

Proceedings from the Conference:

Public Bodies and Biodiversity: Conserving Wildlife in Wiltshire

27th June 2007, Science Museum, Swindon

Organised by Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Partnerships

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Introduction

Documents given out on the day

(Please contact Sarah Wilkinson if you would like copies of any of these, specifying the number that you would like if you require hard copies)

- **Doing your Duty for Biodiversity poster** (WWT) (A3) (hard copies and electronic copies available)
- **Public Authorities and Biodiversity leaflet** (WWT) (A4 folded to A5) (hard copies and electronic copies available)
- **Biodiversity Checklist for Public Authorities** (WWT) (A4 sheet) (hard copies and electronic copies available)
- **Defra guidance for public authorities** (Defra) (A4 booklet) hard copies and electronic copies available)
- **Defra guidance for local authorities** (Defra) (A4 booklet) hard copies and electronic copies available)
- **Increasing the Momentum: A Vision Statement for Biodiversity in Local Government** (ALGE) (A4 booklet) hard copies available)

List of attendees

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Carbon Offsetting

Money has been set aside in the Conference budget to offset the carbon created through the Conference organisation and through delegate travel to the event. David Miles from the Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre was present at the event, and calculated that approximately 0.79 tonnes of carbon dioxide had been generated through these means. To offset this the Conference organisers will provide additional money for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust projects in Swindon to plant 100 trees. In addition 3 lofts will be insulated in Swindon (one loft will offset between 0.5 and 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ in one year depending on how much insulation is already present). These measures will serve to go over and above offsetting the actual amount of carbon dioxide produced, making the conference carbon neutral.

Presentations

Morning Session

Chair – Dr. Gary Mantle, Director of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Presentation 1: Dr Gary Mantle, Director of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A short presentation entitled “Our Wonderful World” was given by Gary Mantle, as he formally welcomed all delegates. Dr. Mantle posed three key questions for delegates to think about during the day;

- What is your organisation’s impact on Biodiversity?
- How can you use your role within your organisation to have a positive influence on biodiversity?
- Who do you need to contact within your organisation to have a positive influence on biodiversity, and how you can get involved in making a difference?

Presentation 2: Harry Barton, Chief Executive of the Northmoor Trust

Biodiversity: the Big Challenge

Biodiversity

- 4,500 mammals
- 9,000 birds
- 250,000 flowering plants
- 800,000 fungi
- 10 million insects?

“The single thing for which future generations are least likely to forgive us is the continued loss of genetic diversity.” Professor E.O. Wilson

“We could never have loved the Earth so well if we had had no childhood in it” George Eliot

A great deal of progress has been made to date, however, we are still losing precious and important biodiversity sites, habitats and species.

We need to keep in mind and explain to others, the real meaning of Biodiversity – as many will either; i) not know what it means, or ii) use it in everyday language without taking on board, the proper definition and impact of the term.

Biodiversity needs to be brought back to the basics. It consists of diversity and variety rather than quantity. There are three main areas that we need to concentrate on;

- Life forms (character, charismatic)
- Species (including mammals, birds, flowering plants, trees, landscapes, fungi and insects, etc)
- Habitats

Genetic diversity cannot be regained easily – it takes generations to build up the gene pool again.

Biodiversity is critical and we all have the ability within our respective organisations to get the general public and colleagues etc. involved.

Development doesn't have to be at the expense of biodiversity

Steps forward;

- Create and replace biodiversity
- Recovery of existing biodiversity
- Change of lifestyle and promotion to the masses
- Right and appropriate management
- Raise awareness, raise awareness, raise awareness!
- Link purchasing decisions to the impact it makes (e.g. – packaging, etc)

A frightening thought is the very real possibility that Climate Change could be a greater threat than terrorism!

How much are we prepared to pay for biodiversity?

Floods of 2000 cost over £3 billion. Floods of 2007?

Half of all ancient semi-natural woodland lost since 1950

98% of lowland species rich grassland lost since 1950

Promises made by the government...

Labour Manifesto, 1997

"We will put concern for the environment at the heart of policy making, so that it is not an add on extra but informs the whole of government, from housing and energy policy through to global warming and international agreements."

"The policy tools of environmental management are public spending, regulation and taxation. If you are ideologically disinclined to use any of these tools then it is difficult to get beyond piety and exhortation."

Tom Burke

The role of local government and local organisations is generally much more important than is often thought. It is easy to think that everything goes back to central government, but on the ground implementation is carried out locally, and central government tends to react to what they hear from the grass roots level. We are all waiting for someone else to take the lead – why shouldn't local/statutory organisations step into the breach?

Questions and comments

Comment: Cllr Bobbie Chettleborough, Salisbury District Council

Cllr Chettleborough highlighted the issue of developers taking trees down, in many cases without permission (often promising to replace them with new trees – and not doing so). It is often not noticed that the trees have gone until a planning application has been made. New and clearer rules and punishments need to be set up.

Comment: Susan Stangroom, North Somerset Council

A Biodiversity Checklist should be undertaken as part of the planning process. It should also be checked prior to every application and before planning permission is granted.

Presentation 3: Mike Oxford, Policy Officer – Association of Local Government Ecologists

“Unicorns may be rarer than you think!”

Translates to: Widespread effective biodiversity action by public bodies may be rarer than you think!

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, replaces and extends a duty, from S74 of the Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000, on Ministers and Government which already requires them to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Saving species goes hand in hand with saving their habitats

Public Bodies work within the context of:

- Legislation
- Policy
- Services and good practice and actions

Primary Legislation

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	
Forestry Act 1967	Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967
Countryside Act 1968	Conservation of Seals Act 1970
Forestry Act 1979	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988	Environmental Protection Act 1990
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Planning & Compensation Act 1991
Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991	Deer Act 1991
Water Industry Act 1991	Water Resources Act 1991
Land Drainage Act 1991 + 1995	Sea Fisheries (Wildlife Cons) Act
Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Land Drainage Act 1994
Environment Act 1995	Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996
Countryside And Rights of Way Act 2000	Local Government Act 2000

