

EDITORIAL

You will all realise by now that there has been a hiatus in production of *Ecology in Somerset* since the last printing in 1997. Indeed, there has been major change behind the scenes which we hope will eventually result in a more useful form of publication.

The Editorial Board has been transferred from its previous incarnation as a protégé of the Somerset Wildlife Trust to its present station as part of the SANHS *Proceedings* operation. In the process, there have been changes in the make-up of the 'Board', which has now, effectively, ceased to exist under that title. Instead we now have an Editor answerable directly to Peter Ellis and three carefully selected assistants, covering all aspects of ecology, concerned with collecting material for publication. This has inevitably had its effects on both contents and reviewing. This arrangement should help to make communication easier and speedier via email, avoid the need for numerous meetings and enable us to keep to deadlines. The upshot of all the uncertainty has been, from your point of view, that the 1997 issue contained only half its programmed content – this issue contains the other half. Future issues will be back up to the full four main papers plus two short article form. For this issue, until we are back to the full size, copies of *Ecology in Somerset* as a separate publication will not be available.

There has been a great deal of thought and discussion about the form this journal should take from now on. We'd like some feedback from you. In particular:

Would it be more useful as a Website production? We could get material on to this as soon as it is refereed or edited. Perhaps this would stimulate correspondence. It would certainly reach a larger audience, perhaps even encourage more members and contributions!

Would EIS be better as a series of 'occasional papers' anyway, on the Society Website perhaps?

Should we broaden the scope to cover a whole range of shorter or special-purpose monographs etc., for example little booklets about the ecology of Somerset species, short cuts for rapid species-identification, and even a newsy format?

However, it is likely that these other formats would be produced alongside the full *Proceedings*, containing Natural History contributions, and received by all members of the Society. Whatever you request or suggest, we intend to keep format, content and style under rolling development from now on, in collaboration with both Peter Ellis and the Publications Committee of SANHS.

Responses to the Editor will be welcomed – contact Pat Hill-Cottingham, at 01458 210557 or email hillcottingham@yahoo.co.uk

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