

WBP SG17

10th July 2012

Aberystwyth

AGENDA

The 17th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held in Welsh Government Offices, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 (a location map can be found [here](#)) Tea and coffee will be available from 10:00.

TIME	PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
10:00		Assemble, tea/coffee	
10:30	1	Welcome: Introduction and apologies	Matthew Quinn
10:35	2	Main Paper: Future of BAP	Stephen Bladwell
11:35	3	Main Paper: Ecosystem Groups Reporting Session	Tracey Lovering
12:35		LUNCH – Please bring a packed lunch	
13:15	4	Taxonomic Presentation: Filling in the gaps - monitoring rare vascular plant species in Wales	Polly Spencer-Vellacot (BSBI)
13:30		Discussion: What can we do to help these species?	
13:45	5	Papers to Note: - A: WBP Planning - B: An audit of data sharing between volunteer recorders and Welsh Local Records Centres - C: Wildlife Crime Update - D: Academics Workshop Programme 2012	Sean McHugh Roy Tapping Ian Guildford Tracey Lovering
14:30	6	Feedback from WCMP	
14:40	7	Four Countries Update	
14:50	8	Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	
15:00	9	AOB	
15:15	10	Date of next meeting 14 th November 2012: Bangor	
15:30		Afternoon tea and finish	

A regular train service operates from Aberystwyth see www.nationalrail.co.uk for details.

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PAPER 01
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Report of the Future of BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) Task and Finish Group

Background

The Original Future of BAP Group guided the development of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership following the devolution of the BAP process in 2008. The group was disbanded following the completion of this work.

The Future of BAP group was re-established in 2011 to address the need to integrate developing work on the Ecosystem Approach with the ongoing work of WBP. The group was also tasked with identifying whether the current WBP structure could help to deliver the biodiversity outcomes required to meet the new Global and European biodiversity targets.

The Future of BAP Group consisted of representatives from the 3 statutory agencies (CCW, FC and EA), the NGO sector and local authority Local Biodiversity Partnerships (LBAP)

The group ran a series of workshops/meetings which investigated a number of issues. Activities included

- A meeting that explored what currently works well within the WBP, improvements required to meet targets and suggestions on how to improve performance where required.
- A workshop with the NGOs looked at the added value of WBP identifying work which would not have progressed without the WBP structure being in place.
- Workshops looking at local engagement.
- A meeting looking at the WBP Steering group
- A workshop identifying the role of WBP in supporting delivery of the new international targets (the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi targets).

The group has compiled a final report with recommendations. The group has now formally disbanded and the work of progressing the report and its recommendations is being handed to the WBP Steering Group. The Wales Biodiversity Framework has not been updated as this needs to be done in response to the new legislative and policy framework in Wales once it is published and implemented.

Plan/Proposals

The report provides an overall vision for WBP which is followed by a list of recommendations for each of the WBP Wales-level groups, the Support Team and the Steering Group.

WBP can significantly support Wales to deliver “Sustaining A Living Wales” especially with regard to achieving international and European biodiversity

commitments and implement the ecosystem approach. However to realise its full potential Governance and accountability must be improved through the establishment of a high level group. A restructured Steering group (or alternative) should be capable of establishing clear pathways to, and influence delivery mechanisms within, and beyond the environmental sector and identify the role of the Wales level and local groups in supporting this.

There is strong agreement that the rest of the current WBP structure (Wales, regional and local) has enabled Wales to take forward effective partnership working between NGOs statutory bodies and government to help meet our biodiversity commitments. This has not been achieved as successfully elsewhere in the UK and it is critical to maintain this partnership working in Wales. This is particularly relevant during the current period of uncertainty and change which will result from the establishment of the Single Body and evolution of “Sustaining a Living Wales”. This will undoubtedly have some impact on biodiversity delivery, at least in the short-term and WBP needs to provide stability during this period to maintain momentum.

