

WBP Species Expert Group Meeting 13

Teifi Marshes, Cilgerran, 30th June 2014

Attendees: Liz Howe, co-Chair (NRW); Stephen Bladwell, co-Chair (RSPB Cymru T/C); Sean McHugh, Secretariat (WBP); Steve Lucas (BCT); Adrian Fowles (NRW); Lizzie Wilberforce (WTW/WTSWW); Clare Dinham (Buglife); Jean Matthews (NRW); Colin Cheesman (Plantlife Cymru); Sam Bosanquet (NRW/BBS T/C)

Apologies: Russel Hobson (BC); Rachel Taylor (BTO); Sinead Lynch (BBCT); Dan Foreman (Swansea University); Dave Lamacraft (Plantlife Cymru); Sian Whitehead (NRW); Liz Halliwell (NRW); Andy Jones (NRW); Reg Thorpe (RSPB Cymru); Gareth Griffith (Aberystwyth University); Geoff Hobbs (Bridgend CBC); Claire Install (British Dragonfly Society)

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as accurate.

No.	Update/Action	Who by/when	Additional comments
1	<p>Partner updates</p> <p>Bryophytes & Lower plants: Sam Bosanquet & colleagues are compiling a list of actions in spread sheet format (will not contain lead partner info or specific targets).</p> <p>Plantlife: Colin mentioned the ongoing work for Fen Orchid at Kenfig; Cotoneaster control on Gower to benefit whitlow grass, lichens and bryophytes; and the promotion of an Important Plant Area in Wales at East Fairbourne. A lower plants outreach project is taking place in the Meirionnydd Oakwoods. Trevor Dines who previously sat on the group is now with the communications team at Plantlife HQ.</p> <p>Invertebrates: Clare (Buglife) is now based in Wales (at RSPB Cymru from 28th July) coordinating the WREN Brownfield projects in south Wales and the B-Lines project in south west England. Clare also sits on the WBP Urban Group and is linked in with Wales Environment Link to influence</p>	<p>Sam to circulate bryophyte actions when complete</p> <p>Sean to arrange BARS input of bryophyte spread sheet with Holly York</p>	<p>IPAs in Wales: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wales/wild_plants/important_plant_areas_wales</p> <p>National plant monitoring scheme: http://www.brc.ac.uk/npms/content/welcome</p>

<p>strategy. Buglife is hoping to submit B-Lines funding bids to the Nature Fund and NRW for south Wales</p> <p>Craig MacAdam (Buglife) has had records of <i>Potamanthus luteus</i> from the River Wye near Hay-on-Wye which is the furthest upstream it has been recorded in a decade. It's also been recorded at several locations in the Severn catchment recently (not in Wales though, but significant as the Wye was the only catchment with this species previously).</p> <p>Russel Hobson Lepidoptera Update (January – July 2014)– Butterfly Conservation Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh Fritillary – Circulated feedback on surveillance programme and colony work. • Grizzled Skipper site dossier completed. • Annual High Brown Fritillary report on BARS • Winter work at private and BC sites completed - Target species Brown Hairstreak, High Brown Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary and Drab Looper • Completed surveys of Forestry sites and on 4 species of butterfly and five moths. • Significant time spent on poor mitigation at Wrexham Industrial Estate. • UKBMS – Compilation of Butterfly Transects and expansion of number of Wider Countryside Scheme sites. <p>Future plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure funding for Lepidoptera work in Wales 		
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<p>Adrian Fowles – National Dragonfly Atlas 2008-2013 is now available. Adrian received a message for Butterfly Conservation that ‘The State of Lepidoptera in Wales’ will be published by the end of the summer</p> <p>Higher plants: BSBI continuing species surveillance on SSSI’s and promoting a national plant monitoring scheme. A new plant atlas is planned to be published in 2020. The higher vascular plants S42 actions spread sheet should be available by the end of the summer.</p> <p>Mammals: Lizzie W mentioned two new appointments at WTSWW- Red Squirrel Officer and a Water Vole Officer. Lizzie emphasised the importance of long-term funding for specialised monitoring projects.</p> <p>Bats: BCT are undergoing a UK restructuring exercise. BCT Cymru is working with NRW & Vincent Wildlife Trust on the rear woodland bats project. The ‘Landscape for Lessers’ project is underway with roost assessments on-going.</p> <p>Stephen mentioned RSPB are putting together a bid for INNS removal and grazing control in the Meirionnydd Oakwoods IPA. The RSPB Living Levels project in the Gwent Levels is underway supported by a HLF Grant.</p> <p>Liz Howe reported on team restructuring in the NRW ‘Knowledge, Strategy & Planning’ branch which will reorganise</p>		<p>National Dragonfly Atlas http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/national-dragonfly-atlas</p> <p>BSBI Plant distribution database http://bsbidb.org.uk/</p>
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	<p>existing habitat and species sections. This will hopefully give biodiversity a higher profile within the organisation. Further details to be announced.</p> <p>NRW partner funding arrangements are undergoing reorganisation with an announcement in the autumn. Likely to comprise of 2 streams i) bid approach ii) strategic partnership approach (adding value)</p>		
2	<p>Species- habitat integration work is progressing.</p> <p>Woodland note was received from Chris Tucker (NRW Forestry) but requires clarification. Requirement to bring together guidance from a wide range of sources e.g. woodland birds & post on WBP website/BARS</p> <p>SEG Glastir subgroup will look at the scope of the guidance, species covered (s42 or wider) & management regimes</p> <p>Wetlands- Liz Howe has spoken to the NRW Wetland Ecologist (Pete Jones) and Pete has produced generic prescriptions. This needs to be added to the 'species niches' information</p> <p>Note; upland heath and grazing marsh species-habitat integration to be completed. Coastal cliff grassland needs to be incorporated into the lowland grassland integration work</p>	<p>Stephen to clarify Chris Tucker note</p> <p>Stephen & Liz Howe to arrange meeting with Chris Tucker</p> <p>Liz Howe to contact GT subgroup to coordinate overall Woodland guidance</p> <p>Stephen to pull the strands of the wetland integration work together for Sean to circulate to SEG</p> <p>Liz Howe to speak with Stuart Smith (NRW Grassland ecologist) re: coastal cliff grassland</p>	
3	<p>Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board update (Steve Lucas). A series of</p>	<p>All- feedback to Stephen Bladwell thought on the</p>	<p>The next WBSB meeting of the Board is 28th July</p>

