

Natural England Live Evidence Register

January 2010

ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
Landscape, historic environment and geodiversity					
RP092	Monitoring the character and quality of England's landscapes	01/10/2012	To monitor the character and function of England's landscapes and combine evidence on actual changes with information about the condition and quality of the ecosystem services provided by these landscapes. The work will support our proposed strategic monitoring framework and the results will be used to help increase the understanding of, and actions to conserve, our landscapes and geodiversity.	Monitoring	Andrew Baker
RP289	Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England: Stage 3	28/02/2010	SHINE is a dataset of archaeological sites worthy of management through Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) options. Previous uncertainties surrounding this type of environmental feature have been overcome through research in Stages 1 and 2. Stage 3 provides the tools to automate submission of new SHINE data for regular updates into the ELS operating system. This will provide a sound evidence base to support the delivery of ELS.	Monitoring	Jez Bretherton
RP310	Monitoring natural environment outcomes in protected landscapes	31/03/2013	To assess whether National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty demonstrate an increasing level of exemplary management of our finest landscapes: including local character, cultural heritage, tranquillity, biodiversity in favourable condition, exemplary access management, resilience in adapting to climate change. This project will deliver robust, consistent monitoring data, recognising the differences between National Parks & AONBs.	Monitoring	Val Kirby
RP017	Geodiversity and landscape - case studies and thematic links	31/03/2010	To identify approximately 20 case studies illustrating the common themes and linkages between geodiversity and landscape and the associated practical benefits of making these links to delivering landscape and geodiversity objectives. The project will develop guidance that will inform the development of National Character Area (NCA) objectives (RP 018) and the review of NCA descriptions (RP 172).	Research	Jonathan Larwood
RP018	National Character Areas (NCA) - developing interim objectives	31/03/2010	To develop interim integrated objectives for National Character Areas to provide a landscape framework for integrated delivery. It will also provide supporting guidance and a basis for the development of long term NCA objectives.	Research	Chris Bolton

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP019	Identifying challenges relating to management of geodiversity in a changing climate	31/03/2010	To explore the current levels of evidence we have and identify evidence gaps and action required to develop a strategy to meet these challenges. In the second year (2010-2011) to produce guidance on the principles and methods of geodiversity adaptation to climate change. This is a cross-agency initiative with the support of the Geoconservation Commission of the Geological Society and the UK Geodiversity Action Plan.	Research	Colin Prosser
RP020	Rock, fossil and mineral collecting - good practice evidence and guidance	31/03/2010	To gather up-to-date information on good practice relating to rock, fossil and mineral collecting in order to inform Natural England guidance on collecting.	Research	Hannah Townley
RP021	Establishing a national Local Geological Site (RIGS) data set	31/03/2011	To establish a national, spatial data-set that maps the distribution of all Local Geological Sites (known as RIGS) for England. Associated information collected will include brief details of site interest, level of accessibility (accessible green space) and information on site condition. The information will be used by Local Geoconservation groups, Local Authorities, Planners and Land Managers. Elements of the data set may be made publically available (to be agreed).	Research	Jonathan Larwood
RP022	Peat Project: partnership initiative to protect and enhance peat soils	31/12/2010	The Partnership Project to Protect and Enhance Peat Soils is a joint initiative of Defra, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, English Heritage, Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Cadw, and DECC. The project aims to improve coordination between these partners in our efforts to manage and restore peatlands, to gather evidence on peatlands and promote peatland research, and to develop policy and guidance to ensure sustainable use of peatlands into the future.	Research	Matthew Shepherd
RP172	Updating England's National Character Areas: pilot study	12/03/2010	A pilot project to inform a longer-term programme of revising England's 159 National Character Area descriptions, so that they continue to be fit for purpose for a wide range of strategic and contextual uses. Some information is out of date and we now have a better understanding of the pressures for landscape change. This pilot is also an opportunity to explore whether National Character Area descriptions can have an enhanced role, for example by setting out forward looking strategic objectives.	Research	Andy Wharton

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP189	Conserving the historic environment in England's uplands	30/09/2010	To fill gaps in the evidence base used to help decide how to manage the upland historic environment. It is specifically designed to support the implementation of Environmental Stewardship. It covers all England's uplands and will: (1) collate past research on the management of upland archaeology; (2) determine the impacts of upland change on the archaeological resource; and (3) provide a decision making framework for upland archaeological management. A Defra funded project.	Research	Victoria Hunns
RP225	UK Geodiversity Action Plan (UKGAP)	31/03/2010	To provide evidence (through a range of case studies) to illustrate how the UKGAP is currently being delivered across its objectives. It will also undertake new research on existing delivery monitoring measures for Local Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAPs) in order to develop a standard mechanism for measuring progress that can be adopted by the UKGAP and LGAPs.	Research	Hannah Townley
RP226	Dudley Stamp 1930s land use mapping digitisation pilot project	31/12/2010	Pioneering geographer Professor Sir Laurence Dudley Stamp was the first to attempt to systematically plot agricultural land use in Britain. This joint pilot with the Environment Agency will explore the methodology for and, costs of, digitising his pre-war land use maps with the eventual aim of digitising the complete coverage of the 1932 land use maps for England and Wales as an accessible pre-war baseline for the extent of agricultural land and some Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats.	Research	George Hinton
RP298	Capturing the cultural services and experiential qualities of landscape (Phase II)	31/03/2010	To capture and present the range of experiential benefits and cultural services that landscapes provide to people in 6 additional National Character Areas and synthesise the analysis and findings with the conclusions of the existing research (Phase I) to create a typology of cultural services and experiential qualities across a range of landscape types. The resulting information should be capable of being transferred across all NCAs will be accessible as an evidence base for other work.	Research	Andy Wharton
RP303	Landscape - an Integrated Approach for Natural England	31/03/2011	To produce practical, evidence based guidelines to enable our staff to take an integrated landscape approach, at the appropriate scale, whenever and wherever this is necessary, in pursuit of the objectives for each character area. Key Workstrands (1) evaluate existing landscape-scale biodiversity projects; (2) review & confirm National Character Area objectives and (3) produce guidelines on Natural England's integrated approach.	Research	Val Kirby

