



UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference 21–22 May 2003

‘Biodiversity in the Landscape’

Programme

For more information about the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) visit:
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5155>

UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference 21 / 22 May 2003

Biodiversity in the Landscape

Programme

Day 1 Wednesday 21 May

12:30 – 13:15 Registration and lunch

13:30 Welcome *Ian Jardine, Chief Executive of SNH*

Part 1: Why are we all here?

13.40 [Chairman's introduction](#) *Brian Harding, Director of Wildlife, Countryside and Flood Management, Defra*

13.55 [The Partnership, its origins and purpose](#) *Hilary Neal, UKBAP_secretariat*

Part 2: The UK Biodiversity Action Plan: progress

14.15 [Key findings from 2002 reports](#) *Paul Rose, JNCC*

14.55 [Going interactive: developing the on-line system](#) *Peter Brotherton, English Nature*

15.20 [Towards the review in 2005](#) *Gwyn Williams, RSPB*

15.40 Coffee

Part 3: Looking ahead: messages for future policy

16.00 [Implications for UK biodiversity policy](#) *Martin Harper, Plantlife* ([Speaker's Notes](#))

16.20 [A Local Perspective](#) *Alison Barnes, England Local Plan Co-ordinator* ([Speaker's Notes](#))

16.40 Discussion and questions to panel

Part 4: Links with the landscape

17.25 [The NBN pilot in the SW of England](#) *Mike Burke, English Nature*

17.45 [Summing up day 1 and pointers to day 2](#) *Deryck Steer, JNCC*

18.00 Close

18.15 Buses into Perth

19.00 – 20.00 Evening Reception

An evening reception will be hosted by John Graham, Head of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department, and a warm invitation is extended to all delegates. The reception will be held at the Quality Station Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth.

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Day 2 Thursday 22 May

The Ecosystem Approach in the UK

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and Coffee

9.30 Introduction to the day *Brian Harding, Defra*

9.40 [The UK in a global context](#) *Katharine Bryan, JNCC* ([Speaker's Notes](#))

10.00 [The Ecosystem approach: what do we mean ?](#) *Ed Maltby, Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research*

10.20 Case studies

- 10.25 [Lifescapes](#) *Keith Porter, EN*
- 10.45 [River Spey Catchment Management Project](#) *Kristin Scott, SNH*

11.05 Coffee

- 11.30 [Irish Sea Pilot Project](#) *Chris Lumb, EN* ([Speaker's Notes](#))
- 11.50 [UNESCO Man and Biosphere – Braunton Burrows Biosphere Reserve](#) *Andy Bell, Devon County Council*

12.10 [Panel discussion: Ecosystems, Landscapes and People](#) *Katharine Bryan JNCC, Ed Maltby RHIER, Chris Baines Heritage Lottery Fund, Mark Avery RSPB, David Erwin Ulster Wildlife Trust,*

12.55 [Reflections on the conference](#) and closing remarks *June Milligan, NAW*

13.10 Lunch

13.45 Field trip

For those who wish to stay on there is the opportunity to participate in one of two field trips, both within a short bus ride from Battleby: Loch of the Lowes or Loch Leven.

We expect to return to Perth by 17.00.

Biodiversity in the Landscape

Additional Information

Day 1 – Wednesday 21 May

Part 1: Why are we all here?

Membership of the UK Biodiversity Partnership is open to all organisations which have an interest in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the development of policy on biodiversity. This is the Partnership's first gathering. The speakers will set the scene for the Partnership's work and this conference – spanning International Biodiversity Day on 22 May

Part 2: The UK Biodiversity Action Plan: progress

The UK is party to the Biodiversity Convention's objective to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. We are well-placed to measure progress through the UK BAP. Lead Partners and Local Partnerships have just reported their progress and the key findings will be presented today for the first time, followed by a look to the future.

Part 3: Looking ahead - messages for future policy

In the light of the findings, what are the implications for future biodiversity policy in the UK? National and local perspectives are considered. You can then have your say about this and any of the day's presentations with the speakers' panel.

Part 4: Links with the landscape

Key to successful implementation of the UKBAP is readily accessible, good quality information. The National Biodiversity Network is creating an information network available to everyone. A pilot project being carried out in the South West of England is showing how these data can support a landscape scale approach to biodiversity conservation.

Day 2 - Thursday 22 May

The Ecosystem Approach in the UK

This session of the conference will consider the implications for the UK of the requirement under the Convention on Biological Diversity to adopt an ecosystem approach.

The CBD calls on parties to the convention to apply the ecosystem approach and to develop practical expressions of it in national policies. It also suggests that parties identify case studies and implement pilot projects to enhance awareness and share experience. But what does this mean for the UK and are we meeting our commitment? Following an introduction to the concept, the 4 case studies will present examples of current UK large- scale initiatives and look at how the key principles are being applied, in partnership with communities and stakeholders.

There will then be an opportunity to explore the issues in greater depth with the panel of speakers. You will be invited to put your views, give examples and ask questions.

UK BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE 21/22 MAY BATTLEBY

'BIODIVERSITY IN THE LANDSCAPE'

Chairman's introduction

Good morning and welcome to the first annual conference of the UK Biodiversity Partnership. We are delighted to be here in Scotland, in Battleby, hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage, one of our key partners in the delivery of our biodiversity objectives. Thanks to Ian Jardine for your words of welcome and for making this excellent conference centre available.

My first very pleasant duty as Chairman today is to deliver you a message of support from Elliot Morley MP, on behalf of the UK Government.

'This week we are marking International Biodiversity Day with a whole range of initiatives and events. So I am delighted that the UK Biodiversity Partnership is holding its first full meeting at this time. The UK Government is committed to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. In some respects the progress of the UK BAP has been outstanding - the news about the steady revival of the otter is perhaps the most obvious recent success. Other stories are not so good. The targets we have set under the Plan will help us to understand what progress we in the UK are making towards the global goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and what we need to do to improve our performance, through partnership co-operation. The CBD's encouragement to us all to apply a whole ecosystem approach to management of the land and sea is a significant challenge to our imaginations and to our capacity to work together and I welcome the start you are making to look at its application in the UK. I wish the conference every success.'

As Mr Morley's message says, in this week we are seeing a whole series of events around International Biodiversity Day, which is now on 22 May each year. It is very appropriate that we, as the whole UK Biodiversity Partnership should meet at this time. If we are to meet annually in this forum, as is proposed, we should bear this date in mind in our planning. It is certainly a far

more inspiring date than the previous one of 29 December and perhaps indicates that the people in the UN who decide these things now realise the central significance of biodiversity conservation in the scale of global concerns!

Hilary Neal will be saying more in a minute about how the idea of this broad Partnership forum came about, but I believe that our partnership in its current flexible form gives us a great opportunity to reflect on the issues which we in the UK believe to be most important current concerns. Most of us here work with the minutiae of biodiversity conservation and policy day to day, but this forum allows us to step back and consider, together, at the UK level, broad directions, goals and messages we want to take for ourselves, for the people of the UK and for the CBD itself. It also gives us the chance to make our partnership as flexible, broad and inclusive as it needs to be to encompass the range of issues that influence biodiversity today.

Today, we are being self-reflective. In the course of this afternoon we will hear about the progress that we are making with the Species and Habitat Action Plans - as it were, the 'nuts and bolts' of our partnership - and consider where it goes from here. But we should make no apology for this introspection. We may well be the only country in the global CBD family that has set itself such a large number and range of biodiversity targets for specific habitats and species. Having done so, it is only right that we should hold ourselves to account.

It is highly significant that this – though still only partial – is the most comprehensive view of progress we have had. At the same time as building a view of where we've got to, the process itself has brought about the development of an extremely powerful tool – for analysis and, in the future, interactive reporting. We expect quite soon to be able to see, almost at a glance, where we stand through the new Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). Today, Paul Rose will present to you only the tip of the iceberg. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to look in closer detail at the full on-line report, which goes live today. In fact, you can have a

go yourself during this conference at the terminal in the North Foyer, and here in the auditorium during breaks in proceedings. But you've also got some highlights in the pamphlet that you will find in your delegate packs. I won't pre-empt the discussion that we will be having later, but I believe that the results show that together we are overall making steady, though not spectacular, progress. And that there is still a long way to go.....

Toward the end of this afternoon we shall begin to look forward to the next major task of the UK BAP – the review of HAPs and SAPs we have promised ourselves for 2005. And then, in anticipation of tomorrow, we will be raising our sights to look at how the collection and application of information can support the re-building of biodiversity on the ground at the scale of a whole region - effectively building biodiversity into the landscape.

Tomorrow's programme gives us an opportunity to reflect on this whole issue of biodiversity conservation at the landscape scale. The Convention's encourages all contracting parties to adopt an 'ecosystem approach'. We all know instinctively that it is the right way forward – and many of us are doing it in diverse ways - but need to understand better what it means, and how we can do it better in the UK, ensuring that communities and economies are closer to the centre of our thinking.

Although the programme is based round a series of presentations, both today and tomorrow there are opportunities for discussion sessions with speakers and panel members. We hope you will be stimulated to participate in them fully.

So without more ado.....

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