With the evolving “Sustaining a Living Wales” process and establishment of the new body it is felt that significant changes to WBP at this time would be unhelpful and unproductive but that the partnership needs to continue to review its role in relation to the new policies and strategies developed through “Sustaining a Living Wales”

Decision Points

That the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) Steering Group agrees:

1. A clear mandate for biodiversity is necessary. The Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011 -2020 Target 17¹ requires all signatories to review and update their biodiversity strategies and action plans.
2. To agree one of the options set out for the WBP Steering Group and agree on a lead to facilitate change to improve governance and accountability
3. To maintain the rest of the WBP Structure to ensure delivery of relevant targets, with improvements to overall coordination and joint working.
4. To implement the recommendations included within this report and commit to updating the Wales Biodiversity Framework as and when required.
5. To report from this review to the Sustaining Living Wales Programme Board and ensure on-going formal links between the two.
6. To formally establish the WBP Monitoring and Reporting Progress Group with a view to supporting WBP to report on its contribution to international and European commitments.

¹ **Target 17**

CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 Aichi Targets: Target 17 “By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.” Nagoya 2010

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Wales Biodiversity Partnership Future of BAP Group Review of the Partnership May 2011 – March 2012

Draft

Key Recommendations to WBP Steering Group July 2012

That the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) Steering Group agrees:

1. A clear mandate for biodiversity is necessary. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan 2011 -2020 Target 17¹ requires all signatories to review and update their biodiversity strategies and action plans.
2. To agree one of the options set out for the WBP Steering Group and agree on a lead to facilitate change to improve Governance and accountability
3. To maintain the rest of the WBP Structure to ensure delivery relevant targets, with improvements to overall coordination and joint working.
4. To implement the recommendations included within this report and commit to updating the Wales Biodiversity Framework as and when required.
5. To report from this review to the Sustaining Living Wales Programme Board and ensure on-going formal links between the two.
6. To formally establish the WBP Monitoring and Reporting Progress Group with a view to supporting WBP to report on its contribution to international and European commitments.

Membership: Julia Korn (CCW), Jan Sherry (CCW), Aethne Cooke (CCW), Alys Edwards (WBP), Tracey Lovering (WBP), Sean McHugh (WBP), Russell Hobson (Butterfly Conservation), Stephen Bladwell (RSPB and SEG Chair), Charles Morgan (PONT and Ecosystem Group Chair), Caryn Le Roux (WG and Ecosystem group Chair), Michelle van-Velzen (FC), Chris Tucker (FC), Trevor Dines (Plantlife), Nick Birula (EAW), Amanda Davies (Local Authority /LBAP), Melanie Dodd (Local Authority/LBAP), Gareth Ellis (National Park/LBAP), Nigel Ajax Lewis (WTWs/WEL), Ian Guildford (CCW)

¹ **Target 17**

CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 Aichi Targets: Target 17 “By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.” Nagoya 2010

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

VISION

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership will contribute to the delivery of current and future Global, European and national targets for biodiversity and ecosystems². Achievement of these targets will require Welsh policies to support the delivery of biodiversity gain including through the Ecosystem Approach as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity³. The role of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership aims to ensure this and will particularly focus on:

1. Prioritising and promoting activity to ensure biodiversity conservation (protection, enhancement and restoration) and associated benefits for ecosystem structure and function are planned and delivered at the appropriate scale.
2. Developing and communicating the understanding of the dynamic relationship within species, between species and their abiotic environment in order to conserve ecosystem structure and function.
3. Providing expertise on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
4. Working with local and regional partners to ensure management of the environment, and of human activity which impacts on the environment, at the appropriate level incorporating local knowledge, innovations and practices.
5. Identify evidence requirements and build consensus on priorities to inform the development and delivery of biodiversity conservation and the Ecosystem Approach as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity⁴.