<p>workshops are taking place to shape the 'Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) Wales'. Principles paper underpinning the NRP is still to be agreed. There is a likely to be an announcement at the Royal Welsh Show on timings (likely early 2015 release) including consultation period (post meeting update: Alun Davies has left the WG Environment ministerial post & John Griffiths is now in the portfolio- this may effect timings)</p> <p>£6m Nature Fund. Clare attended the south Wales nature fund workshop. Emphasis on collaboration, connectivity, ecosystem health & resilience, community engagement and delivery on the ground. Organisations pitched their ideas to the audience and then were 'matched' up with potential collaborators. Likely those successful projects (50k minimum) will consist of quick fix continuation projects and development projects. WG will assist with facilitation. Buglife, BC & RSPB have submitted projects largely based on projects where partnerships are in place. Lead in times & capacity issues were highlighted.</p> <p>WBP Framework. Discussion item at the next Chairs meeting (15 July) and how it links with the NRP. One proposal is that the Chairs group act in a support function to the Strategy Board. Overall, WG Environmental priorities will map to EU priorities which should in theory map back to Wales actions</p> <p>NGO representatives at WBSB meetings (BCT; BC; WT; RSPB)-</p>	<p>Wales Biodiversity Framework structure to Stephen</p> <p>Clare to send through attendance list of south Wales Nature Fund Workshop</p> <p>Stephen to canvas for SEG reps to cover the Chairs Meeting on 15th July</p>	
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	influencing role & advisory role to WG on biodiversity issues.		
4	<p>WBP conference input & outreach activities for SEG</p> <p>A species workshop (Bryophytes and oil beetles) is a possible conference workshop on the 11th Sept & Sam and Clare are available. Could be based on the LBAP workshop proposal (Sam) and/or the Carms approach. Species that offer an opportunity for participation and community engagement would work best.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire LBAP have featured species presentations with input from SEG members & produced species information and recording literature</p> <p>LBAP species workshops idea is popular with LBAPs, has not been taken forward formally. Carmarthenshire have invited a series of species experts to give talks at LBAP meetings to raise awareness & promote action.</p>	<p>All to note conference date</p> <p>Sam & Clare to consider Conference workshop</p> <p>Sean to canvas N wales LBAPs re: workshop approach for 'less charismatic' species or other areas where species guidance is required.</p>	<p>WBP Conference, Cardiff University Conference Centre, Cyncoed 10 – 11 September Theme: Nature Recovery in Wales</p>
5	SEG workplan/membership review	The group will review at the next meeting	
6	Remembering Rob Strachan. Rob was a leading freshwater & wetland ecologist with an incredible knowledge of mammals and a foremost authority on water vole ecology. Formerly with Vincent Wildlife Trust, WildCru, Environment Agency Wales and latterly NRW, Rob was an active member and contributor to the work of the SEG. A thoroughly decent and warm man, Rob will be missed by		<p>For a an in-depth tribute to Rob, go to http://www.vwt.org.uk/about-us/tribute-to-rob-strachan</p>

	all who knew him.		
7	Teifi Marshes Field Visit		Following the meeting, SEG members embarked on an informative tour of the Teifi Marshes WTSWW reserve to see at first hand the range of habitats and the conservation management regimes on the reserve. Our thanks to Lizzie Willberforce and the Nature Centre Cilgerran for hosting the meeting and the field visit.
Standing Items			
7	SEG work programme. Covered in item 5 Actions from Chairs meeting largely covered in item 3 Agenda items for next Meeting	All to send in agenda items for Winter 2014 SEG meeting	
	Date of next Meeting TBC		
On-going actions and items			
i	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 September 2014	WBP website SEG link: http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Species
ii	BARS BARS 2 is now live - user friendly, spatial representation of actions, priority mapping from ecosystem groups is available on BARS	All are encouraged to Visit new BARS & look for opportunities to input/comment	BARS link & further information: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Biodiversity-Action-Reporting-System-BARS WBP Priority mapping link: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystems--Species-Expert-Groups



SEG party at Cilgerran



Water buffalo used on the reserve for grazing