Plus - Planning Legislation, Drainage Legislation *etc.*

Secondary Legislation

The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979, S.I. 1979 No.791
The Forestry (Exceptions from Restrictions of Felling) Regulations 1979, S.I. No. 792
Wildlife and Countryside (Registration to Sell etc. Certain Dead Wild Birds) Regulations 1982; S.I. 1982 No 1219
Wildlife and Countryside (Ringing of Certain Birds) Regulations 1982, S.I. 1982 No 1220
Wildlife and Countryside (Registration and Ringing of Certain Captive Birds) Regulations 1982, S.I. 1982 No 1221
Wildlife and Countryside (Claims for Compensation under section 30) Regulations 1982, S.I. 1982 No 1346
The Deer (Close Seasons) (Scotland) Order 1984, S.I. 1984 No 76

The Deer (Firearms) (Scotland) Order 1985, S.I. 1985 No 1168
The Environmental Assessment (Afforestation) Regulations 1988, S.I. 1988 No 1207
The Conservation of Seals (Common Seals) (Shetland Islands Area) Order 1991, S.I. 1991 No 2638
The Conservation of Seals (England) Order 1993, S.I. 1993 No 2876
The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, S.I. 1994 No 2716
List of Wild Birds (Sundays) Orders
List of Orders establishing Areas of Special Protection for Birds
List of Orders designating Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, S.I. 1997 No 1160
The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999,

Legislative Duties and Powers

Duties: Things Public Bodies **Must Do**

Powers: Things Public Bodies **Can Do**

Crucial Legislation

- National Parks & Countryside Act 1949
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA)
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- Impact Assessment Regulations 1999
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Consolidation of all previous legislation ...

Section 40:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”

Metaphorical Alligators!

- Missing the importance of ecological issues within the organisation
- Insufficient information to make a decision or to take action
- Failure to comply with statutory obligations
- Failure to apply national policies effectively
- Referral to the ombudsman or relevant watch dog
- Judicial Review following unlawful decision
- Poor and ill-informed professional practice / delivery of services
- £20K fine under NERC Act for not considering affects on SSSIs
- Wildlife killed, affected, lost and in decline because of poor decisions or needless and inappropriate actions!

Failure to comply

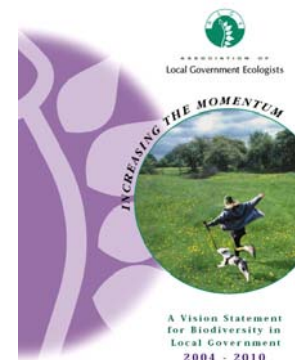
- The Cornwall Case: The High Court quashed a planning permission that potentially affected bats. The LPA had not considered the environmental/ecological information before granting permission, but conditioned a bat survey instead. They should have had the information before they granted consent!

Council services in which biodiversity plays a part – this is a much wider array of services than you might originally think!

- Land Use Planning
- Highways and Transportation
- Public Open Space
- Crematoria and Graveyards
- Leisure and Tourism
- Marketing & Economic Development
- Pest Control
- Environmental Health
- Council Farm Holdings
- Waste Management
- Legal Services Education
- Land Drainage & Flood Defence
- Housing Services
- Social Services
- Community Safety
- Health Promotion
- Libraries and Museums
- Trading Standards
- Architectural Services
- Engineering Services
- Regeneration Schemes

ALGE have produced a document entitled “Increasing the Momentum: A Vision Statement for Biodiversity in Local Government” (please contact Mike Oxford or Sarah Wilkinson if you would like a copy). This document includes 8 key service themes:

1. Political Leadership and Democratic Accountability
2. Encouraging Local Coordination and Partnership
3. Data Collection and Use
4. Planning Policy and Development Control
5. Increasing Community Awareness & Participation
6. Management of Council Land
7. Assisting Other Land Managers and Owners
8. Statutory Responsibility and Professional Competence



Theme 1. Political Leadership and Democratic Accountability

- Elected members and senior officers that are well informed about the importance of biodiversity within council services

- High regard for biodiversity as relevant to the work of all council departments (e.g. cross-cutting)
- Council *Biodiversity Position Statement* and/or *Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan*
- Allocation of financial and staff resources for biodiversity work

Theme 2: Encouraging local coordination and partnership

- LA has leading role in the Local Biodiversity Partnership
- Biodiversity part of all elements of sustainability strategies
- Biodiversity incorporated into the Community Strategy

Theme 3: Collection and use of biodiversity data

- High value attached to up to date and easily accessible biodiversity data
- Knowledge of the biodiversity present on council owned land & buildings
- A system of monitoring changes in biodiversity arising from Council decision and activities
- Promotion and financial support for local environmental records centres

Theme 4: Planning Policy and Development Control

- Good suite of planning policies
- No designated sites lost/damaged each year as a result of new development (e.g. no net loss)
- Total net gain for biodiversity as a result of new development (e.g. Net gain achieved)

Theme 5: Enabling Community Participation, Involvement and Education

- Increasing number of members of the public attending biodiversity events each year
- Increasing proportion of school children receiving / attending biodiversity events / information / field trips *etc.*
- Increasing number of local businesses actively involved and/or sponsoring biodiversity initiatives

Theme 6: Management of Local Authority Land

- Total area of SSSIs owned and managed by the Local Authority in good condition (now a duty under CROW Act 2000)
- Note: LAs own as much SSSI land as the Trusts and RSPB together!
- Total area of Council land surveyed for BAP habitats & species
- Total area of Council land managed for habitats or species
- Preparation of a map showing all council land holdings managed for biodiversity

All of the road verges in the UK would add up to an area the size of Buckinghamshire !

Theme 7: Assisting other land managers and owners

Theme 8: Statutory Responsibility and Professional Competence

- Documented compliance with all relevant legislation and policy:
 - National Parks & Access To The Countryside Act 1949
 - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

- Habitat Regulations 1994
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999
- CROW Act 2000
- NERC Act 2006
- Access to ecological expertise when necessary

How can we improve standards?

