAP reporting better than others
- No real understanding of the situation of many BAP habitats and National Biodiversity Network habitat inventory out of date....

Conclusion from this.....

**We need a
new
integrated
jointly funded
long term**



Biodiversity Monitoring Framework

= an umbrella

This new system should

- Give us a better picture of what is happening to Devon's wildlife
- Provide information which will be useful for / is required by BAP Partners
- Integrate current knowledge with new information
- Be achievable / focused

Specific benefits

- Provides information required to report on progress with
 - National Indicator 197
 - LDF Core Output Indicator and contextual indicator
- Public body involvement will show a contribution to NERC S.40 duty to conserve biodiversity
- Provides an evidence base for strategic planning and development control
- Provision of information for funding bids and reporting

So.....

- Contract let to Somerset Environmental Records Centre to develop a framework
- Proposed plan arrived earlier this year – discussed by BAP sub group (DCC, DBRC, DWT, NE)
- Contract let to DBRC to work out how this could be taken forward + cost
- Currently under development

10 proposed indicators

All relate to

- loss / gain of BAP habitat
- county wildlife / geological sites
- SSSIs

10 proposed indicators

- 1 Loss of selected BAP habitats
- 2/3 Loss and gain of BAP habitat via development
- 4 Gain of BAP habitat through BAP initiatives
- 5 Gain of BAP habitat through man. schemes
- 6 Gain of BAP habitat through other processes
- 7 CWS in +ve management
- 8 Net change in condition of CWS
- 9 Change in extent of designated sites
- 10 % SSSI in favourable condition

Selected BAP habitats

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Lowland meadow
- Lowland heathland
- Upland oak woodland
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Sabellaria reefs

Very briefly.....how?

- Monitor loss of selected BAP habitats through aerial photos / site visits – rolling programme
- Set up a system through planning process to monitor loss / gain of BAP habitat
- Partners report gain of BAP habitat from specific projects
- Information on agreements from NE / FC
- Rolling programme of monitoring CWS
- Information on SSSIs from NE

Next steps

- Sub group meeting to discuss progress in November and agree approach to be taken
- Contact LAs and other potential partners to discuss involvement and funding
- Consider how to integrate species.....
- Any technical questions – Ellie and Emma!