² Refer to A Living Wales Biodiversity Targets paper

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/nef/publications/evidence/biodiversitytargets>

³ <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem>

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem>

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: SUPPORT TEAM

The WBP requires sufficient support to ensure the structure is fully functioning to maximise benefit from partnership working. This work contributes to the work of the A Living Wales (ALW) programme with communication channels and methods of joint working in development. The work of the WBP Support Team includes: supporting groups at a local, regional and national level, collating, distilling and communicating information and best practice, supporting the Biodiversity Action Reporting system (BARS), influencing policy development and implementation including the biodiversity duty, co-ordinating awareness activity and professional development opportunities (e.g. annual conference).

Recommendations

- ST1. The current level of staff is the minimum requirement for the WBP Support Team at 3 FT equivalent staff; these contracts should all be made permanent.
- ST2. The support Team must be hosted and managed by a partner organisation and all options need to be considered including the new Single Body for the environment and WG.
- ST3. The Support Team requires running costs to maintain staff with commensurate terms and conditions to staff working within the sector, and programme costs to deliver the work above, and respond to changing commitments of the WBP.
- ST4. To investigate whether the Support Team could co-ordinate any future commissioning of work to and from WBP.

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: STEERING GROUP

Under current operational arrangements, it is challenging to identify a clear link to the work of WBP SG (i.e. the investment of time and resources by partner organisations) and a commensurate level of progress on delivering Wales' biodiversity objectives. In investigating this situation it is apparent WBP currently lacks clarity on governance and accountability and clear pathways to develop and/or influence delivery mechanisms within and beyond the environmental sector. To address this position it has been necessary to look beyond the current structure to identify how these functions could best be organised and embedded in the core function of WBP SG.

Recommendations

Option 1

SG1. Supported by the current Steering Group, a Board is established to provide strategic direction and governance for the whole structure.

The Board

SG2. Chaired by the appropriate Minister or a senior member of WG Staff.

SG3. No more than eight members who are Senior Staff from Statutory Agencies and NGOs (i.e. Chief Executive Officer or Director level, or equivalent).

SG4. The Board would appoint an independent Chair for the Steering Group who would also sit on the Board.

SG5. The Board would have the overview of Governance of the whole WBP, Influencing UK and Wales Governments, accountability and high-level communication.

SG6. The Board would provide a link with and act as advocate for other environmental protection measures and management through clear links with ALW, any new Sustainable Development Body and climate change action.

SG7. This Group would provide a representative to the Four Countries Group and ensure information flow.

SG8. Ensure clarity on reporting requirements, and oversee the reporting process including the contribution to UK and Wales's commitments and holding the other WBP accountable for delivery of their work programmes.

The Steering Group

SG9. Independent Chair appointed by Board

SG10. No more than 20 members and to include 3 of the WBP Group Chairs and LBAP representation.

SG11. Operate to empower the rest of the partnership to deliver their work programmes and reporting commitments.

SG12. To be guided by and respond to issues and input from the rest of the Partnership.

SG13. Provide a forum for discussion, debate and decision-making on major policy items; recommendations from this work would be made to the Board.

SG14. Endorse membership and work programmes of the Wales level groups.

SG15. Maintain and review Wales priority habitat and species lists (currently Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006) and recommending to Board for WG agreement.

SG16. Lead on delivery and ensure partner organisations are committed to achieving targets and held accountable for their agreed contributions. Feed issues up to the Board.

SG17. Ensure that the pool of biodiversity expertise within WBP is fully utilized and incorporated into existing and emerging Government strategies and make recommendations to Board.

SG18. Actively support partners to secure resources for delivery of biodiversity action through the Ecosystem Approach.

Option 2

SG19. To replace the current WBP Steering Group and reform a new smaller more senior Steering Group. This group would have the role of both groups above.

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: ECOSYSTEM GROUPS

Aim: to work together to provide an integrated, informed and apolitical overview of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation requirements. This overview will be independent of individual corporate positions, and provide synthesised advice to Welsh Government, statutory authorities and others with management responsibilities

This function is supported by partner organisations from the public, private and voluntary/charity sector and in drawing on this WBP/WG recognises the capacity to provide this expertise may be limited and time bound

Strategic Objectives

- To facilitate delivery of action on the ground based on prioritisation and using existing and new mechanisms.
- To advise and influence relevant authorities, organisations, partnerships and groups to take action to halt biodiversity loss and aid recovery of ecosystems and biodiversity to ensure Wales meets the 2020 biodiversity targets. This is based on **both** a restricted list of priority habitats and species identified for priority biodiversity conservation, **and** healthy structure and functioning of the wider environment, whether within or outside designated sites.
- The identification of research and information gaps relevant to securing the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems in Wales, and to communicate these to Welsh Government, relevant academic institutions, statutory authorities and NGOs.
- To raise and develop awareness with Welsh Government and other authorities with management responsibilities, of the inherent importance of biodiversity and its importance in maintaining healthily functioning ecosystems, and as a foundation to the provisioning and supporting services provided by the environment.
- The identification of policy and legislative barriers to protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems in Wales, and to communicate these to Welsh Government, relevant statutory authorities and the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group, as appropriate.
- The Marine Group encompasses the strategic objectives of the Species Expert group in respect to the Marine environment.

Recommendations

- ESG1. Ensure engagement with and by all relevant sectors including WG departments and statutory bodies.
- ESG2. Promote cross working between Ecosystem Groups, Species Expert Groups and the Invasive Non Native Species Group.
- ESG3. Review and update habitat/ecosystem priorities and targets in line with international and European biodiversity targets.
- ESG4. Work with the Species Expert Group to provide a framework for a coherent approach to ecosystem, habitat and species priority mapping and integration so that this work can be fed into the Sustaining Living Wales process.
- ESG5. Deliver expert workshops to promote best practice management of habitats and ecosystems based on field experience and the latest conservation science.
- ESG6. Develop expert panels (time limited) to support the work of Single Body Specialists in meeting international, European and national reporting commitments.
- ESG7. Continue to develop expertise for assessing funding applications.

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: SPECIES EXPERT GROUP (incorporating LEAD PARTNERS FOR SPECIES)

For the Marine environment the following functions are incorporated into the remit of the Marine Ecosystem group

Aim: to work together to steer the conservation (protection, enhancement and restoration) of Wales' priority species⁵, their habitats and, their supporting structures and functions in the wider environment. The group will incorporate the role of Lead Partners for species and will function to provide an integrated, informed and apolitical overview of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management (using the CBD ecosystem approach principles). This function will be independent of individual corporate positions, and provide synthesised advice to Welsh Government, statutory authorities and others with management responsibilities that impact on biodiversity.

This function is provided by partner organisations from the public, private and voluntary/charity sector and in drawing on this WBP/WG recognises the capacity to provide this expertise may be limited and time bound.

Strategic Objectives

- To act as a source of expertise to secure species and associated habitat/ecosystem outcomes and reduce barriers to biodiversity enhancement and protection within all relevant areas of policy and delivery.
- To identify, prioritise and promote action for, and monitor progress towards, the achievement of 2020 species targets⁶ (reviewing and integrating the delivery of the most urgent and important actions to conserve priority species and their habitats and, aligning delivery across appropriate levels including local and regional partnerships).
- To contribute to the use of best practice standards for monitoring, surveillance and reporting progress against biodiversity targets and to review the status of Wales' Principle Biodiversity Species (currently identified within section 42 of the NERC Act 2006).
- To promote positive use of biological data and scientific evidence within policy development, delivery and action so as to maximise positive outcomes for priority species and habitats; and to facilitate the use of species as measures of success in delivering ecosystem management. Identify knowledge gaps and recommend how these can be filled.
- To coordinate information exchange and collaborative action for priority species, maintaining consistency between local/regional, country and UK-level conservation delivery, monitoring and reporting for species.

