

Draft Minutes Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group Meeting WBPSG9 12th November 2009, Glyndŵr University, Wrexham

Attendance

Name		Organisation
Nigel	Ajax-Lewis	WTW
Stephen	Bladwell	RSPB/WEL
Emma	Broad	North Wales LBAP rep (Paper)
Helen	Buckingham	National Trust
Trevor	Dines	Plantlife
Hazel	Drewett	CCW
Christine	Edwards	CCW (Paper)
Ian	Guildford	CCW / South Wales Police (Paper)
Juliet	Hynes	WBP Support Team
Chris	John	British Waterways (rep. Peter Birch)
Julia	Korn	CCW/WBP ST (Paper)
Sean	McHugh	WBP Support Team
Steve	Moon	ALGE
Amy	Mulkern	WTW (Paper)
Graham	Oliver	National Museum of Wales
Andrew	Peterken	CCW (Paper)
Simon	Poulton	The Mammals Society (taxonomic group presentation)
Diana	Reynolds	WAG/WBP Support Team (Chair)
Richard	Roberts	FWAG (representing Glenda Thomas)
Roy	Tapping	LRCs Wales
Dusi	Thomas	Dwr Cymru
Helen	Wilkinson	CCW/ WEIF (Paper)
Kate	Williamson	Natur Cymru & National Parks
Robin	Woodyatt	WLGA

Apologies

Name		Organisation
Mike	Bruford	Cardiff University
Richard	May	South Wales LBAP rep
Alan	Storer	WCMP
David	Jenkins	Coed Cymru
Glenda	Thomas	FWAG
Tom	Jones	Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd
David	Parker	CCW
Bill	Somerfield	WAG/WBP Support Team
Chris	Tucker	FCW
Michelle	Bromley	FCW
Aethne	Cooke	CCW marine
Nick	Bialynicki-Birula	EAW
Deb	Hill	WLGA /Swansea CBC

Diana Reynolds welcomed everyone and introduced the meeting. She announced that Tim Stowe had moved to a UK RSPB post and suggested that Katie-Jo Luxton be invited to represent RSPB/WEL at future WBP SG meetings. Ieuan Hughes Roberts the representative from the voluntary group Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd can no longer attend SG meetings but would like to be part of the wider WBP partnership. WAG would like to see a representative from the volunteer community on the group and asked WEL (Nigel Ajax-Lewis & Stephen Bladwell) to look into whether this is feasible. Julia Korn suggested a member of the Climate Change Commission for Wales would be useful representative on the group.

ACTION 1. WBP Support Team to invite Katie-Jo Luxton to join the steering group

ACTION 2. Nigel-Ajax Lewis & Stephen Bladwell to canvas for interested members of volunteer community to provide representative on the WBP steering group.

ACTION 3. Diana Reynolds to invite Climate Change Commission representative to join.

Nick Bialynicki-Birula (EAW) and Chris Tucker (FCW) sent apologies but sent in submissions to the chair.

Presentation and Paper 1: Wales Environment Strategy Outcome 21 – ‘Sites ... in favourable condition....’. Achievements and future issues Andrew Peterken

Before Andrew’s presentation, Diana Reynolds mentioned WAG were fully engaged with the Outcome 21 process and she had chaired Outcome 21 meetings in rotation with Hazel Drewett.

Andrew outlined the Outcome 21 process and aspirations and highlighted the rapid progress to date. The unitised approach to the site management database is based on pragmatic boundaries e.g fence boundaries and land ownership. There are approximately 6500 management units in the database, representing 90% coverage of terrestrial SSSI’s in Wales and full coverage is expected by the end of the current financial year. Information relating to marine environments will also be kept on the database. The unitisation process pulls together all relevant information for each management unit including the site features and the appropriate CCW lead. Management information and a summary of conservation management issues and actions are also included. The system is action-driven and flagged issues will generate owned actions. The system is GIS based. Over the coming years, broad level statistics will also be available from the system.