- Conserving Nature for the Community – corporate Biodiversity Action Plan produced by Hampshire County Council
- Making Contracts Work for Wildlife – how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks, produced by CABI Space
- PAS 2010: Planning to halt the loss of biodiversity. Produced by BSI and ALGE

PAS2010 and Development Control

- Pre-application discussions and advice
- Planning application forms (registration & validation)
- Consultation with Stakeholders
- Pre-decision assessment (sufficient information)
- Consider further information
- Formal determination and issue of decision
- Compliance monitoring
- Enforcement action
- Monitoring performance

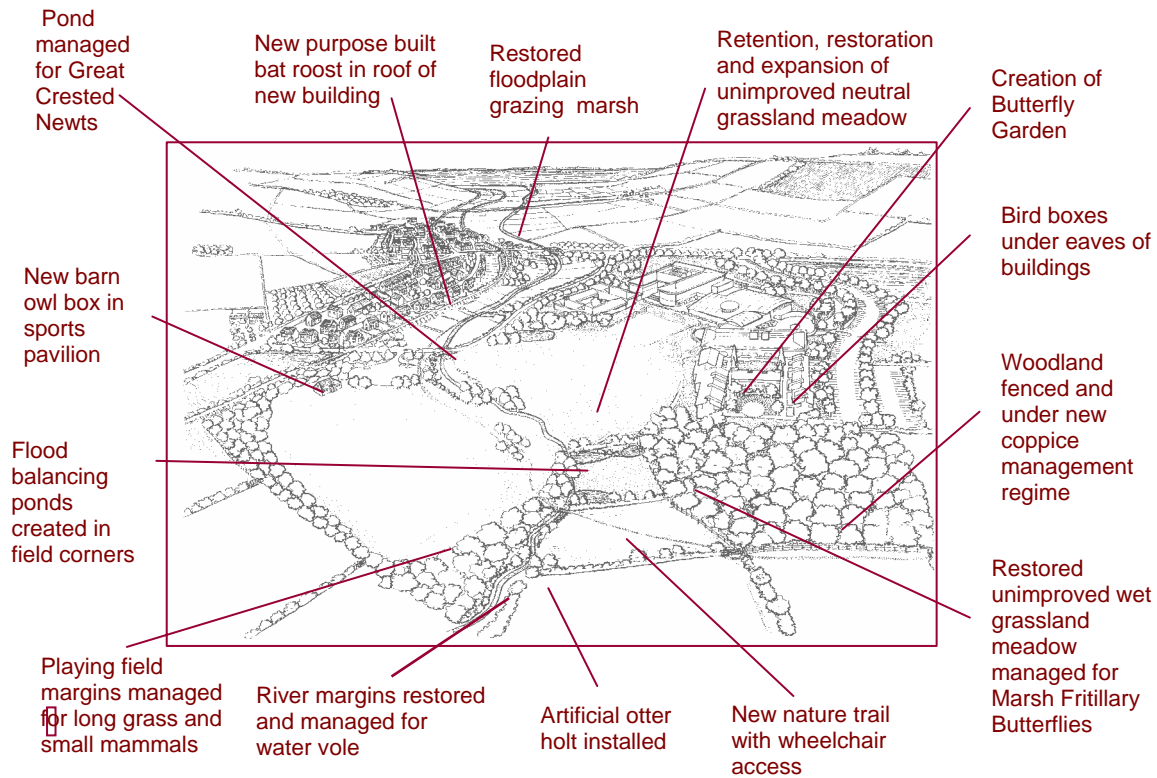
Public Inquiries and Courts beginning to recognise that we often don't know enough to make a decision!

Appeal dismissed - 14 March 2006 at Former Hack Green RAF Camp, Coole Lane, Hack Green, Austerson, Nantwich CW5 8AS

Inspector concluded that the development proposal did not meet the relevant tests in Regulation 44 of the Habitats Regulation, including maintenance of favourable conservation status of GCN (40% of Great Crested Newt habitat would be lost).

Inspector also stated that "*the provisions of the Directive [the tests] are relevant in reaching planning decisions...*" i.e. that the Local Planning Authority, as a competent authority, should have regard to the requirements of the Directive when reaching planning decisions and NOT left until the licence application stage.

New Development Delivers Gain for Biodiversity



An audit of opportunities

LAND MANAGEMENT

The Fire Service College at Morton-in-the-Marsh has undertaken a biodiversity audit of its whole site with a view to introducing sympathetic management (in partnership with Gloucestershire Wildlife Management).

FIRE SERVICE OPERATIONS

Dorset and Thames Basin Heaths

People = Increased risk of heathland fires!

Pro-active partnership to reduce these fires

Avoidance of water pollution in liaison with the Environment Agency

Review of potential damaging operations

"Everybody deserves the right to wake up and hear the dawn chorus"

John Prescott - Former Deputy Prime Minister

It is time for Public Bodies to stop ignoring the Unicorns

Time to see widespread effective action for biodiversity conservation on our land and in our operations

Questions

Gavin Bird, Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

Question: How do we put a more positive message across without being seen to be siding with a particular corner?

Answer – There is a real marketing issue that affects public bodies. Development will always happen, but there are ways and means for developers to work together with biodiversity – side by side, in relative harmony – without it having to be an all out war every time a building or extension goes up.

Susan Stangroom, North Somerset Council

Question: I have trawled the internet desperately looking for an in depth and reliable source of information (all in the same place). Do you know of any such information source or whether there is one in the pipeline?

Answer– There is nothing currently, and although it would prove a very useful resource and enable work with UK wide partners, we know of nothing that will be created in the near future.

Charlotte Rose made the point that the poster and leaflet given out with delegate packs are a suitable starting point, and were intended to condense the Defra guidance into an easily manageable format.

Hannah Griffin, Sherston Parish Council

Question: Could provision for biodiversity be written into contracts made with contractors, which could teach them to work side by side with biodiversity on developments?

Answer – this is a very good idea, that would be very productive if put in place, and if both sides were to co-operate. Combined efforts could get this into place and it would be good practice, but it is unfortunately something we will have to wait for in the future, as generally, at this current time, it isn't being used.

Afternoon session

Chair: Harry Barton, Chief Executive of the Northmoor Trust

Presentation 4: Liz Emerson, Procurement CSR Manager at BT

Climate Change and Sustainable Procurement

Why bother with Corporate Social Responsibility?

- Brand protection
- Risk Management
- Stakeholder interest
- External targets and reporting
- Bid support
- Continuous improvement
- Recognition and reputation

BT's CSR Strategy

Three Global Challenges - Procurement



CSR Initiatives

- Sourcing With Human Dignity/Ethical Trading
- Supplier Diversity
- Environment
- Product Stewardship

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Climate Change

BT's Environmental Aspect Groups

- Waste
 - Environmental Risk
 - Fuel, Energy and water resources
 - Procurement
 - Local impacts
 - Product stewardship
 - Emissions to air
 - Benefits
 - Transport
- = BT's ISO14001 registration

The Procurement Aspect

Influence through purchasing policy on BT suppliers and contractors to improve environmental performance."

