

Middlemarch's £120,000 boost

After another record-breaking year in 2007, Middlemarch Environmental celebrated by making a record donation to its parent charity, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The cash, totalling over £120,000, was handed over to the Trust's Director of Conservation, Gina Rowe, who said: "This donation is such a fantastic boost for the charity at a time when we need to develop new conservation and education initiatives in response to both development pressures and to climate change." Trust Chairman Roger Cadbury added his thanks, not just to Middlemarch's staff



Middlemarch's Phil Fermor hands over the donation to the Wildlife Trust's Gina Rowe

for their hard work in generating this donation, but also to those businesses who use Middlemarch's professional services, adding: "Your support for Middlemarch provides tangible results on the ground for nature conservation and for people."

Middlemarch Environmental's Managing Director, Dr Phil Fermor, commented: "2007 was certainly a very busy year for all of us, but thanks to the commitment and professionalism of our staff, we exceeded all our targets, delivered some great biodiversity projects, and continued our sustained growth."

M-PEOPLE...

As Middlemarch Environmental continues to expand, it gets even more difficult to squeeze us all into a photo - but here we are anyway! Pictured right on our recent Away-day are (back row, l-r): Andy Tasker, James Webster, John Polley, Tim Hextell, James Hildreth, James Calow, Tom Docker, Lois Browne, Fiona Chester, Andrea Powell, Ruth Hardie and Board Chair Eamon Collins. Middle: Phil Fermor, John Daw, Katy Read, Laurence Chittock, Lizzie Reffin, Joscelin Tilley, Anna Dudley, Lizi Jacovou, Lucy Philpott and Sophie Meredith. Front: Colin Bundy, Tina Palmer, Jemma Gaskin, Charlie Lee and Helen Markland, with David Smith relaxing ... and there were several other staff unable to get there on the day ... phew!



Middlemarch staff at our recent Away-day - details left



Colin Bundy joined us as a Principal Ecologist in September following a long career in Severn Trent Water. His utilities background will help us develop this key market area.



Lizi Jacovou's MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation at Leeds led to her joining us as Project Officer in September. She also has a BSc in Environmental Biogeoscience.



Andrea Powell joined as Project Officer following her BSc in Zoology and MSc in Applied Ecology & Conservation from UEA. Work surveying organic farms was an excellent background.



John Daw started as Project Officer in the Autumn following his MSc in Biological Diversity at Plymouth, where he'd also completed their BSc in Environmental Science.



Laurence Chittock joined us in July as GIS Assistant for the placement year of his BSc in Maths & GIS at Aston University. His skills have been well used already in this key area.



Kim Hambly's working with us during her placement year assisting our growing BREEAM workload. Her degree is in Geography with Natural Hazards at Coventry University.

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MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL Ltd

Newsletter

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New Year 2008

Homes for more than just people

'Sustainable Housing' has been a key phrase from Government since the Code for Sustainable Homes was published in December 2006. Followed up with *Homes for the Future*, then the *Technical Guide* in October 2007, the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) has made clear what they want. Not just any old housing, but radically different carbon-neutral homes, where environment is a key factor.

Middlemarch Environmental Ltd has been taking up this challenge, working closely with a number of developers to find effective ways of putting these policies into practice. A key tool was the old BREEAM EcoHomes Assessment, now overtaken as DCLG's Code for Sustainable Homes. This code encompasses the whole of the environment within its nine categories, ranging from energy and CO2 through water, waste and pollution to management and ecology. The Technical Guide looks a daunting read at 225 pages, but thanks to Middlemarch's expertise, the ecology elements of it can be dealt with easily.



Middlemarch has been involved with the development of the Code for over 20 years. As the process has developed and matured, so our ecologists have been able to provide a consistent and reliable approach to provide developers with the ecological verification that they need.

Now our BREEAM Team (right) provides the coordination for ecological surveys, providing clients with reports and recommendations for further improvements. For example at one Mansell site recently, the presence of a pond and mature

trees enabled the initial plan to be redesigned, retaining and enhancing the site's ecology whilst continuing to build the housing numbers needed.



Middlemarch's BREEAM Team - Fiona, Sophie, Kim and Joscelin - coordinate projects while our ecologists complete the site surveys



Conservation gains: as a result of ecological surveys, a housing plan was redesigned to retain the pond and wetland feature.

Full details of the Code are available from the DCLG website at www.communities.gov.uk

News Briefs

Heathrow's eco-work

Middlemarch Environmental Ltd is working to provide BAA Heathrow with a range of ecological and conservation services, through a full-time dedicated member of staff. The Heathrow Conservation Ecologist's role includes three distinct components:

- Ecological monitoring and survey,
- Conservation planning and management, and
- Community liaison and outreach.

