

## GENERAL/ POLICY

- **Natural England's 'Position Paper on housing growth and green infrastructure'** states that the green belts surrounding 14 major conurbations provide substantial opportunities for improving the environmental quality of land in & around towns (p.146). See: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/about/board/oct07/101007-NEBP0728.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about/board/oct07/101007-NEBP0728.pdf)
- **Stewardship on-line** (p.144) – for details of agri-environment agreements in England (who is doing what, where and what they are paid) see [www.natureonthemap.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk) . Natural England's current review of Higher Level S'ship will focus resources more acutely on delivering benefits to SSSIs; maps of the key areas have been produced.
- **Coping with Climate** (p.142-3)
  - *International Panel on Climate Change: 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report* ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch))
  - *Dragonflies as climate-change indicators* – see article on pp.85-93
  - *Could local woods be harvested for fuel?* See the Forestry Commission report 'A woodfuel strategy for England' at [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-woodfuel](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-woodfuel)
  - *Biofuels – a poisoned chalice?* See article: *Food, fibre, fuel & fauna – can we have it all?* (p.102-108) & websites: [www.wcl.org.uk](http://www.wcl.org.uk) & [www.biofuelwatch.org.uk](http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk)

## SPECIES

- **Badgers & bovine TB** – the government review of the Independent Scientific Group's final report on bovine TB finds that the culling of badgers could make a 'significant contribution' to controlling the disease. The Badger Trust ridicules the assessment and says that culling would be unrealistic (p.141). See: [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/pdf/badgersreport-king.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/pdf/badgersreport-king.pdf)
- **BirdLife International** calls for further radical reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in its report *New Challenges, new CAP: BirdLife's vision for the future of the EU Cap*. It should tackle the challenges posed by climate change, primarily by reducing farming emissions and promoting climate change adaptation (p.144). See: [www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/CAP%20Brochure/pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/CAP%20Brochure/pdf)
- **Farm birds and arable biodiversity** (p.146) – the latest figures by the UK government show that the numbers of Britain's breeding farmland birds have hit an all-time low. Biodiversity Indicators for England can be viewed at [www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/biostrat/indicators/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/biostrat/indicators/index.htm) A recent 5-year study has just concluded that arable crops contain one third fewer insects than are needed to sustain these declining species. The report: '*SAFFIE: Enhancing arable biodiversity. Six practical solutions for farmers*' can be downloaded from [www.saffie.info/](http://www.saffie.info/).
- **National Moth Night** - 7 June 2008, **National Insect Week** - 23-29 June 2008 (p.132)
- Access **Biodiversity data** on the internet (p.146)
  - *National Biodiversity Network Gateway* ([www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk))
  - *ARKive* ([www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org))
  - *Encyclopaedia of Life* ([www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org))
  - *Natural History Museum's Nature Navigator* ([www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/nature-navigator/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/nature-navigator/))

## HABITATS

- **The Forestry Commission** lists 140 priority sites for butterflies where it has agreed to undertake management (p.142). See its '*Conservation Strategy for Lepidoptera on Forestry Commission land in England* on [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-butterflies](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-butterflies)
- **Private gardens** occupy just 10% of the available land area within the UK yet arguably are the main contributors to urban biodiversity and provide access to wildlife otherwise not be available, hence concern about the loss of mature gardens. See: '*House Sparrows*' (p.142) and article: '*Are gardens good for birds or birdwatchers?*' (pp.77-83).
- Access **Biodiversity data** on the internet (p.95)
  - **To share knowledge about** which management interventions work ([www.ConservationEvidence.com](http://www.ConservationEvidence.com))
  - **To receive garden management advice** ([www.rspb.org.uk/hfw](http://www.rspb.org.uk/hfw))