

This was BESST's first event on biodiversity, in partnership with Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The aim of the event was to show how biodiversity can fit into business giving an opportunity to demonstrate their contribution to the local community. The Shropshire wildlife trust can support organisations to achieve their conservation aims.



The morning began with a brief introduction by BESST's chair Andy Whyte. He then handed over to Pete Lambert from Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) who gave an introduction to biodiversity. Pete focussed on the wildlife on sites in the Telford area. He gave details of survey work that had been carried out and some of the rare species that had been found.

The event then moved onto the best practice case studies from local businesses.

### **Carl Griffin and Stuart Mapp - Ricoh**

Their presentation began with the small mammal surveys that employees had carried out with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. They also used their manufacturing skills to make 54 nest boxes that they then put up at Granville Local Nature Reserve. The nest boxes that Ricoh employees have put on the Wrekin have been a great success with increased usage by small mammals and birds.

### **Mary Thornton – E.ON**

Mary told the delegates about the restoration of the Devil's Dingle power station site. When in 2003 the site became full of the ash disposal, restoration could begin. The practical conservation work on the site was done by volunteers from the power station, local community and a SWT group. Surveys of the site found a number of rare species; including 7 red listed birds, the dingy skipper and green hairstreak butterflies. Although the site is not open to the public, there are regular organised birdwatching and butterfly walks.

### **Adrian Foster – Veolia**

Following the closure of the coal processing facility on the Coalmoor site, Veolia had an ecological survey done of the site to see if a redevelopment project would be possible. The surveys found that there were now many species inhabiting the site including great crested newts



and 106 plant species. Veolia then spoke to residents, the local authority and the SWT and decided that the best course of action would be to restore the site. In the future Veolia will be part of the biodiversity benchmark programme and therefore show continued habitat improvements.

### Maryann Denfhy – Müller Dairy

Maryann gave details of how Muller Dairy employees are encouraged to take part in the employee volunteer programme; much of this has been in conservation working with the SWT. Muller Dairy is also working with the SWT on the meres and mosses landscape partnership, they are encouraging their farmers to take part in the environmental stewardship schemes and the wildlife corridor pilot study.

### Manel Roura – DENSO

Manel gave an introduction to the ideas behind the development of the ecosystem and DENSO's work with the SWT and interns from Keele's Project Green. The work in the garden has been carried out by staff in their own time. The aim is for the garden to be complete July 2012 to coincide with 20 years of DENSO at the Telford site, it will then be opened to the local community.



### Eco-garden tour

Delegates were then taken on a tour of the eco-garden. They were shown the work that the volunteers had done, and the insect hotels that each manufacturing section had been building. Many of the materials used to make the paths in the garden are made from recycled materials from the factory. Local primary schools have been involved, making bird boxes and terracotta tiles for the garden. Everyone had a chance to ask any questions and explore the garden.



Following on from the success of this event it may become annual and BESST will hold another event next year to coincide with the Wildlife Trust's centenary and Shropshire Wildlife Trust's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

All of the presentations delivered at the event can be viewed in the download library  
For further information on any of the environmental topics discussed please contact the BESST Coordinator:

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