

WBPSG9

 12th Nov 2009

North East Wales Institute, Wrexham

AGENDA

The 9th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held at the North East Wales Institute (Glyndŵr University), Wrexham (location map can be found at

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=113995651303547608799.00044a37e5cfc5ce193c5&ll=53.054138,-3.000984&spn=0.012252,0.027509&z=15>

starting at 10.30am. Coffee will be available from 10am.

TIME	PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
10.00		Assemble, tea/coffee	
10.30		Welcome, introduction and apologies	
10.40 – 11.10	1	Main paper with presentation: Outcome 21 – achievements and future issues	Christine Edwards & Andrew Peterken
11.10 – 11.40	2	Main paper: Wales Ecosystem, Species Expert and Policy group – report of issues raised and achievements so far.	Julia Korn & Diana Reynolds
11.40 – 12.00	3	Main paper: Wales Environmental Information Forum – achievements and future issues	David Parker
12.00 – 12.20	4	Main paper: Business and Biodiversity – the way forward	Amy Mulkern
12.20-12.40	5	Wildlife Crime Priorities for Wales	Ian Guildford
12.40-13.40		LUNCH 1hr	
13.40-13.50		Presentation: Taxonomic group: Small Mammals	Simon Poulton, Surveys Manager at The Mammal Society
13.50-14.00		Discussion: What can we do to help these species?	
14.00-14.20	6	Main paper: Natur Cymru	Huw Jenkins
14.20-14.50		Papers to Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A: TNS funding for WBP Group meetings - B: Improving links between the Wales Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) groups and research scientists - C: Wildlife Crime update - D: International Year of Biodiversity Events 	Sean McHugh Juliet Hynes Ian Guildford Sean McHugh
14.50-15.00		Feedback from WCMP	Alan Storer
15.00-15.05		Feedback from Standing Committee	Diana Reynolds
15.05-15.10		Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	
15.10-15.15		AOB	

15.20		Date of next meeting	
	Afternoon tea and finish		

Trains to Wrexham General (5 min walk from NEWI)

From south, arrives 10.01 - Return 15.44 or 16.38

From north, arrives 09.46 – Return 16.02 (on the hour every hour)

From Aberystwyth, arrives 09.00 – Return 16.38

WBPSG9

Paper 1

12th Nov 2009, Wrexham

Wales Environment Strategy Outcome 21 – ‘Sites ... in favourable condition....’. Achievements and future issues

Background/Progress

Previous paper - WBP SG considered the Outcome 21 Communication and Engagement Plan in November 2007.

The Environment Strategy for Wales (ESW) sets targets (‘Outcome 21’) for getting designated sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI and ‘local sites’) into favourable condition. The WBP Outcome 21 Task and Finish Group has been formed to oversee delivery. CCW and WAG are lead partners, with CCW’s Special Sites Project developing the tools to assist collaborative partnership working leading to the delivery of actions. The starting point in developing work programmes to achieve Outcome 21 has been sharing information on who needs to do what, and where. The Actions database holds information for designated sites (Natura 2000 and SSSI), divided into management units, with proposals for action which would lead to appropriate conservation management and ultimately favourable condition of the habitats, species or geological features. To date the data for Natura 2000 sites and those SSSIs in voluntary and public sector ownership has been entered. The conservation objectives and management requirements for all Natura 2000 sites have been published on CCW’s web site.

A web based view of this data has been developed and will be available for partners via an extranet login. Partners will be able to communicate directly to the CCW officer responsible for any unit, and report the status of that action, including when planned and completed. Spreadsheets with the data for individual organisations have already been shared and discussed, prompting action on the ground. Data has also been used to inform strategy and policy making, including the development of Glastir and the River Basin Management Plans.

CCW staff are now using the database to plan and monitor annual work plans and report achievements to WAG.

Plan/Proposals

Over the next 6 months:

- CCW will manage a phased roll out of direct access to the Actions database to partner organisations

- All partners will commence the process of agreeing, planning and reporting completed action
- CCW will provide reports of all partner organisations' achievements
- CCW will enter data for the remainder of the SSSI series by April 2010
- Link reporting of action achieved to BARS

Decision Points

1. WBP to endorse the following principles, as it is important that all the partner organisations participating in the Sites Actions Database fully understand the spirit in which it is intended.