Illustration of actions showed that agri-environment generated most actions in terrestrial environment and CCW & WAG were flagged up as most action leads with other organisations involved too. The overall rationale was gathering information to share between partners via an external website and an extranet which filters out sensitive information e.g. land ownership. The database has a search function and data can be organised based on site features or the organisation responsible for the action.

The actions listed are suggested actions and can be adopted or modified by the responsible organisation in negotiation with CCW.

The database can identify whether similar issues are occurring so that we can see whether a policy change is needed.

Discussion.

Amy Mulkern enquired whether archaeological features are included. Andrew responded that they are not but as it's a GIS based system, potentially they could be. Trevor Dines asked about important plant areas and their inclusion. Diana Reynolds mentioned that it will expand but will concentrate on SSSI's for now, inclusion of other sites will be part of the 2026 targets.

Chris John enquired whether the system interrogated current site condition. Andrew responded; not as yet but the information exists for SAC's in various databases and local knowledge for many SSSI's will compliment the management database. Nigel Ajax Lewis commented that the actions listed on the Outcome 21 database represented 'new' actions and in parallel there are a suite of ongoing actions. Andrew agreed that the current system captures the extra that is required, future development will pull in existing action. A discussion of the strategic focus and prioritisation of actions then followed. Diana Reynolds summarised by saying the Wales approach is not strictly transactional and involves working together and tackling issues firmly but patiently. Negotiation and patience will be required as we are in a learning process. It was noted that O21 issues can feed into WBP Policy Group and the biodiversity checklists.

ACTION 4. Outcome 21 Group to agree a process for inclusion of other types of site in the database at the next meeting.

The reporting implications and the link with BARS were raised by Roy Tapping. Andrew and Juliet Hynes confirmed that there will be a feed from the CCW database into BARS. Guidance has been provided to BARS users in Wales to make them aware of this and prevent double reporting. Diana Reynolds stated that Glas Tir reporting will also link in with BARS and Juliet Hynes mentioned that the Outcome 21 reporting model is being used as a pilot for Forestry Commission Wales and Environment Agency Wales BARS-organisational reporting. The question of Countryside Management Survey (CMS) arose as some organisation are utilising this reporting mechanism. Andrew responded by saying there was not a automated link between Outcome 21 database and CMS but matching 1:1 site boundaries between the two systems allowed comparison. Hazel Drewett informed that National Nature Reserve site condition was at present being manually captured and work was underway by CCW to map BAP habitats to Outcome 21 sites.

ACTION 5. Hazel Drewett to share CCW progress on mapping BAP habitat against habitat definitions used in the database with Glastir and FCW colleagues.

A discussion then followed regarding damage occurring on a site when owners claimed they weren't aware it was an SSSI. CCW confirmed that although ownership

is not kept in GIS, they recognised this issue and are taking action to minimise its occurrence.

ACTION 6. Outcome 21 Group to identify how CCW can be supported with their work on SSSI ownership issues at their next meeting

Monitoring of site condition was raised as it is not an explicit category on the database. Andrew mentioned it was not a feature of the current database but would be included in future developments, labelling units as ‘insufficient information’ would then be possible. It was confirmed that the current site information populating the database was not wholly derived from the 2004 rapid SSSI assessment, rather an iterative approach had been adopted and new information as it comes to light is also captured in the database.

Andrew asserted that a major goal of the database is to prompt organisations and users of the database for information to improve the knowledge base. The database will be maintained by CCW but the ownership lies with WBP.

Stephen Bladwell enquired about how the database distinguishes between SSSI qualifying features and notified features and buffer areas around sites. Andrew confirmed that at present, the database referred in the main part to notified features but that site buffers were not explicitly excluded. Wider environmental impacts from adjacent area and diffuse and air pollution, for example, are included where they have a negative effect on site features.

WBP agreed to the decision points with the caveat that we do not ‘lose’ smaller landowners in the framework and we improve linkages with the new Wales BAP groups. The group should continue, and bring in anyone else who is needed e.g. the Marine Ecosystem Group, WEIF and farmers unions.

