

Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership Biodiversity Update

www.NaturalShropshire.org.uk



January 2011

Introduction

It has been a busy year for the biodiversity partnership as we respond to changes in national biodiversity strategy and funding opportunities. The annual newsletter will now include an update from the Shropshire Ecological Data Network (SEDN). This will summarise the latest progress with the SEDN and pass on news of exciting new finds.

The coming year will be a challenging one for local biodiversity partnerships across the country. We will have to find ways to continue conserving our species, habitats and landscapes in an economic environment where considerably less funding is likely to be available. There is a strong desire within the Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership to increase the delivery of direct conservation actions, and build on the excellent projects already underway.

The steering group will discuss the best way forward once the biodiversity strategy of Natural England has been clarified. In the mean time please keep up the good work and take advantage of opportunities to enjoy and conserve the biodiversity of Shropshire.

Shropshire BAP Delivery Plan

A third revision of the Delivery Plan is now available on BARS. This plan includes overarching tasks that are beyond the scope of individual species or habitat action plans. It also acts as a work programme for the Biodiversity Officer post.

The current plan is available to view on BARS at: <http://bit.ly/7m5sog>

Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership Annual Meeting

The 2011 annual meeting for the Shropshire biodiversity partnership has now been arranged. It will feature a range of talks and posters and refreshments will be provided.

Location: The Gateway, Chester street Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB.

Date: 10th March 2011

Time: 18:00-21:00

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Biodiversity officer update



Biodiversity Action Reporting System

www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk

BARS is our mechanism for recording biodiversity action. This online database is currently undergoing a comprehensive redevelopment and sneak previews of the new version are now available. The BARS update will introduce two key changes.

- New mapping capabilities – Enabling users to view the geographical distribution of actions and report biodiversity action across a landscape.
- Tightening data standards

Please continue to report all actions that benefit biodiversity. Please include a six figure grid reference for the site in question as the new version of BARS will require this. Grid references can be obtained here <http://bit.ly/fu2emT>

Community Biodiversity Project Officer

Gareth Parry has now started his position at Shropshire Council as the Community Biodiversity Project Officer. Half of this post will provide support to the Biodiversity Officer, whilst the other half will be delivering a Rural Development Programme for England (RPDE) LEADER biodiversity project in the North of Shropshire. There are more details about the LEADER project later on in the newsletter.

Natural Shropshire Website

The website is maintained by the Biodiversity Officers (Dan Wrench and Gareth Parry). It is used as a communication tool for the Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership and species recording groups.

The site provides

- A list of all known [County Recorders](#) or key experts for species groups in Shropshire.
- Web pages and links for many species groups.
- Maps of known records for many species groups.
- [The Species Biodiversity Map](#). Listing all the species uploaded by the species groups for a given tetrad. It also lists which species are UK or local BAP species.
- A list of all Shropshire, and UK, [BAP habitats](#) and [BAP species](#) – with links to further information.
- Specific [projects](#) led by the Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership
- [Reference documents](#) and minutes relating to the partnership
- [Events](#) – An up to date calendar of field excursions lead by species recording groups and local biodiversity volunteering opportunities.

Species currently mapped on Natural Shropshire

Fungi (BAP species), Lichens (all species), Mosses & Liverworts (all species), Plants (BAP species), Dragonflies (all species), Craneflies (all species), Big-Headed Flies (all species), Thick-headed Flies (all species), Hoverflies (BAP species), Moths (all species), Ladybirds (all species), Reptiles (all species), Birds (BAP species), Mammals Water Vole, Dormouse, Brown Hare, otter, polecat, Hoverflies (all species), Long-horn Beetles (all species), Butterflies (all species).



Shropshire Ecological Data Network

THE SEDN concept

With severe government spending cutbacks on their way, the SEDN model of local records centre (LRC) is a good way to demonstrate value for money. Traditionally, LRCs have as a very simple model with a few staff compiling records collected around their county. LRCs usually employ one data inputter, one data outputter and a manager and cost around £150,000 per year, with most of the running costs falling to the local authority. LRCs try to recoup some of their costs by charging consultants for access to data. This means they cannot put their records into the public domain without undermining their income.

The SEDN is very different. In Shropshire we do not have a formal Records Centre with its data-putters and managers. Instead, we invite naturalists to bid for funds to build up a database that is freely available to everyone. This means that consultants do not have to pay for access to data, as they can download it freely from the internet, like everyone else. This system is cheap to run. This year (2010-2011) we are spending just £17,000 and we are buying all the biological records that are available. No bids were turned down. All county recorders are invited to make a bid, providing they can supply data to the standards we set. This year that has resulted in 300,000 records being collected.

