



PEAK DISTRICT BAP FORUM 2008 Workshop Summaries

Workshop 5 – Wetland Vision

A number of organisations are delivering works to improve the condition of riparian habitats and species. How can a Wetland Vision for the Peak District help to guide and drive this work?

The groups discussed the issues around wetlands:

- The Dark Peak landscape is easier to work with
- The White Peak has the most important river corridors
- There is too much gardening and not enough farming
- There are a number of different projects working on wetlands/river corridors but issues of coordination
- There are problems with different interest groups
- Household drainage also needs to be considered, including soakaways, small sewage works for hamlets
- Potential to use reedbed filter systems which would have the dual purpose of cleansing water and habitat creation
- Catchment Sensitive Farming project is prioritised but is this correct? There is nothing included for reedbed creation
- Should intensive farms be targeted? There has been intensification of slurry spreading which is high in phosphates and ammonia
- The water flow is too low to flush out phosphates
- Reservoirs upstream are holding back water which impacts on the flow
- Agricultural economics must be considered
- There is a role for the National Park Authority in facilitating economic growth/stability in the agricultural community
- Landowners must be engaged with

The groups summarised thus:

- If a strategy were to be put in place we should be able to deliver, without a strategy we may not
- A Wetland Vision or Strategy should be based on the landscape and the Landscape Character Assessment types
- What should the scale of the Vision be? Catchment or sub-catchment?
- It should be nationally linked, learning from other areas, and seeking resources/funding
- Existing research needs to be investigated and collated – what has been done that works both inside the Peak District and in other areas
- A Vision/Strategy needs to take account of sewage and slurry
- The Water Framework Directive will be a major driver of change