

Second Meeting
Wales Biodiversity Upland Ecosystem Group
June 30th 2009 11.00 – 15.30
CCW office Aberystwyth

Agenda

- 1) Introductions & apologies
- 2) Actions from the last meeting
- 3) Update on Glastir
- 4) Presentations:-
 - The Welsh Assembly Government Upland Forum – Ieuan Joyce
 - The Heads of the Valleys project objectives - PONT
 - The biodiversity component of the Cambrian Mountains Scheme – Steven Bradley
- 5) Species signposting and actions
- 6) Action plan targets and actions for Wales; revisions of existing plans and development of local and all Wales actions – All
- 7) New upland BAP habitats; draft actions and targets – All
- 8) LBAP contacts and information dissemination
- 9) ToR
- 10) AOB

Please bring your own lunch (or let me know if you want to book a meal at the canteen). Tea & coffee will be provided.

Wales Biodiversity Upland Ecosystem Group

Minutes of Upland Ecosystem Group Meeting

30th June 2009

CCW Aberystwyth

Present

Barbara Jones (Chair, CCW)
 Trevor Dines (Plantlife)
 Peter Jones (CCW)
 Patrick Lindley (RSPB)
 Charles Morgan (PONT)
 Dafydd Roberts (Snowdonia National Park)
 Chris Tucker (FC)
 Steve Chambers (WAG),
 Peter Jennings (Dwr Cymru),
 Jan Sherry (CCW),
 Sian Whitehead (CCW)
 Ieuan Joyce (CCW Council)
 Stella Owen (NFU)
 Cennydd Jones (HoV Project)
 Steven Bradley (Cambrian Mountains Project)

Apologies

Sheila Spence (Gwent Fungus Group), Gareth Ellis (Brecon Beacons National Park)
 Clive Faulkner (Monts Wildlife Trust) Helen Buckingham (NT) Bev Lewis (Brecknock Wildlife Trust)

ACTION	WHO	STATUS
Membership		
To contact Dave Thorpe to secure EA membership on the group	Pete Jones	
Remit		
To forward final version of Wales BAP Mechanism Document with final remit of Ecosystem Groups to BJ	Jan Sherry	Completed
Habitats		
There has been some progress on drafting UK Plans for the 3 new upland habitats however draft version are not yet available. BJ to circulate draft versions once these become available for comment and development of Welsh actions and targets.	Barbara Jones	
Policy Drivers		
Julia Korn is preparing templates for the collated Policy Drivers. Once these have been completed they will be returned to BJ for circulation to the group. Group to make any corrections, prioritise policy actions and return to the policy group by the end of August.	All	
Delivering Action		
Chris to investigate FC approach to integrating long-term forest plans to CCW's Upland Framework	Chris Tucker	
Landscape Scale project		
Add Beacon Hill to the list of Landscape Scale Projects. JS to send details to BJ and Trevor Dines	Jan Sherry	Completed
Habitat restoration on former conifer sites		
A Peat Statement is being prepared by CCW in partnership with FC	Peter Jones	

(and EA?) in response to the predicted increase in potential wind farm developments on the FC estate. PJ to circulate draft policy when appropriate		
CT to determine what has become of “Forest land-use change: a policy framework and delivery mechanism for Wales” project which was lead by FC with some funding from CCW	Chris Tucker	
Glastir		
The group felt that the Entry level Scheme would not be of much use for meeting BAP targets and that payments were too low to encourage farmers to undertake more complex, time consuming and costly habitat management. There was also concerns that any gains made within TG would be lost if habitat management is optional. BJ to make representation to WAG on this and take concerns to Ecosystem Chairs Meeting in the autumn..	Barbara Jones	
The Higher Level Scheme; coordination of spatial targeting is required across habitats, at present this seems based on species interests not habitats. BJ to contact Diana Reynolds to discuss possible how best to coordinate across Groups (i.e. setting up a joint meeting with Kevin Austin)	Barbara Jones	Completed – programme set up to enable Ecosystem Chairs to feed into development of the HLS
WAG have agreed to consult the Ecosystem Groups formally but it is unclear at what stage this will be. JS to write to Kevin Austin for more details	Jan Sherry	Completed
WAG Upland Forum		
IJ explained the work of the Forum. It was agreed that there could be closer contact between the two groups and if required, the Ecosystem Group could make a presentation explaining the role/work of the group at some point. IJ to investigate communication between the groups	Ieaun Joyce	
Head of Valleys Project		
CM to circulate a list of sites and issues identified by the local authorities	Charles Morgan	Completed
CT to send Cennydd a contact for FC’s fire prevention work	Chris Tucker	
Overgrazing issues may not be tackled by the project SC stated that these should be reported to WAG for investigation. CM/CJ to look into overgrazing issues.	Charles Morgan	
It was felt that the project could produce an Upland Framework map as an end product showing the desired changes in the vegetation. CM/CJ need to liaise with BJ.	Charles Morgan	
Cambrian Mountains		
SB gave a presentation on the project it was felt that formal liaison should be established between the project and the UEG as the latter will be able to provide input to the biodiversity sections. SB to investigate.	Steven Bradley	Completed. BJ will represent the UEG on the Cambrian Mountains Ecosystem Services steering group.
JS was concerned that the biodiversity elements of the project would not be recorded on BARS although there was a firm commitment by CCW (through the remit letter) to ensure full reporting of biodiversity gains on BARS. This could be achieved by liaison with the UEG. SB to ensure biodiversity actions are recorded and to liaise with JS.	Steven Bradley	
Action Plans		
The group went through the outline action plan for blanket bog. It was agreed that PJ should be transfer the plan on to the standard template and circulate to the group by end of August. Similarly the plans for Upland Heath, Limestone pavement and Upland Calcareous Grassland need to be transferred to the template by JS,	Peter Jones Jan Sherry Gareth Ellis Barbara Jones	

GE and BJ and circulated by the end of August.		
Group to comment on the three plans by the end of September.	All	
Species Actions		
TD explained progress with the species actions. Some species leads still need to be identified for upland species. TD to discuss with BJ	Trevor Dines	
Funding		
JS to send information on Wren Funding to all Ecosystem Group chairs.	Jan Sherry	Completed
DR stated that the convergence bid for the protected landscapes in North Wales had been put on the reserve list, if no other projects are put forward it may receive funding. DR to inform the group if the project receives funding.	Dafydd Roberts	
Group needs to draw up a list of potential projects requiring external funding. The Elenydd Molinia Restoration was identified as a priority. BJ to investigate development of this and report to next meeting.	Barbara Jones	
Rhododendron Control in Snowdonia is a potential LIFE project but Defra may be providing some money for control as part of their Phytophthora work. BJ to bring this back to the next meeting once she has met with Defra.	Barbara Jones	

Next Meeting; October 12th at Y Lanfa (WDA) offices (in the same building as the Technium in Aberystwyth)