

## **WBP Task and Finish Group**

### **Meeting 7**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

Future of Biodiversity Action Planning in Wales post UK Review.

Newtown

#### **Present**

Nick Birula	Environment Agency Wales (Chair)
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Russel Hobson	Butterfly Conservation
Nigel Ajax Lewis	Wildlife Trusts
Stephen Bladwell	RSPB
Kate Williamson	Mammal Society/ SNP LBAP

#### **Apologies**

Gareth Ellis	Brecon Beacons National Park / LBAPs
Trevor Dines	Plantlife Chair
Juliet Hynes	WBP
Chris Tucker	Forestry Commission
Jan Sherry	CCW
Aethne Cooke	CCW (Marine)

### **1. Minutes and Actions of meeting Jan 2009**

For action progress see action template from the meeting 29 September 2010 on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) website. As this was the last meeting of this group all actions were updated, some were no longer current and the rest were on-going. The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were agreed.

Action Julia to translate the actions and minutes from meetings 6 and 7 and publish on the WBP website.

#### **Issues arising from actions**

**CCW grants and use of BARS:** Julia updated the group on the pilot CCW is running this year with one strategic partner and two local authorities to help them to report on biodiversity action funded by CCW only on the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). The aim is to roll this out to all partners in future years. Julia and Juliet are both involved in this pilot with Juliet providing support to the grant partners involved and advising on technical developments to the UK BARS Team.

**Wales Biodiversity Framework** Julia also updated the group on the revision of the Wales Biodiversity Framework. The Future of BAP Mechanism document has been incorporated and the text and annexes updated. The protocols for working together within the new wider WBP has also been included and there is a section on the Ecosystem Approach which will incorporate the WBP Ecosystem Statement once it has been agreed. The role and responsibility of LBAP Partnerships is incorporated into the main document and so Annex H no longer exists, however a new Annex K sets out the responsibilities of local government. Diana Reynolds at the Assembly has final authority over the document and hold the most recent version which will be published on the WBP in March. Nick suggested there need to be a some kind of version control as some elements were not in the recent version and that people would

need some kind of explanation as to why these elements had been removed. The Wales Biodiversity Framework has been updated in light of the new approach to delivering biodiversity in Wales and the main changes are due to the BAP Mechanism document being incorporated which has been consulted on widely and agreed by WBP. The other changes are updates rather than any real change in content.

### **Species Lead partner Gaps**

The Species Expert Group presented a paper to the WBP Steering Group (WBP SG) meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> asking that an apprenticeship scheme be set up for Hymenoptera that could run on a similar basis to the Lichenology apprenticeship initiative. Sean McHugh agreed to scope. For full information on the outcome see the WBP SG10 Minutes on WBP website.

The need to increase the number of species experts in Wales is recognised and a more strategic initiative across different taxa could be considered e.g. through Natur or the LRCs. HLF offer money for skills development and it is worth exploring the potential for this.

At the WBP SG meeting the National Museum of Wales and the Environment Agency offered to act as lead partner for some species.

It is important that the roles of the members of the Species Expert Group (SEG) are clearly defined and separate from the role of Species Lead Partners. It is species lead partners who will be setting targets and actions for species and managing the consultation and publication of these actions and the SEG will be responsible for advising the Ecosystem Groups (ESGs) on integrating species actions into habitat management.

Lead partners for individual species may need to develop a forum within or across taxa to support their role. The Wales Mammal Group has evolved into the Wales Mammal Biodiversity Action Forum which will support Mammal lead partners and primary delivery groups including regular meetings/workshops. Representatives from this Forum will attend SEG meetings providing a direct link between the two. This may be a useful model for others to use.

### **Species Target setting**

Currently SEG are coordinating much of the work on target setting, however this needs to be delegated to the lead partners. At the last meeting the Future of BAP group set an ambitious timetable for publishing the Wales species and actions and targets. This started well with the publication of the original BAP vascular plant actions and the targets and actions for the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of Lepidoptera and all the Mammal species on the WBP website where they have remained. Following this no further actions or targets have been published. It was decided that due to the enormity of the task that a small number of specialists were being asked to do that a more flexible system was required with targets published in small batches as part of a rolling programme. The groups decided that a clear publication and consultation process should be developed and communicated, but that no specific dates would be agreed. All actions should be published in batches on the WBP website for a 6 week consultation period managed by the lead partner and that all targets should be published on the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) advisory pages. This

process would be launched with the republication of the 3 sets of actions mentioned above on March 1<sup>st</sup> for a six week consultation period.

### **Assigning species actions to habitats**

This can only be done once the species actions have been identified. Habitat actions are currently being developed, however these may need to be updated over time to reflect appropriate species needs. At present habitat and species action development are happening in parallel and this may need to be reviewed next year to ensure that integration is occurring. SEG will advise ESGs on species action they need to deliver. The Woodland group are looking at managing certain woods in Wales for certain species.

