

WBP Species Expert Group Meeting 11

Banw Room, Newtown 8th November 2013

Attendees: Stephen Bladwell, Chair (RSPB Cymru); Sean McHugh, Secretariat (WBP); Steve Lucas (BCT); Claire Install (British Dragonfly Society); Mark Barber (ARC); Rob Strachan (NRW); Adrian Fowles (NRW); Liz Howe (NRW); Dave Lamacraft (Plantlife Cymru); Sian Whitehad (NRW); Liz Halliwell (NRW); Andy Jones (NRW);

Apologies: Mike Bruford (Cardiff University);Russel Hobson (BC); Reg Thorpe (RSPB Cymru);Trevor Dines (Plantlife Cymru); Lizzie Wilberforce (WTW); Sarah Bird (Chester Zoo); Rachel Taylor (BTO); Tim Rich (NMW); Sinead Lynch (BBCT); Sam Bosanquet (NRW/BBS); Jean Matthews (NRW; Steve Chambers (WG); Ray Woods (Consultant); Dan Foreman (Swansea University); Craig MaAdam (Buglife)

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as accurate.

No.	Update/Action	Who by/when	Additional comments
1	*Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board	Stephen/Liz to update	*Wales Biodiversity
	update. The board is considering	Species Expert Group	Strategy Board- discussions
	the guiding principles for the	ToR	are underway regarding
	Biodiversity Strategy/Nature		the naming of the board
	recovery Plan. WBP Steering Group		and Wales Nature Strategy
	has now closed. Wales Biodiversity		Board has been proposed.
	Strategy Board will take on the		The next meeting of the
	majority of the roles identified in		Board is 6 th December.
	Steering Group ToR. WBP Group		
	Chairs will agree a new ToR for		
	their Group and will draft		
	refreshed ToR for WBP Ecosystem		
	and Species Expert Groups, as		
	these need updating. Membership		
	of both Wales Biodiversity Strategy		
	Board and WBP Group Chairs will		
	be amended where appropriate, to		
	ensure inclusion of organisations		
	previously represented on Steering		
	Group. WBP Group Chairs may		
	therefore include representation		
	from a Chair of a Local/Regional		
	Biodiversity Network to ensure		
	local connections are retained.		
	Communication between Wales		
	Biodiversity Strategy Board and		
	WBP Chairs Group will be		
	strengthened, with agendas and		
	selected papers for the Board		
	circulated to WBP Chairs Group		

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	prior to meetings. Chairs		
	comments will be submitted to		
	Board at each meeting.		
2	WG £6million nature fund. WG looking for A4 proofs of concept (non-costed) by 16 th December Species Expert Groups to provide a representative at planned WG £6m Fund local workshops to support local biodiversity groups to develop concepts/project ideas to submit to the fund. NRW will be attending the workshops and have already submitted ideas following a baseline exercise. The funding schema will be developed in the New Year. Funds need to be spent by March 2015. SEG welcomed the £6m spend but had reservations regarding the structure of the funding and the anticipated tight deadline.	Sean to re-circulate workshop details All- let Sean know if you are attending one of the 3 workshops All- share your ideas with SEG members to develop proof of concept proposals All- submit proofs of concept ideas by 16 th Dec & indicate if they are part of the SEG work programme. Liz Howe to share NRW	Monday 2 December (10:00 -12:00) – Welsh Government offices, Merthyr Tydfil Wednesday 4 December (10:00 -12:00) – Welsh Government offices, Aberystwyth Monday 9 December (10:00 – 12:00) – Welsh Government offices, Llandudno Junction. Contact naturalresourcemanageme nt@wales.gsi.gov.uk to register for the workshop
		funding ideas developed	
		for £6m fund	
3	Environment Bill White Paper Consultation The White Paper from Welsh Government sets out proposals for the Environment (Wales) Bill and is open for consultation until 15 January 2014	All- submit responses by 15 January 2014 Link: http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environment-andcountryside/environment-bill-white-paper/?lang=en	A series of regional consultation events to discuss the proposals in the Environment Bill White Paper are taking place: Monday 2 December (1 to 4pm) – Welsh Government offices, Merthyr Tydfil; Wednesday 4 December (1 to 4pm) – Welsh Government offices, Aberystwyth; Monday 9 December (1 to 4pm) – Welsh Government offices, Llandudno Junction. Contact naturalresourcemanageme nt@wales.gsi.gov.uk to register for the workshop.
4	Resilient Ecosystem Fund projects. Liz Howe chaired the SEG REF subgroup. 9 species- related projects were initially submitted 3 were successful including a Marsh Fritillary project; water vole project	Action Liz Howe to share with SEG the successful bids once formal acceptance letters received	

