

GHEG – Action area meeting – November 3rd 2010

Jan Sherry
Trevor Dines
Dave Lamacraft
Alys Edwards
Stuart Smith
Carrie Rhimes
Helen Buckingham

Jan outlined the purpose of the exercise:

- A means of prioritising action. One of the main requests from LBAPS is that they want to know what the priorities are.
- BARS in future will be map based system – April 2011 – so a mapped approach makes sense in this context.
- NEF – Assembly asking for evidence and as part of this have requested data for spatial planning, prioritising restoration of habitats, re-creation etc

Jim Latham and Jan are looking at networks for a context for these action areas, networks These need looking at in the context of species as well but not yet clear how this will be achieved.

Three levels:

Level 1 - Habitat networks

Level 2 - Priority areas – should incorporate the priority species.

Basing this on Glastir at the moment but need to look again.

Level 3 – Priority action areas - could be a mechanism of prioritising the grants to action in these key areas. Top priority, urgent actions that are needed.

The three layers come together for NEF – but it won't cover the widespread species.

This is the Biodiversity ask in NEF – not loosing BAP – interpretation of BAP and focus of BAP.

There is also merit in having priority projects ready for funding opportunities and being on the list will carry some weight in terms of getting funding of projects.

Action - Urgent need to look at species networks- Dave, Jan to talk to Stephen B.

Habitat networks discussed.

Jim is trying to come up with species that have good and those that have poor dispersal – but almost no plant data. Trevor raised issue over no data on plant dispersal and the crucial role of vectors which can't be modelled.

Action?

Identifying priority action areas

The idea is that this would be a rolling programme –

First stage – plot the areas

Second stage – what do we need to do in these areas

e.g. actions database or something like the management schedule for Llyn

How do we make use that we are covering the species adequately?

Action – Jan to arrange meeting with Jim, Dave and Trevor – before Xmas.

Grassland action areas, maps drawn up

1. Floodplain grasslands – draft circulated by Stuart

MG4

Annex 1

9ha

S42 species included

Re-creation

Mechanism – target Glastir, might require specific projects

LBAPs – focus

Action Trevor will extract data for key species and send to Stuart

Dave will send Stuart Lapwing and curlew data

2. North Wales calcareous grassland and heath

Discussion focussed on issues of the Great Orme.

Trevor to discuss once the imminent report on the site is received for comment.

Invertebrates – Stuart to discuss with Mike Howe

3. MG5 grassland

14 large clusters of existing sites

Action - Trevor will let Stuart have records for lesser butterfly orchid

More species to be added into the layers.

Stuart to consider how the 14 clusters might be prioritised.

Monmouthshire meadows – see Carries outline

4. Grassland reversion

Trevor suggested that getting a no input field on every farm in Wales could be a good target –

Trevor agreed to calculate what this would mean in terms of carbon- reduction in fertiliser use and storage of carbon and pollination

5. Rhos pasture – SWW Purple moor grass –

WWGAS map being used – needs adding to.

Action - Stuart to work with Jim L – on networks

Once we have Jims network – add in species layers – share with Charles r.e WWGAS

Carrie will talk to Charles

Dave to contact Charles to discuss bird data in WWGAS project layers, in preparation for bid.

6. Ceredigion coastal slopes

Action - Dave to put chough stuff into this

Agreed to try and annotate all maps as to what is needed.

Use floodplain one for format of write ups.

Helen to draft the Ceredigion action area summary.

Action: Trevor to send data *Ranunculus tripartite* sites to Jan for her to plot.

7. Pembrokeshire

Conflicting opinion on condition of sites in Pembrokeshire. Condition of Chough sites west of St Davids currently unknown

Action: *Helen to discuss with Tudd? which sites need attention and which are OK.*

Action: *Jan to forward maps to Helen to forward to Tudd. Identify sites for removal and check whether these are priority areas.*

Jan commented that WTSWW are currently looking at a change in management of heathland on Skomer, increasing grazing stock (current feature is a lichen assemblage)

Action: *JS&HB to visit and assess.*

Reduction of grazing south of Brynberian, Preseli having impact on southern damselfly and other features

Action: *TD to find record and forward to JS*

Ranunculus tripartite and camomile interest on Gower commons

Action: *TD to send Gower common data to JS.*

Conifers at Whitford sands: need to discuss issue with Coastal Ecosystem Group for them to pick up. Possibility of combining grazing projects with the coastal ecosystem group?

Action: *TD to locate filed for burnt tip orchid and forward to JS*

The group agreed that given the issues on the Gower a WBP visit in early spring would be beneficial.

Are any s42 shingle invertebrates associated with sites?

Action: *JS to find out and feedback*

Action: Add control of agricultural run off as action 5) under 'management actions required to shingle heath and grassland advisory paper.

Action: *Stuart to look if any additional grasslands to add in*

Action: *Jan to look at any further sites on Rhaidal*