

Wales Coastal Ecosystem Group – draft notes of second meeting, 30th July 2009, CCW Aberystwyth

Present: Peter Rhind Chair of CEG (CCW), Juliet Hynes (WBP -standing in for Sean McHugh), Kate Collins (EAW), Alec Taylor (CCW), Quentin Grimley (CCW), Richard Ellis (NT), Mike Bailey (CCW), Duncan Ludlow (CCW), Steve Moon (Bridgend CBC), Chris Wynne North Wales Wildlife Trust –WTW), Kerry Seaton (CCW – joined by teleconference)

Apologies: Mike Howe (CCW), Mark Winder (City and County of Swansea), Nicola Rimington (CCW), Kirsty Lindenbaum (CCW)

Actions points from meeting of 30th July 2009.

<i>Action / discussion point</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Immediate action</i>	<i>Progress by 3rd meeting</i>
<i>1. Introductions</i>			
	Was noted that no one from WAG was able to attend the meeting, important to keep this connection in place.		
<i>2. Minute of last meeting</i>			
	So far failed to get representative from SMP on CEG. Problem is that SMPs at different stages of development so may not be able to get single representative of all SMPs. Kerry Seaton is on Carmarthenshire SMP but might be useful to get someone from Engineering side	SMc & KS identify suitable SMP representative and invite to CEG	
	PR not contacted Chris Tucker (Forestry Commission) about issue of forestry on sand dunes as has major CCW meeting next week over this issue at Newborough.	PR contact Christ Tucker after CCW meeting next week.	
	Group decided o need for broad definition of Coastal habitat, stick with BAP definitions. Decided should still include Atlantic	Include Atlantic dune woodland	

	dune woodland restoration/expansion in CEG action plan. (according to JNCC, none of this habitat left in the UK). If allowed to develop it might be at the expense of dune habitat so need careful criteria for siting this habitat. Suggestion that adjacent agricultural land could be used for dune woodland creation. Kenfig has some dune woodland; PR looking at allowing part of Newborough forest to be restored to Atlantic dune woodland.	restoration/expansion in CEG action plan.	
	National Trust, no progress with BARS as yet.		
	EAW completed North Wales Salt Marsh project, KC not able to circulate report due to landowner confidentiality issues. Planning to repeat the project in South Wales. CCW have done similar project in Carmarthenshire		
	WTW audit of sites nearly complete;	CW will circulate to CEG when finished.	
3. 2008 UK BAP reporting			
	Successes and Constraints from UKBAP 2008 reporting round results. CEG needs to look at constraints listed and work out how to overcome them. Funding major issue, and CCW grant funding likely to fall. Life + needs grant funding which CCW won't be able to supply, need to investigate other funding streams.		
	JH summarised the new BAP process (LBAPS, Wales ESGs etc., UKBAP). In discussion about BAP targets it was noted that we still have very little info about the extent of habitats that we have, need more baseline info.		

4. CEG Action plan spreadsheet			
<p>Discussion based around the draft actions that were circulated prior to the meeting</p>	<p>The actions spreadsheet is about prioritising actions and suggesting actions/areas of habitat that LBAPs and others could concentrate on.</p> <p>Opportunity maps (for restoration/expansion) would be particularly useful. Already being done with the Saltmarsh projects (south project should be completed by end of the year).</p> <p>URBAIN – experimental trials to enhance habitats on coastal workings.</p> <p>Opportunity maps step 1. audit of habitats, 2. where does potential for coastal habitat exist based on existing physical conditions, need to add layer of sites where habitat previously existed; will need input from LBAPs to fine tune at local level, but provide them with suggestions to work from. SMP2 contractors have asked for historical habitat maps, (CCW are coordinating this). Gwynedd archives are fantastic resource. Could produce potential visions with the opportunity maps</p> <p>Comment that LBAP partnerships are not drivers of local activity</p>	<p>KS provide summary of URBAIN project to the CEG</p> <p>PR look into info required for opportunity maps and report back.</p> <p>SMc circulate LBAP guidance (Annex H and notes on running LBAP meetings) to CEG</p>	
	<p>Need to think about other actions that need to be included, prioritise actions and think about time line.</p>	<p>All- send any more actions or comments to SMc</p>	