- Issues are identified and Actions are proposed in accordance with the conservation objectives for the sites and their special features. Other actions for entirely different purposes (e.g. food production, business viability, climate change mitigation, access, etc) will often be needed on the same management units but are not recorded in the Sites Actions Database.
- The database includes all the actions thought to be necessary even though it is unlikely that there will be enough resources to do them all in the short to medium term. So we will need to prioritise and find innovative ways of resourcing action.
- The database is 'live'. It has been started up with CCW's often patchy knowledge of the individual units and will be continuously updated with new information gleaned from site visits, landowners, wildlife experts and so on.
- CCW has started up the database with its understanding of the management issues and its proposals for action by CCW and other organisations. There may be other options for solving different problems and it is unlikely that CCW's initial proposals will be the best choice every time. Negotiation will often involve substituting initial proposals with better solutions.
- The agreement of actions on individual units needs to balance the aspirations of landowners with the requirements of the target and legislation. Where there are choices about which organisation takes action on a particular issue, decisions need to be based on effectiveness – the most effective solution is one that will be sustainable in the long term, integrate well with other demands on the land, and deliver value for money for Wales.

2. WBP to agree to the continuation (and possible re- formulation) of the WBP Outcome 21 Task and Finish Group.

Christine Edwards
Operational Support Group
Countryside Council for Wales

Title: Report from the Ecosystem Groups and Species Expert Group

Produced by: *Wales Biodiversity Policy Group*

Background/Progress

The Future of BAP Mechanism document was agreed by WBP last July and is currently published on the WBP website. Over the next few months it will be used to update the Wales Biodiversity Framework. The new structure and processes set out in this document are seen as a key tool to support delivery and reporting of the Wales Environment Strategy and the Sustainable Development Scheme and support compliance with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty. The new approach to biodiversity will ensure not just delivery of biodiversity targets but also inform and support the delivery of the ecosystem approach in Wales and so help safeguard the services and products on which the people of Wales depend for their livelihoods, health and general well being.

An important element of the Future of BAP Mechanism has been the establishment of 9 Ecosystem Groups and the Species Expert Group. The primary role of these groups is to make sure Wales meets targets for Section 42 species and habitats. All groups are currently involved in prioritising targets and actions and identifying leads to ensure delivery. In addition groups have been identifying policy issues and responding to government consultations such as Glastir.

There has been tremendous support for these groups from individuals and particularly from the NGO sector and a real belief that it will lead to significant gains for biodiversity on the ground. This approach enables organisations and groups to work closely together to deliver agreed priorities, through agreed mechanisms in collaboration with the most appropriate partners. Three of the Ecosystem Groups and the Species Expert Group have provided information on a positive outcome from their group and an area of work that requires further support/action (Annex 1).

Communication is already starting to improve within, and between different levels of delivery and this will lead to future benefits for biodiversity. All groups now have a LBAP representative who will be responsible for feeding back to LBAP Partnerships following each meeting, providing guidance and ensuring local partnerships are included in consultations etc. The Chairs of the new groups have met twice will continue to work closely together on prioritisation and delivery. A list of the Chairs of each of the Groups and of their LBAP representative is attached as annex 2. The Welsh Assembly Government has offered a small amount of funding to each group this financial year to stimulate action on the ground in partnership with the relevant LBAP partnership/s.

Ecosystem groups -Targets for the original Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats will mostly remain the same as those set in 2006. Targets will now be set for the additional Section 42 habitats (In Wales the Section 42 list is out BAP list).

The Species Expert Group is working closely with Wales species lead partners to set Wales level targets for species and identify priority action. Gaps in expertise will be reported to WBP SG at the next meeting in February.

A timetable has been set for publishing target and action information (annex 3)

The Biodiversity Policy Group has also been established and has met 3 times. Policy actions are fed to the Policy group who will work hard to influence government and others to work more closely with the new groups and to build biodiversity into strategic assessments, strategies, policies, programmes etc at the beginning of their development. The Policy group will also seek to enter into dialogue with other sectors to seek opportunities for multifunctional approaches. In preparation for this a statement on Ecosystems, the ecosystem approach and ecosystems goods and services will be produced to ensure a common understanding across sectors.

The new groups have specific roles and responsibilities regarding biodiversity delivery, and it is important to understand that this work will support and build on the other functions of the WBP wider network including: action for locally important biodiversity; engaging and involving other sectors and the public, communication and education activities much of which will be set out in the WBP communication plan and by the LBAPs.

