



# **South East Volunteer Partnership Action Group**

**Volunteers for the Natural  
Environment**



# Volunteers for the Natural Environment

## Background

- Natural England Strategic objective: Increase number and diversity of people actively engaged to conserve and enhance the natural environment by 10% by 2011

## How

- Increase number and diversity of volunteers supporting management of NNRs and SSSI's
- Work with regional partners to explore ways of increasing number and diversity of 'green' volunteers.

# Volunteers for the Natural Environment



**The Partnership** (formed Sep '08, meets quarterly)

- Berk, Bucks, Oxfordshire WT
- Kent WT,
- Hants/IOW WT,
- RSPB,
- National Trust,
- Oxford CC,
- Milton Keynes Council,
- Aylesbury Vale DC,
- Natural England

# Volunteers for the Natural Environment



## Overall aims:

- Raise profile of 'green' volunteering
- Gather data on green volunteer activity
- Look for more resources (long term)
- Encourage more joint working between environmental organisations and local authorities
- Work with wider volunteer sector to encourage and 'sign post' potential green volunteers

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## **09/10 Action Plan – immediate**

- Explore ways of working more closely with wider volunteer sector
- Explore ways of engaging hard to reach groups via local partnership projects.
- Share good practice and lessons learnt via e-mail network

## **Long term:**

- Gather evidence/data of value of volunteer activity
- Influence regional rural strategies
- Seek more resources to support volunteer activity – ie resources for training

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## Local Partnership projects

- **Locations:** Solent / South Oxfordshire, Bucks, Berks/Kent
- **Aim:** Explore ways of engaging hard to reach groups
- **Method:** Stage 1 Information/taster days for community leaders and Volunteer Bureau officers  
Stage 2 Voluntary work days on 'out of town' sites – NNRs, etc. Reciprocal support to LNRs and urban greenspace projects.
- **Outputs:** 3 x ongoing community projects, reports, dissemination of lessons learnt through existing networks