

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH BIODIVERSITY PROJECT FUND

## Peterborough Brownfield Invertebrate Biodiversity Project May 2006

### *Discussion in Projects and Steering Group*

The project would provide good data sets for invertebrates which were never surveyed on Brownfield sites before. The project includes public involvement and an interim Phase 1 report. It takes Phase 1 as a discrete entity which makes the budget much sounder. Although it is a Peterborough focused project, it was felt it would raise the profile for invertebrates overall. The Project is recommended for funding under the following conditions:

#### **Conditions:**

- The amount of up to £1000 is specified for data capture.
- The data needs to be accessible publicly through the BRC in a format to be agreed with the BRC.
- The project needs to include awareness raising and publicity.
- The partnership's logo must be printed on reports about the project.

### **PROJECT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

#### **Essential**

*Project proposals must:*

- Be clearly linked to the achievement of targets and/or the implementation of priority actions contained within a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Species Action Plan or Habitat Action Plan, or to the aims and objectives of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough BAP more broadly;

**→ link to the Brownfield HAP “Built Environment and Derelict Sites”**

**→ invertebrate data will be fed into the BRC**

**→ will inform invertebrate value of brownfield sites**

- Demonstrate sound project design and internal logic (i.e., projects should be feasible, have realistic and cost-effective budgets, and demonstrate clear linkages among their objectives, outputs and activities);

**→ budget focused on Phase 1 survey is sound and realistic**

**→ issues raised in the Projects group (access to sites, priority for sites other than SSSIs and CWSs) have been taken into account**

- Demonstrate partnership working;

→ **cooperation project initiated by Peterborough Brownfield Invertebrate Biodiversity Project Group, involving EN (lead organisation), Buglife, PCC, Wildlife Trust and local experts**

- Demonstrate the use of matching funds or in-kind contributions for all projects seeking £1,000 or more from the Biodiversity Project Fund.

→ **match funding from EN (£3500) and PCC (£1000)**

- Include publicity and awareness-raising for biodiversity

→ **interim report for Phase 1 survey is included in the project**

### **Desirable**

*Where possible and appropriate, project proposals should:*

- Encourage local involvement.

→ **Bugwalks planned by Buglife using the brownfield sites.**

### **Other Criteria**

- Preference will be accorded to innovative and catalytic activities that lever in other funds as well as the involvement of others;
- Support will not normally be provided for routine, site management activities;
- Support will not be provided for retrospective activities;
- In reviewing the proposals, the Surveys and Projects Group will try to ensure that a range of different project types is funded, across different Species and Habitat Action Plans.

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>
Brownfield Invertebrate Biodiversity Project
<p><b>1. INTRODUCTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Name of the Group putting forward the proposal;</i></li> <li>• <i>Brief overview of the origins of the project (including information about liaising with a member of the Surveys and Projects Group).</i></li> </ul> <p>The group is known as the Peterborough Brownfield Invertebrate Biodiversity Project Group. This group consists of representatives of Buglife, English Nature, Peterborough City Council and has also received assistance from the Wildlife Trust. Acknowledged and local experts in this field who also work as independent consultants also form part of the project group.</p>

The project originates from the Peterborough Green Grid and South Peterborough Green Parks Projects. Please note that the project will cover areas outside of the PCC unitary area including the Fenland District area.

Liason has taken place between the group and the Peterborough City Council Wildlife Officer who is a member of the BAP Survey and Projects Group.

## **2. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

- *Brief summary of the reasons for initiating the project;*
- *Identification of the ways in which the proposed project helps to achieve the targets and/or implement the priority actions contained in a Species Action Plan or Habitat Action Plan, or contributes to the overall aims and objectives of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough BAP more generally.*

The project has been initiated to address the lack of value attached to brownfield/derelict\* sites for their invertebrate biodiversity and the preferential development of these sites due to government policy.

\*A definition of brownfield sites for the purposes of the project is attached.

The proposed project helps to achieve targets and actions outlined in the Brownfield Biodiversity Action plan. This plan specifically acknowledges that insect life can be abundant and species rich on these sites and that derelict sites are very valuable.

The project would help to achieve the targets and priority actions set out in this plan and contributes to the overall aims and objectives of the BAP in the following ways:

- Demonstration of the biodiversity value of brownfield sites.
- Demonstration of the clear wildlife potential of brownfield sites.
- Demonstration of the biodiversity value of brownfield sites in the context of the government planning policy context.
- Addresses the lack of up to date information with respect to brownfield sites.
- Facilitates the recognition of the biodiversity value of derelict sites in respect of development planning.
- Identifies derelict sites of particular significance for biodiversity.
- Improves the information available about the biodiversity value of derelict sites for planners and developers.
- Ensures that the production of the Local Development Frameworks in relevant areas considers the value of derelict sites.
- As an incidental result this would enable the identification of sites that

would qualify as County Wildlife Sites.

- The location of rare species would be identified and liaison is being undertaken with local specialists.
- Improves the survey database for derelict sites.
- Identifies key features of derelict sites for biodiversity.

This is likely to also be beneficial with respect to Species actions plans related to this habitat, Pipistrelle Bat, Great Crested Newt and Song Thrush.

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

- *Description of the desired state or condition towards which the project is working.*
- Survey of brownfield sites in the Peterborough Sub Region. The priority for the sequence of site survey has been determined through consideration of biodiversity potential and threat from development. This has been based both on the local specialist knowledge of entomologists and liaison with officers of Peterborough City Councils Planning Department. Please see attached site list. The 50 sites of most potential interest and which are under greatest threat from this table have been selected for survey in phase 1 of the project. Sites which are already SSSI or CWS are necessarily included in this list and their brownfield invertebrate biodiversity value/potential is acknowledged. The priority of these sites for survey has been considered by the project group, which has concluded that as they already have a degree of protection, even if this doesn't include invertebrate biodiversity, they are therefore not a priority for the survey effort that is available.
- The desired end state is that the biodiversity value of these sites is recognised in both the current planning system and the production of the Local Development Framework.
- The project will use habitat assessment forms in phase 1 (example attached) to provide an indication of whether a brownfield site could have significant invertebrate interest. For those that do this information will be passed on to the planning department with a recommendation that the group assesses that the site could fall under the PPG3 definition of Previously Developed Land, which excludes those sites which have blended into the landscape and have significant nature conservation importance. The significance under PPS 9 will also be assessed. This information should be taken account of in the development of the Local Development Framework, and in determining planning applications under the existing local plan. It is also of relevance to the development of a Peterborough Green Grid Strategy.
- The most important sites identified will then be surveyed in greater detail in phase 2 of the project during 2007 (funding permitting), which will provide

stronger evidence as to why these sites should not be developed, using existing PPG3 and PPS9 thresholds.

#### **4. ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

- *Brief description of key project activities and their associated outputs.*

The project will use habitat assessment forms to provide an indication of whether a brownfield site could have significant invertebrate interest. Problems with site access have not yet been encountered, however should this prove a significant problem for an identified site then the form allows for an assessment of the site to be made from publicly accessible land such as the site periphery and Rights of Way. This approach has been successfully used by Buglife in a Project they have undertaken in London. For those sites which are identified as of significant interest this information will be passed on to the relevant planning authority with a recommendation that the group assesses that the site could fall under the PPG3 definition of Previously Developed Land, which excludes those sites which have blended into the landscape and have significant nature conservation importance. This information should be taken account of in the development of the Local Development Framework, and in determining planning applications under the existing local plan. It is also of relevance to the development of a Peterborough Green Grid Strategy. Please see attached initial site survey sheet and list of priority sites.

The most important sites identified will then be surveyed in greater detail during 2007 (funding permitting), which will provide stronger evidence as to why these sites should not be developed, using existing PPG3 and PPS9 thresholds.

#### **5. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

*Identification of lead organisation and lead contact;*

*Description of the roles and responsibilities of all participating organisations;*

*For larger projects, a description of formal project structures (e.g., steering committees or advisory groups).*

- The Lead Organisation is English Nature who are directly managing the Phase 1 survey work.
- English Nature are acting as the lead organisation and providing specialist support in all of the areas outlined below.
- Buglife are providing specialist support.
- Peterborough City Council is providing specialist advice with respect to those sites which would qualify as derelict, planning contexts and potential development pressures.
- The Wildlife Trust have provided specialist advice with respect to those

sites which are derelict and have biodiversity potential.

- Local experts are providing specialist advice with respect to those sites which are derelict and have potential for biodiversity.
- The project group and structure is as described above and in section 1.

## 6. TIMEFRAME AND WORKPLAN

*Duration of the project;*

*Key milestones.*

The duration of the project is intended to be over the years 2006 (phase 1) and 2007 (phase 2).

Key milestones are:

- The assessment of sites in the 2006 survey season.
- The production of an interim report with respect to the phase 1 findings.
- The passing of information indicating in a planning context if a site has the potential to have significant invertebrate biodiversity interest to the planning authority following surveys in 2006.
- The survey of sites of most importance in greater detail in 2007 as identified by the 2006 survey work.
- The passing of information to the LPA following 2007 survey work providing stronger evidence as to why these sites should not be developed, using existing PPG3 and PPS9 thresholds.

## 7. BUDGET

*Breakdown of anticipated costs by budget line;*

*Contributions (financial and in-kind) from partner organisations.*

*External match funding*

### **Summary budget for Peterborough brownfield surveys**

#### **Project expenditure**

#### **Phase 1**

Phase 1 brownfield surveys 51 sites and interim phase 1 report	4500
Data inputting @ £200pd	1000
Printing (maps, reports etc)	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,000</b>

£3500 has been contributed towards phase 1 of the project by English Nature, they are also managing the project.

£1000 has been contributed towards phase 1 of the project by PCC from PCC budget not ODPM.

The project group would welcome a contribution from the Biodiversity Partnership towards phase 1 of the project. This is requested to cover the cost of data capture for phase 1 of the project, i.e. up to £1000.

Ideally the production of reports and maps etc will be undertaken professionally if funding is available. If funding for this cannot be secured then printing will be undertaken using the facilities available internally to the project group.

## **8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS**

*Description of arrangements for capturing lessons learned;*

*Arrangements for internal/external reviews, where appropriate (e.g., for larger projects);*

*Identification of indicators and a description of the data gathering strategy that will be used to assess progress (for larger projects only).*

English Nature and the project group will monitor and review the project and capture any lessons from the work undertaken.