No records centre has ever come anywhere near this level of productivity. In fact, few LRCs have ever uploaded entire datasets to the NBN at full resolution. This has resulted in the Shropshire database being the most utilised NBN dataset, accounting for around 50% of all the hits on the web site. This means wildlife can be much more effectively conserved in Shropshire, because everyone knows where the threatened species are – the developers, the conservationists and the government agencies.

Some questions have been raised about the future of SEDN. Does it undermine voluntary recording by paying people? Does it undermine itself by giving away the data? So far there has been no sign of reduced voluntary recording. In fact, the county recorders do not really see SEDN as a commercial activity. Most of them simply charge a fee that goes toward their activities – petrol costs, bat detectors, newsletters, etc. It is certainly not a sinecure, because they have to bid to provide data to very exacting standards. The question of undermining ourselves seems irrelevant. Our principle is that if the public pays for it, then it is only fair and proper that the public gets it.

The SEDN has boosted recording meaning there are more records coming in each year than ever before. The biggest problem for any LRC is that records need to be up-to-date. Old data sets, made 20-30 years ago, are of relatively little value for planning. So by stimulating the collection of records to a high standard, we can create more skilled and active recorders, and hopefully there will be an ongoing demand for their work.

Against many expectations, spending a little bit of money in the voluntary sector has earned huge benefits for Shropshire Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England by delivering a much better than average LRC for a tiny fraction of the normal cost. And the people of Shropshire get exactly what they are paying for – protection of wildlife and access to data for free. Visit Natural Shropshire or the NBN Gateway and take a look.



Shropshire Ecological Data Network

Species records update

The online species recording form (<http://bit.ly/8AWZm5>) has recorded 248 records from members of the public since it started in early 2010. This includes many records from people not involved with the partnership and some interesting records - particularly of mammals which we have very few records of. The form is aimed at occasional records so regular recorders should use existing recording systems (<http://bit.ly/dRIBGM>).

New species to Shropshire:

Natural Shropshire now includes a list of new species found in the county. Here's a selection from the list...

Violet Coral (*Clavaria zollingeri*) found by Shiela Spence at Stocksay Churchyard on 02/10/2010.

Tanner Beetle (*Prionus coriarius*)
Found by William Jones at Packwood Haugh School, Ruyton-xi-Towns in July 2010.

Water-lily leaf miner (*Hydromyza livens*)
Found by Dan Wrench at Colemere in July 2010.

Bishop's Mitre Shield Bug (*Aelia acuminata*)
found by Ian Cheeseborough and Nigel Jones on spoil at Stiperstones in 2010

Two Coloured Mason Bee (*Osmia bicolor*)
found by Ian Cheeseborough in Lea Quarry, Wenlock Edge in 2010.

A true fly (*Rhamphomyia (Pararhamphomyia) physoprocta*). Found by Nigel Jones at Brown Moss in July 2010.

Large Pale Clothes Moth (*Tinea pallescentella*)
found in Oswestry by Mike Haigh in May 2010.

Violet Oil-beetle (*Meloe violaceus*) Found by Ian Cheeseborough and Nigel Jones in April 2010 as a larvae attached to a solitary bee.



Sharing and recording nature with iSpot

The last edition of the newsletter introduced the iSpot website. This site provides a place for members of the public to learn more about wildlife and to share their interest with a friendly community. Already it has resulted in a new species records for the UK (<http://www.ispot.org.uk/node/7407>)

Through iSpot people can upload photos of the plants and animals they see. Species experts visit the site to help with identification and in return gain useful records, publicity for their recording group and perhaps new recruits.

It is hoped that new approaches which utilise social media, such as iSpot, will help to increase the number of species records generated in Shropshire by members of the public.

A team of regional biodiversity mentors are on hand to support all users of the site. Our contact is Jon Kean: j.i.kean@open.ac.uk



The European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* is one example of a UKBAP priority species for which there are few records in Shropshire (Photo Hannah Whitby).

Species recording and conservation groups

A night on the Long Mynd with the bats and moths

The Bat Group and Moth Group raised the bar for dedicated recording on Friday 24th July 2010 by spending the night out on the Long Mynd. They were given special permission from The National Trust to record over night and the event was attended by 5 members of the moth group and 8 members of the bat group. Two of the moth group and six of the bat group spent all night on the Mynd and were rewarded by a pleasant sunrise.