The following principles were agreed:

- 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

ACTION 7. Julia Korn to ensure Ecosystem chairs and the Policy Group are aware of the Outcome 21 process and synergies

Paper 2 Report from the Ecosystem Groups and Species Expert Group; Julia Korn

Julia outlined the new process in Wales, which began in April 2008 based on the principles of the 2007 report “Conserving Biodiversity –the UK approach”. There was a need to bring action decisions closer to delivery partners. It is important to note that BAP in Wales is more than a set of actions plans, rather a mechanism for fostering a multi-sector approach to address the conservation of biodiversity. The ecosystem approach will be an important element of this approach. To this end, an ecosystem statement will be produced by the Policy Group. There is still a role for the UK BAP process and UK-wide groups are currently being established. Existing UK groups can feed into this process e.g. the UK Wetlands Group.

WAG will formally consult ecosystem groups and the species expert group on relevant consultations in addition to CCW as an official consultee.

ACTION 8. Chris John to provide Julia Korn (j.korn@ccw.gov.uk) with details of UK Wetlands Group

BARS will be a key reporting tool and agreed targets and actions will be posted on BARS. It was recognised that a cultural change within organisations will be required to deliver BAP in Wales and engagement is underway to achieve this. WAG have confirmed that loss of biodiversity and climate change are recognised as key issues for WAG policy. One to ones with Chief executives of Local authorities and internal WAG work will reinforce this message together with inclusion on the WAG policy gateway tool.

Planned seminars for LBAP partners and biodiversity champions will also assist the process. Currently the higher level staff and on the ground staff are buying in, but middle management in some organisations are not yet committed to the BAP process. Organisations could take the CCW example and run their own seminars to inform and engage staff at all levels. BAP will also be part of the CCW regions seminar in April.

Biodiversity Champions have started well in local authorities and WAG is considering the possibility of similar arrangements in some WAG departments.

The key to properly supporting the BAP process is to engage different staff in different groups rather than overloading one member of staff.

The following bullet points for organisations were agreed:

- 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.

ACTION 9. Diana Reynolds to hold head-to-head meetings with chief executives from a wider range of organisations.

ACTION 10. All to reinforce the BAP in Wales aspirations within your organisation. Link: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/bap_in_wales-27.aspx

ACTION 11. All to take the bullet points from this paper back to your organisations and establish how you can fulfil them.

ACTION 12. Summary Reports from the Lowland grassland and heathland Group; Marine; Upland and Species Experts groups were presented at the meeting and a rolling program of reporting would take place to cover all groups. By 2011, an annual system of reporting would be introduced. This might fit in with February meetings becoming more workshop focussed meetings.

ACTION 13. Ecosystem Chairs and Species Expert Group to incorporate annual reporting into their schedule for Feb 2011 SG meeting

ACTION 14. WBP Support team to include annual report from Wales groups on steering group agenda starting Feb 2011

Paper 3: Wales Environmental Information Forum and Steering Group: Update Helen Wilkinson

Helen outlined the paper and updated the steering group of progress to date. Six work streams have been identified by WEIF (data flow, data quality, skills, technology, resources & governance). The group did not have the capacity to follow up all 6 work

streams at this stage so data flow and data quality were focussed on this year. Two actions stemmed from the work streams;

- Data Charter which will be available at the February Steering Group meeting and
- Data Flow Roles and Responsibilities; Volunteer recorders were recognised as an important element of the process, some issues are being dealt with at UK level by NBN and natural England.

ACTION 15. Trevor Dines to invite WEIF (Diana Reynolds) to BSBI Recorders forum (in spring).

WBP endorsed the WEIF approach taken to date and the timetable of future actions presented.

A discussion around ordnance survey derived data agreement then ensued relating to cost implication for organisations in receipt of Ordnance Survey (OS) derived data. It was recognised that legal clarification was required and shared experience was useful and WAG could assist with this. The important point was to stay legal and investigating open source solutions through the LRC network was seen as an option.