Based at BAA Heathrow, the work involves a number of BAA sites of



BAA Heathrow from the air - our project links local greenspace and local people

conservation value in the surrounding area. Middlemarch was selected by BAA Heathrow on the basis of our environmental expertise, quality of delivery, support and back-up services. Speaking as the contract was confirmed, Clive Jones, Heathrow's biodiversity manager, said: "We see this project as a key way of taking forward our own BAP, enhancing habitats where we can, and engaging both our staff and the local community in our work. Biodiversity is a key part of our Corporate Social Responsibility agenda, and we look forward to making good progress during the year."



Bat house solution

What do you do when you have a building with bats in the way of your new water treatment works? The answer for Severn Trent Water was to build a new home for the bats, with detailed support and project management from Middlemarch Environmental Ltd.



Severn trent's new bat house with (inset) its own bat box!

Surveys by Middlemarch had established the presence of brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) so a licence from Natural England was required. The new bat house was specially constructed to meet the roosting requirements for the species, in a quiet corner of the site away from disturbance. Once complete, the bat was translocated to the new building, complete with wildlife-friendly planting to encourage insects. And the vital water treatment improvements can take place too!



Brown long-eared bat



EU Business & Biodiversity Initiative



With the overall aim of halting the decline in biodiversity by 2010, the EU has clearly given itself a challenging target. But in November an additional plank of support was provided when the Business & Biodiversity Initiative was launched at a high level conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Middlemarch Environmental was there, thanks to Research Associate Derek Whatling whose PhD research



Middlemarch's Derek Whatling at the EU Conference

is in this important and evolving area (See Newsletter 17).

The conference concluded with a message calling on business, governments, the EU and NGOs to continue promoting the strong business advantages from conserving biodiversity; to encourage the use of market, corporate responsibility and regulatory schemes; to develop tools for biodiversity conservation and measuring performance; and to develop new incentives to strengthen partnerships.



Biodiversity indicators research

How can business play its part in conserving biodiversity? A good starting point would be to identify and quantify its biodiversity impacts - but even this is complex.

So Middlemarch Environmental is supporting a new PhD research project at Aston University, focused on developing biodiversity indicators for business landholdings.

Once measurable indicators have been established, new methodologies will be developed and evaluated.



Sustainable distribution award

ProLogis Park Pineham is billed as the most environmentally-friendly distribution centre in Europe – and Middlemarch Environmental has been helping to ensure that the biodiversity component of the project lives up to that claim.

Located just off the M1 on the outskirts of Northampton, the 45 ha site gets its environmental credentials from a host of sustainability features including construction methods, rainwater harvesting, SUDS drainage, solar shading and low energy paints. These plus a BREEAM rating of Very Good led to the 'Green



Award' received at the European Property Awards in Munich in October.

Middlemarch has carried out ecological surveys over the last two years, helping to shape the landscape potential with architects Barry Chinn Associates. Mitigation plans for several protected species have ensured their long-term viability within the site, which provides ecological networks into the surrounding land. Water shrew and kingfisher have flourished even while construction has continued.

Speaking at the Awards Ceremony, Gary Anderson, president and chief operating officer for ProLogis in Europe, said "It is an honour to be recognized for our real estate accomplishments in Europe. ProLogis' greatest competitive advantage has always been its people, who have done an outstanding job growing the business through strategic transactions and by

cultivating lasting relationships with our customers, partners and the communities in which we operate."



The Pineham Site and M1 with (inset) a kingfisher



Quarry biodiversity rewarded

Leading UK landscaping manufacturing company Marshalls plc has been awarded The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark for the sustained work it has carried out at its Maltby manufacturing facility in south Yorkshire. Middlemarch Environmental Ltd conducted the Biodiversity Benchmark audit at the site over the last 18 months on behalf of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts UK Office.

To achieve the Biodiversity Benchmark, Marshalls' Maltby works first produced an exacting Biodiversity Action Plan to ensure proper site management, allowing wildlife value to be improved for the long term. Since then work on site has created a new conservation area around its old pump lagoon to form new wetland areas, sited a total of 150 new trees and sown areas with native grass and wild flower seed. Recent surveys on the site have recorded more than 70 species of bird and over 20 different

species of butterfly.

Actor and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust President Brian Blessed presented Marshalls plc with The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark award, commenting: "This is a fantastic achievement; I only hope other companies use Marshalls as an example to follow in improving their local wildlife for the future. We all need heroes like these".



The Maltby Site conservation area and (left) Brian Blessed presenting the Biodiversity Benchmark certificate

have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of flora, fauna & wildlife already within our site boundary. We now plan to continue this excellent work."

In addition to carrying out the Audit process at Marshalls, Middlemarch Environmental developed the whole Biodiversity Benchmark process for The Wildlife Trusts.

Ian Manley, Health & Safety Coordinator at the Maltby Works, added: "We are delighted to have achieved accreditation to The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark. Whilst it has been hard work we feel it has been well worth the effort and