	Comments on individual actions: Phase II survey should be carried out on targeted sites, not general survey.		
5. WREN Fund			
	Make sure LBAPs in WREN areas know about fund. Multiple sites have to be ecologically linked and within 10 miles of WREN landfill site.	SMc make sure relevant LBAPs aware of fund.	
6. Steps to initiate more action on the ground			
	Ask LBAPs to include actions towards coastal targets in their next funding round	SMc & SM	
	Supply LBAP partners with coastal habitat management guidance		
	Lack of coastal habitat knowledge may be preventing LBAPs from carrying out coastal actions	SMc Find out from LBAPs who has coastal specialists on their partnerships and who doesn't so will need more help	
	Life Bids for removal of roads from SACs. RE looking at whether B4319 could be removed from Pembrokeshire dune system. Will reconnect several dune systems and reinstate natural hydrology. Would be great flagship project	RE produce summary of the vision, with maps, to circulate to CEG	
7. Target setting for saltmarsh and mudflats			
	Marine group suggested that they take over the target setting for saltmarsh so that it can be combined with mudflats to produce join target (as is done at UK level). CEG agreed.		
8. species signposting			
	1 st tranche of signposted species actions and targets being produced by species	PR circulate lists of species assigned to habitats	

	lead partners in Wales, should be available from the species expert group soon.		
9. Policy drivers from CEG			
	<p>Coastal zone management: KS drafting spec to look at beach management, getting away from hard defence to encourage free movement of coastal sediments, will feed into next SMP. Use of dunes as natural form of coastal defence Remobilisation of dune systems: Need to consider may not have natural conditions in place to maintain mobile dunes. Nitrogen Deposition and eutrophication: Needs addressing on national basis (is part of remobilisation assessment). Conifer plantations: Phased conversion to more natural woodland in areas adjacent to conifer plantation</p>		
	Alec Taylor volunteered to coordinate policy issues coming from CEG, will take a look at draft policy form and update	AT circulate updated policy form to the group for comment.	
	Saltmarsh - managed realignment	PR circulate website – examples across Europe (Wales stands out as only country not to implement some managed realignment)	
10. LBAP perspective			
	Steve Moon to be LBAP contact for CEG, write key point summary of this meeting for LBAPs	<p>JH provide SM with email list for LBAPs, SM circulate summary of CEG meeting to LBAPs</p> <p>SM send PR the structure of the Bridgend LBAP</p>	Contact list sent to SM

11. WBP conference workshop			
	Kate Collins volunteered to sub for PR at WBP conference BAP workshop.		
12. Glastir higher level targeting			
	Farmers within a designated 10% of Wales will be eligible for £150 per ha payment. CCW tasked with identifying the 10% of Wales where this higher designation area will be; must include all 6 elements of Appendix 2. Producing coincidence maps to find habitat crossover hotspots. Need to come up with coastal package that fits into this 10%. PR proposed to include entire coastal zone (300m buffer strip) for whole Wales coast (excluding urban areas). Likelihood is that this won't be accepted so CEG will then need to prioritise areas to be included.	PR keep group informed as to how whole coast proposal gets on in the selection of the 10%	
13. Coastal Access			
	Deadline for Wales coast path route is 2012. WAG didn't sign up to legislation for coast path like that in England, just improving existing paths. Currently in 3 rd year of dishing out money to local authorities to create path. CCW conservation officers heavily involved in assessing route. Appropriate assessment work around Severn, Dee and Dovey Estuaries so coast path may go in land here. Trying to avoid habitat loss. Option for alternative seasonal routes if conservation concerns at particular times of year.		

	Quentin also deals in recreational access so can use him for any issues around this.		
14. Work Programme			
	Agreed that Action spreadsheets; Policy drivers; and landfill tax are currently developing the work program for CEG		
Date of next meeting – 27th Jan 2010			