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP311	Seascape characterisation	30/06/2011	To a) devise a method, and b) undertake a comprehensive characterisation of England's coastal zone (both terrestrial and marine elements and the interactions between them).	Research	Christine Tudor

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Biodiversity					
RP038	Upland Breeding Bird Survey	01/03/2010	To monitor wild birds in the English Uplands. It is a Natural England/RSPB/British Trust for Ornithology funded development of the existing Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), with survey squares being surveyed by professional surveyors. The data will allow us to detect long-term trends in the status of the more numerous upland species together with changes which might relate to site protection measures, to open access and to agri-environment schemes.	Monitoring	Andrew Brown
RP052	Review of chalk grassland CG3 Bromus erectus and MG3 upland hay meadows validation sites	31/03/2010	This review of chalk grassland and upland hay meadows is part of the Validation Network Project, which aims to ensure that data on the condition of individual features on Sites of Special Scientific Interest are accurate, consistent and scientifically robust. Specifically to (1) validate the common standards monitoring condition assessment methodology; (2) to establish a set of control sites; (3) to contribute to wider work that will allow a better understanding of the drivers of change.	Monitoring	Clive Bealey
RP082	Monitoring upland heather burning	01/05/2010	Develop operational Geographic Information Systems and or Earth Observation systems for monitoring moorland burning.	Monitoring	Alistair Crowle
RP083	Developing upland Common Standards Monitoring recording using electronic devices	31/03/2010	Development of field forms for upland Common Standards Monitoring using hand held computers (PDAs) in the field.	Monitoring	Alistair Crowle
RP113	Marine turtle monitoring	31/03/2010	Collates and maintains a database of records of marine turtles in British waters. The data is uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network Gateway. A report on the records and trends will be disseminated to a wide range of interested organisations and people. Co-funded with Countryside Council for Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage.	Monitoring	Jim Foster
RP114	Development of a wood-pasture and parkland inventory	31/03/2010	Wood-pasture and parkland are a habitat resource of European level significance and the subject of a Biodiversity Habitat Action Plan agreed at the UK level. The true distribution and extent of the resource within Britain is unknown. Such information is key to the effective management of this habitat and to the delivery of many of the targets identified within the action plan.	Monitoring	Suzanne Perry

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP115	Developing a traditional orchard inventory	31/03/2011	To develop an inventory on the location and extent of traditional orchards in England. This is part of the Traditional Orchards Project 2006-2011, being run by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) with part-funding from Natural England. PTES are collecting core information suitable for a web-based inventory accessible to the public from Natural England's web pages and other potential outlets such as the National Biodiversity Network.	Monitoring	Suzanne Perry
RP119	Long term monitoring in four woodland sites: Wytham Woods, Bix, Sheephouse Wood, Gorswen	31/03/2012	To prepare for the future we need to understand past changes in sites. This is particularly true for woodland where changes may only become clear over decadal timescales. One way that we deal with this is through long-term monitoring of selected sites. Identifying the processes leading to change in these SSSIs can provide a model for likely impacts in other sites. This information then informs advice on site management and provide part of the evidence background for woodland policy development.	Monitoring	Keith Kirby
RP182	Prioritised plan for delivering control of invasive freshwater non-native species	30/03/2012	To develop a prioritised plan for freshwater non-native species and support delivery of non-native species control on the ground. Joint project with the Environment Agency.	Monitoring	Stewart Clarke
RP222	Predatory Birds Monitoring Scheme (PBMS)	31/03/2010	Contribution to a surveillance programme known as the Predatory Birds Monitoring Scheme which monitors contaminant residues in the tissues and eggs of a range of seabirds and predatory and freshwater birds.	Monitoring	Michael Coyle
RP235	Monitoring greater horseshoe bats and barbastelle bats on SSSIs	31/03/2010	Coordinated monitoring of greater horseshoe bat maternity roosts and barbastelle bat Natura 2000 sites. Monitoring includes dated emergence counts of bats at maternity sites (greater horseshoes) and presence of bats on standard transects (barbastelle). The data collected will contribute towards Common Standards Monitoring for Sites of Special Scientific Interest. This work is being carried out by the Bat Conservation Trust.	Monitoring	Tony Mitchell-Jones
RP237	Collation of evidence of nitrogen impacts on vegetation in relation to UK biodiversity objectives	30/11/2010	Nitrogen deposition poses a significant threat to sensitive semi-natural habitats. Despite substantial research evidence there still remain questions. The purpose of this project is to provide an analysis of broad scale vegetation surveillance datasets in order to correlate spatial and temporal vegetation trends to nitrogen deposition. Funded by Natural England, Joint Nature Conservancy Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales and Defra, lead by JNCC.	Monitoring	Zoe Masters

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RP238	Collation and interpretation of estuary data for SSSI/SAC condition assessments	31/12/2010	The UK Common Standards Monitoring protocol for both SSSI and SACs has a set of attributes that need to be used to assess the condition of the estuary interest feature and its constituent sub-features. The aim of this project is to explore whether it is possible to present existing contextual information in a single template that can be populated by different information for different estuaries and also whether the template can help identify key evidence gaps in specific estuaries.	Monitoring	Graham Weaver
RP240	National network for local biodiversity recording	31/03/2011	To develop the national network of local biological recording, increasing the geographic scope, quantity and quality of biological information available to the general public and key public sector users through the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway. The fund will be managed by Natural England on behalf of Defra.	Monitoring	Richard Alexander
RP246	Action for Birds in England: recovery projects	06/08/2030	Joint programme with RSPB (16 projects). East Anglian stone curlews; Wessex stone curlews; stone curlew demography; safe nesting habitats for corn buntings; chough and corn bunting; lesser spotted woodpecker; aquatic warbler; bittern monitoring; cirl bunting recovery; tree sparrow recovery in the north of England; Lapwing recovery in the north of England; English seabirds; Great Yarmouth little terns; Chesil little terns; yellow wagtail; diversionary feeding of kestrels at Great Yarmouth.	Monitoring	Phil Grice
RP249	Action for fungi in England: recovery projects	30/03/2010	Re-survey of all recovery project sites for threatened species of fungi. Six projects covering Oak polypore; Marsh Honey fungus; Hedgehog fungus; Hypocreopsis rhododendri; Tulostoma mela Nocyclum; Geastrum minimum; G elegans and Hohenbuehelia culmicola; also possibly Chrysomyxa pirolata.	Monitoring	Pete Stevens
RP250	Action for Amphibians and Reptiles in England: recovery projects	30/03/2011	Implementation and co-ordination of Species Action Plans for: sand lizard, smooth snake, natterjack toad, great crested newt, pool frog and marine turtle. Work also includes: scientific research; data collection, management and dissemination; Habitat Action Plan integration; links to other SAPs; public education and involvement; use of legislation to effect species gains. This work uses the expertise of The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust staff and volunteers.	Monitoring	Jim Foster
RP257	Habitat management for two New Forest invertebrate species	31/03/2010	Support for management changes, if appropriate, within SSSI, for two invertebrate species Cicadetta montana and the mole cricket Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa.	Monitoring	David Sheppard

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RP265	UK Butterfly monitoring	31/03/2011	National butterfly monitoring project. Natural England is a joint funder.	Monitoring	Keith Porter
RP275	Validation Network Project: analysis of lowland fens and bogs	31/03/2010	The objectives of the Validation Network Project are to validate condition monitoring, to establish control sites against which changes in interest features can be assessed, and to contribute to understanding the drivers of change in individual habitat types. This work will present in report format the results and conclusions of the analyses of data collected for lowland wetland sites within England and Wales, undertaken as part of the Validation Network Project. Data was collected from 13 sites throughout the lowlands of England, with a single site in North Wales. All were Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).	Monitoring	Clive Bealey
RP293	High resolution remote sensing for landscape-scale restoration of peat	31/12/2011	To evaluate the ability of high spatial and spectral resolution remote sensing to distinguish between moorland restoration treatments and monitor changes with the objective of being able to monitor restoration of landscape-scale peat.	Monitoring	Mick Rebane
RP309	Extent and quality of shingle habitats in England	01/05/2010	To improve the targeting and delivery of the Coastal Vegetated Shingle Habitat Action Plan. The project will improve knowledge about the extent and quality of this Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat. There are 3 main elements: (1) Developing guidance for consistent methods of surveying and reporting. (2) Validating site surveys and collation of information. (3) Producing the 2008 shingle inventory Geographic Information Systems layer. Defra and National Trust funded.	Monitoring	Sue Rees
RP300	Prospects for pine martens	31/12/2012	To survey the remaining populations of pine martens in Northern England using tracking, den box schemes, camera traps and baiting stations. The data collected will help target future conservation efforts for pine martens to locations with existing populations. The Vincent Wildlife Trust will be delivering this project.	Research	Tony Mitchell-Jones
RP305	Bats and roofing membranes research project	30/09/2013	(1) To gain an understanding of the impacts of the use of breathable membranes on bat roosts where these occur in roofs and (2) to disseminate findings and recommendations as a guidance document for use by both the building industry and conservation organisations. The project is a four year PhD project, in collaboration between the Technologies for Sustainable Built Environments (TSBE) at the University of Reading and the Bat Conservation Trust.	Research	Judy Stroud

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RP274	Hen Harrier Recovery Project	31/03/2012	To recover the hen harrier breeding population in England through a combination of monitoring, research, demonstration, crime prevention, communication and potentially, reintroduction. It also includes a study of the ecology of hen harriers outside the breeding season, covering movements, habitat selection, survivorship and fate of radio- and satellite-tagged hen harriers of known breeding provenance.	Research	Richard Saunders
RP295	Are the population dynamics of seabirds in the west of Britain driven by climate change ?	01/10/2011	Seabird populations are changing very rapidly across the UK, with observed changes in line with both climate change and fishing effort. This study will disentangle the effects of climate change (and consequent changes in plankton and fish populations) and other changes, including fishing effort, in driving the population dynamics of seabirds nesting in south- western Britain. A PhD based at Plymouth University to identify drivers of decline so that seabird conservation efforts are best focussed.	Research	Andrew Brown
RP117	Updating of ancient woodland inventory	31/03/2015	To improve our knowledge of the extent and distribution of ancient woodland habitat.	Research	Emma Goldberg
RP121	Guidelines for prioritising woodland work at a landscape level	01/12/2010	Some woods occur in an arable context, others are part of what may be more permeable landscapes. For a fixed total of new woodland created a series of different priorities might be suggested, based on protecting sites in arable landscapes from the adverse effects of spray drift; expansion of small woods improving the landscape permeability in moderately wooded zones. Discussions are starting with FC about the planned expansion of forestry.	Research	Keith Kirby
RP122	Priorities for woodland conservation	31/03/2010	Over the next few years there will be major changes in the forestry activity through large-scale woodland biodiversity projects; restoration of open habitats from current plantations; increases in forest cover for carbon sequestration; increased woodland to meet wood-fuel targets. Climate change will affect woodland conservation priorities and practice. This project aims to provide an overview of current priorities and how they may need to develop in the light of these potentially major changes.	Research	Keith Kirby
RP138	Lady slipper orchid: implementation of Species Action Plan	30/03/2012	Implementation of the Species Action Plan for the species, including research into genetics and micro propagation with Royal Botanic gardens Kew and on site management works.	Research	Ian Taylor

