



News:

Last week the Government published the **Lawton Report** 'Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network'. The report is an independent review of England's wildlife sites and the connections between them, with recommendations to help achieve a healthy natural environment that will allow plants and animals to thrive. Led by Professor Sir John Lawton, the review was set up to look at our wildlife sites and whether they are capable of responding and adapting to the growing challenges of climate change and other demands on our land. See below for publication details.

Next month officials from 192 countries and the European Union will gather at Nagoya in Japan to agree how to tackle biodiversity loss. They will set new targets for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the next ten years, and develop a vision for 2050. This is the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (COP10). For details about preparations and information leading up to this important event see the IYB-UK website at: www.biodiversityislife.net/?q=Nagoya or the Convention's own website at: www.cbd.int/cop10/

Ahead of COP10, the **Natural History Museum** has launched a project called '**The Big Nature Debate**' to get the public talking about biodiversity and the world around them. The debate is a platform for information, opinion and discussion about biodiversity. By visiting www.nhm.ac.uk/bignaturedebate people are able to quiz biodiversity experts, debate issues in forums, get updates with the latest biodiversity news through the Museum's Facebook page or by following the Museum on Twitter. The site hosts thought-provoking blogs from biodiversity experts and other key thinkers on subjects such as 'what the world might look like in 2050' or 'has biodiversity loss reached a crisis point'.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has been awarded funding through the Vision for Stour Group of Stratford-on-Avon District Council to carry out surveying and habitat improvements for water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) on the River Stour and its tributaries. Numbers of this UK and LBAP priority species have declined by as much as 95% in the UK in recent years, and surveys in Warwickshire reflect this devastating trend. The Trust has teamed up with the newly-formed Stour Valley Wildlife Action Group to carry out surveying for water voles, otter and mink during September at over forty different locations throughout the Shipston-on-Stour area. Once this surveying has been completed, the next stage of the project will be to protect any water vole populations identified and improve riverside habitat to encourage the revival of this charismatic riverside mammal. For more information, or if you own land within the Shipston-on-Stour area (with a watercourse, pond or even a ditch), then please get in touch with Tim Haselden, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on 02476 308 995 or email tim.haselden@wkwt.org.uk.

The latest **OPAL** survey has been launched, aiming to help people discover the diverse range of wildlife that hedges support. Biodiversity Hedgerow Surveys packs are now available. You can obtain a pack from the West Midlands OPAL team at: www.opalwestmidlands.org/ or alternatively download materials from www.opalexplornature.org/BiodiversitySurvey.

The OPAL survey recognises the importance of hedgerows for wildlife. If you would like to learn more about hedgerows and how to manage them you can send for a free DVD 'A Cut Above The Rest' produced by **Hedgelink** and available from **Natural England's** enquiry service (telephone: 0845 600 3078 or email enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk). For more details see: hedgelink.org.uk/index.php?id=41.





A new non-native and invasive species of freshwater shrimp has recently been recorded at Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire. *Dikerogammarus villosus* (known as the 'Killer shrimp') was found at the site by anglers on 3rd September. This is the first record of this species in Great Britain. It is native to the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. It is already present elsewhere in western Europe and in some areas, e.g. at sites in the Netherlands, it has eliminated native shrimp species. It also predated other freshwater species, including mayflies, damselfly larvae and small fish. If you would like further details including a FAQ sheet produced by the **Environment Agency** please email LBAP@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Defra has produced a series of fact sheets on most of the new plant species listed on The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order 2010. These are available to be downloaded from the Defra website at: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?sectionid=47>. A full copy of the new legislation is available at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2010/609/article/2/made

The **Heritage Lottery Fund** want more organisations (including local community groups) to apply for their funding for projects that conserve and get people involved in natural heritage. They have produced a special edition of their local newsletter, which celebrates some of the wildlife projects they have invested in so far. If you are planning a project the HLF West Midlands Development Team would like to hear from you. They offer free advice and support to help you to make an application, so get in touch via phone: 0121 616 6870 or email: westmidlands@hlf.org.uk

The **Field Studies Council's** (FSC) Kids Fund aims to bring environmental understanding to disadvantaged young people, with funding up to 80% of the cost of an FSC course to a maximum of £3,000 available. Applications are accepted from groups supporting disadvantaged young people aged 8 to 18 years (or up to 25 years for those with special needs). Applications can be made at any time, for more details email: kidsfund@field-studies-council.org or see their website at: www.field-studies-council.org

The **Community Wildlife Fund (UK)** supports not for profit groups, local councils, schools and health bodies with funding of between £300 and £10,000 for projects that will bring together local people to discover enjoy or protect wildlife in their local area by improving rural or urban environments for people to enjoy, and by getting people more active and healthier. Although the latest deadline has passed there are other deadlines for applications see the website for details: http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_wildlife?fromsearch=-uk

Key LBAP Dates:

Agendas for the following meetings will be sent out to members of the relevant groups at least one week ahead of the session.