### **Future of BAP Group – ensuring action is taken forward**

The group decided that this should be the last meeting this year. The situation should be reviewed by the WBP Support Team (WBP ST) at their meeting in December and if there is a need to regroup to address specific issues this could be done in 2011.

### **Habitat actions**

Unfortunately Jan was unable to attend the meeting to update on progress with habitat actions. The expectation is that some actions will be ready to go to CCW regional staff at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March and then published on the WBP website later in the month for a 6 week consultation period coordinated by ESG Chairs. All Chairs were being encouraged to produce some actions in time for the local seminars in May as they will need to base their discussions around proposed actions.

### **Local Biodiversity Seminars**

May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Environment Centre in Bangor,  
May 12<sup>th</sup> in Caerphilly and  
May 13<sup>th</sup> in Swansea.

The aim of the morning workshop session at each of the seminars is to bring together local biodiversity officers and other local partners with representatives of the Wales level groups to discuss delivery of the Wales priority actions by:

- a) reach agreement for delivery of some actions
- b) find out which actions local partners could take forward if certain issues were addressed and identify these issues and who needs to address them
- c) find out if there are any actions no one can agree to take forward and why

These sessions will also be an opportunity for local partners to discuss how they can work more closely with the Wales level groups on common initiatives etc. All Wales BAP group Chairs have a greed to attend at least one of the seminars.

The afternoon sessions will be different in each seminar and will be organised by the WBP ST members (i.e. Julia Korn in Bangor, Juliet Hynes in Caerphilly and Sean McHugh in Swansea). The focus is on enabling action. Ideas for talks include Invasive Non native Species group, Len Wyatt from the Welsh Assembly Government Transport Division and funders e.g. WREN.

These seminars will only have a small capacity (30 participants) and so they are not considered the sole mechanism for communication between those working at a Wales level and those at a Regional/local level . It is the first step and other ways of bringing

partners together such as attendance at local meetings by Wales level representatives, workshops at the WBP conference and workshops for specific audiences e.g. landowners/managers will need to be considered.

### **Opportunity mapping of Sect 42 habitats and species for spatial planning**

Following a meeting with Russell Elliot the Green Infrastructure expert at CCW Jan has volunteered to look the potential for opportunity mapping for Section 42 at a regional scale for the NER. Nigel referred to the on-going work that Carole Newberry from CCW is involved in that has asked a contractor to look at the different functions of GI (including biodiversity) and produce GIS map layers representing those functions to help identify the potential for multi functionality within the region..

### **2008 BAP Report**

Aethne is coordinating the establishment of a new WBP Task and Finish group that will write the 2008 Wales BAP report based on the completed data analysis.

### **AOB**

Stephen raised that fact that he had received an e-mail (sent to all Wales level groups) asking if they can provide training for Glastir project officers. He had 2 concerns

1. this would lead to an uncoordinated approach to training project officers
2. yet again the biodiversity community were being asked to provide a service for free.

Farming Connect exists to provide a coordinated training service to farmers as professional packages and for other areas of training these packages are funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. Farming Connect could be tasked with developing a properly funded scheme for training Glastir project officers with input from the SEG and the ESGs.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank you all for the work that you have put into developing the new approach to biodiversity action in Wales and your continued contribution through new and existing groups and partnerships. I appreciate that this is in addition to existing biodiversity action you were already taking and look forward to seeing increased biodiversity benefits in the future as we strive to meet the Wales Environment Strategy target of reversing the decline of biodiversity by 2026.

**FINAL JUNE 02 2010**

Actions and outcomes from the 7<sup>th</sup> Future of BAP Meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

**Present**

Nick Birula	Environment Agency Wales (Chair)
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Russel Hobson	Butterfly Conservation
Nigel Ajax Lewis	Wildlife Trusts
Stephen Bladwell	RSPB
Kate Williamson	Mammal Society/ SNP LBAP

No	Who/Action	Outcome	Progress
<b>MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF THE LAST MEETING</b>			
Wales Biodiversity Framework			
1	<b>Julia to discuss with Diana how we explain the main changes to the Wales Biodiversity Framework.</b>	<b>Good communication and understanding of the changes made to the Wales Biodiversity Framework</b>	<b>DONE – framework published on WBP website</b>
<b>SPECIES</b>			
Lead partner Gaps			
2	Juliet to discuss with Natur if they could front a bid to develop a projects for biodiversity skills development in Wales.	A strategic project delivering improved skills base and over time number of experts for biodiversity for Wales	
3	<b>Stephen to circulate a full list of species that still require lead partners to WBP SG members</b>	<b>Complete lead partner coverage of all species/species groups in Wales</b>	<b>DONE</b>
4	Stephen to follow up those who offered to lead on certain species at the WBP SG meeting	As above	DONE
5	<b>Kate to circulate information on the Wales Mammals Biodiversity Action Forum to SEG members and others who may be interested in setting up similar networks.</b>	<b>Support and communication mechanism in place for lead partners and less chance of work for large numbers of species falling to one person</b>	<b>DONE</b>
Species action and target setting			
6	Julia to produce web information to launch the	Understanding within the BAP	DONE