The plans and proposals in the paper were endorsed.

ACTION 16. Diana Reynolds to identify WAG involvement in negotiating OS licensing issues and put them in touch with WEIF

ACTION 17. Chris John (British Waterways) to contact Helen Wilkinson (h.wilkinson@ccw.gov.uk) regarding NBN/OS data agreement negotiation outcome

ACTION 18. WBP Support Team to add WEIF data charter to agenda of Feb 2010 WBP SG meeting

Paper 4 Business & Biodiversity – a way forward; Amy Mulkern

Amy outlined the main points from the paper and pointed out that the main reasons business engage with biodiversity is philanthropic and not through the legislative framework. She felt that legislative instruments could be reinforced e.g. use of business risk register and environmental audit schemes.

The WBP website is seen as a key portal for business where information and case studies could be highlighted. Examples are required from other organisations working with business not just the Wildlife Trusts particularly small businesses. Efforts need to be directed towards marketing biodiversity to business, and more organisations need to be involved in pushing the message to businesses. Progress had been made at the recent workshop at the WBP conference; the idea of business breakfasts hosted with biodiversity organisations was raised to broaden the business engagement. Neath Port Talbot CBC had recently hosted a business lunch along these lines.

Purchasing and procurement was highlighted as a biodiversity-related impact that could be addressed by businesses. In terms of the ecosystem approach, we need an open a dialogue with businesses about how biodiversity is relevant to them, what do they depend on for their business from ecosystem goods and services.

Roy Tapping highlighted the business support websites funded by WAG focused on templates for business plans where biodiversity could feature as a higher priority.

The main decision points of the paper were agreed with the caveat that the Business & Biodiversity task and finish Group should produce a plan for raising biodiversity up the business agenda to be endorsed by the steering group. This plan should keep in mind the definitions of the ecosystem approach that WBP are using in the Wales BAP mechanism.

ACTION 19. Business & Biodiversity Task and finish group to produce a plan for raising biodiversity up the business agenda

ACTION 20. All organisations to send in business and biodiversity case studies for the WBP website to Sean McHugh (s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org)

Membership of the business task and finish group was discussed and it was agreed to address potential gaps. LBAP membership is now secured; Catrin Evans from Neath Port Talbot CBC will act as the regional representative for South Wales and Sarah Brown from Flintshire will be approached to represent North Wales. Nick Bialynicki-Birula (Environment Agency Wales) confirmed through the chair his willingness to participate in the working group.

ACTION 21. Diana Reynolds to speak to WAG colleagues in Visit Wales and DE&T to encourage participation.

ACTION 22. Hazel Drewett will approach the sustainable development colleague at CCW and offer membership of the group

ACTION 23. Sean McHugh to approach Sarah Brown to confirm her participation in the Business and Biodiversity group

Paper 5 Review of Wales Wildlife Crime Priorities; Ian Guildford

Ian presented the paper to the group. He stated the two wildlife crime priorities identified for Wales in 2010 namely; Development affecting European Protected Species (EPS); Offences affecting the Favourable Conservation Status of SSSI's. These priorities are supplementary to the national UK list of wildlife crime priorities. The Welsh police forces will draw up an action plan on how to address the Wildlife Crime priorities in Wales and will report on the plan. There will be a yearly review of the priorities although they are likely to remain the same from one year to the next.

A discussion of the wording of the respective Wales crime priorities took place and the group decided on the following amendments:

Unlawful development affecting EPS
Offences affecting the condition of SSSI's

Ian explained that no hierarchy existed between the two respective priorities.

Trevor Dines brought up the issue of a fundamental imbalance between the protection of plants and animals, i.e. that though the plant is protected the place where it grows may not be. He suggested that there should be a review of the legislation particularly part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

ACTION 24. All to keep letting Ian know of any Wildlife Crime cases.

ACTION 25. Ian Guildford to bring back review of Wildlife Crime priorities to WBP on an annual basis.