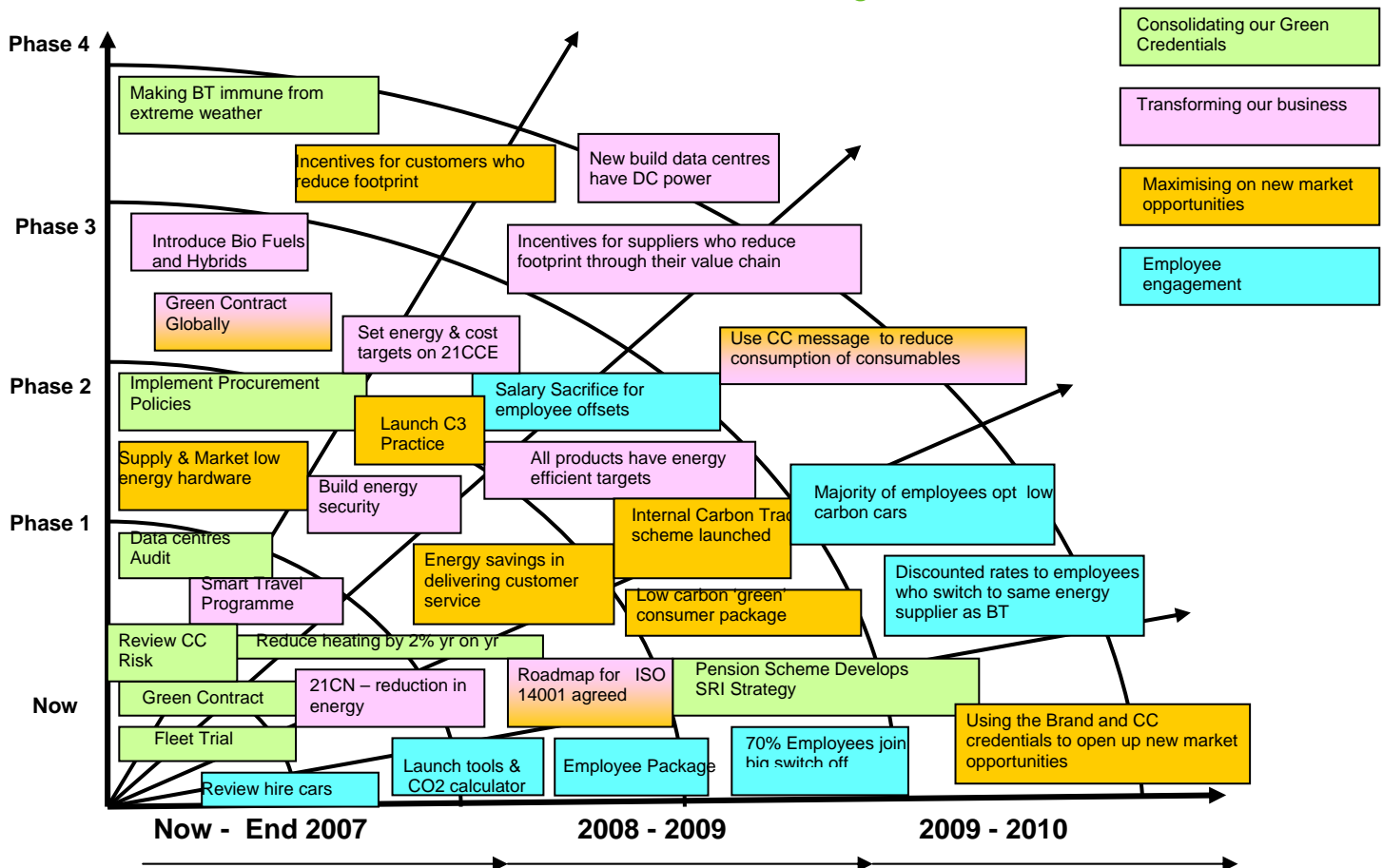
Procurement Aspect Scope:

"To ensure appropriate supplier environmental data is collected and, following evaluation of our suppliers Environmental Impacts, to encourage improvement of poor performers in significant risk areas."

Environmental purchasing in BT

- Environmental Risk posed by our supply chain
- Maturity of suppliers Environmental Management Systems
- Product Stewardship
- Legislation such as WEEE and RoHS
- Sustainable purchasing

Mapping the Road to our Vision (possible Actions) "harness communications to tackle climate change"



At the time that BT was constructing its Climate Change Strategy, we decided to look at the baselines and expectations that we needed to work to in procurement to fully mitigate the impact of the supply chain. As a result of this, we devised these three climate change procurement principles, 3 principles that will define how we work, our approach and behaviours in this space over the next 5 -10 years.

BTs Climate Change Procurement principles

1. We will harness the capability, diversity and innovation of our supply base to add value to our business and encourage suppliers to offer solutions which have a reduced environmental impact.
2. That the energy consumption and environmental impact of a product or service (from manufacture, through usage, to disposal) is a mandatory criterion in all tender adjudication.
3. That the energy consumption and environmental impact of any replacement product or service (from manufacture, through usage, to disposal) is less than its predecessor.

General points:

- 1 – Mitigating climate change is not BT's problem alone. We don't have all of the answers or all of the levers in the space.
- 2 – Your carbon foot print is our carbon footprint. Can't draw a hard line around who is responsible for which aspects of environmental impact. We have joint responsibility here.
- 3 – We need you to look at the design and end-to-end processes of the products and services that you provide to BT and see how you can reduce the environmental impact. This includes:
 - manufacturing processes
 - packaging & waste
 - how products are used in BT and by our end customers
 - your supply chains
- 4 – Access to actual energy consumption data. Work with you to define how to effectively measure this
- 5 – Clear roadmaps to help us achieve these principles



BT's Climate Change Vision

To harness communications to reduce climate change

This little girl is holding a very big balloon. The balloon represents 1kg of CO₂. To put what I have said into perspective, BT send 1 million of these balloons into the sky every day. If this amount of CO₂ really was balloons and not an invisible gas, we wouldn't be able to see the sky.