To maintain momentum and further the conservation of biodiversity it is critical that organisations including Government commit to this approach at all levels. This means

- setting out how they will align their own work priorities with delivery across their organisation,
- raising awareness within their organisations (and especially with management) of the new approach and sharing the work load out between key individuals.
- reviewing appropriate policies and guidance to ensure that staff understand the organisations roles and responsibilities in delivering biodiversity priorities
- ensuring organisational programmes and projects and or grant funding links to Wales and/or local priorities
- reporting biodiversity actions and progress towards targets on Biodiversity Action reporting System (BARS)
- all public authorities (and projects and programmes funded by public money) must be compliant with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Biodiversity Duty.

Decision Point

- Agree that the new structure is a fundamental tool that will support Wales to deliver and report on the Sustainable Develop Scheme 'One Wales one Planet', the Wales Environment Strategy and the NERC Act (2006) biodiversity Duty
- Agree that further commitment and activity to the new structure is required by government and organisations in Wales if we are to meet the Wales Environment Strategy Target of 'recovery [of biodiversity] underway by 2026'.
- Agree that the Ecosystem Group/Species priority actions should inform organisational work programmes and grant applications once they have agreed to act as an Action Lead or Delivery Agent for that action

Actions

- a) WBP should ask the Welsh Assembly Government to take action to strengthen support across key organisations for the new structure
- b) Organisations to adopt the BAP Mechanism Document (WBF once updated) as the principle organising framework for biodiversity delivery in Wales and review existing mechanisms and if required introduce new ways of working to ensure alignment with this approach.

- c) All WBP members to take action to raise awareness with staff across their organisations of their commitment to delivering biodiversity as set out in the BAP mechanism document and their organisational responsibilities regarding biodiversity.
- d) Organisations to report back via their case studies to WBP how they will meet their commitments including the steps they will take to ensure responsibilities are shared between staff to prevent overload and encourage wider engagement.

Wales Environmental Information Forum and Steering Group: Update

Background

The Wales Environmental Information Steering Group (WEISG) shared vision is “Sharing Welsh environmental information to benefit the environment & people of Wales, the UK and globally. WBP were last updated on the Wales Environmental Information Steering Group (WEISG) in November 2008 (see WBP SG6 Item 11) and endorsed the establishment of WEISG as a WBP Task and Finish Group. In the new Wales Biodiversity Framework WEISG is a WBP Support Group. The 2008 paper introduced WEISG terms of reference; 6 WEISG workstreams (data flow, data quality, skills, technology, resources & governance); agreed to focus initial efforts on progressing WEISG data flow and data quality workstreams; and reported that the UK National Biodiversity Network (NBN) partnership is looking to WEISG as a good model for other countries/regions in the UK to follow.

Progress

Data Flow (and this year’s Wales Environmental Information Forum (WEIF))

Following the success of last year’s WEIF, delegates returned to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth in March for a second event that again involved representatives from a wide range of sectors contributing to the supply and use of environmental data. Although the remit of the Forum is environmental data, participants tended to concentrate on biodiversity data.

The subject of this year’s forum was to address specific constraints to the ‘flow’ of vital environmental data and information in Wales. The discussions on the day:

- worked through the major problems regarding data flow in Wales,
- explored what a good basis for the ideal data flow model would look like,
- matched solutions to problems,
- explored what principles should be adopted for data flow

Delegates condensed and prioritised the solutions and principles into two practical projects for action by WEISG:

- Develop a data sharing charter for partners in Wales to sign up to (particularly public sector organisations).
- Define and agree roles and responsibilities for all partners involved in the flow of data for specified taxonomic groups

Plans/proposals for delivering these actions are outlined in the “Plan/Proposals” section below

The results of this year’s WEIF will help resolve the issues that constrain the flow of environmental data from the point of collection to the point of use in Wales. An article on WEIF 2009 is attached for information and all notes, presentations and information recorded at the forum are published on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) website.

Additional work is proceeding on all WEISG workstreams, through specialist groups, and where resources are available. Progress has been made with the skills workstream. WEISG members are represented on the Natur Education Group and a skills workshop is being planned for Nov/Dec.

Supporting the WBP Framework

WEISG members are linked through to WBP Policy and Species Expert Group and most of the Ecosystem Groups. The only gaps at present are Marine, Urban & Brownfield, Upland and Freshwater and WEISG will need to remain mindful of these gaps in representation when agreeing priorities for action and needs to consider how it will feed into and respond to the needs of these groups.