Bats recorded were Common & Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and possibly a Brandts bat. All bar the Common Pipistrelle were new records for the top of the Long Mynd.

Tony Jacques, the county recorder for macro-moths was particularly excited about the number of Garden Tiger moths being found.

will be searching for this butterfly elsewhere!
For more information contact

Jenny Joy

Senior Regional Officer, Butterfly Conservation
West Midlands Butterflyjoy@butterfly-conservation.org



The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene* is one of 14 priority butterfly species in the SBAP

Butterfly surveys

Butterfly Conservation ran a very successful training day on the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene* in the Stiperstones area of Shropshire on the 22nd June 2010 as part of the Midland Fritillary Project. The Midland Fritillary Project started in April 2009, is funded by Countdown 2010 and the Tubney Charitable Trust and is being run by Butterfly Conservation.

The event definitely reached new audiences as just one of the 16 people who turned up were members of Butterfly Conservation.

During the afternoon field session an amazing 62 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary were recorded on the Brook Vessons Wildlife Trust Reserve. Since then, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary have been recorded on a number of other sites in this area and it is hoped that more of the people that attended this course



The Shropshire Mammal Group have come to the end of a second successful year with activities including participation in the national small mammal monitoring scheme, surveys for Yellow-necked mice and Dormice. Events coming up in the next year include an owl pellet workshop, a talk on Harvest mice talk and a badger watch.

Ambitious plans are afoot to produce a mammal atlas for Shropshire. You can help with this process by ensuring that all mammal records made in Shropshire are submitted to the County Recorder, whether they are rabbit, mole, otter or Pine Marten!

The group's web site is hosted on the Natural Shropshire web site and can also be found at: http://bit.ly/Shrop_Mammal_Group

Local species recording and conservation groups

Whitchurch Community Water Vole Project

Malcolm Monie -
watervoles@monies.me.uk

One of the current aims of the project is to establish the boundaries of the local area that is continuously populated by water voles. To this end, survey work this summer has focussed largely on the area beyond Fenns Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses NNR. Further active sites have been found in the Cadney area near Bettisfield from where water drains towards Northwood and on into the River Roden. The main drain from Whixall Moss has been examined along the section running towards Wolverley where it too joins the Roden. The upper section, north of Newtown, is generally well used but much of the section from above Newtown down to the Roden is shaded by scrub and trees and no signs were found. Some signs were found in and near the Roden itself in the Wolverley area, but at a low density. Upstream, the brook flowing out of Colemere was examined and despite good habitat, no water vole signs were to be found. A survey 3km farther downstream revealed just one site where a couple of burrows and possible water vole feeding signs were found, as distinct from field voles which were present on the same stretch.

Meanwhile our colleagues from the North West Water Vole Project over the border in Cheshire have just completed a survey of two promising looking brooks just north of the county border near the Llangollen Canal at Quoisley where we had a negative survey day last year. They also drew blanks. We have received several reports of mink being seen along the canal in the Grindley Brook area which lies just to the south. There have also been reports of mink in the Colemere area. Further visits to the Roden area are going to be needed to establish just where the population stops and try to work out the

reasons why. At present both presence of mink and habitat quality appear to be possible factors.

For more information about the WCWVP contact Malcolm Monie
watervoles@monies.me.uk



Over 200 species of plant have been recorded in the diet of Water voles *Arvicola amphibious*. It has been found that populations have often developed local tolerances to the toxins produced by some plants. (photo J.Hughes)

Shropshire Invertebrates Group Visit the Nesscliffe Training Area

The Shropshire Invertebrates Group paid a visit to this restricted area on 19th July and were granted access to the [southern part](#) adjacent to the River Severn. They found a large area of grazed farmland with some mature hedgerows and small areas of woodland, all of which showed little sign of "improvement". A track down to a pool was kept as a conservation area. Although, nothing of great rarity was spotted, and efforts were partly thwarted by showers, the area showed greater promise than typical farmland in the county.

Species recorded included: Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus parallelipedus*, White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes*, Bird Cherry Ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*, Small China-mark *Cataclysta lemnata*, Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* caterpillar, which came off Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvensis*. Mines of the fly *Phytoliriomyza melampyga* were present on Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* – and this species has previously been found by the River Onny at Craven Arms, also on Himalayan Balsam.