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RP139	Alisma gramineum reintroduction project at Baston Fen	30/03/2010	Alisma gramineum, commonly known as ribbon leaved water plantain, is being reintroduced to Baston Fen. This is a joint project working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency. The project also includes surveys at extant sites for current status.	Research	Stewart Clarke
RP197	Ecosystem effects of elevated organic matter loads in upland streams (NERC CASE studentship)	01/09/2011	Levels of particulate and dissolved organic matter in upland streams have increased in recent decades. The effects of this on the biota of upland streams is poorly understood. This Leeds University PhD will undertake strategic monitoring and experimental manipulations to evaluate effects on microbial, algal and invertebrate communities. The findings will be used to inform the definition of environmental targets for upland river SSSIs and SACs, and to inform views on upland rivers generally.	Research	Chris Mainstone
RP236	New and emerging tree diseases on SSSIs	31/03/2010	A new form of oak decline has recently been identified. It has already been reported in the Wyre and in Suffolk and is widely spread through southern England. We are not clear how extensive it is however, nor what the long-term implications are. Forest Research are developing a programme on this disease syndrome. This project will explore possible impacts on woodland from a conservation perspective and what can be said at present about any possible mitigation measures.	Research	Keith Kirby
RP241	Nature After Minerals	30/09/2010	The Nature After Minerals Programme is a partnership between Natural England and the RSPB, with support from the Mineral Products Association. The organisations are working with mineral planners and industry to help nature following minerals extraction. Together, we will make substantial contributions to the habitats and species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets and provide richer places for people to enjoy.	Research	Mark Stephen
RP248	Ecological study of Hymettus aculeate species	12/12/2016	Monitoring and trial management for 13 Biodiversity Action Plan species of bees, wasps and ants.	Research	David Sheppard

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RP252	Amphibian disease chytridiomycosis	30/03/2010	To further investigate chytridiomycosis (a potentially lethal disease of amphibians) in England. It is an extension of a Natural England-funded project carried out in 2008-9, which undertook a national survey using volunteer fieldworkers. Work in 2009-10 will examine potential associations between infected sites, and will use an occupancy modelling approach to test survey effort.	Research	Jim Foster
RP254	Endangered invertebrates: Buglife and Natural England partnership	30/03/2012	Trial and sustainable habitat management for a number of endangered invertebrates. It includes (1) surveys, (2) indentifying the needs and behaviours of the relevant species and (3) trialling appropriate habitat management options. It covers a number of Species Recovery Projects including the ladybird spider, the fen raft spider and oil beetles (oil beetles are a rapidly declining species group, 4 species have been lost and only 3 are left). A partnership with Buglife.	Research	David Heaver
RP259	An evidence base for setting nutrient targets for eutrophication control in rivers	31/03/2010	River eutrophication is a controversial subject, causing problems with the agreement of appropriate management regimes. This work seeks to provide a coherent evidence base for setting targets. It will be used to review UK Common Standards guidance for setting conservation objectives for rivers with special designations for wildlife, the results of which will be adopted in Natural England guidance. It will also be used to inform discussions under the UK BAP and the Water Framework Directive.	Research	Chris Mainstone
RP261	Determining historic ecological conditions in lowland rivers: applying palaeoecological techniques to river restoration planning (NERC CASE studentship)	30/09/2012	River restoration needs to be underpinned by an understanding of how biological communities have changed as a result of physical habitat modifications and how they would benefit from restoration measures. This Loughborough University PhD will characterise contemporary and historical faunas in lowland river SSSIs in relation to physical habitat modification. The results will be used to help underpin restoration efforts on river SSSIs and other rivers.	Research	Chris Mainstone

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RP262	The role of nutrients and hydrological disturbance in determining the status of attached algal communities in rivers (NERC CASE studentship)	30/09/2012	Strategic monitoring, experimental manipulations and modelling to clarify how nutrient availability interacts with other environmental factors in influencing algal growth in rivers. The work will be used in future refinements to the definition of nutrient targets for controlling eutrophication impacts on river SSSIs and SACs, and for informing views on the wider river network in relation to the Water Framework Directive and the UK BAP. Lancaster University PhD.	Research	Chris Mainstone
RP266	Integration of BAP species requirements into relevant priority habitat action plans	15/01/2010	Integration of BAP species habitat requirements into relevant BAP priority habitat action plans to assist Biodiversity Integration Groups (BIGs) with the development of targeted plans for all habitats and species.	Research	Allan Drewitt
RP267	An evidence base for setting flow targets to control the ecological effects of water resource management on river habitats	31/03/2010	To assemble published evidence on the nature of effects on riverine biota stemming from artificial modifications to river flows. Its immediate use will be in the current review of UK Common Standards for setting conservation objectives for rivers with special designations for wildlife. The results will also be used by Natural England in wider discussions over the definition and use of flow targets under the Water Framework Directive and the UK BAP.	Research	Chris Mainstone
RP270	Marl lakes: defining conservation objectives (NERC CASE studentship)	30/09/2012	Use of palaeolimnological techniques (plant and animals remains in lake sediment cores) to determine historic reference conditions and patterns of change in three marl (limestone) lakes - Malham Tarn, Hawes Water and Cunswick Tarn. The results will increase our understanding of how marl lakes respond to natural and human induced pressures and the findings will be applicable to other marl lakes. NERC CASE PhD Studentship.	Research	Stewart Clarke
RP277	Hedgerow management: a survey of land managers and contractors practices and attitudes	31/03/2010	Good hedgerow management is promoted by Defra and Natural England through Agri-Environment Schemes but poor management is still widely recognised to be a serious problem. The reasons for this are poorly understood. This Defra funded survey updates a previous one in 2000 and will show what impact Environmental Stewardship has had on attitudes and management.	Research	Emily Ledder