- Main Steering Group, Tuesday 19th October at 10am, Venue TBC
- Landscapes for Living Wetland Habitat Workshop, Tuesday 2nd November at 10am, The Barn at Brandon Marsh

Events, Conferences and Training Courses:

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity **North Warwickshire Borough Council** is holding an event focused on the wealth of opportunities North Warwickshire presents for those who want to conserve, enhance and enjoy wildlife and the natural environment. Taking place on 14th October 2010 from 10am to 3pm at Atherstone Memorial Hall, off Long Street, Atherstone. The event aims to support and encourage individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to take action to improve their local environment. If you are interested in attending or finding out more please get in touch with Zoe Davies email: zoedavies@northwarks.gov.uk / phone: 01827 719258



The annual conference of the **National Biodiversity Network (NBN)** is taking place on Friday 15th October at the Royal Society of London. The title 'Opening opportunities for biodiversity: working with the NBN'. See the NBN website for more details: www.nbn.org.uk/News-and-Events/Biodiversity-news/NBN-Conference-2010.aspx

'**Connecting with Nature**' is the 2010 conference for environmental communicators organised by Bristol Nature Consortium, on 3rd to 4th November. Keynote speakers include **David Attenborough**, **Fiona Reynolds** (Director General, National Trust) and **Martin Spray** (CEO, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge). The website: www.bnhc.org.uk/home/communicate.html has details of the event, including a draft programme and useful communications material from previous conferences.

The Nature After Minerals (NAM) team is offering another opportunity to attend a workshop on **Reedbed Design, Creation and Management**, to be held at RSPB Ouse Fen/Hanson's Needingworth Quarry on Thursday, 11th November. For details of the event please contact Debra Royal, NAM Events & Communications Officer via email: Debra.Royal@rspb.org.uk or phone: 01767 693588. NAM are also planning on holding a Wet Grasslands Workshop in November (details to be confirmed).

On 16th & 17th November, **Bristol Zoo Gardens** is hosting a two day conference entitled, '**Species survival: Securing white-clawed crayfish in a changing environment**'. The aim of the conference is to increase awareness of work being undertaken across the UK and to foster a strategic approach to the future conservation for this Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. For more information please visit their website: www.bristolzoo.org.uk/species-survival-securing-white-clawed-crayfish-in-a-changing-environment

'**Beyond 2010: Strategies for understanding and responding to long-term trends in Biodiversity**' is a conference being hosted by the Natural History Museum in collaboration with the UK Environmental Change Network (ECN) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). Taking place on the 16th to 17th November, the aim of the event is to highlight the central role long-term studies play in addressing key biodiversity-related issues, and to explore future directions for this area of research. See www.ecn.ac.uk/Conf2010/Conf2010.htm for more information.

River corridors in the Urban Environment - Developing a Vision for the Future is a conference taking place on 18th November at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield City Centre. The aim of this conference is to reflect on the important changes that have occurred in relation to the way we view water in the urban environment and in particular river corridors. It will look at the range of future measures that will be required to meet existing and future requirements posed by development, regeneration, climate change and well-being agendas to further enhance the urban water environment. See webpage www.ursula.ac.uk/ or contact Jenny Chambers on 0114 222 5725 or via email: j.a.chambers@shef.ac.uk

The **Association of Local Government Ecologists** is holding its annual conference on 23rd November in London. The programme is currently being developed and will focus on the changing face of biodiversity delivery in light of the new Government and reviews and studies that are underway. It is intended that the programme will include: UK National Ecosystem Assessment Project; the Economics of Ecology and Biodiversity; Lawton Review [see first news item above]; landscape scale biodiversity delivery; green credits and land banking. For details please see: www.alge.org.uk/news/index.php

The **UK Biodiversity Partnership** 2010 Conference is taking place in Stirling on 23rd & 24th November 2010. Details about this free conference are available at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/16118/conference2010. The aim is for the conference to be



an early opportunity for the UK Biodiversity Partnership to discuss its response to the new global and EU targets which move from a primary focus of preventing loss of species to an equal focus on ecosystem services. These new targets will bring new opportunities and new challenges.

Recent Publications and Other Information:

I have received the following information/publications; if you require a copy of any of these documents please let me know:

- The Lawton Report '**Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network**' - available for download from: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf
- The September **Funding Newsflash** from Warwickshire County Council - now available at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grants
- The **Stour Valley Wildlife Action Group** has a regular newsletter – please email Phill Clayton at: info-svwag@tiscali.co.uk, if you would like to go on the mailing list.
- Final key messages publication produced at the conclusion of the **Natural Economy Northwest** programme – available, along with a range of other documents, from their website at: www.naturaleconomynorthwest.co.uk/
- Summer edition of the **Floodplain Meadows Partnership newsletter** – see their website at: www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk/files/floodplain/Newsletter%2005%20July%202010.pdf