Presentation: The National Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme; Simon Poulton, The Mammal Society

Before Simon's presentation, Diana Reynolds updated the group on previous taxonomic and biodiversity funding provided by WBP and various project outcomes; 21 Wildlife Recording days held by the four LRC's, Marine crawfish recording form is now live; Lichens leaflet produced; Moths and butterfly leaflet; Elm and Aspen project will result in 1500 Elm and Aspen trees respectively, planting sites were requested. Emma Broad mentioned the Tree O'Clock mass tree planting event on the 5th December and whether tree planting could be tied in with this. The group mentioned that web links to the various projects would be useful. Roy Tapping requested the LRC's present outcomes of the WBP-funded projects at the next WBP SG meeting

ACTION 26. All to contact David Jenkins (davidj@coedcymru.org.uk) if you have suitable planting sites for Elms and Aspens.

ACTION 27. Emma Broad to contact David Jenkins re: Tree O'Clock

ACTION 28. WBP Support team to supply web links to the various documents

ACTION 29. WBP Support team to invite LRC to present WBP project-funded report at SG10

Simon proceeded with the presentation and outlined the project background. A 2005 desk study resulted in a 2 year pilot study of mammal monitoring in the UK with two sites in Wales. A collaborative scheme in 2008/9 looked at the distribution of the Harvest Mouse and the current monitoring scheme was launched in October 2009. Small mammals covered 3 species of shrew; 4 mice species including the BAP

species Harvest Mouse; 3 vole species. He noted that population estimates in terms of biomass in the Review of Mammals 1995 was most likely underestimated. Also we generally don't know what the population trends are either, and distributions are hugely under surveyed. For example, the Field Vole, arguably Wales' commonest mammal showed up as 50% coverage in 10km tetrads in Wales compared to Pipistrelle Bat which was almost 100% coverage.

The current monitoring scheme aims to monitor small mammals in 10km tetrads along 100m transects at 10m intervals and runs in spring (Apr/May) and autumn (Oct/Nov). Overall the scheme is planned to run for ten years in the UK and Irish Republic. Various monitoring methods are used; Extensive trapping (1 trap per night); Intensive trapping (4 traps at each point) and bait trapping which collects small mammal faeces for DNA analysis. The latter is useful as multiple species can be detected and trap-bias can be addressed. 18 expressions of interest have been received from Wales and the organisation was looking for ~15% coverage by area. The main aims of the monitoring project were highlighted, namely:

- Encourage citizen science
- Fill gaps in distribution maps
- Establish long-term monitoring sites
- Support the development of cutting edge science for ecological surveying and monitoring

The presentation is available on the WBP website with the papers from this meeting.

The request for WBP funding was accepted to support the small mammal monitoring programme.

Discussion

Richard Roberts enquired if sampling gaps were evident and whether farms could lay bait traps? Simon explained that most sites were chosen from stratified random sampling to satisfy statistical requirements and land owner permission was required i.e. not simply a case of laying traps based on expressions of interest. However, special interest sites where staff can monitor on their own land e.g. Wildlife Trust and islands can be included. Julia Korn suggested BASC as a good contact. The Mammal Society has also approached a selective list of organisations to participate in the survey and this can be broadened. Due to capacity issues, not all organisations had been approached as yet e.g. RSPB. Kate Williamson noted that the surveying would provide useful distribution information on the BAP species Harvest Mouse.

ACTION 30. Simon to supply WBP with a list of preferred sampling site for Wales

ACTION 31. All to check sampling sites list and look to fill in gaps

ACTION 32. Simon to talk to Richard Roberts (FWAG) about suitable landowners and sampling areas.