Recommendations

SEG1. Through the provision of technical advice and evidence, the Species Expert Group will assist WBP, Welsh Government, statutory agencies and Local Government to determine success under the Ecosystems Approach - by providing clarity at local, regional and national level in terms of species status and trends, impacts and drivers of change.

⁵ As currently identified by the National Assembly for Wales as being of 'principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity' in Wales under section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

⁶ A Living Wales Biodiversity Targets paper and Aichi Target 12 "By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained."
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/nef/publications/evidence/biodiversitytargets>
<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

- SEG2. The Species Expert Group will act as the coordinating body for species Lead Partners in Wales, supporting organisations, which undertake this function. The SEG work programme will incorporate Lead Partner activities.
- SEG3. The Species Expert Group will develop guidelines on what the role of Lead Partner entails and ensure, through provision of a mentoring/facilitation role where appropriate, that Lead Partners have sufficient expertise/capacity to maintain the appropriate species overview (including reporting and communication) and to develop the necessary vision and associated actions.
- SEG4. The Species Expert Group will promote cross-working between the WBP SG and other WBP operational groups including; Ecosystem Groups, the Invasive Non-Native Species Group, Wildlife Crime Enforcement Group and Wales Environmental Information Steering Group.
- SEG5. The Species Expert Group will contribute where appropriate to expert panels (time limited) to support the work of Welsh Government and/or statutory agency specialists in meeting international, European and national reporting commitments with regards to biodiversity conservation.
- SEG6. The Species Expert Group will develop and publish a work programme and meeting schedule on an annual basis to facilitate communication and operational effectiveness.

DRAFT

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: LOCAL DELIVERY⁷

Aim: to provide a focus for local biodiversity initiatives in order to facilitate joined-up local environmental action and enhance the wellbeing of local areas, reflecting local distinctiveness and the values of local people and their communities. To ensure S42, national priorities and targets for species and habitats, and those agreed locally, are integrated into effective action at the local level.

Strategic Objectives

- To stimulate effective local delivery partnerships to ensure programmes for biodiversity and natural environment conservation are developed and maintained in the long term.
- Identify local priorities for delivering action for Wales' priority habitats and species, informed by local expertise, and the advice provided by the WBP Ecosystem Groups and Species Expert Group
- Share and integrate priority habitat maps and associated agreed actions developed by the ecosystem groups, at a local and regional level
- To raise awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation and enhancement in the local context
- To ensure opportunities for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are promoted, understood and rooted in policies, strategies and decisions at the local level through securing the commitment and engagement of local government
- To provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating local action for biodiversity priorities, at both national and local levels using the biodiversity actions reporting system
- Provide representation on WBP advisory groups including each Ecosystem Group
- To adapt and respond to the dynamic nature of ecosystems reflecting climate change, connectivity habitat succession and social and economic factors
- To share working practice through pilot projects, networking, best practice, lessons learned and shared action delivery
- To access and support funding initiatives for local biodiversity and natural environment enhancement

Recommendations

- LD1. Plan, monitor and deliver local biodiversity initiatives using internal funds and provide support and expertise to externally funded projects
- LD2. Deliver and facilitate regular Local Partnership meetings and disseminate information to the partnerships as appropriate
- LD3. Periodically review local delivery partnership membership to ensure broad-based representation
- LD4. Work with the WBP advisory groups⁸ to set national biodiversity priorities and objectives within the local context and work with all relevant groups within the influence of the local partnership to capture local priorities
- LD5. Develop mechanisms to work with the environment body including integration with Local Resource Management Plans
- LD6. Continue to deliver public-facing and schools wildlife-themed events, training, education and awareness work including NERC Duty internal training
- LD7. Maintain a spatial reference of important local wildlife sites and green space sites and influence management of sites within the jurisdiction of the local partnership
- LD8. Continue to produce, influence and support natural environment funding applications
- LD9. Monitor and record biodiversity action using the Biodiversity Actions Reporting System
- LD10. Continue to explore, develop and deliver multi-sector and cross-boundary collaborative projects

⁷ Local delivery is primarily achieved through the 24 Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships (LBAPs) and 3 regional biodiversity networks who work to deliver agreed actions and targets for priority habitats and species and locally important wildlife sites. LBAPs are delivered through local partnerships that involve local authorities, wildlife organisations, recorder networks, farming organisations and other interested parties. Biodiversity action delivery will be guided by the 12 Principles of the Ecosystem approach as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem>.

⁸ WBP advisory groups includes all Ecosystem Groups, Species Expert Group, Invasive Non-native Species Group, Outcome 21 Group, Wildlife Crime & Enforcement Group and Wales Environment Information Steering Group

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: OUTCOME 21 GROUP

Aim: The Outcome 21 Group brings key organisations together to work in partnership towards achieving Outcome 21 of the Environment Strategy for Wales. The target to achieve 95% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2015 and ‘all sites’ by 2026 is a significant challenge, which can only be tackled through raising awareness, seeking and using resources wisely and effective partnership with Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) colleagues.

Strategic Objectives

- Developing the delivery plan to achieve Environment Strategy for Wales Outcome 21 in the context of ‘Living Wales’.
- Advise on action required to meet Wales’ obligations for the management of sites of international and European importance, e.g. Ramsar and Natura 2000 sites.
- Monitor actions and commitments.
- Ensure that monitoring data informs management decisions.
- Advise and make recommendations to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership, Environment Strategy for Wales Reference Group and Indicator Group.
- Develop a collaborative approach to problem solving and encourage partnership working.

Recommendations

- OC1. Joint working between the Ecosystem groups and the Outcome 21 group has many potential advantages for addressing priority action. The Outcome 21 has identified site level actions/issues, which are recorded in the Sites Action database. Common actions/issues can be identified and Ecosystem Groups have the potential to develop solutions that address these at a wider scale through a landscape scale group.
- OC2. Possibly need to consider the establishment of a separate Outcome 21 Marine group
- OC3. Outcome 21 group to use the Ecosystem groups as formal groups for securing strategic advice on common issues and for developing potential solutions.
- OC4. Outcome 21 group to invite an Ecosystem group Chair (or other representative) to each meeting

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION STEERING GROUP/FORUM

Aim: Sharing Welsh Environmental information to benefit the environment and the people of Wales, UK and Globally. A real success of this group is the cross-sector involvement – public, voluntary, private and academia. It brings coherence and a common approach to data management.

Strategic Objectives

- The Wales Environmental Information Steering Group has 6 workstreams: Governance, Resource, Data Flow, Data Quality, Technology and Skills.
- WBP approved a focused new effort on 2 data flow actions whilst collating information on any existing activity on other workstreams;
 - to develop and implement a data sharing charter;
 - to agree data flow roles and responsibilities.

Recommendations

- WEIS1. That the SB continues the current CCW role and provides the Chair and Secretariat to this group with a view to building its capacity develop and act on agreed priorities and continue to deliver the work of the workstreams.
- WEIS2. To continue to hold annual meetings of the Steering group and to support/drive the work of task and finish groups and specific projects.
- WEIS3. To work more closely with the other groups of the WBP to ensure that work areas of the WEISG are supporting delivery of the wider partnership providing data to both inform future action and meet reporting obligations.
- WEIS4. To work to improve communication both within the SG, the Forum and with the wider WBP between SG meetings.
- WEIS5. That the group is properly supported during the transition period to the SB to enable delivery of its priorities for 2012/13.
- WEIS6. Agree and implement final data flow models for data exchange between plant recorders and LRCs that include publication through the NBN Gateway.
- WEIS7. Finalize and implement the Pan Wales LRC Agreement for WG and WGSBs and include data exchange between WG, WGSBs and LRCs.
- WEIS8. Resolve constraints to data supply from EA, FC, and WG to LRCs.
- WEIS9. Prepare a business case for LRCs in Wales as a supplementary document for NEF consultation documents.
- WEIS10. Collate details of signatories to the data sharing charter and draft the supporting MoU
- WEIS11. Collate biodiversity use cases to support NEF.

