

NORTH WEST BIODIVERSITY FORUM

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Membership Pack

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Please send updates and comments to
North West Regional Biodiversity Manager

NORTH WEST BIODIVERSITY FORUM

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Terms of Reference

The region's biodiversity is a key indicator of its health, a major determinant of the quality of life of those who live here and an inspiration for visitors. Although the North West is one of the richest regions in England for species and habitats, there is no room for complacency. Many challenges, from industrial pollution and climate change, to overgrazing of our uplands and habitat fragmentation in the lowlands, need to be tackled if we are to conserve and enhance the North West's priceless natural heritage. Recent studies demonstrate the socio economic benefits of linking biodiversity with economic futures and quality of life.

The North West Biodiversity Forum (NWBF) was set up to provide strategic advice on biodiversity at the regional level, within the context of national commitments and local delivery.

The NWBF is a partnership of public, private and voluntary organisations working together at the regional level to conserve and enhance the Biodiversity of the North West for wildlife and people. This **partnership** includes over 25 organisations covering the whole NW Region - Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire.

The NWBF works in partnership with the **5 Local Biodiversity Partnerships** to facilitate delivery.

Vision

Our vision for the NW is taken from the England Biodiversity Strategy:

“for a region with its landscapes and water bodies, coasts and seas, towns and cities –

- *where wild species and habitats are part of healthy functioning ecosystems;*
- *where we nurture, treasure and enhance our biodiversity,*
- *and where biodiversity is a natural consideration of policies and decisions, and in society as a whole”.*

Aim

The NWBF's **aim** is to support, encourage and positively influence the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a strategic issue in the NW, for the benefit of wildlife and people, as well as business and sustainable development. This aim will be delivered through the objectives below.

Objectives

1) Partnerships

- To establishing and maintain a broad biodiversity partnership by engaging all relevant sectors.

2) Biodiversity delivery

- To deliver regional biodiversity objectives with SMART targets for habitats and species, taking into account national and local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets and linking with social and economic themes.
- To work with the partnership to agree a range of projects to deliver the regional biodiversity objectives and targets.

3) Resources for delivery

- To develop and implement the fund-raising strategy for BAP delivery, for national and local sources of external funding in support of projects and to sustain the funding for the Region's biodiversity service in the long term.
- To collaborate with strategic funders e.g. SITA Trust.
- To maintain an overview of LBAP funding within the region and provide support to LBAP partnerships to help them raise funds for coordination and delivery, particularly leading on collaborative funding opportunities that benefit several LBAPs.

4) Monitoring and reporting

- To report and monitor progress through using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) for the implementation and delivery of actions initiated regionally.

5) Regional influencing

- To integrate biodiversity objectives into relevant regional policies, programmes and strategies.

6) Promotion

- To promote BAP regionally through developing a communications plan with partners to raise awareness in support of biodiversity.
- To facilitate LBAP networking in the region, including promoting best practice and ensuring joined up approach to regional objectives.
- To ensure that all LBAP partnerships across the region are achieving biodiversity delivery in support of national and regional objectives.

7) England Biodiversity Strategy

- To coordinate work with other regional biodiversity partnerships, to learn from their experiences and share examples of good practice.
- To work with partners at regional and national levels of the BAP process.

Implementation

The objectives form the basis for the Business and Communication Plan (March 2006 – March 2008). They are also the framework for the priorities and work programme for the Regional Biodiversity Manager.

The work of the Forum is led and coordinated by the NWBF Regional Executive Group and 4 sub-groups focus on various aspects of implementation (See [Overview of Subgroups](#) for further information)

Meetings

Three per year.

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Work to Date

Publications

NWBF

- Regional Spatial Biodiversity priorities (in prep)
- NWBF Regional Biodiversity Business and Communication Plan (2006)
- Regional Biodiversity Targets. Presented by English Nature after consultation with the NWBF at the RPG Public Examination, Matters 10 & 11 (2002)
- Model Policies for the RPG, submitted to the NWRA, RPG Team (1999)
- Biodiversity Indicators (draft) (1999)
- Wild About the NW: A Biodiversity Audit of the NW (1999)