ACTION 33. Julia Korn to send Simon BASC contact details

ACTION 34. Simon to send WBP Support team web links to organisation and project support material for circulation and to go on the WBP website

ACTION 35. Simon to provide outline funding plan to WBP secretariat (Sean McHugh)

ACTION 36. All to record small mammal monitoring results on BARS

Paper 6 Natur Cymru adding more value to the WBP; Emma Broad

Emma Broad introduced the paper and informed the group that the marketing manager Huw Jenkins was unable to attend. Natur Cymru has over a thousand subscribers and is looking to secure its long-term future and a larger subscription base would help in this respect. The Natur Cymru management board are looking to add value to the service provided by the magazine by linking in with WBP projects e.g. recording initiatives and reporting. A discussion followed relating to the focus of the magazine and potential subscribers. It was felt Natur Cymru had a role to play in influencing policy makers as well as general natural history articles, a role that was identified when it was originally established. Suggestions included the following:

Uplift the magazine to include policy and strategy issues (such as the discussions we have in this meeting), rather than just a wildlife magazine. Recording cards could address identified BAP issues, LRCs offered to be the posting point for recording cards and to enter and analyse the data.

Other suggestions:

Corporate subscriptions at a higher price

Electronic format

Reader surveys; how many people read your copy

Take up niche of other recently folded magazines, e.g. Welsh walks.

Diana Reynolds indicated she was happy to talk to appropriate colleagues in WAG should this be helpful.

Decisions points one and three were agreed by WBP. Decision point 2 was placed on hold pending the draft report of the Wales Reporting Round results which will be presented at SG10. Diana Reynolds announced that WAG would contribute an additional £1000 in addition to current contributions to cover items agreed during this meeting and reiterated that the Environment, Sustainability and Housing and Rural Affairs Ministers are subscribers.

ACTION 37. Amy Mulkern to talk with Huw Jenkins to investigate increasing range of potential target subscribers

ACTION 38. Huw Jenkins to contact the 22 education authorities in Wales to discuss subscription

ACTION 39. All to send articles in to Natur Cymru

ACTION 40. Natur Cymru board to investigate recording card inserts to the magazine

ACTION 41. Huw Jenkins to provide Diana Reynolds with an indication of when and who to contact among WAG colleagues

Paper to Note A WBP Travel and Subsistence costs for Volunteers; Sean McHugh

The volunteer expenses guideline adopted with a minor change; overnight accommodation charges of up to £60 can be claimed.

ACTION 42. Sean McHugh to amend expenses guide to reflect the £60 accommodation claim limit

Paper to Note B Improving links between the Wales Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) groups and research scientists; Juliet Hynes

The requested action was agreed with a minor rewording in Annex B, Advice for Policy Officials, 2nd Bullet point to include “depending on the level of expertise required”. The group felt that the term ‘Policy Officials’ used in the respective advice notes should be amended to include ‘e.g. Government officials’ to broaden the scope of the target audience. It was suggested that Natur Cymru could be used to advertise for appropriate researchers who would like to volunteer to be on the groups.

ACTION 43. Juliet Hynes to make the amendments listed above.

ACTION 44. Juliet Hynes to talk to Natur Cymru about advertising for researchers to attend ESGs

Paper to Note C Wildlife Crime Update; Ian Guildford

The requested action was agreed by WBP. WBP extended its thanks to the retiring ACPO UK Wildlife Crime lead (Richard Brunstrom) and welcomed Richard Crompton and Ian Arundale who are both welcome to attend the WBP SG. The 16 new Wildlife Crime personnel across Wales were also welcomed. It was noted that the Wildlife Crime Officers (WCO) contacts for Wales require updating for reference and for updating the LBAP induction pack.

ACTION 45. Ian Guildford to invite Ian Arundale to a future WBP SG meeting

ACTION 46. Ian Guildford to provide an updated list of WCO in Wales to Juliet Hynes

ACTION 47. Juliet Hynes to rename LBAP induction Pack to “LBAP Reference Pack” and include updated WCO contacts and inform LBAPs of updates

ACTION 48. Sean McHugh to update WBP website with Wildlife Crime links

Paper to Note D International Year of Biodiversity; Sean McHugh

Action points agreed. WAG and Plantlife thought they had signed up to the IYB partnership but neither were listed so they will both check. Graham Oliver mentioned that the Natural History Museum Wales has signed up and can add an all-Wales perspective to the campaign if anyone would like to liaise on events. Dwr Cymru was also planning to sign up. It was also suggested that IYB might provide good subject matter for an article in Natur Cymru.