For more information contact
 Godfrey Blunt - A.G.Blunt@wlv.ac.uk

Biodiversity projects



Photo (John Box): Species rich grassland at Randlay Valley, showing the abundance of common spotted and southern marsh orchids

Species and Habitat Conservation in the Heart of Telford

Randlay Valley is a wildlife site less than a mile from Telford Town Centre, where this year the Council and local groups have been working together to conserve Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats. The site comprises of wooded pit-mounds, ancient woodland, wet woodland and grassland habitats. BAP species include bluebell, southern marsh orchid, dingy skipper, song thrush, bullfinch, latticed heath moth and red carpet moth. Telford and Wrekin Council successfully manage the site to conserve and enhance biodiversity, which includes:

- Meadow management of grassland areas to increase species diversity and allow orchids to flourish, making it one of the best sites in the Borough.
- Keeping the scrub under control and providing bare ground to support invertebrates, including the dingy skipper butterfly
- Maintaining habitat features which are beneficial to reptiles, including grass snake, common lizard and slow worm
- Improving access and awareness of the site through the local 'Friends Of' group and the Telford Access to Nature Project
- Site surveying and monitoring by the Wrekin Forest Volunteers, co-ordinated by Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Shropshire Hills AONB

Heartwoods are applying to SITA for funding to manage at least six Shropshire woodlands. They will be carrying out full vegetation surveys, to National Vegetation Classification standards, prior to carrying out works, and are keen to ensure that the thinning and coppice works do not harm existing biodiversity interests. It is hoped that removal of non-native species and restoration of Plantation on Ancient Woodland to native broadleaved woodland will restore or 'achieve condition' of nearly 200ha.

Biodiversity projects



Photo (Gareth Parry): Pool surveyed by a community group in Baschurch Parish and identified as a potential site for biodiversity management action

Your Natural Heritage

Shropshire has some wonderful countryside containing fantastic flora and fauna. The county also has some great naturalists gathering extremely useful species information. Unfortunately, unlike many other counties we know very little about the habitats present in Shropshire. Habitat information is crucial to the conservation of all our wildlife, whether it is the Silver studded blue, Lapwings, Great Crested Newts, Water Voles or Otters. Shropshire also has a number of remarkable plants, such as White Beak-sedge and Floating Water-plantain.

We would like to improve our collective knowledge of our local habitats and species, and help communities to discover and protect their own local biodiversity. The 'Your Natural Heritage' project is being run by Shropshire Council and funded by the Rural Development Programme for England. It will offer communities in North Shropshire the chance to improve their species identification skills and learn how to undertake simple habitat surveys. This will enable them to undertake local biodiversity audits, to see exactly what is living on their doorstep. The project will also be able to provide support and funding to help some communities improve or protect the best local areas. The result will be fantastic local habitat maps and possibly uncovering hidden gems of our natural heritage.

The project began in November 2010 and introductory session will be taking place across North Shropshire over the next few months. To get involved, find out more information or attend your local introduction session contact the Gareth Parry gareth.parry@shropshire.gov.uk 01743 252543



Biodiversity projects



Yellow Bird's-nest (Caroline Uff), Lea Quarry south (Lucy Cordrey), Wall Brown (David Williams)

Creating a biodiversity legacy at quarries on Wenlock Edge

Wenlock Edge is a dramatic and special place for people and wildlife. The National Trust have been working with the local community, stakeholders and mineral quarry companies to secure the long term future of this distinctive landscape. It is seeking to secure over £5.0m to ensure the long term legacy of Wenlock Edge and revitalise around **120ha of former quarry sites** for people and wildlife.

Lea North, Lea South, Lilleshall and Coates quarries are contiguous with a 12 mile strip of National Trust owned ancient semi-natural and replanted woodland along Wenlock Edge. The quarries, currently owned by Bardon Aggregates, are now closed and discussion has commenced regarding their future use and ownership. Much of the area is designated as a geological and biological SSSI and lies partially within the Shropshire Hills AONB. It is a regionally important geological site (RIGS) and a Shropshire BAP 'Priority Area for Action'.

The quarries contain a diversity of UK BAP habitats including calcareous grassland, standing open water and broadleaved woodland. Limestone grasslands and bare ground support specialist species such as basil thyme, red hemp nettle, bee orchid, dyers greenweed, autumn gentian, dingy skipper, wall brown, small heath and several nationally scarce species of hymenoptera. Wooded and transitional areas support dormice and yellow bird's nest. Whilst peregrine falcons nest on the cliff faces and the pools support a large great crested newt population.

The National Trust, with input from an ecological steering group has proposed that the ecological priority for the quarries is to maintain and restore the open habitat, with a focus on calcareous grassland and disturbed ground. The pondscape should be extended for great crested newt, and existing dormouse habitat protected and hedgerow links improved. It has been proposed that the quarry pools could be used as a crayfish ark site, providing a safe haven for native crayfish. Other potential projects include reintroducing grizzled skipper butterflies and kidney vetch, setting up a bird watching and ringing site, and a red kite feeding station. Three improved arable fields link Lilleshall and Lea quarries and offer the opportunity to create rich habitat links between the sites.

Recent 'restorative' tree planting and natural succession is currently threatening the open habitat and associated rich biodiversity of the quarries. The National Trust has already been managing a small section of Lea North quarry, restoring the calcareous grassland through grazing and scrub clearing. Clearance has also started on two areas of species rich calcareous grassland known to support dingy skipper colonies.

There is the potential to restore over 40ha of lowland calcareous grassland within the quarries, which would be a significant proportion of the West Midlands target. However, the future of the quarry habitats is by no means secure and negotiations are still on-going to protect, conserve and make the most of the special qualities of Wenlock Edge.

Biodiversity projects

Fight for your Whites

Butterfly Conservation's South Shropshire Woods project is aimed increasing populations of the Wood White butterfly through targeted management in a network of Forestry Commission owned woodlands between Clun and Craven Arms.

The Wood White is a UK BAP Priority Species which has undergone a 65% decline in range over the past 30 years. A recent study has shown that only around 50 colonies of this butterfly remain in England and that the Wood White is the woodland species most at risk. South Shropshire is a key component of one of the 4 last remaining regions where the species is still relatively widespread and is capable of colonizing new sites.

Lack of appropriate woodland management, increased levels of shade in woodland rides and the isolation of remaining colonies from each other have been identified as major factors in the decline of the Wood White and many other woodland butterflies and moths. The project, which is supported by the SITA Trust, will focus its main attention on six woods in the area.

For more information contact
Stephen Lewis
slewis@butterfly-conservation.org



Nominate your top 10 Biodiversity priorities

Members of the Shropshire Biodiversity partnership and local natural history groups are being asked to nominate their priority actions that are needed to help conserve the biodiversity of Shropshire. These actions could be anything that will provide direct biodiversity conservation on the ground. For example, they could include restoration of heathland in the Telford area, reversing succession at a specific Mere, or scrub clearance somewhere on Wenlock Edge.

These suggestions will help to direct the delivery of the Shropshire BAP and ensure that we effectively use the funds and resources available to provide maximum possible benefit for biodiversity in Shropshire.

Please submit your suggestions using the online form on the Natural Shropshire website <http://bit.ly/eL00xi>, or alternatively email them to Gareth Parry gareth.parry@shropshire.gov.uk

Biodiversity projects and Parish Plans

Many parishes have completed or are undertaking a parish plan. Several of these plans identified a desire for local biodiversity projects. If you have completed a biodiversity project, as a result of the Parish plan, please remember to report it to the biodiversity officers, as it may contribute towards the Shropshire BAP. The Community Council for Shropshire would also like to hear about these projects.

LBAP coordinators Dan.wrench@shropshire.gov.uk
gareth.parry@shropshire.gov.uk
CCS: Sara Botham Sara.Botham@shropshirercc.org.uk



Many valuable ponds are threatened by succession. Management has begun to address this at a pond in Shawbury (photo Gareth Parry)

Opportunities to get involved

Biodiversity Events and volunteering opportunities

A calendar with up to date listings of [events](#) can be found on the Natural Shropshire web site. Over the past few months efforts have been made to increase the number of partners advertising their events on this calendar. We would like this to become a one-stop shop for people looking to volunteer or attend biodiversity events in Shropshire. We would like to ask all groups who run events to add them to this calendar, so that we can advertise the events and direct people to a single location where they can view the events they may like to attend. It is hope that this will help to improve attendance and could result in new members!

It is very simple to promote your events on the Natural Shropshire calendar. Simply create a Google calendar for your group, link it to the Natural Shropshire calendar and hey presto, any events added to your group's calendar will automatically appear on the Natural Shropshire one. For more information please contact Dan Wrench dan.wrench@shropshire.gov.uk

HLF Young roots programme

The young roots program designed to engage young people aged 13-25 with their heritage. Young Roots projects stem directly from the interest and ideas of young people, who are supported by youth and heritage organisations to develop skills, build confidence, and connect with their local communities. This can include biodiversity projects and we understand that this fund is currently undersubscribed. For more information please look here <http://bit.ly/5z4aXW>.