	& an amphibian/reptile project.		
5	Species- habitat integration work At the July 2013 meeting the SEG considered wetlands and the work is progressing. Comments contributed during the meeting & further comments required on the habitat niche/resource descriptors outlined in the wetland excel worksheet and the generic prescriptions for wetland habitats document supplied by Pete Jones (grazing marsh to be completed). SEG asked for context to be developed for the integration work. Once completed, these can	All-comments required around Species habitat niche/resource descriptors for priority wetland habitats Comments required by 22nd November to Stephen Bladwell Stephen to draft context re: Species habitat niche/resource descriptors All- comments required re: generic lowland	Comments welcomed in relation to generic management prescriptions for delivery of habitat condition in wetlands that will also benefit speciesnot to identify all the specific management requirements for individual or groups of priority species within these habitats Mechanism for revising S42 list is being worked up.
	be fed into Glastir review.	wetland habitat prescriptions by 22nd November to Stephen Bladwell Stephen to circulate Glastir review note	Previously it was the role of WBP SG
	SEG has received comments on the species associations for wetland habitats and is requested further comment before final sign off. Once finalised, associated guidance will accompany the list.	All- comments required re: Species associations for wetland habitats by 22nd November to Stephen Bladwell	
	Woodland- integration work needs to be completed. SEG have worked with the legacy body Forestry Commission Wales to develop prescriptions & SEG need to revisit to ensure prescriptions meet the needs of species.	Sean to contact Chris Tucker for update on woodland species prescriptions	
	Heathland- integration work (upland & lowland heath) was the first addressed by SEG and this is in use influencing heathland management and will be refined following feedback from Lowland Grassland & Heathland Group.		
	Freshwater & coastal could potentially be the next groups		

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	Stand	ding Items		J

7	SEG work programme. The group spent time amending the work plan and comments required by members who were unable to attend the meeting.	All- send comments on the work plan by 22 nd November	
	It was noted that some actions fall under policy & the WBP policy group is no longer active- need to feed these through to appropriate body –WBSB?	Include SEG policy issues as an agenda item at next SEG meeting	
	Actions from Chairs meeting largely covered in items 1,2. 6. Standing item re: sharing Priority Mapping Workshop Planner with Species Expert Group	Stephen Bladwell and Sean McHugh to share Planner with Species Expert Group to facilitate SEG rep attendance at these events.	This requires input from Ecosystem Chairs to inform SEG of planned priority habitat workshops
	SEG Group memberships- the list was reviewed by SEG	Sean to incorporate comments and send updated list to Welsh Government	
	Agenda items for next Meeting	All to send in agenda items for Jan/Feb 2014 SEG meeting	
	Date of next Meeting Jan/Feb 2014		
On-go	ing actions and items		
i	SEG input to compliment habitat advice arising from Ecosystem Groups Priority Mapping workshops held with LBAPs.	Sean/Sam. Pilot approach in Wales in the new year.	LBAP response has been positive to the idea. Need to firm up with Sam and initialise.
ii	All partners to send Sean a brief update of projects they are involved in for circulation to SEG. A rolling update can also be included on the WBP website under the SEG section	All/end of December	WBP website SEG link: http://biodiversitywales.or g.uk/en-GB/Species
iii	WBP Chairs Meeting Next meeting in Spring 2014- require SEG update/items for the meeting	All	Chairs meeting actions: http://www.biodiversitywa les.org.uk/en- GB/Ecosystem-Group- Chairs
iv	BARS BARS 2 is now live - user friendly,	All are encouraged to Visit new BARS & look	BARS link & further information:



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WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

spatial representation of actions, priority mapping from ecosystem groups is available on BARS	for opportunities to input/comment	http://www.biodiversitywa les.org.uk/en- GB/Biodiversity-Action- Reporting-System-BARS
		WBP Priority mapping link: http://www.biodiversitywa les.org.uk/en- GB/EcosystemsSpecies- Expert-Groups