NWBF in partnership with others

- Marketing the Natural Environment of the Northwest (2006)
www.nwda.co.uk/publications.aspx?Publications=1&area=78&subarea=81&Item=20065300403897407&publicationview=1&navfromaofi=1
or
nwda-cms.amaze.co.uk/DocumentUploads/Final_report.pdf
- The Natural Assets of Northwest England: An Appendix to Marketing the Natural Environment of the Northwest (2006)
www.nwda.co.uk/publications.aspx?Publications=1&area=78&subarea=81&Item=20065304908877461&publicationview=1&navfromaofi=1
- Report on the NW Wetlands Network identifying priority wetland projects that deliver economic benefits (2006)
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/346950/1357725/?version=1&lang=e
- Natural Tourism supplements in the Observer and Telegraph (April 2006)
nwda-cms.amaze.co.uk/DocumentUploads/EnglandsNorthwest_Telegraph.pdf
- Climate Change and the Visitor Economy report (2006)
www.snw.org.uk/tourism/down_research.html
- Your Region, Your Nature: Make the Links – Benefit from your Biodiversity (Defra, 2005)
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/pdfs/biodiversity/20060810YourRegion.pdf

- Life-Support: Incorporating Biodiversity into Community Strategies (Defra, 2004)
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/lifesupport/lifesupport.pdf
- NWDA Magazine Issue 3, Page 9 – article on Natural Economy (July 2004)
www.nwda.co.uk/SimpleContent.aspx?publications=1&area=78&subarea=81&item=20047072602081084&publicationview=1
- Economic and Regenerative Value of the Natural Environment – report on the economic assessment of 80 natural environment projects (2003)
www.nwda.co.uk/SimpleContent.aspx?publications=1&area=78&subarea=81&item=20038220301254655&publicationview=1
- Action for Biodiversity in North West England. In partnership with GONW and NWRA (2000)
- The Environmental Economy of the NW. Technical Report produced by ERM and summary booklet by the Steering Group. (2000)

Priority Projects (2006-07)

The following priority areas take into account:

- the implementation of the England Biodiversity Strategy,
- the regional and landscape scale approach and socio economic links,
- the priorities identified below by GONW, NWDA & NWRA
- and the importance of LBAP delivery.

1) Partnerships

- review of members expectations from meetings
- membership review and membership pack.

2) Biodiversity delivery

- Facilitating the implementation of the NW Wetlands Network report
- Compile spreadsheet of existing projects and identify gaps.
- Facilitate the coordination of projects across the 5 Local Partnerships.

3) Resources for delivery

- Produce funding guidance and approach key funders
- Develop a strategy for the continuation of the Regional and Local Biodiversity service beyond March 2008.
- Provide SITA Trust with an assessment of the biodiversity delivery of the Enriching Nature project applications
- Produce revised SMART regional targets following BAP review

4) Monitoring and reporting

- Promote and support BARS reporting.
- Provide Defra with regular reports on the service delivery.
- Provide NWRA with target delivery report for Regional Spatial Strategy

5) Regional influencing

- Develop practical link with regional economic development through the Natural Economy Northwest programme.
- Encourage the membership representatives to cascade within their respective organisations.
- Masterclass with RENEW on biodiversity within regeneration design.
- Recommendations via Natural England to NWRA for drafting the RSS.

6) Promotion

- Further development of the NWBF website and promote use by members.
- Natural Benefit for Business conference in November 2006.
- Cumbria pilot with Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency on training business advisers for providing a first stop advice point on biodiversity.
- Produce biodiversity “power map” for the region in relation to key habitats, species, partnerships and projects.
- Identify training needs and take forward with RTPI CPD.
- Provide training and produce Business Plan supplements on the socio economic framework for the Regional and sub-regional Business & Communication Plans.
- Distribute Our Region, Our Nature booklet.

7) Representation

- Regular meeting of the Regional and 5 Local Biodiversity Managers.
- Regular meetings of the Regional and 5 Local Biodiversity Partnership Chairs.

8) England Biodiversity Strategy

- Input to the England Biodiversity Strategy, Regional and Local Strategy Implementation Group (R&LSIG).

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Member Organisation Contact Details

Organisation

Cheshire County Council
Country Land and Business Association
Cumbria County Council
Defence Estates (MOD)
Environment Agency
Environment Agency
Exmoor Ponies in Conservation
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Forestry Commission
Forestry Commission
Forestry Commission
Government Office for the North West
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Highways Agency
Lancashire County Council
Landlife
Mersey Basin Campaign
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
National Farmers Union
National Trust
Natural England
Natural England
Natural England
Natural England
Natural England
North West Development Agency
North West Regional Assembly
North West Regional Assembly
Regional Biodiversity Manager
Regional Biodiversity Manager
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Sustainability North West
Sustainability North West
United Utilities
United Utilities
Wildlife Trust NW
Woodland Trust

