



PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST
wildlife crime

PAW Bulletin

Number 29

September
2008

Mission statement

*“Working in
partnership to
reduce wildlife
crime by raising
awareness and
promoting effective
enforcement”*

Launched in November 1995, the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) provides opportunities for both statutory and non-government organisations to work together at a strategic level to combat wildlife crime.

Hello and welcome to the new look PAW Bulletin. Many thanks to those of you who have contributed articles for this edition. Don't forget this is your Bulletin and we welcome news articles for future editions. These can be e-mailed to the PAW Secretariat at; paw.secretariat@defra.gov.uk

News from the Secretariat

We are delighted to welcome Brian Stuart, formerly of Lothian and Borders Police, as the new Head of NWCU. Brian started at the Unit on the 14 July. Brian was joined at the same time by Sue Eddy who was successfully recruited as Senior Analyst and deputy head of the Unit.

We are also pleased to announce that Francis Marlow joined us in August and is the new Deputy Director for the Wildlife Species Conservation Division at Defra. Francis replaces Hilary Thompson and will act as Co-Chair to PAW. We look forward to working with all three over the coming months.

John Milburne, former Chair of the PAW Northern Ireland Working Group and long time PAW Partner on behalf of the Department of Environment, Northern Ireland retired in June 2008. John is succeeded by Mike Meharg who will take over the Chair. We would like to thank John for all his work for PAW and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Updated Statement of Commitment - Following the June Steering Group meeting we have made some minor adjustments to the PAW Statement of Commitment form. The changes are to reflect a desire for PAW partners to participate more actively in the Partnership and that they will not use membership for financial gain. We won't ask current members to submit an amended statement but new applicants will need to complete the updated form.



Other news

UK Border Agency (UKBA) - On 1 April 2008 all customs frontier operation work (Detection staff) was transferred from HM Revenue and Customs to become part of the new UK Border Agency.

Lyme Bay - in June, following a public consultation, damaging types of fishing in 60 square nautical miles of sea off the South West coast was banned to protect threatened sea life. About 10% of Lyme Bay from West Bay to Beer Head has been permanently closed to scallop dredgers and bottom trawlers which drag nets along the seabed, to safeguard the area's rich marine life and habitats. Lyme Bay is home to world-renowned reefs as well as important species including pink sea fans, sunset cup corals and several rare sponges.

Current consultations

Consultation on Our Seas – a shared resource

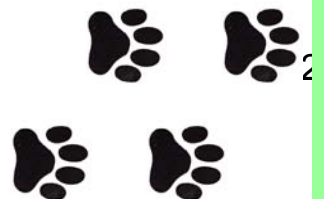
To elaborate the marine vision, the UK Government and Devolved Administrations have worked together to set out a number of high level marine objectives which articulate the outcomes they are seeking for the UK marine area as a whole. The UK Government, Northern Ireland Executive and Welsh Assembly Government would welcome your views on these. You are invited to comment on this consultation by **30 September 2008**. The relevant papers can be viewed at; <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/highlevel-marine/index.htm>

Wildlife Management Strategy - Defra intends to develop and implement a more strategic, transparent, consistent and effective approach to wildlife management policies using an agreed Wildlife Management Strategy for England. Many species are protected by legislation or covered by Government strategies, initiatives or policies, a number of which were developed at a time when Defra's predecessor departments had different aims and objectives. A consultation paper was issued on 2 July 2008 and the consultation documents can be viewed here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wildlife-manage-strategy/index.htm>

The closing date for responses is **22 September 2008**.

Bird registration scheme – Following the recent consultation changes to the bird registration scheme will come into force in October 2008. Information about these changes can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080905a.htm> and <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/index.htm>.



PAW Roadshow trailer

Please note that the trailer is now coordinated by Lincolnshire Police and is available to any PAW Partners who wish to borrow it. You will need to arrange to collect and return it yourself from and to Lincolnshire Police HQ.