Linking into the UK Agenda

WEISG aims to find solutions for Wales that work within a UK and global context. The mechanism the group uses to ensure this is through WEISG members being contributing partners of:

- Association of Local Environmental Record Centres (ALERC),
- National Biodiversity Network (NBN)
- Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN),
- Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE).

Further to this, partners from outside of Wales from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), NBN, and MEDIN attended and contributed to this year's WEIF and the NBN and MEDIN are contributing to WEISG focus workshops that will progress the WEIF action to develop a data sharing charter for Wales.

The NBN Trust continues to advocate WEISG as a good model for other countries/regions to follow and partners in SNH are particularly interested our experiences with WEIF/WEISG. Staff from CCW & LRCs in Wales represent Wales' interests at NBN Trustees and through NBN working groups. Specifics include contributions to the strategic direction of the NBN partnership and a recent Natural England-NBN workshop on data flow. The outcomes and actions emerging from this workshop mirror those from WEIF.

Opportunities for financial contributions to projects in Wales have been realised through the NBN's Defra project. A proposal to develop information products for Forestry Commission in Wales has been approved along with a data quality project proposed through LRCs.

Plan/Proposals

WEIF 2009 Action 1: Data Charter

WEISG will prepare a data sharing Charter for Government and Government sponsored bodies in Wales to sign up to with a view to extending this to Local Authorities and then the voluntary sector through consultation. The proposal will be developed in the context of the NBN's data sharing principles. A focus workshop is booked for November to complete a charter ready for consultation/approval.

WEIF 2009 Action 2: Data Flow Roles and Responsibilities

The aim of this action is to define and agree the roles and responsibilities for all partners involved in the flow of data for specific taxonomic groups. LRCs in Wales are taking the lead for the action. A focus meeting is scheduled for November to take this forward and will aim to identify opportunities for collaborative projects with partners working on the same issues elsewhere in the UK.

Additional WEISG Action: Skills workshop

A focus meeting/workshop is being planned to agree actions and priorities to steer and progress the skills workstream

WEISG workstreams in abeyance

The Technology, resources, data standards workstreams are in abeyance whilst we focus on the above.

WEISG co-ordination

The results of the focus workshops and updates on developments since WEIF will be brought together at a full meeting of the steering group to be scheduled for Dec/Jan for Steering Group approval or direction.

Issues

The WEISG workstreams and actions have not progressed as quickly as we would have wanted. There are no dedicated resources and progress has had to be made by partners taking on this agenda in addition to their "day job". It is unlikely that this situation is going to improve in the near future and in fact it may become worse as resources in the public and

Third Sector become ever more constrained. Nevertheless, there is a lot of enthusiasm and commitment from partners (Wales & UK) and progress will be made. It will also be important to seek collaborative opportunities through the NBN and MEDIN with partners in Scotland and England to ensure that best practice is shared and resources are maximised.

Ordnance Survey (OS) Derived Data

Since agreement at WEIF to develop a data sharing charter for public bodies in Wales, a new OS Pan Government Agreement (PGA) has been signed that may conflict with this agenda. The Data Sharing Charter was to aim for free and open use of all environmental data for or about Wales. OS licensing constraints for data derived using OS bas maps may derail the work that we aim to do on the data sharing charter. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies and sister agencies are currently in high level discussions with OS about this.

Decision Points

To endorse the plans/proposals outlined in this paper

Title

Business & Biodiversity – a way forward

Background/Progress

In July 2008 a subgroup of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) was established to look at how to engage the business sector with the work of WBP. In the first instance, a paper was prepared by Arena Network Wales and Wildlife Trusts Wales with a number of potential ways in which business could engage with WBP (and vice versa).

As a result, WBP steering group asked for the sub-group to meet including business representatives and take this further. That meeting was held in November 2008 and a number of action points were agreed. These focused around developing the WBP business area to act as an information point and signposting service for businesses seeking to engage with biodiversity action. There were further actions relating to using the Arena Network regional groupings to get more businesses engaged with biodiversity work.

Some case studies have been put up on the website as has the introductory section. Other actions have been shelved with the demise of Arena Network. WBP are currently looking to incorporate much of the text into the new WBP business and biodiversity area.

The work done to date has had a useful output: we have identified that business would like a central information portal on engaging with biodiversity. WBP website is on the way to delivering that: providing information on drivers, case studies and links to WBP members who provide services for business.