Contact

Ian Marshall
Carol Hodgson
Judy Palmer
Sarah Jupp
Gail Butterill
Sarah Peet
(Maternity leave to Mar 07)
Tim and Margaret Mackintosh
Alan Dodsworth
David Lowe
Keith Jones
Penny Oliver
Helen Sweeney
Derek Richardson
Sheena Crombie
Peter Jepson
Richard Scott
VACANT
Christine Bennett
Helen Little
John Hooson
Anne Brenchley
John Redgate
Michelle Young
Sam Alston
Will Williams (Chair)
Mark Joslyn
Andrew Ashall (Secretariat)
Jon Lovell
Amanda Wright
(Maternity leave to May 07)
Rebecca Jackson-Pitt
(Maternity Cover)
Andrew Gouldstone
Andrew Loynd
Penny Street
Dan Walmsley
Jonathan Dobson
Peter Wilson
Nick Sandford

E-mail

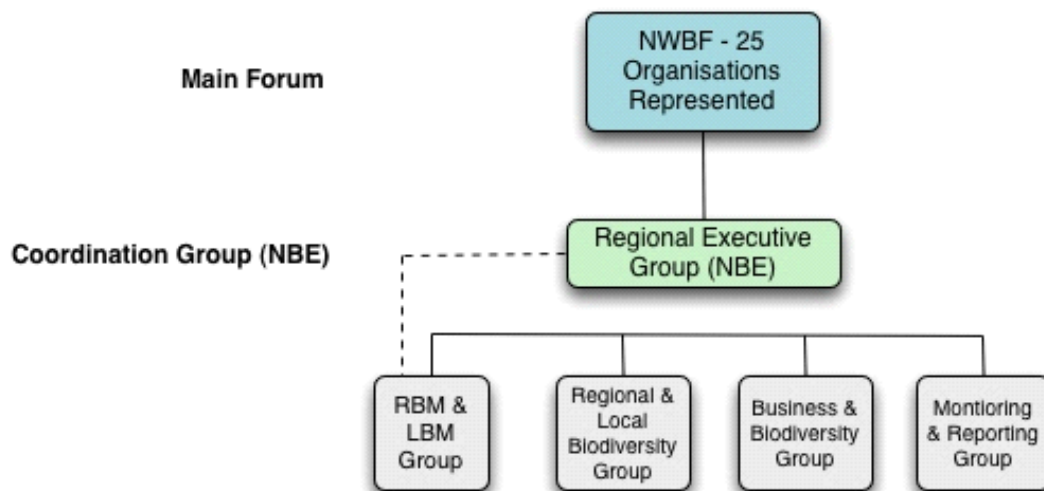
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Overview of Sub-Groups



NWBF Regional Executive Group

Role: The REG is the executive group working on behalf of the NWBF, with responsibility for the Regional Business Plan, managing relationship and contracts with major funders for regional programmes & projects, and managing relationships with NW Regional Assembly, Government Office & NW Development Agency on the regional biodiversity service. Also, coordinates work of other sub groups
(For further information see [REG Terms of Reference](#))

Representation: Will Williams (NWBF Chair), Michelle Young (Natural England), Jon Lovell (NWRA), Gail Butterill (Environment Agency), Suzanne Waymont (LBAP Chair), Andrew Gouldstone (RSPB), Amanda Wright (Regional Biodiversity Manager, Maternity Leave to May 07) Rebecca Jackson-Pitt (Regional Biodiversity Manager, Maternity Cover).

Meetings: Four meetings per year in June, Sept, Dec and Feb to coincide with public sector funding & reporting.

Regional and Local Biodiversity Managers Group

Role: Facilitate close working between the LBMs across the region, to promote best practice and a joined up approach to regional objectives, through internal communication, regular meetings and training.

Representation: Amanda Wright (RBM, Maternity Leave to May 07) Rebecca Jackson-Pitt (RBM, Maternity Cover), Neil Harnott (Cumbria LBM), Jane Ashley (Lancashire LBM), Graham Jones (Greater Manchester LBM), Richard Burkmar (Merseyside LBM), Charlotte Harris (Cheshire LBM)

Meetings: Every 2 months

Regional & Local Biodiversity Partnership Chairs Group

Role: Brings together the Chairs of the NWBF and 5 Local BAP Partnerships to manage the logistics of delivering the regional & local service including relationships between Business & Communication Plans, Manager posts and funding.