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RP279	A review of ecological factors and techniques affecting the restoration of herbaceous hedgerow flora	31/03/2010	To gain a better understanding of the ecological characteristics of the hedgerow flora, including soil factors, and second, to link this information to likely responses to potential management techniques, either those indicated by existing research or those predicted from plant functional attributes, such as life history strategy. Defra funded project.	Research	Emily Ledger
RP292	An evidence base for setting organic pollution-related targets to protect the biodiversity of riverine habitats	31/03/2010	To review key evidence relevant to protecting riverine ecosystems from organic pollution, building on detailed work reported in Natural England report NECR023. The immediate use will be in the current review of UK Common Standards for setting conservation objectives for rivers with special designations for wildlife. The results will also be used by Natural England in wider discussions over the definition and use of targets under the Water Framework Directive and the UK BAP.	Research	Chris Mainstone
RP296	Impacts of climate and land use change on the UK cuckoo population	01/10/2012	To disentangle the effects of climate in different forms of land use and more specifically focus on the key mechanisms affecting cuckoo population in the UK, and the implications of future change. This long-term project based at Aberdeen University is a combination of long-term data, field observation, experimentation and modelling. The results will guide Natural England and RSPB in developing appropriate mitigation measures for this iconic species.	Research	Phil Grice

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Marine					
RP045	Seasearch diver surveys of marine biodiversity	31/03/2010	This project involves a series of diver-led surveys of the seabed to provide information on location and quality of marine biodiversity. The findings will be part of the evidence base that is used to select Marine Protected Areas.	Monitoring	Richard Wright
RP215	Assessment of macrobenthic invertebrates in marine sediments	30/03/2010	Macrobenthic invertebrates live in or on the bottom of the sea and are large enough to be seen with the naked eye, eg crabs and starfish. This project involves the sampling and the analysis of samples taken from the Isles of Scilly, Northumberland coast and Fal and Helford estuaries. The findings will be used to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and to help Natural England monitor the condition of Special Areas of Conservation.	Monitoring	Sarah Peaty
RP217	Assessment of subtidal features in European Marine Sites	31/03/2010	Assessment of subtidal features in European Marine Sites, in particular large shallow inlets and bays, and subtidal sandbanks. Partnership to use Environment Agency vessel.	Monitoring	Sarah Peaty
RP219	Monitoring Fleet Lagoon Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area	31/12/2010	This work involves a number of projects to assess the condition of this Special Area of Conservation; Special Protection Area and surrounding area, including monitoring the temperature and salinity of the lagoon; surveying the subtidal eelgrass beds; monitoring little tern numbers and recording the affects of human activity and inappropriate coastal defences.	Monitoring	Rachel Waldock
RP014	State of England's Seas report	31/10/2010	The State of England's Seas (SoES) will describe the state of England's marine environment. It will include information on relevant environmental resources and conservation interests and pressures. The report will publish the evidence needed to help Natural England and others identify what has to be done to meet our targets for the marine environment, including the role and importance of Marine Protected Areas.	Research	Paul Gilliland
RP272	Review of viability principle for design of the Marine Protected Area network	31/12/2010	One of the requirements when setting up a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network is viability. Natural England and Joint Nature Conservancy Council wish to investigate whether specific recommendations on MPA size can be made for species and habitats. In particular (1) to identify mature adult home ranges for species of conservation importance and (2) to identify the minimum area required for each habitat of conservation importance in order to maintain the integrity of that habitat.	Research	Jen Ashworth

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RP283	European Marine Site risk assessments	20/07/2010	A strategic review of risks from all ongoing activities within European Marine Sites (marine SACs and SPAs) in order to identify the future management required to ensure site features are maintained or restored to favourable condition. Defra will receive a report detailing the key risks to European Marine Site features.	Research	Michael Coyle
RP284	Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP)	30/11/2010	The development of a long-term multi-disciplinary approach to understanding the implications of climate change in our seas. Natural England is one of a large number of partners, including Defra, the Environment Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB and others. For more information see the web site at www.mccip.org.uk/default.htm .	Research	Michael Coyle
RP286	Marine Connectivity: analysis of keystone species within the British Isles	31/03/2012	To assess connectivity in marine ecosystems. In particular, the connectivity between populations of sessile marine invertebrates (ie marine invertebrates that are attached to something at the bottom of the sea so cannot move around, eg sponges, anemones and oysters) over a range of geographical scales. This is being done as a PhD at the University of Exeter by measuring genetic relatedness between populations.	Research	Jen Ashworth