However the sub-group has not tackled a number of key areas. There is still no formal mechanism for engaging businesses with WBP – no ‘business members’ as such. There are also very few businesses who see the merit in engaging with biodiversity issues.

Plan/Proposals

These fall under two categories: product development and marketing.

Product: WBP to continue to develop the website area to provide a useful resource to business.

Marketing: with the closure of Arena Network Wales we are without their excellent network of business advisors who could have been directing people to the website. Therefore, we propose that the business & biodiversity sub-group develop a series of opportunities for marketing the website to businesses. One example came from the Business & Biodiversity workshop in the recent Wales Biodiversity Partnership conference where it was

highlighted that there are very few initiatives actively encouraging business to engage with biodiversity. We are currently scoping the potential for running a series of business breakfasts to look at NERC duties and other regulatory requirements relating to biodiversity that businesses should be considering. The group will look at zero or low cost options for raising the profile of biodiversity and WBP through existing networks.

Decision Points

1. To endorse WBP developing a central information hub on drivers, products and services relating to biodiversity for business.
2. To endorse WBP business & biodiversity subgroup focusing on raising biodiversity up the business agenda, rather than seeking to create a business membership category for WBP at this time.
3. To agree that WBP will be non-partisan in its promotion of its members products and services.
4. To volunteer to provide information on products and services and case studies (ready formatted as .pdf files) for the WBP website on business engagement.
5. To volunteer to be part of the business & biodiversity sub group looking at marketing biodiversity. Existing members need to confirm they are happy to continue.

NB – current members of the business and biodiversity sub group:

Bangor University (Synnwyr Busnes/Business Sense)

CCW

Coed Cymru

DE&T

EAW

Natur

Shared Earth Trust

Visit Wales

WBP

Wildlife Trusts Wales

WLGA

Title: Review of Wales Wildlife Crime Priorities

Background/Progress

At the meeting of the WBPSG5 on the 15th July 2008, the subject of a review of the Wildlife Crime Priorities for Wales was discussed, it was agreed that these needed reviewing and possibly revising. The priorities are currently:

- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through off-road vehicles
- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through illegal burning
- European Protected Species affected by unlawful development

These priorities supplement the National Priorities which for 2009/10 are:

- Badger Persecution
- Bat Persecution
- CITES issues (with 5 CITES priorities of Caviar, Ivory, Ramin Timber, Tortoises and Traditional Medicines)
- Freshwater Pearl Mussels
- Poaching (Deer Poaching/Coursing, Fish Poaching and Hare Coursing)
- Raptor Persecution (including Poisoning, Egg Theft, Chick Theft and Nest Disturbance/Destruction and to concentrate on Golden Eagle, Goshawk, Hen Harrier, Red Kite and White-Tailed Eagle)

As a result of a review of the figures for 2009 (Annex 1) it has emerged that the leading three areas of reported wildlife crime are:

- Offences against Badgers,
- Offences relating to SSSI's
- Development affecting European Protected Species (EPS).

In view of the fact that Badger Persecution is a national priority it was decided to restrict the Welsh Priorities for 2010 to the following:

- **Development affecting EPS**
- **Offences affecting the Favourable Conservation Status of SSSI's**

It was considered whether to include all offences that take place on SSSI's but it was decided that it would be better to quantify this by including the Favourable Conservation Status) FCS factor which would then bring it into line with the Wales Environment Strategy Outcome 21 target of bringing 95% of SSSI's into favourable condition by 2015.

Plan/Proposals

To adopt the following as wildlife crime priorities in Wales for 2010:

- **Development affecting EPS**
- **Offences affecting the Favourable Conservation Status of SSSI's**

Having adopted the above as priorities a process of identifying the aims and objectives in relation to these priorities will be carried out with a view to producing action plans for each priority.

Decision Points

1. The WBP to consider and endorse the proposed Welsh wildlife crime priorities for 2010.
2. All partner organisations to agree, where applicable, to support the prevention, detection and prosecution of offences in relation to the endorsed priorities.

WBPSG9 PAPER 6

12th November 2009, Wrexham

Bioamrywiaeth Cymru
Biodiversity Wales 

PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH CYMRU
WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Title: Natur Cymru adding more value to the WBP

Background

Natur Cymru: Nature of Wales is the quarterly magazine that flies the flag for the wildlife and environment of Wales and serves the WBP. Thirty two editions have been produced in the past eight years with just over 1,000 subscribers and a growing number of retail customers. Can we add more value to the service we provide to WBP?