Now that's just BT. Not the customers that we serve. Not the suppliers that we buy from. Imagine how many blue balloons we collectively send up to the sky if you consider BT's supply chain end-to-end.

Now you are part of this. We need you to look to how you can reduce your emissions, help BT reduce its, and help BT's customers reduce their through the products and services that we provide.

Presentation 5: Matt Moore, Science Museum

Science Museum - Inspired

Who are we?

Part of a family of museums comprising;

The Science Museum

The National Railway Museum

The National Media Museum

- Currently we are the large object store for the Science Museum's Collections
- Over 18,000 objects stored within 11 WW2 hangars consisting of a wide range of science, technology and medical collections, comprising the firsts in invention and the real things
 - For example - the Lockheed Constellation airliner or SRN1, the worlds first hovercraft.
- We also have another 200,000 objects around the country in store – only 5% on show at any time.
- Focusing on collections management, access to the collections and education programmes
- The site is massive and currently under utilised.
- Made up of 545 acres of farmland, woodland and tarmac

So to make best use of the land, to increase interaction with the objects and to conserve them in a high quality environment the Inspired project has been developed

The Site

We acquire and manage object distribution

We conserve objects

We hold open days and events

- 11, one-acre hangars
- Offices
- Collections Management Facilities
- Education and Access Programmes
- 545-acre ex-WW2 airfield
- 2 County Wildlife Sites
- 1 SSSI

We have a Problem!

- Inefficient buildings
- Deteriorating infrastructure
- Inaccessible storage
- Expensive store in London

What's the solution?

Inspired Project

- 40,000 sq m development
- 250,000 objects under one roof
- To engage people in science
- To inspire future generations

- 220 ha of brownfield restoration

The manifesto

- We will deliver serious fun on a spectacular scale
- We will inspire ordinary people to do extraordinary things
- We will create new opportunities for children by making science exciting

The inspired project combines:

- Education
- Access
- Sustainability
- Collections Care
- In one massive facility – 50,000sq m
- Bringing 250,000 objects together under one roof – making this one of the finest exhibitions of objects since the great exhibition!
- Our main emphasis is to inspire future generations to be involved with science, technology, medicine, industry in this country and worldwide
- But also to make it exciting! As our manifesto demonstrates
- We will deliver serious fun on a spectacular scale
- We will inspire ordinary people to do extraordinary things
- We will create new opportunities for children by making science exciting

The New Hall Design

- 40,000 sq m of storage, education and conference facilities
- Super-insulated low energy building
- Chalk grassland roof mimicking surrounding countryside
- Full range of renewable energy sources including heat recovery
- Bio-digester
- Rainwater storage
- Managed visits for efficient operation
- The building itself will be an exemplar of sustainable development
- But it is important that it sits well within its surrounding environment
- And presents sustainability from a cost-effectiveness perspective – there is no point in building a structure that will be sustainable at any cost – this will not encourage other industries to take up the challenge
- We have designed it so that the building is not the icon – the objects inside are!
- To continue to try and make its operation sustainable we are looking at a managed pre-booked visit rather than open house like many other museums – this allows us to have streamlined efficient running costs

Combined with Renewed Landscape...

- 100-acres of new native woodland mimicking an adjoining Clouts Wood SSSI.
- 100-acre chalk grass land meadow with dewponds.
- Remove some MOD Fencing and plant 6 kilometres of hedgerows.
- Habitat enhancements for mammals, birds, insects and reptiles.
- Habitat improvement in building renovations
- Surveying and monitoring before, during and after construction phase.

What will it cost?
£64 Million in total

Broken down into;
£48 Million from BIG lottery Fund
£7.5 Million from private companies and charitable trusts
£8.5 Million from public sector funding

Timescales

April 2006 – Secretary of State Tessa Jowell MP opened the Engineering Building
October 2006 – The Science Library to Science Museum Swindon
May 2007 – Stage 2 Lottery bid submission
December 2007 – ITV television programme, Pop Idol style public vote
2010 – Planned opening

Finally we are beginning to make headlines and you will see a lot more of these as we work towards the public voting session on ITV next year!

Our achievements to date have galvanised support for the project inspiring confidence in our ability to deliver this project to an extremely high level.

Questions

Julia Gallager, RSPB

Question: How are stewardship agreements presently incorporated into farmed land at the Science Museum?

Answer: The land is currently leased to a tenant farmer who claims all the stewardship entitlements, this allows us to work closely with him to ensure we are farming appropriately on site. It has also provided the farmer a less valuable area of land in which to test the methodologies without severely denting income in case some of the ideas don't work as well as expected

Louisa Kilgallen, Wiltshire County Council

Question: Question: How did you determine the amount of woodland/grassland to plant, was it calculated to offset the carbon generated by the development?

Answer – The site has been designed primarily to meet nature conservation goals rather than specific carbon offset targets. Currently the majority of land is grassland, and so in the future more woodland may be introduced to the site. There is currently a staff education programme in place which will help with the transition when the land begins to be aggressively managed in sections. The ultimate goal for the site is for the Science Museum to be a rich and biodiverse site in which nature thrives! We have also worked closely with the AONB, English nature and Countryside Agency to look at the bigger landscape and how our site fits into the framework around us, for example the majority of the woodlands are located on the edge of the scarp- a feature common to this area.

Question: What if there is no lottery funding?

Answer: The buildings are modular, so we will do it in parts – the contingency plan is that it will cost £30 million to build the store with limited public facilities.

Questions to the Panel

Question: Why weren't more private sector representatives invited to this Conference?

Answer (Dagmar): This Conference was aimed at public authorities because the duty is imposed on them specifically under the NERC Act, so this was our priority when sending out invitations. We would have liked to engage more representatives from the private sector, however logistics were an issue, as the venue was at capacity. However engaging with the private sector is something that we would like to address in the future.

Harry Barton asked the floor how they felt about opening events like this up to other sectors in the future.

Answer from James Monk, Center Parcs: There is a positive feeling from the private sector. They do have an interest, for example at Center Parcs, they are proud of the rare species found on site. There are advantages to having all sectors – public, private and voluntary, and it would be good to have an event that encompasses all sectors.

Workshops

Planning

Facilitators: Mike Oxford (ALGE), Louisa Kilgallen (Wiltshire County Council), Abigail Lee (Wiltshire County Council)

The groups were asked to discuss biodiversity issues that they feel are important in planning, particularly the problems they were facing. Some of the issues they raised are listed below.

