

## Biodiversity Duty Implementation Case Study

### **Welsh Assembly Government**

In addition to leading the implementation of the NERC Duty across Wales we also had to consider implementation within the Welsh Assembly Government itself. We encourage all staff to treat Biodiversity in the same way that they would Health and Safety or the Welsh Language issues: incorporating Biodiversity into policies and projects at the earliest possible stage and looking for opportunities to provide added benefits beyond, but including, legislative compliance.

The Head of Environment, Sustainability and Housing took a paper to the Directors' meeting so that all senior managers would be aware of the need to comply with the Biodiversity Duty. The Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Team provided Head of Division Briefings, which were sent to all team leaders. We are in the process of carrying out biodiversity audits on all our premises. We have linked the duty directly into our Policy Gateway process (that we use to quality assure all Welsh Assembly Government Policies and we are looking at how we might integrate the duty into other strategic areas such as capital expenditure).

The Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Team also provide bespoke guidance to go into grant application guidance and policy documents. We try to keep all our instructions as clear and simple as possible and to provide plenty of signposts to where help and assistance can be found. We will be measuring progress through the revised Environment Strategy and Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales.