

**Meeting Notes, Urban & Brownfield habitat group meeting
29/01/10 1000:1300 at the Wildlife Trust office, Shrewsbury.**

Present: Pete Frost, , Steve Chambers, Emily Meilleur, Liz Howe, Nigel Ajax Lewis, Rebecca Sharp and Margaret Peters.

Item	Title	Activity	Action for:
1	Introductions and Welcome	Rebecca Sharp was welcomed to the Group.	
2	Apologies & submissions for AOB	<i>Apologies received from Margaret Underwood, Jan Sherry and Sorrel Jones.</i>	
3	Minutes of last meeting	Agreed	
4	Checking actions from last meeting	Following actions will be carried forward or reallocated, all others have been discharged:	
	<i>AP12 Carried Forward</i>	The action was that a holding response should be produced for when our organisations are approached about planning permission on brownfield sites. The response should state that such sites are now a Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat and they will need an ecological survey done. Jan reported that a new CCW standard letter will be produced over the next few months. Dave has gone through EA's standard paragraphs and contaminated land should be included in the development pages of the proposal category.	JS & DT
	<i>AP34 Carried forward</i>	Obtain the reference to the slate ecology handbook and reference to the OM habitat management publication.	JS
	<i>AP47 Carried Forward</i>	Steve to send the link for the Welsh Assembly Government's GIS team and liaise with Jan on this.	SC & JS
	<i>AP48 Carried Forward</i>	The group won't be trying for resources for fieldwork this year, probably next year. Two further sources of funding should be investigated: WAG and DEFRA. Pete will investigate these.	PF
	<i>AP49 Carried Forward</i>	It was noted that the Coal Authority: would probably be covered by the duty in the NERC Act to conserve biodiversity; and might have substantial funds available to discharge that duty. Nigel to investigate.	NAL
		New actions resulting from this meeting:	
5.	Open Mosaic Habitats	Setting targets for identifying the total resource and highlighting examples for protection:	

		<p>Maintaining the extent of the habitat</p> <p>Identifying the extent and location of sites on each substrate type;</p> <p>Ask Vicky Morgan at JNCC to add the following on to criterion 3 of the proposed habitat definition: ‘the presence of other vegetation types in addition to early successional communities’.</p>	PF
		<p>Restoring habitat</p> <p>It was agreed that the group adopt a provisional target of no net loss of OMHoPDL in Wales.</p> <p>When collecting information on sites, it was agreed to attempt to establish which are self managing and which require management.</p> <p>The group agreed to establish the extent and location of OMHoPDL by the end of 2010/11 financial year.</p> <p>It was suggested that Sorrel’s methodology (LBAP Brownfield Questionnaire) be extended to answer the 2 questions on the ‘Setting targets’ document.</p>	
	AP51	<p>Improving Condition</p> <p>It was agreed to report back to WBP that we can’t set a target on improving condition until we’ve worked out the current extent and condition of this habitat.</p>	PF
	AP52	<p>Extending the habitat</p> <p>It was agreed to report to WBP that we can’t set a target for extending the habitat now but that we will look at this in a year’s time when we know the extent and location.</p>	PF
6.	Advice and Guidance		
		Liz Howe brought the Buglife example, ref: Buglife (2009) Planning for Brownfield Biodiversity: A best practice guide. ISBN-978-1-904878-92-6	
	AP53	<p>UK level BRIG (Biodiversity Reporting Information Group) the web based habitat management information for species project is ongoing.</p> <p>Report back to the group following the next BRIG meeting</p>	LH
	AP54	<p>Rebecca reported that there is relevant information on the following websites: www.mineralproducts.org and www.afterminerals.com Rebecca to point the group to particular things on these website.</p>	RS
		All actions below are for individuals to obtain information/sources for Brownfield ecology and management:	
	AP55	Search CCW’s library for relevant publications	PF

	<i>AP56</i>	Contact IUCN Cities and Protected Areas Specialist Group and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Urban Group to seek relevant guidance.	PF
	<i>AP57</i>	Contact herpetological groups to seek sources of guidance on management for herptiles	LH
	<i>AP58</i>	Check what relevant information is held by the Wildlife Trusts	NAL
	<i>AP59</i>	Establish if ALGE (Assoc. of Local Government Ecologists) has relevant publications.	RS
7.	Results of LBAP Brownfield Questionnaire	The group noted their thank to Sorrel for compiling this questionnaire and collecting the results.	
	<i>AP60</i>	Obtain a list of LA Ecologists so that we can contact them to ask if they've got GIS maps of important wildlife sites; and if so, do these pick up OMHoPDL? When contacting the Ecologists we should remind them to contact their authority's Contaminated Land Specialists in case they have GIS data on OMHoPDL.	EM
	<i>AP61</i>	Contact LRC's to see what data they have on potential OMHoPDL sites	PF
	<i>AP62</i>	Ask Dr Charles Hipkin about any references and contacts which might lead to the identification of OMHoPDL sites.	RS
	<i>AP63</i>	Check Phase 1 data to see how much information can be extrapolated about the presence of OMHoPDL and its use in identifying sites.	LH
8.	Policies	The Wales Coastal Ecosystem Group have pulled together a table of legislation and acts and have prepared a paper on policy issues, prioritising the policies which need to be affected in order to conserve coastal biodiversity.	
	<i>AP64</i>	Circulate relevant policies identified by the Coastal group to this group	SC
9.	Review of membership	No new members have been proposed.	

10.	AOB & Date of next meeting	<p>Casework updates:</p> <p>Liz updated the group on <u>Hafod Clay pit, Wrexham</u>: ‘The public enquiry about confirming the modification orders that allow extraction/infilling and the continuing gen mitigation work to continue has been won- local protesters didn't want it to carry on- this would have compromised the gen interests of this SAC.’</p> <p>and <u>Merthyr Village site at Cwm Glo</u> - ‘ the developers have again failed to provide the WAG inspectorate with all the info they need to judge whether a PI is needed to determine their planning permission to completely devegetate and strip the site down to a depth of 20m+. It seems the inspectorate are running out of patience and hopefully time- I think the developers may back off...’</p> <p>Definition of ‘metal contaminated sites’: As many metal contaminated sites meet the criteria for Calaminarian Grassland (NVC type OV37) the group decided that only sites which were both contaminated by metals and did not meet the criteria for NVC OV37 grassland would fall into the remit of this group. It was noted that Calaminarian Grassland would often occur in mixtures with, or adjacent to OMHoPDL and therefore close liaison with the Grassland Group would be required.</p>	
		The next meeting will be during the week commencing 20 th of April. The whole group will be circulated before a date is finalised.	