

**Twelfth Meeting of the Upland Ecosystem group
Newtown
10 July 2013**

Present: Charles Morgan (RSPB), Jan Sherry (Natural Resources Wales), Mariecia Fraser (Aberystwyth University), Sian Whitehead (Natural Resources Wales) Steve Chambers (WG), Dafydd Roberts (SNPA), Simon Thorpe (Heather Trust), Peter Jones (Natural Resources Wales), , Julia Korn (Natural Resources Wales), Tracey Lovering (Wales Biodiversity Partnership).

Apologies: , Joe Daggart (NT), John Healy (Bangor University), Peter Dennis (IBERS Aberystwyth), John Farrar (Bangor University), Bev Lewis (Mont WT)

1. Actions Outstanding from previous meeting

a) Upland framework review:

JS/DR to start review initially focusing on Futurescape area (North Wales moors) and Snowdonia Juniper area.

b) Montane heath: Final report circulated by JS
JS and SC to meet to discuss taking this forward

c) Upland workshop for the Elenydd
Action for PJ carried forward to discuss with Ken Perry and arrange workshop for Spring 2014

d) CEH Glastir Monitoring
JS to send all info on the meeting held between CCW and CEH about monitoring methodology
JS has suggested to CEH that a steering group be established for the CEH Glastir monitoring strategy. The Upland EG supports this idea.

e) N2K LIFE project;
JK to discuss with TK inviting Kath Hewitt to the next WBP Chairs meeting to discuss the N2K LIFE project and in particular evidence gaps.

f) Upland EG work programme

CM to review the work programme and circulate

JS to send JK date for the Upland /heathland species integration workshop in October.

2. Evidence Gaps work

JK to put review of evidence gaps work on the agenda for the December meeting.
All to look at evidence gaps and start to review ahead of this meeting

CM to collate any updated evidence information on the spreadsheet and send to Tracey Lovering (monthly)

3. Linking to the Wales upland Forum

CM has requested that the Upland Forum be linked to the Upland Ecosystem group.

He will update on this at the next meeting.

JS to circulate the Cambrian Mountain report

All to communicate message that there is a need to embed the wider significance of the uplands in current the policy focus and for the Upland EG to be involved in this work

4. Heather Trust Update:

The Heather Trust (Simon Thorpe) works across Scotland, England and Wales). It provides a link between land managers and the biodiversity/ecosystems. Simon is also Chair of the England and Wales Wildfire Forum. Currently working with Welsh Government to see if a Wales group can be established. Case studies show financial savings in the peak District from a coordinated approach to wildfires.

Bracken Control: Asulux ban areas have been expanded although can be used with emergency authorisation. Full authorisation not until 2016.

Actions

All to look at the Heather Trust website for information e.g. info on the Heather Beetle

All send info to HT on information on the Heather Beetle as they are collecting this.
ST to send JK information on the Heather Trust Newsletter to circulate (Done)

5. Funding Update

All Ecosystem groups to look at the unsuccessful REF projects and direct to SITA/WREN (where appropriate)

6. Carmarthenshire Upland BAP

All to send comments on the Carmarthenshire Upland BAP to JK and JK to collate and send to Isabel Macho (members of the EG have sent comments individually to Isabel)

7. AoB

DR raised an issue around advice on drainage given to farmers by Glastir Officers
DR to write this up and send to CM

CM to liaise with SC to edit report and then send to a Senior Glastir Officer

Next meeting

JK to book a meeting room for the next meeting on 11 December.