Representation: Will Williams (NWBF Chair), Alun Evans (Cheshire Chair), Christine Bennett (North Merseyside Chair), Suzanne Waymont (Greater Manchester Chair), Tim Mitcham (Lancashire Chair), Andrew Forsyth (Cumbria Chair), plus Regional Biodiversity Manager.

Meetings: Quarterly meetings

Business & Biodiversity Group

Role: Facilitates the development of better engagement between business and biodiversity particularly championing the benefits for business.

Representation: Sheena Crombie (Highways Agency), Dan Walmsley/Jonathan Dobson (United Utilities), Amanda Wright (Regional Biodiversity Manager, Maternity Leave to May 07), Will Williams (Natural England)

Meetings: Regular meetings in run up to the Nov 2006 conference and then review.

Monitoring & Reporting Group

Role: To coordinate the reporting of regional biodiversity & natural environment targets and submit to NWRA for RPG/AFS/RSS reporting. The remit of this group will be reviewed to take into account AFS & RPG changes as well as BARS reporting.

Representation: Michelle Young (Natural England) and others as required.

Meetings: As required

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Regional Executive Group (REG) Terms of Reference

The REG is the executive group for the NWBF and works on behalf of the NWBF. The Executive will undertake the following in consultation with the wider NWBF:

- Manage the production & implementation of the Regional Business & Communication Plan – direction, priorities, resources, reporting & communication.
- Provide strategic direction for the NWRA hosted Regional Biodiversity Manager, with line management by English Nature.
- Manage & develop relationships and contracts with major funders for regional programmes and projects, including SITA, English Nature, Environment Agency.
- Manage & develop relationships with NWRA, GONW & NWDA on the regional biodiversity service to influence policy & programmes to facilitate the delivery of regional targets.
- Manage accountability & communication between the NBE and the NWBF.
- Manage the relationship between the NWBF and the sub regional biodiversity partnerships including continuity of funding.

Membership

Chair	Will Williams
Natural England	Michelle Young
Environment Agency	Gail Butterill
LBAP Chair	Suzanne Waymont
NWRA	Jon Lovell
RSPB	Andrew Gouldstone
Regional Biodiversity Manager	Amanda Wright (Maternity Leave to May 07) Rebecca Jackson-Pitt (Maternity Cover)
Others as required	

Membership will be reviewed annually.

Meetings

Every 2 months.

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Regional & Local Chair and Manager Contact Details

NW Biodiversity Forum & LBAP Executive Group Chairs

Area	Name	Tel & email	Address
Regional	Will Williams	01539 792800 will.williams@naturalengland.org.uk	Natural England, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Rd, Kendal, LA9 7RL
Cumbria	Andrew Forsyth	01539 720788 andrew-forsyth@fld.org.uk	Friends of the Lake District, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7SS
Lancashire	Clive Grunshaw	01772 534919 clive.grunshaw@cc.lancscc.gov.uk	Lancashire County Council, Environment Directorate, Guild Hall, Cross Street, Preston PR1 8DR
Greater Manchester	Suzanne Waymont	0161 371 5834 suzanne.waymont@tameside.gov.uk	Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Tameside. M34 2GJ
Merseyside	Christine Bennett	0151 934 4954 christine.bennett@eas.sefton.gov.uk	Environmental Advisory Service, Bryant House, Liverpool Road North, Maghull Merseyside L31 2PA
Cheshire	Graham Fitzgerald	01925 840000 graham.fitzgerald@environment-agency.gov.uk	Environment Agency, Appleton House, 430 Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood Warrington WA3 7WD

Regional and Local Biodiversity Managers

Area	Name	Tel & email	Address
Regional	Rebecca Jackson-Pitt (Mat Cover to May 07)	01942 614008 (direct) 07795 126337 (mobile) rebecca.jackson-pitt@naturalengland.org.uk	North West Biodiversity Forum, c/o Natural England, Pier House, Wallgate, Wigan WN3 4AL
Cumbria	Neil Harnott	01539 816300 neilh@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk	Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal LA8 8LX
Lancashire	Jane Ashley	01772 324129 (switchboard) 01772 317242 (direct) jashley@lancswt.org.uk	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, The Barn, Berkley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BY
Greater Manchester	Graham Jones	0161 371 8146 graham.jones@tameside.gov.uk	Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Tameside. M34 2GJ
Merseyside	Richard Burkmar	0151 934 2809 richard.burkmar@eas.sefton.gov.uk	Environmental Advisory Service, Bryant House, Liverpool Road North, Maghull Merseyside L31 2PA
Cheshire	Charlotte Harris	01948 820728 charris@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk	Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8EF