International year of biodiversity launch will take place on the 25 November 2009

ACTION 49. All - register with the IYB-UK campaign

ACTION 50. All - send IYB-UK biodiversity events to Sean McHugh (s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org)

ACTION 51. Diana Reynolds to confirm WAG membership of the IYB-UK campaign

ACTION 52. Trevor Dines confirm Plantlife membership of the IYB-UK campaign

WCMP update

The group met in October and held a workshop relating to Marine Conservation Zones.

ACTION 53. Steve Moon to contact WCMP to establish a NW and SW WBP link to their group

UK Standing Committee Update

Links to UK research priorities: JNCC will do this via BRAG and details will be available on the JNCC website.

There was a commitment to the establishment of a UK BAP marine group and JNCC are working on this.

UK BAP conference: Provisional dates are November 23/24th in Stirling, Scotland

UKBAP course at Plas Tan y Bwlch: There was an excellent feedback from attendees of the 2009 course; the next course will take place on 7-9 February 2011.

UK messages were agreed on post 2010 targets

UK Surveillance strategy will also consider gaps in the current BAP framework as well as the Habs Directive
Global Plant Strategy Group is now up and running and require members

Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were signed off as correct

Updates on actions from previous SG meeting:

Action 27: SEA guidance is now on CCW website and links are include in the Actions for All document

Action 58 Hymenoptera expertise will be the next area to be developed along the lines of the lichenologist project and working with Natur to provide long-term program of expertise that is sustainable

ACTION 54. Roy Tapping to send Diana Reynolds and Chris Lea a list services that LRCs offer (action 36 of previous meeting)

ACTION 55. Trevor Dines to provide Diana Reynolds with breakdown regarding additional taxonomic expertise training needs for the Lichenology project

AOB

Julia Korn advised the group that the Future of BAP mechanism document was now the main BAP guidance document pending the update of the Wales Biodiversity Framework. It was agreed to split the framework into three parts to enable updates at appropriate times.

ACTION 56. WBP Support team to review the format and update of the Wales Biodiversity Framework at their next meeting (Nov 17th)

Plantlife manifesto was launched recently at Westminster and is available on the Plantlife website. <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/>. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation has identified 16 targets. Plantlife Cymru would like to present a paper to WBP SG at a future meeting to address these targets

ACTION 57. WBP Support team to invite Plantlife to SG10 or SG11 to review plant targets identified in the strategy

County Regional planning strategies- a pilot area from SE Wales highlighting ecological connectivity was chosen along with South East England and a presentation will be held on the 20th November at the University of Glamorgan

Ecosystem Groups and Species Expert Group need to identify people who will enter and monitor Wales's targets on BARS

ACTION 58. Juliet Hynes provide dates for ESG SEG BARS training

ACTION 59. Julia Korn to publicise BARS training to Ecosystem chairs to coordinate attendance

BARS training days are available for any organisations requiring it.

ACTION 60. Juliet Hynes to arrange BARS training day for Plantlife Cymru

Roy Tapping highlighted licensing issues in Ordnance Survey and general intellectual property rights and suggested a legal perspective was required. Diana Reynolds mentioned that such a service could be provided via WAG lawyers.

ACTION 61. WEIF to let Diana know as and when they have intellectual property right issues that require legal checking

Current consultations are listed on the Actions for All note from this SG meeting

The WAG policy Gateway is currently under review and biodiversity will be given a higher priority. WEL are currently involved in the consultation process.

A North Wales Biodiversity Champions seminar will take place on 25th Feb 2010

Date of Next Meeting:

10th Feb 2010, Caerphilly CBC, Ty Penallta. Venue to be confirmed

14th July 2010, WAG Office, Aberystwyth. Venue to be confirmed