We hosted a workshop at the last WBP conference and have invited comments and suggestions from our main sponsors. From these suggestions we have selected three ideas for which we seek WBPSG support.

Proposals

1. Provide greater support to the recording of data. The bedrock on which decisions and policies are based is derived from the accurate recording of species or habitat. This is a huge task often involving much help from volunteers. The suggestion is that on a regular basis Natur Cymru produces information that assists to inform and inspire people about recording. This could involve an article within the magazine (at no extra cost) which could be supplemented by a broader more public campaign involving a leaflet and identification guide using both printed and electronic means of publishing.
2. Special reports on behalf of the WBP. The Natur Cymru team is well positioned to assist WBP in the communication of important stories and messages. Sometimes these will fit neatly into an article within the magazine (at no extra cost) but on other occasions these would be best produced as a standalone report or communication. The proposal is that Natur Cymru be commissioned to create WBP reports such as progress of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
3. Greater synergy and cooperation with like-minded organisations or publications. Natur Cymru will become more self-sufficient and self-sustaining the bigger and better it becomes. For this to happen there needs to be greater awareness and encouragement for people to subscribe. We would like members of the WBP to do more to help us spread the word about our (all of us) wonderful magazine e.g. publicising subscription campaigns, promoting the nature writing competition, providing links to the Natur Cymru website etc. In the case of other publications (such as Gwlad) we would like to see more support through the republishing of Natur Cymru articles in return for a credit.

Decision Points

We want the WBPSG to

1. Agree an initial suitable subject for which there is an important recording need that Natur Cymru can evaluate and put forward proposals for assisting in that effort. This could be an article that goes to the subscribers or a more widespread and general communication to reach further afield.
2. Commission Natur Cymru with a brief and a budget to produce an initial special report on the BAP or some other subject.
3. Endorse the need for active support of Natur Cymru by WBP members helping us spread the word and recruit new subscribers. E.g. encourage the Gwlad editorial board (if necessary) to accept Natur Cymru sourced articles.

WBPSG9
PAPER TO NOTE A
12th Nov 2009

Title: WBP Travel & Subsistence costs for Volunteers

Produced by Sean McHugh WBP Support team

Background/Progress

Unpaid volunteers attending WBP internal or external meetings on behalf of WBP incur expenses relating to costs getting to the meetings, overnight stay if applicable & general subsistence costs.

Plan/Proposals

WBP have allocated funds to cover T&S costs for unpaid volunteers attending WBP meetings and guidelines for claimants are detailed in Annex 1.

Action Requested

1. To approve the expenses guidelines

WBPSG9

PAPER TO NOTE: B

12th November 2009, Wrexham

Bioamrywiaeth Cymru
Biodiversity Wales 

PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH CYMRU

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Title: Improving links between the Wales Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) groups and research scientists.

Produced by: Juliet Hynes, WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

In order to make stronger links between science and policy it has been suggested that post doctoral research associates, with relevant research interests, could be identified and approached to sit on appropriate Ecosystem Groups and the Species Expert Group. This would provide the Wales BAP groups with a link to up to date research knowledge and strengthen the connection between academia and the Biodiversity Action Plan process in Wales.

Plan/Proposals

The Group Chairs have indicated their support for the proposal for the WBP support team to informally allocate researchers to the relevant groups, whose attendance could then be confirmed by the Group Chair. Researchers would sit on the relevant Group for a 2 year period in the first instance.

Mike Bruford of Cardiff University has identified a number of suitable research groups that we could approach. The Wales Environment Research Hub should be able to provide further suggestions.