Welsh Marches natural history book

Andrew Allott has spent the last few years writing the text of a book about the natural history of Shropshire and adjacent areas. It will be titled 'Welsh Marches' and appear in the Collins New Naturalist series. The book should raise the profile of the natural history of our part of the world and promote its conservation.

The current task is to find photos to illustrate the book - about 250 in total. Andrew would like to include the work of as many local photographers as possible. In most cases fees cannot be offered as there is no photo budget; however, the house style is for the name of the photographer to be in a prominent place in the caption for each photo, so there is a bit of publicity.

The book is very much a regional natural history so all the photos must have been taken in the Marches and epitomise its landscape and what is special about its natural history. For example, the book needs a photo of a long haired fallow deer from Mortimer Forest rather than a short haired fallow deer taken in the New Forest! Generally the images need to be high definition.

If you think you have images that could be included please contact Andrew on aja@shrewsbury.org.uk



The Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* is a priority species for Shropshire. You can hear more about it at the annual meeting on March 10th (photo John Hughes)

Useful contact details and book reviews

Shropshire BAP coordinators

Dan Wrench – dan.wrench@shropshire.gov.uk, Gareth Parry – gareth.parry@shropshire.gov.uk

County recorder contact details

Shropshire Mammal Group	John Mackintosh	mackintosh@metronet.co.uk
Shropshire Bat Group	John Morgan	shropshire.batrecords@blueyonder.co.uk
Shropshire Badger Group		PO BOX 100, Whitchurch, SY13 4WX
Shropshire Ornithological Society	Geoff Holmes	geoff.holmes.4@btinternet.com
Shropshire Barn Owl Group	John Lightfoot	j.lightfoot@tiscali.co.uk
Shropshire Amphibian & Reptile Group	Fran Lancaster	fran.lancaster@shropshire.gov.uk
Butterfly Conservation (Acting county recorder)	Nigel Stone	njstone@tiscali.co.uk
Moths (macro moths)	Tony Jacques	b-mcvc40@talktalk.net
Moths (micro moths)	Godfrey Blunt	A.G.Blunt@wlv.ac.uk
Ladybirds	Ian Thompson	salopladybirds@f2s.com
Diptera (True Flies)	Nigel Jones	shropsIG@insectpix.net
Bees & Wasps	Ian Cheeseborough	ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk
Craneflies	Pete Boardman	pete@field-studies-council.org
Invertebrates (general)	Pete Boardman	pete@field-studies-council.org
Dragonflies	Ian Cheeseborough	ian.cheeseborough@yahoo.co.uk
Spiders	John Partridge	john.partridge@blueyonder.co.uk
Botanical Society of the British Isles County Recorder	Sarah Whild	s.j.whild@bham.ac.uk
Shropshire Fungus Group	Roy Mantle	Roy@homepccemail.co.uk
Lichens	Roy Mantle	Roy@homepccemail.co.uk
Border Bryologists	Mark Lawley	m.lawley@virgin.net

General recording groups covering several species groups

Whitchurch Community Water	Malcolm Monie	Watervoles@monies.me.uk
Vole Project		
Upper Onny Wildlife Group & Upper Clun Wildlife Group	Leo Smith	leo.smith@dsl.pipex.com

BOOK REVIEW - British Moths and Butterflies: A Photographic Guide.

Chris Manley

By Godfrey Blunt - A.G.Blunt@wlv.ac.uk

Review of Chris Manley's "British Moths and Butterflies: A Photographic Guide" published by A. & C. Black in paperback, December 2008 (ISBN 13: 9780713686364, retails at about £23). This guide illustrates all British butterflies and a very good selection of both macro moths and micros, with a limited number of caterpillars. The photos are generally large and clear. The main criticism is that they have no indication of scale, which may confuse the less experienced lepidopterist trying to locate an unfamiliar moth. Manley also shows only a limited range of the variation of species and as a result the book may be less helpful in certain parts of the UK. In field tests in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Dorset, however, I have found the book surprisingly useful for identification purposes and it is probably the best guide to British micro moths currently available outside specialist works. In fact, it is really four books rolled into one - butterflies, larger moths, micro moths, caterpillars - so you can tackle much of the British Lepidoptera with just the one work