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People and access					
RP301	Green Exercise programme evaluation	31/12/2010	A qualitative study which aims to explore the extent to which the programme of Green Exercise encourages groups to access green space. The work will focus on: (1) How individuals have experienced the Green Exercise programme. (2) What elements of the programme have worked and what has not worked well and for which groups. (3) Understanding the barriers to long term behavioural change.	Monitoring	Hazel Hynds
RP010	Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE)	31/08/2012	Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) is a new sample survey of the adult population commissioned by Natural England, in conjunction with Defra and the Forestry Commission. The survey is being undertaken as part of a weekly in home omnibus survey and fieldwork started in March 2009. The survey will provide data on visits to the natural environment at regional and national level. It will provide information to support a range of Natural England projects and programmes.	Monitoring	Alison Darlow
RP195	Monitoring and evaluation of the Walking for Health programme	31/12/2012	The Walking for Health (WfH) database will be used extensively to monitor and help evaluate the expansion of the WfH scheme in partnership with the Department of Health. Personal information of walkers includes health data, details of walk schemes, the walks associated with the umbrella scheme and logs of attendance registers of walkers activity are stored in the database. It will use its reporting structure to monitor, analyse and help evaluate the expanding walking schemes from 2009 to 2012.	Monitoring	Alan Pearsons
RP308	Natural England's Open Access National Monitoring Programme	31/03/2012	The implementation of Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 created new public rights of open access over areas of registered common land and open country. This monitoring programme helps identify the level of uptake, use and impacts of these new rights. Among other things it (1) provides early warning of any potential adverse impacts, so that suitable access management measures can be put in place and (2) helps inform future integrated access practice and guidance.	Monitoring	Rob Keane

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP306	Action Research Projects case stories	31/03/2010	Case stories will communicate the findings from the Michael Bell Associates Evaluation of four projects which were part of DEFRA's Diversity Review. This review aimed to increase access and recreational opportunities for those who are under-represented as visitors to the Countryside. These projects (Beyond the Boundary, Stepping Out, Finding Common Ground and By All Means) tested methods to try and develop a long term connection between the under-represented groups and the countryside.	Research	Melanie Maylen
RP224	Relationship between green space and health including the use of mapping and spatial targeting tools	01/09/2010	To investigate green space mapping/spatial targeting tools-reflecting urban green space/green infrastructure. Investigation of barriers and motivators for engagement; relationships between exposure to the natural environment and wider pro environmental behaviours and attitudes; further investigation and articulation of cultural ecosystem services and implications for diversity agenda. Research from the Health Inequalities - Stoke project and Greenspace and health - Bristol Study.	Research	Alan Pearsons
RP258	Evaluation of the Access To Nature Grants Programme	31/12/2013	The Access to Nature Grants Programme is part of Big Lottery's Changing Spaces Programme. This is a formative programme evaluation reporting initially to the Project Steering Group, with a final report to be published in 2013. Every project will do its own self-evaluation, and 20 projects will be selected for detailed case study.	Research	Alison Hill
RP280	Understanding what people want from the natural environment using customer segmentation	31/05/2010	The project will develop a segmentation model of citizen engagement with the natural environment. The segmentation will identify the specific needs, requirements and preferences of various groups to enable us to focus our efforts on making the natural environment more interesting, accessible and relevant to the groups identified as being underrepresented. The project is led by Defra and co-funded by Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency and British Waterways.	Research	Alison Darlow

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
Sustainable land use					
RP046	State of the Green Belt report	26/01/2010	This review of the environmental value and condition of the Green Belt in England will include an assessment of how well the Green Belt is meeting its objectives and whether it is now fit for purpose. The report will also try to identify how the delivery of environmental benefits through the Green Belt mechanism could be improved.	Research	Wendy Thompson
RP282	Development of guidance for using spatial targeting strategically	31/03/2010	To develop a toolkit for use by Natural England staff to assist their understanding of spatial targeting and geographic literacy. Specifically, it will provide guidance on how to use spatial targeting strategically in the development of Tactical Plans (plans that describe how we will deliver our corporate plan targets), also in highlighting opportunities for adding value to our delivery or improving efficiency.	Research	Nick Dales
RP288	A system to identify poor quality environments and tackle environmental inequalities	31/03/2010	To identify, record and evaluate the existing work by government agencies to improve the environmental conditions experienced by deprived communities. The project will be led by the Environment Agency, funded by Defra and Natural England and will receive input from the Forestry Commission.	Research	Nick Dales

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
Land management					
RP023	Incidental socio-economic benefits of Environmental Stewardship	31/03/2010	To quantify the incidental social and economic benefits associated with expenditure generated by the Environmental Stewardship Scheme. It will include direct benefits (eg jobs sustained and created, training, skills, social interaction); indirect benefits (eg spend on contractors) and induced benefits (eg further spend in the local economy). This work is funded by Defra	Monitoring	Stephen Chaplin
RP025	Non-market benefits of Environmental Stewardship	30/04/2010	To undertake an economic valuation of the non-market benefits of Environmental Stewardship. Joint project with Defra.	Monitoring	Julian Harlow
RP028	Countryside Survey 2007	31/03/2010	Countryside Survey provides scientifically reliable evidence about many aspects of the state of the UK countryside. The results from 2007 can be compared with the findings of previous surveys to measure and analyse change. Countryside Survey 2007 will produce a series of reports describing the state of, and change in, attributes of key environmental features. Natural England is a funding partner in this major project assessing change in the British countryside.	Monitoring	Andrew Cooke
RP033	Agreement-scale monitoring of Higher Level Stewardship delivery	31/03/2010	A detailed evaluation of 100 Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements to provide an assessment of the potential of HLS to deliver expected outcomes. By establishing an independent baseline on the condition and extent of features being managed it will enable a future re-survey to validate the success of management. It is being delivered through a partnership with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.	Monitoring	Andrew Cooke
RP034	South West Peak Breeding Bird Survey 2009	27/02/2010	A survey of target wading bird species in the South West Peak. The findings will be used to inform Higher Level Stewardship targeting and our understanding of the effectiveness of the scheme.	Monitoring	Sara Barrett
RP036	Cirl Bunting Survey 2009	01/10/2010	A survey to update our data on cirl buntings populations and thence inform delivery and targeting of Environmental Stewardship. Joint project with RSPB.	Monitoring	Phil Grice