	consultation of the vascular plants, Lepidoptra and Mammal actions.	community of how and where BAP actions and targets will be published and for actions how the consultation process will be run	
7	<b>Julia to produce an e-mail alert about the consultation and attach the additional information on the process (i.e. how species actions and targets will be developed and published) and circulate widely on March 1<sup>st</sup> . Do the same for future consultations</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>DONE/ON-GOING</b>
8	Kate, Russel and Trevor to manage the consultation for their specialist areas.	Actions owned, updated and agreed by named experts who are lead partners for those species	DONE
9	<b>Stephen to ensure lead partners are aware of this process and their role</b>	<b>Understanding by lead partners of their role in producing actions and target</b>	
10	Stephen to organise the next batch of actions/targets and let Julia know when they will be published.	Properly functioning consultation process	Julia doing this – DONE/ONGOING
11	<b>Sean McHugh to update the WBP website and ensure actions are posted on appropriate dates and removed at the end of consultation periods</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>DONE/ON-GOING</b>
12	CCW Network to ensure regional /HQ staff in CCW are involved	Full involvement of CCW HQ and Regional staff in the consultation on species actions	DONE/ONGOING – e-mail alert for each consultation goes to Jan, Aethne and CCW regional contacts for circulation
13	<b>Juliet to ensure all targets are published on the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) advisory pages</b>	<b>Communication of species targets on BARS</b>	<b>DONE/ON-GOING – will continue with Juliet’s replacement</b>
<b>FUTURE OF BAP GROUP – ENSURING ACTION IS TAKEN FORWARD</b>			
14	Julia to write a note for the WBP website summarising the achievements of the Future of BAP Group and that the task was now complete (unless future issues	Good communication on the work on what the group has achieved and that its task is now complete	

	required the group to reform). If people have any queries or issues these can be reported to the WBP Support Team.		
15	<b>Julia to write a paper to note for the WBPSG11 in July</b>	As above	<b>Agreed with Diana Reynolds (WAG) that note above with would be sufficient</b>
16	Julia to take an action to review any issues raised at the WBP ST meeting in December 2010 and to take steps to reform the group for a meeting in February if required.	Issues relating to the work of this group kept under review and dealt with by appropriate mechanisms.	Added to WBP Support Team actions at March meeting
<b>LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SEMINARS IN MAY 2010</b>			
17	<b>Julia to develop the morning workshop scope and circulate to all</b>	<b>Communication/consultation on workshop idea for local seminars</b>	DONE
18	Juliet to ensure the room in Caerphilly can be set up cabaret style with room for 6 tables.	Appropriate room for seminar	DONE – ran the seminar in Cwmbran
19	<b>WBP ST to develop the afternoon sessions for each of the Seminars</b>	<b>Seminar addresses issues relevant to each region</b>	<b>DONE</b>
20	Julia to confirm ESG and species specialists for all the seminars – Russel offered to be involved in the 2 in South Wale and Stephen mentioned that Adrian Fowles had volunteered to join him and Kate in Bangor. Sam Bosenquet has volunteered to support the Caerphilly seminar.	Good attendance by representatives of Wales level group and effective communication between Wales level and local/regional level partners	DONE
21	<b>Julia to take a main paper to WBP SG11 meeting in July with the key outcomes from the seminars and any actions for WBP. The final actions of this group will be attached with a progress report. The paper should include an action on future communication events and activities.</b>	<b>Appropriate action agreed by the WBP Steering Group to address issues and develop solutions identified at regional seminars</b>	<b>ON-GOING</b>
<b>OPPORTUNITY MAPPING OF SECTION 42 HABITATS AND SPECIES FOR SPATIAL PLANNING</b>			
22	Jan to discuss opportunity mapping of Sect 42 habitats	Any opportunity mapping exercise is well	ON-GOING

	and species with Carole Newberry to ensure work does not overlap with the existing contract.	informed by and integrated with existing initiatives	
<b>AOB</b> Biodiversity experts and training support for Glastir project officers			
<b>23</b>	<b>Stephen (with other ESG Chairs) to suggest to WAG the need for structured, managed delivery of training for Glastir project Officers on Biodiversity delivered through farming Connect.</b>	<b>Structured and properly funded and informed training packages for Glastir Project Officers on Biodiversity</b>	