Please contact Nick Willey in the first instance at:



nicholas.willey@lincs.pnn.police.uk, tel: 01522 805746, or Nige Lound at:
Nigel.lound@lincs.pnn.police.uk, tel 01522 558684/01754 614297

Great Crested Newt training

PAW Training Working Group



On 29 April 2008 the first wildlife crime officer's Great crested Newt training day was held in Warwickshire with training being provided by the Herpetological Trust. The workshop was aimed at basic survey techniques and those officers who attended may now apply for licences from Natural England allowing them to conduct out basic surveys associated with the investigation of criminal offences. Dependent on feedback and demand further courses will be held annually.

Holyrood Conferences

A wildlife crime conference ran on 10 June 2008 at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on the future of wildlife crime and policing. Michael Russell, MSP, Minister for Environment gave the keynote speech. Richard Brunstrom, Chief Constable, North Wales Police gave a presentation where he recognised the advances made in Scotland in tackling wildlife crime and that we need to think through how we can secure the economic benefits of wildlife conservation. Mr Brunstrom called for police and other agencies to work in a truly joint fashion to tackle wildlife crime.



Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP)

The Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP) was set up in 1991, aiming to protect some of Britain's rarest birds of prey and wildlife from pesticide poisoning. The Pesticides Safety Directorate, which is now part of the Health and Safety Executive, leads the campaign. Jeff Rooker (Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health) re-launched CAIP at the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) Game Fair on 26 July 2008. Over the next three years the campaign will focus on preventing poisoning, educating people against accidental poisoning, and improved detection of poisoning cases.

Education activities will be targeted at landowners, farmers and gamekeepers to promote best practice in controlling a range of pests from foxes, rabbits and crows to slugs, on broad-acre crops.

Free workshops will be held across England during the winter months for farmers and gamekeepers, and a new website (www.caip-uk.info) and brochure are being prepared to promote best practice in pest control. The campaign will also be visiting many of the agricultural shows and events throughout the year to talk to farmers, landowners and gamekeepers.

Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS)

The Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) investigates the deaths of wildlife, including beneficial insects and some pets, throughout the UK where there is evidence that pesticide poisoning may be involved.

Over a number of years WIIS has built up an extensive dataset of wildlife and companion animal poisoning which is now being reviewed. For more information and detailed statistics please go to:

<http://wiis.csl.gov.uk/>



Operation Wildlife

Amanda Clayton – South Yorkshire Police

On 28 May 2008 WCO Amanda Clayton of South Yorkshire Police was contacted by staff at a Doncaster power station to say that the peregrine falcons that were nesting on an adjacent pylon had hatched four young. Joyous news in itself, but significant as the previous year the nest had been targeted by thieves. One chick was stolen and another left for dead at the bottom of the pylon which subsequently died as a result of its injuries. A third chick survived and successfully fledged. Amanda and colleague Dean Stockdale implemented 'Operation Wildlife' which provided round the clock patrols to protect the nest site.

Staff at the power station provided the birds with a nesting box sited high on a pylon to offer the birds extra protection; ringed the chicks and obtained chest feathers for DNA purposes. All vehicles and persons seen at or near the site were stopped and checked and intelligence fed in to Operation Wildlife. Both district and force staff assisted in the operation which also utilised the force helicopter to assist in observations. In July 2008 the birds successfully fledged and all four chicks remain in the area with their parents. Several people who were suspected of being involved in the 2007 incident were stopped at or near the site and asked to account for their actions. Information about the operation was also circulated among local farmers and landowners.

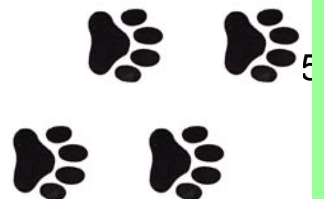


Photo – Kevin Laws

News from the regions England

A three month public consultation on Natural England's draft enforcement policy commenced on 18 July 2008. The enforcement strategy and the consultation document can be viewed at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Contact: Paul Horswill, SSSI Enforcement Officer, Protected Areas Team, Natural England, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA. E-mail: paul.horswill@naturalengland.org.uk



Wales

Over 30 officers attended the annual Welsh Wildlife Crime officers seminar (sponsored by CCW) on 14 March. Also in March, a meeting took place between the Police service in Wales and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) where specialist crime prosecutors have now been identified in each Welsh CPS area. In June, 21 officers from across Wales attended the Police Wildlife Foundation course at Colwyn Bay, North Wales. The course was funded by CCW's northern area group and opened by Richard Brunstrom.