- Fragmentation of landscapes – biodiversity being picked off in small chunks, so only becomes noticeable when large amounts are lost
- Biodiversity being squeezed out of urban areas – housing density a problem
- Public perception – can be misguided about biodiversity management
- Green space needs to be built into flood storage development
- Developers need to take up the sustainability challenge
- Lack of vision/information/knowledge/direction and no provisions to follow up
- Too many policies
- Lack of resources/staff - ecologists
- Forward Planning and Development Control not communicating/interacting enough
- No comeback on developers clearing sites before putting in their applications –
- Low quality of ecological surveys submitted – difficult for planners to judge quality
- Pre-application discussions for larger developments need to involve ecologists
- Set system of communication required that everyone can follow – clear-cut and foolproof
- By only targeting protected species through the planning system we may end up making endangered species out of those which are currently common. Need a holistic approach.
- Mitigation has come to rely on tried and tested solutions. We now need to look to more innovative mitigation, accepting that some will fail, since without this we cannot move forward.

Solutions were discussed. For example, the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre is funded and used by all local authorities to identify when applications are located near to known biodiversity interests. In addition, Wiltshire County Council and Natural England currently fund a full time ecologist to work exclusively with the four districts. Mike Oxford circulated flow diagrams from "PAS 2010". This document, published by the British Standards Institute, is a

code of practice for ensuring biodiversity is adequately taken into account through forward planning and development control processes. Mike also highlighted that the whole county will be going over to a single planning application form in the autumn. This includes a question on biodiversity on all applications, except householder applications. ALGE is producing validation checklists to help local authorities assess whether applicants have supplied all the necessary information to be able to answer the question before their application is validated.

Land Management

Facilitators: Bill Jenman (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) and Simon Pickering (Cotswold Water Park Society)

The group was shown a map of an area to be developed, and were asked to think about management changes that could be made, and the blocks which might prevent them being made.

Management Changes	Barriers/Blocks
Leave edge of playing area unmown Low intensity and low level lighting –pointing downwards Cycleway on minor road Bat and bird boxes around buildings Buffer zone by side of river Scrub and long grass margin to woodland Water power from river Low intensity farming Incorporate more biodiversity into development e.g. protect veteran trees Manage scrub Dead wood for invertebrates Wider, longer hedgerows Next generation of old trees Office recycling and compost Pond etc. in playground Local food in canteen Wide verges around playing fields etc Improve car park, try and reduce travel Green transport links Manage river bank/field margin Wildlife area in school Community wildlife garden, including food Manage woodland for wildlife Green infrastructure for development Build in CHP/renewable energy on development site Try to graze abandoned grassland Reduce pesticide use on sports pitches Go organic Energy audit of offices Control run off from car park Wildlife tunnel/bridges over road Renaturalise river	Lack of expertise and continuity Higher community charge for more planners Policy and Forward Planning targets Leadership Active citizenship Maintenance costs Perceptions/tidiness Planning rules Health and Safety Vested interests Fear Lack of awareness Lack of resources? Priorities are not biodiversity Policy/targets Slow to change Getting young people on council Time Aversion to risk Leadership Sense of ownership Involve developers as an audience, not an opponent

Sustainable design

Facilitators: Charlotte Rose (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) & Charles Routh (Natural England)

This workshop was designed to use knowledge gained from the other workshops, and to encourage innovative ideas in spatial planning of developments.

Teams were assigned an area to develop, with points gained for incorporating various sustainable measures, the number of houses and associated facilities required for the development, and any resulting benefits not directly linked to the environment.

Some points arising from the fictitious developments:

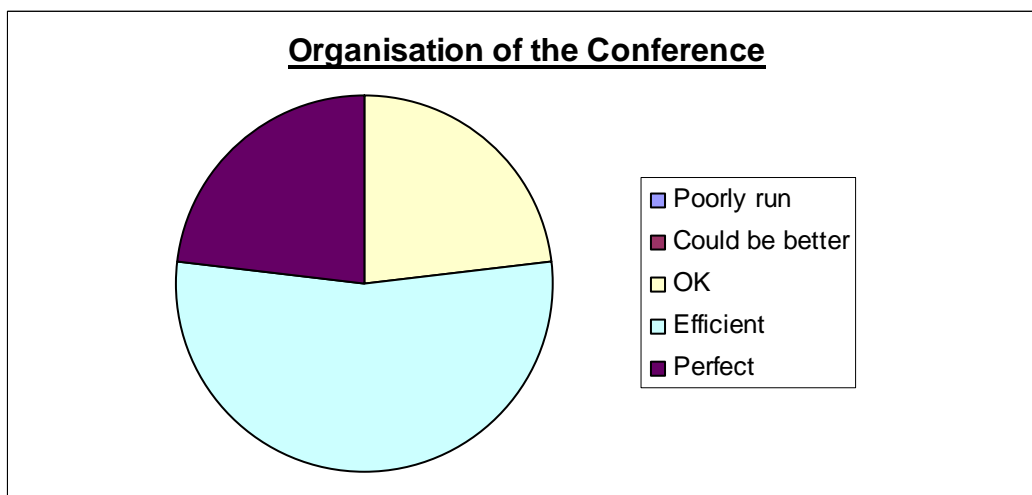
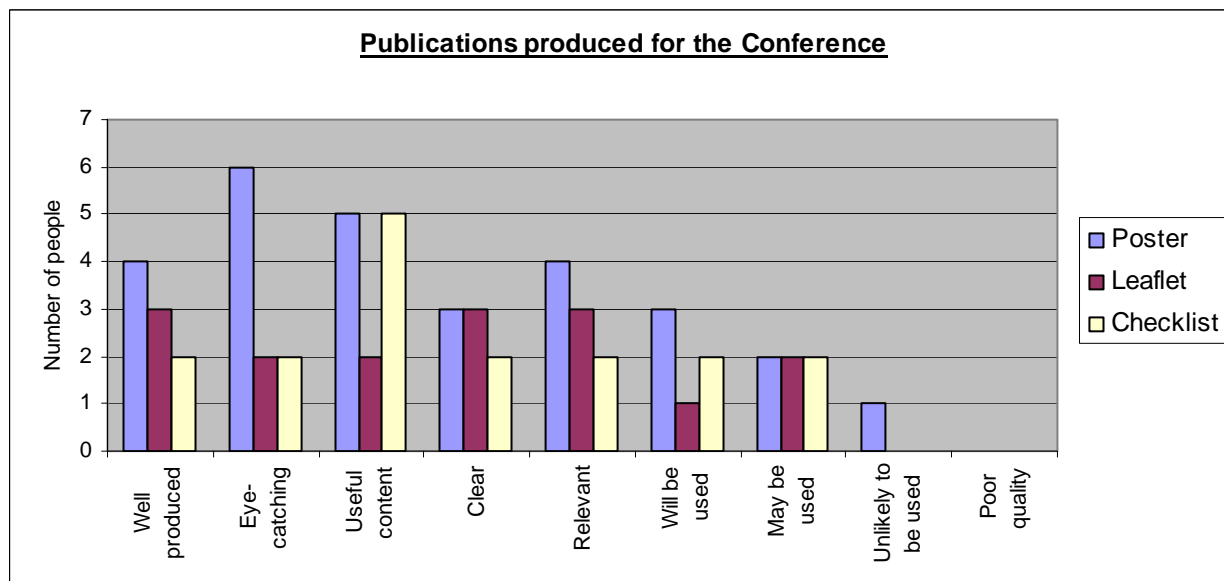
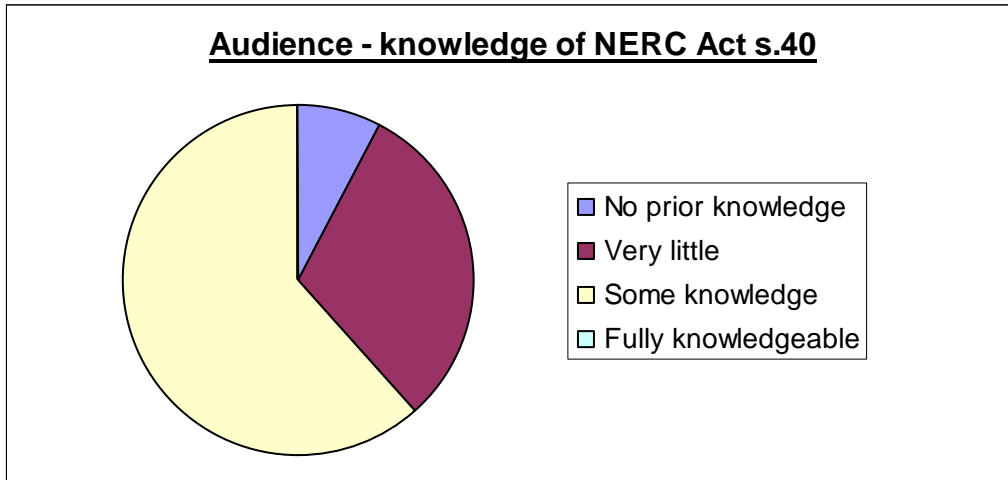
- Lack of mention of green roofs
- Bend often not restored in the river
- Excellent connectivity throughout site, and to the town, both for wildlife and people
- Non-biodiversity benefits included impacts on house prices, quality of life and health benefits