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP043	Inventory-based upland habitat condition survey	30/06/2010	To examine a representative sample of upland heath, blanket bog and upland calcareous grassland priority habitats. It will enable Natural England to report on the condition of the upland habitat resource and to make comparisons between condition of SSSI and non statutory sites, inside and outside agri-environment management. A number of survey reports will be produced.	Monitoring	Alistair Crowle
RP264	Bird survey of the Shropshire Hills AONB	31/03/2010	Survey and reporting on uncommon bird species as part of the Conservation of Threatened Birds in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership/Community project. The results will be used to support regional land management delivery, in particular the delivery of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme.	Monitoring	Andrew Cooke
RP016	State of the farmed environment report	01/07/2010	To assess the current state of the farmed environment. Collaboration with Environment Agency and National Farmers Union.	Research	Stephen Chaplin
RP026	Quantifying the impacts of Entry Level Stewardship on biodiversity at farm scale (Hillesden Experiment)	01/07/2011	To assess the outcomes for a range of wildlife of imposing three different intensities of intervention within a typical intensive arable farm. This is a key project for understanding the scale of biodiversity benefits likely to be delivered by Entry Level Stewardship (ELS). It started in 2005 and is due to run until 2011.	Research	Andrew Cooke
RP035	Improving the targeting of agri-environment schemes for farmland and woodland birds	01/03/2010	To provide evidence to enable better targeting of agri-environment schemes for farmland bird species and improved management of agreements for these species.	Research	James Phillips
RP037	Effectiveness of Higher Level Stewardship at providing resources for target bird species	01/10/2012	To provide a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) in delivering for target bird species, both at the farm level and the option level. The results will be used to review and enhance delivery of HLS. This five year project started in 2007 is a partnership with RSPB.	Research	Phil Grice
RP041	Managing farmland for kestrels	31/03/2011	Kestrels prefer to forage in grassland but despite the increasing amounts of this habitat provided by grass margins and field corners populations in Britain have continued to decline. This project aims to trial techniques to understand the extent to which grass margins are used by kestrels and how their management could be improved to benefit kestrel foraging and hence reproductive performance. Contribution to PhD at Newcastle University.	Research	Phil Grice

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP120	Biodiversity implications of woodfuel harvesting in ancient woods	01/12/2010	To capture the issues and concerns of key individuals and organisations on the possible substantial increase in the management activity and harvesting in ancient woodland (particularly in south-east England) and to explore how these might be resolved.	Research	Keith Kirby
RP192	How to provide wetland habitats on farmland to increase biodiversity	31/03/2010	To fill knowledge gaps in the management of wet grassland for biodiversity and the provision of suitable habitats for birds. A Defra funded project.	Research	Phil Grice
RP193	Management of wet grassland habitat to reduce the impact of predation on breeding waders: Phase 2	31/03/2010	To examine the impact of predators on breeding waders. The first phase of the project showed that the most important predators of wader nests are likely to be mammals such as foxes but that predation rates vary. This second phase is examining cost effective, non-lethal solutions. A Defra funded project.	Research	Allan Drewitt
RP194	Diversification of grassland through the manipulation of plant-soil interactions and the identification of indicators of restorability	31/03/2010	To (1) confirm association of high fungal-to-bacterial ratios with species-rich grasslands; (2) quantify the impact of key plant species in the development of fungal dominated soils and on vegetation diversity; (3) identify the mechanisms underlying the influence of plant species on fungal-to-bacterial ratios and soil biota influences on vegetation; and (4) evaluate other potential indicators for targeting sites for re-creation or enhancement of grassland. A Defra funded project.	Research	Steve Peel
RP196	Testing of modified management of agricultural grassland to promote in-field structural heterogeneity, invertebrates and birds	31/03/2010	To test simple management techniques of reducing grazing pressure and ceasing grazing from July onwards on approximately 20 farms in South Devon. Effects on invertebrates and birds will be assessed. In a separate study modified mowing and forage harvesting techniques which may reduce skylark nest losses will be tested. A Defra funded project.	Research	Steve Peel
RP198	Grass silage as a new source of winter food for declining farmland birds	31/03/2010	To investigate the influence of closure date on seed production in a range of widely grown ryegrass varieties. The work will assess the attractiveness to foraging birds of blocks that are allowed to set seed and remain in situ overwinter. The importance of grass seed in the winter diets of granivorous birds will be assessed through the examination of faecal samples. Agronomic costs will be assessed, along with three sward restoration techniques. A Defra funded project.	Research	Steve Peel