Co-ordinator: Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom, North Wales Police HQ, Glan-y-don, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AW. E-mail:

Richard.brunstrom@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Northern Ireland

The PAW Northern Ireland Working Group has provided a response to the review of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985, a copy of the response can be found on the PAW website at; <http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/pack/default.htm>. The PSNI wildlife crime website is now up and running at:

http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/departments/animal_and_wildlife_crime.htm.

Alan Stewart of Tayside Police gave a presentation on wildlife crime investigation in Scotland at the Working Group's meeting in May.

Coordinator: Mike Meharg, Biodiversity Unit Environment and Heritage Service, Klondyke Buildings, Gasworks Business Park, Cromac Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2JA.

E-mail: mike.meharg@doeni.gsi.gov.uk

News from the working groups

Legal

The Group met in February 2008 and identified a number of issues to take forward including; the COTES review; defining wildlife crime; review of legislation relating to traps and snares; regulatory reform process and the role of the police in tackling wildlife crime.

Co-ordinator: Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom, North Wales Police HQ, Glan-y-don, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AW. E-mail:

Richard.brunstrom@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Publicity

The Publicity Working Group are keen to raise the profile of the WWF Wildlife Enforcer of the Year award. The plan is to set up a working group to review the award along with the Partner of the Year award and the Certificate of Merit system.

Co-ordinator: Ian West, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2DL. E-mail ian.west@rspb.org.uk



Forensics

The final report of the ramin timber genetic identification project undertaken by Kew and WDNAS was presented at the CITES Plants Committee in Geneva in April, the project report is available at; <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/cr0372final.pdf>. Defra have agreed to financially support the Forensic Analysis Fund by contributing an additional £2500 and Brian Stewart head of the NWCU has agreed to join the evaluation panel for this fund. In addition, Brian has created a specific email address for applications for this fund (forensics@nwcu.pnn.police.uk). The group welcomed Nevin Hunter as a new member representing Animal Health, and Stephanie Pendry returns as coordinator from October.

Co-ordinator: Ross McEwing, Wildlife DNA Services, Appleton Place Appleton Parkway, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7EZ. E-mail ross.mcewing@tracenetwork.org

Proposed new CITES sub-group

The CITES Priority Delivery Group (CPDG) have recommended the formation of a sub-group of PAW in order to develop and deliver enforcement guides to assist officers in tackling the areas identified as national priorities identified within CITES.

New PAW Partners

We are delighted to welcome the Vale Wildlife Hospital and Urban Wildlife Solutions to PAW. Contact details are as follows:

Vale Wildlife Hospital

E-mail: caroline@vwr.org.uk

Tel: 01386 882288

Website: www.vwr.org.uk

Urban Wildlife Solutions

E-mail: enquiries@urbanwildlifesolutions.co.uk

Tel: 01332 726518

Website: www.urbanwildlifesolutions.co.uk



Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT)

The US Department of State, in partnership with WildAid has produced three television public service announcements to combat wildlife trafficking, featuring actor Harrison Ford. The PSAs were launched on World Environment Day on 5 June and can be viewed at:

<http://www.wildaid.org/index.asp?CID=7&PID=507>



Dates for your diaries

Steering Group meeting

20 October 2008
Belfast

Wildlife Enforcement Conference

28-30 Nov 2008
Scottish Police College,
Tulliallan

PAW Open Seminar

18 February 2009
RBG Kew

Useful information

PAW website – www.defra.gov.uk/paw

Pesticides Poisoning Hotline – 0800 321600

NWCU – e-mail: ukwildlifecrime@nwcu.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 01620 893607

(Please note that suspected wildlife crime incidents should always be reported to your local police force).



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