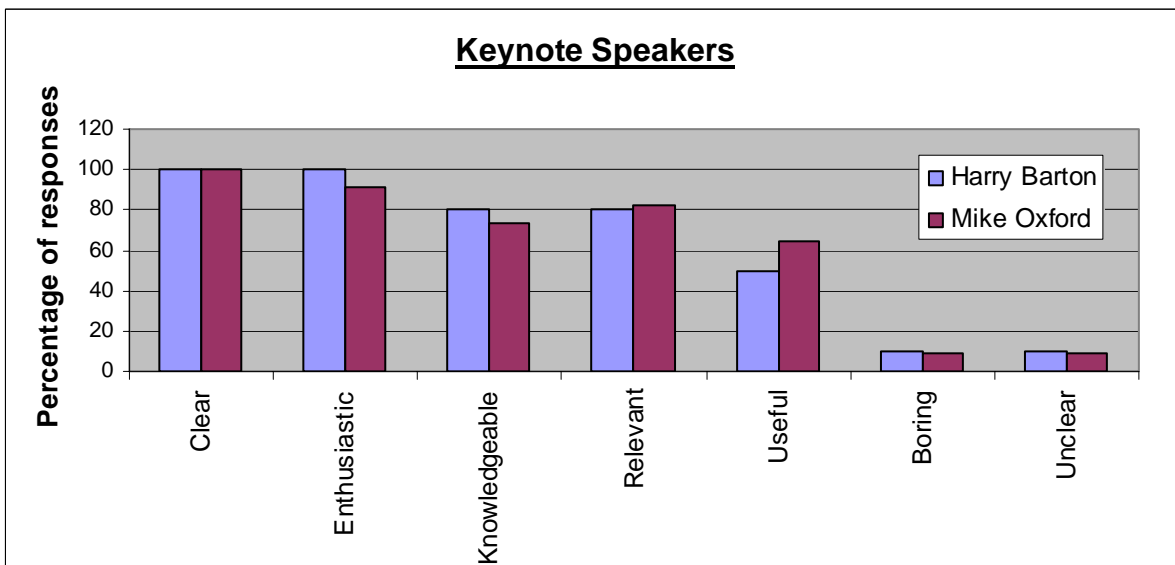
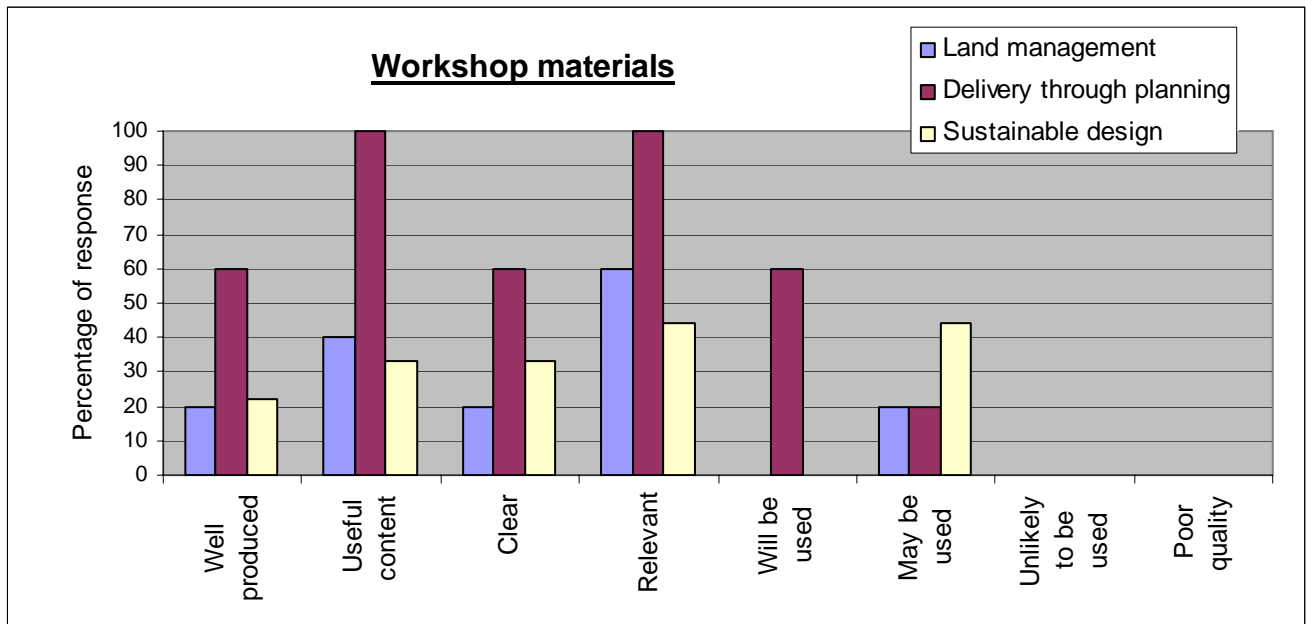
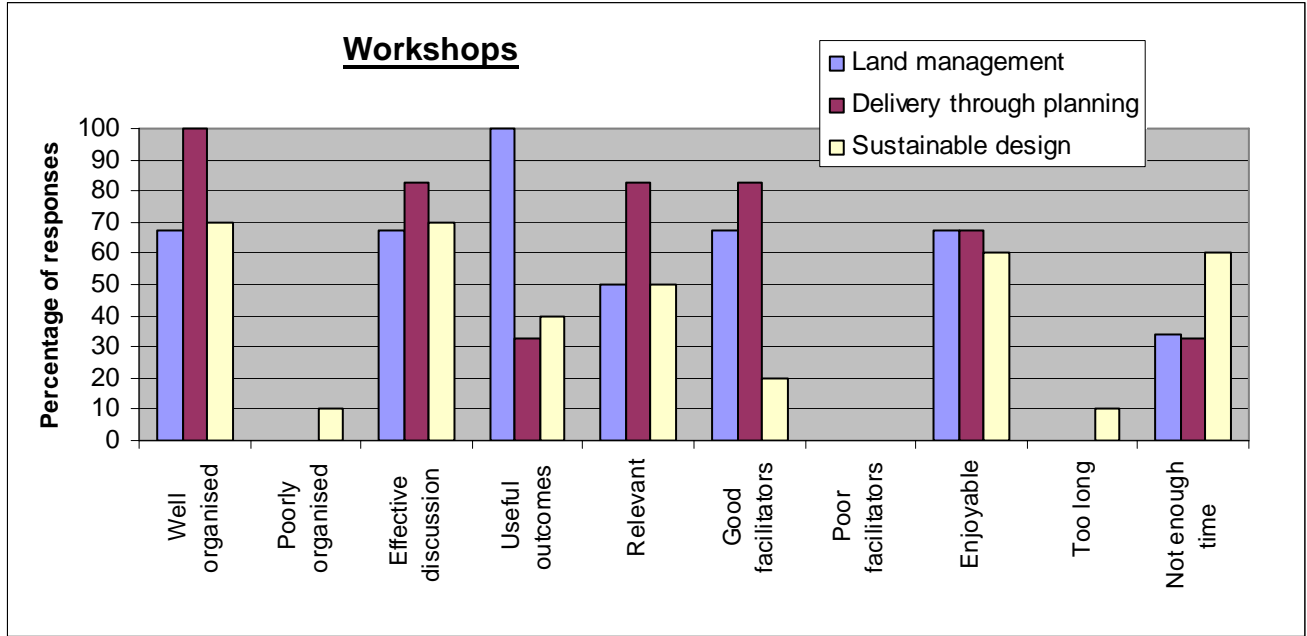
Some delegates were struck by the effectiveness of teamwork at generating workable ideas for both development and biodiversity.

Despite the challenging length of time available for completion, all teams managed to produce a development that incorporated many of the required elements and sustainable design features. The result was that teams scored highly and there was very little range in total scores.

Feedback Forms Response

Percentage response: 22% (Please fill in the response form attached to the accompanying email if you have not already done so).





Future changes

Will attending this event change the way your organisation operates?

A selection of responses given:

No we are not a local authority, but work with the local authority and would like to influence them

Not really

Yes will consider carbon footprint on procurement

Will promote to Parish Councils

Given me some ideas

No, but will influence my future working patterns

Improvements

How could we improve this event?

location very nice but not very practical (e.g. public transport, distance on site itself, space outside workshop)

Longer workshops, especially planning workshop

Too wide an audience

Serve coffee at breaks and lunch x2

Private sector should be invited too - soon

More comfortable chairs x2

Drinks at lunch time

More detail, fewer emotions

Future events

Would you like to be contacted about similar events that we may run in the future?

Yes No

9 0

Would you like to get involved in your local BAP partnership?

BCT is a national organisation and so it's difficult to get involved at a local level, but personally I'd be interested in the Wilts partnership as I live in Wilts.

Yes

Other comments

More information on the guidance document itself

Public transport needs improving for this to be a better conference site

Why did there have to be a competition in the Sustainable Design workshop?

More water during the day please

Would be good to have more case studies presented

Useful day - very nice lunch!

Also include more on government guidance on how to implement s.40

I felt this conference was about biodiversity generally, not how to apply the new duty. It was very enjoyable but I learnt nothing new

Excellent organisation

Good food

Interesting venue

Contact Sarah Wilkinson for more information: sarahwilk@wiltshirewildlife.org; (01380) 725670;
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