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP199	Techniques to enhance the establishment and persistence of poor-performing species in grassland restoration	31/03/2012	To(1) identify the constraints on the survival of poor-performing, specialist species for a wide range of UK grassland types; and (2) develop and test practical management prescriptions to enhance the establishment of these species under the agri-environment schemes. A Defra funded project.	Research	Clare Pinches
RP200	Sustainable management systems for unimproved neutral grassland	31/03/2012	To determine the appropriate level of grazing by cattle to maintain species-rich grassland, and quantify the impact of grazing on invertebrates and on the growth of cattle. This will build on the research that was developed in a previous Defra project on integrating understanding to develop grazing and cutting guidelines. A Defra funded project.	Research	Richard Jefferson
RP201	Wide scale enhancement of biodiversity: effects on other resources	31/03/2011	To provide further evidence that a moderate increase in plant diversity has the potential to deliver multiple benefits including (1) increased diversity and abundance of fauna; (2) improved soil structure, nutrient retention and water infiltration; and (3) improved forage quality. A Defra funded project.	Research	Steve Peel
RP202	Influence of spring grazing regime on the floristic diversity and restorative potential of upland hay meadows	31/03/2012	To provide improved guidance for meadow management in agri-environment schemes, in particular to (1) identify the optimum spring grazing regimes and shut up dates for the maintenance and enhancement of botanical interests and (2) assess the impact on hay yield and quality. It is funded by Defra.	Research	David Martin
RP203	Sustainable nutrient management of semi-natural neutral grasslands.	31/03/2011	To examine the most appropriate type and level of nutrient addition to maintain or restore plant diversity in lowland and upland neutral meadows focusing in particular on the role of farmyard manure (FYM). The findings will be used to revise guidance on FYM applications to unimproved neutral meadows. A Defra funded project.	Research	Richard Jefferson
RP208	The impact of the loss of set-aside stubbles on farmland birds.	31/03/2010	To assess the impacts of the loss of set-aside on the winter ecology, behaviour, distribution and breeding population trends of many farmland bird species. A Defra funded project.	Research	Phil Grice
RP209	Trials to identify soil cultivation practices to minimise the impact on archaeological sites	31/03/2010	To determine the effect of agricultural and soil management techniques on earthworks and buried archaeological remains through controlled laboratory/soil bin and in-field experiments, alongside experimental accelerated and real-time earthwork field trials. The project will provide empirical data on the effects of different tillage implements on soil movement, how vehicle loading can affect soil compaction and an evaluation of cultivation depth monitoring.	Research	Victoria Hunns

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
RP210	Trends, long term survival and ecological values of hedgerow trees: development of population models to inform strategy	31/03/2010	To measure and predict the balance of age structures necessary to maintain target numbers of hedgerow trees and to use this information to inform future decisions on this component of hedgerow habitats. A Defra funded project.	Research	Emily Ledder
RP212	Managing uncropped land in order to enhance biodiversity benefits of the arable farmed landscape.	31/03/2010	To identify new options for farmers to achieve desired biodiversity targets and meet other environmental objectives through the targeted management of discrete areas of uncropped land within the farmed landscape. The project will examine the relationship between the scale and distribution of land managed for biodiversity and the biodiversity benefits. A Defra funded project.	Research	Phil Grice
RP213	Environmentally sustainable and economically viable grazing systems for restoration and maintenance of heather moorland in England and Wales	30/09/2011	To acquire additional long-term data from the grazing system study and intervention plots established at Pwllpeiran in 2002. This will include repeating vegetation and invertebrate assessments in 2010 and monitoring heather establishment in 2010. This project is funded by Defra.	Research	David Glaves
RP263	The number and productivity of waders in the Avon Valley	31/03/2010	To assess whether Higher Level Stewardship is addressing declines in the number and productivity of wading birds in the Avon Valley. The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust are carrying out the survey work.	Research	Andrew Cooke
RP278	Effects of hedgerow management and restoration on biodiversity	31/03/2013	To examine the effects of simple cutting management regimes promoted by Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) on the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat, and food resources in hedgerows; and identify, develop and test low-cost, practical options for hedgerow restoration and rejuvenation applicable at the large-scale under both ELS and HLS. A Defra funded project.	Research	Emily Ledder

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
Vision, strategy and opportunities					
RP287	A vision and strategy for the natural environment in 2060	01/10/2010	Natural England needs a clear view of the long term future for the natural environment. This needs to be practical and plausible so we can help society recognise the value of the natural environment and deliver this with help from our partners. This work includes Horizon Scanning (to detect emerging issues and pressures); Scenarios (to represent a broad range of plausible pathways to different futures) and Vision 2060 (as the foundation for inspiring others).	Research	Nathan Moores
RP001	The place of rewilding in future landscapes	31/03/2030	Across Europe there is increasing interest in wilderness conservation, but does it have a place here? This project brings together work looking at the issues involved in taking a more hands-off approach to conservation, emulating approaches being trialled in the Netherlands, particularly at the reserve of Oostvaardersplassen.	Research	Keith Kirby
RP009	Developing new ways of valuing ecosystem services	31/03/2010	To develop a benefits transfer valuation approach for integrating and managing ecosystem services. The aim is to develop valuation methods which would be used by all government departments when appraising projects. This is a joint Natural England, Defra, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Health and Safety Executive, Natural Environment Research Council & RSPB project looking	Research	Julian Harlow

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ID	Title	Date	Description	Type	Contact
Climate change					
RP273	Establishing the impact of air pollution and climate change on UK biodiversity (ECBN)	31/03/2015	Natural England is part of the Environmental Change Biodiversity Network (ECBN) partnership, which is establishing a UK wide network of long-term monitoring sites to increase our ability to detect, understand and predict the effects of climate change and air pollution on biodiversity. England has 16 ECBN sites and 3 Environmental Change Network sites on National Nature Reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are a further 4 English ECN sites on other land.	Monitoring	Clive Bealey
RP291	Monitoring of greenhouse gases following changes in land management in the North Pennines	01/12/2012	Moorland drainage channels on Cronkley Fell were monitored for greenhouse gas release. The channels were then blocked and greenhouse gas emissions continue to be monitored. This work will provide information on whether blocking moorland drainage channels reduces the production of greenhouses gasses and, if so, and indication of the level of the effect.	Monitoring	Alistair Crowle
RP307	National climate change vulnerability analysis	31/03/2011	To further refine and test a geographically explicit model for evaluating the vulnerability of terrestrial ecological systems to climate change. It will inform how the future allocation of resources and conservation management practices might need to change across both protected areas and the wider environment in order to accommodate potential vulnerability to climate change in our critical natural capital.	Research	Roger Catchpole