A checklist guide for communication between scientists and civil servants has been produced and is provided in Annex 1 to help understand what level of information one should expect from the other.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above
- Approve the checklist for communication between scientists and civil servants as a WBP checklist

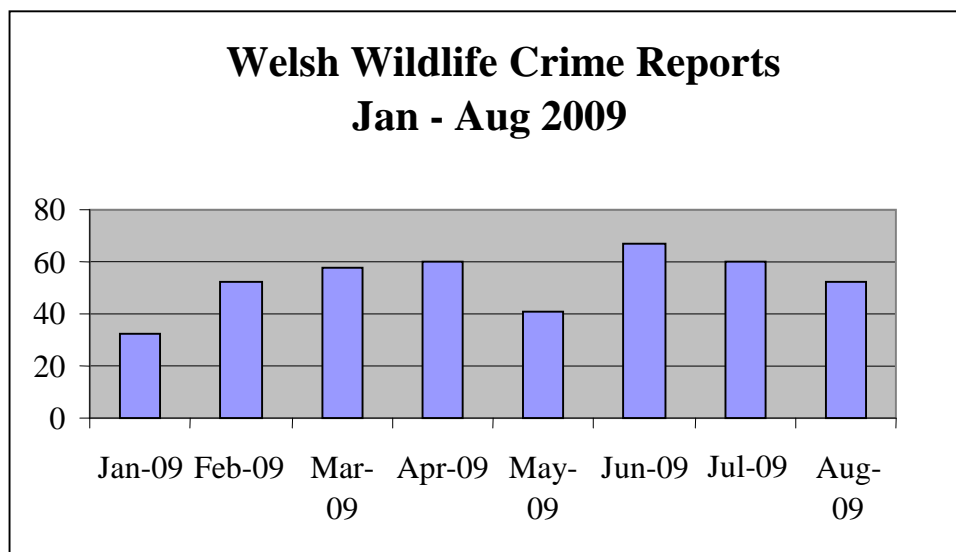
Title: Wildlife Crime Update

Produced by: Sgt Ian Guildford, South Wales Police/Countryside Council for Wales

Background/Progress

An update of completed Wildlife Crime cases is listed at Annex B.

Shown below are the statistics relating to wildlife crime incidents that have been reported to the police in Wales this year, all figures are taken from the returns made to the National Wildlife Crime Unit using the National Standard Incident recording System.



Other matters:

The 9th Welsh Wildlife and Environmental Crime Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Newport on 9/10th November 2009, this years conference is being organised and hosted by the Gwent Police.

A one week Police Wildlife Officers Foundation Course will be run from 12 – 16th October 2009 at the Gwent Training facility at Mahmilad, Pontypool, 17 newly appointed wildlife crime officers from the Gwent, Dyfed Powys and South Wales Police will be in attendance, this will provide an increase in the number of officers in the force who can deal with wildlife crime incidents.

Since the last paper to note the ACPO lead on Wildlife Crime in the UK, Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom has retired, his place as ACPO lead has been

taken over by Chief Constable Richard Crompton from Lincolnshire, Chief Constable Ian Arundale from the Dyfed Powys Police will take on responsibility for Wildlife Crime within Wales at the ACPO level.

At the recent Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference 2009 held at the University of Glamorgan, Treforest, Jane Davidson the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing announced a Thematic Inspection of Wildlife Crime within Wales. This review is now being progressed by Pete Charleston on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

On Thursday a Llanelli man admitted one charge under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 relating to the damage/destruction of Water Vole habitat in the Llanelli area, this was the first conviction relating to Water Voles within Wales and only the third within the UK.

Plan/Proposals

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES
- Ask all WBP members to comment on the format of the report YES

**WBP SG9
PAPER TO NOTE D
12th Nov 2009, Wrexham**

Title: International Year of Biodiversity Partnership (IYB-UK 2010)

Produced by Sean McHugh WBP Support team

IYB-UK 2010

Background/Progress

IYB-UK is the UK partnership supporting the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. The partnership is an informal arrangement hosted by The Natural History Museum and is officially launched on the 25th November 2009. The aim is to raise awareness and encourage participation around the issues affecting biodiversity loss. Partners will also be encouraged to submit case studies and where capacity allows, engage with the IYB-UK communication team to shape the communication strategy for the partnership.

Further details and a partner application form are listed in Annexes 1 & 2 and can be downloaded from the IYB-UK partnership website at www.iyb-uk.net. Biodiversity events will take place throughout the year which can be aligned with the campaign. As in previous years, the International Day of Biodiversity will be celebrated on the 22nd May.

Plan/Proposals

Potential partners are encouraged to engage with the campaign and to fill out Part A of the application form to register (Annex 2). To use the identity to brand your programmes and gain the marketing synergy from the partnership, partners are required to sign-up to the terms and conditions listed in part B of the application form.

Action Requested

1. To review the offer and sign up to IYB-UK as appropriate
2. To suggest/host events to mark IYB-UK 2010
3. To circulate the IYB-UK invitation to your networks