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES GROUP

Note: This group has a role and function outside of that provided by the ecosystem and other groups of the WBP although its work is complementary to the WBP and WBP provides the secretariat.

Aim: Delivery of the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain in Wales

Strategic Objectives

Provision of advice to Welsh Government and statutory agencies in Wales on delivery of the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain as it relates to Wales through:

- Developing a prioritised action list.
- Recording specific actions through the action audit process.
- Being a conduit for information sharing with other organisations inside and outside wales.
- Working closely with the GB non-native species secretariat to co-ordinate action and information sharing across GB.
- Encouraging action by welsh government, statutory agencies and third sector organisations.

Recommendations

INNS1. Capacity issues regarding marine/aquatic INNS needs to be addressed.

No further recommendations. Welsh Government will rely increasingly on the advice of this group in delivering future obligations under the forthcoming EU Invasive Alien Species Directive and in delivering the INNS aspects of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: WILDLIFE CRIME AND ENFORCEMENT GROUP

Aim: assist in the delivery of the Welsh Governments environmental policies.

Strategic Objectives

- To raise awareness of wildlife crime through a network of contacts working to encourage and ensure compliance with wildlife crime legislation. To do this we will seek operability between all involved, collate information and intelligence seek amendments to legislation where required and provide strategic guidance to enforcement agencies in Wales.
- The group should consist of representatives of all statutory enforcement agencies operating in Wales and where appropriate representatives of other organisations who are members of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife crime. (PAW)
- The group submits updates on Wildlife crime to the WBP Steering Group. Some discussions and reports may contain confidential information. Where this is the case all members of the Steering Group must respect confidentiality.
- The group review its terms of reference annually and can be found in full on the WBP website.

Wildlife Crime Strategy

A report on the prevention and enforcement of wildlife crime in Wales produced on behalf of the Welsh Government recommended production of a wildlife crime strategy. The WBP wildlife crime enforcement group has produced such a strategy which can be found on the WBP website.

The strategy outlines how we will support the delivery of other key strategic areas of work within Wales including the National Policing Plan for Wales delivering key elements of environmental strategy. It also provides an integrated vision for wildlife crime reduction and enforcement and how this will be delivered through the three key strategic objectives of partnership, enforcement and legislation together with education and guidance.

The strategy provides the framework that is essential to enable us to draw together and harness all the excellent work being carried out in Wales by many different agencies and organisations, into a common framework. This will assist in ensuring that our approach to reducing levels of wildlife crime and enforcing wildlife crime legislation continues to be effective and plays a significant role in making our communities safer and improving public confidence in the services provided to tackle wildlife crime.

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10th July 2012

Wales Biodiversity Partnership: Responding to the EU Biodiversity Strategy Common Implementation Framework

For discussion at the WBP Steering Group, 10 July 2012

Background

The Welsh Government and its partners have a clear responsibility as part of the UK to help deliver and implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.' Member States and the Commission have now endorsed an integrated framework (the Common Implementation Framework) for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress in implementing the strategy.

The Sustaining a Living Wales consultation recently sought views on a fresh approach to the management and regulation of the environment in Wales where the central proposal is to move to an ecosystem approach to environmental regulation and management. This will mean considering and regulating the environment and its health as a whole rather than dealing with individual aspects separately.

The draft implementation framework for Wales (Annex 1) is proposed in order to provide an integrated approach to evidence delivery of the targets within the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and provide clarity on accountability and authority across the Partnership which will:

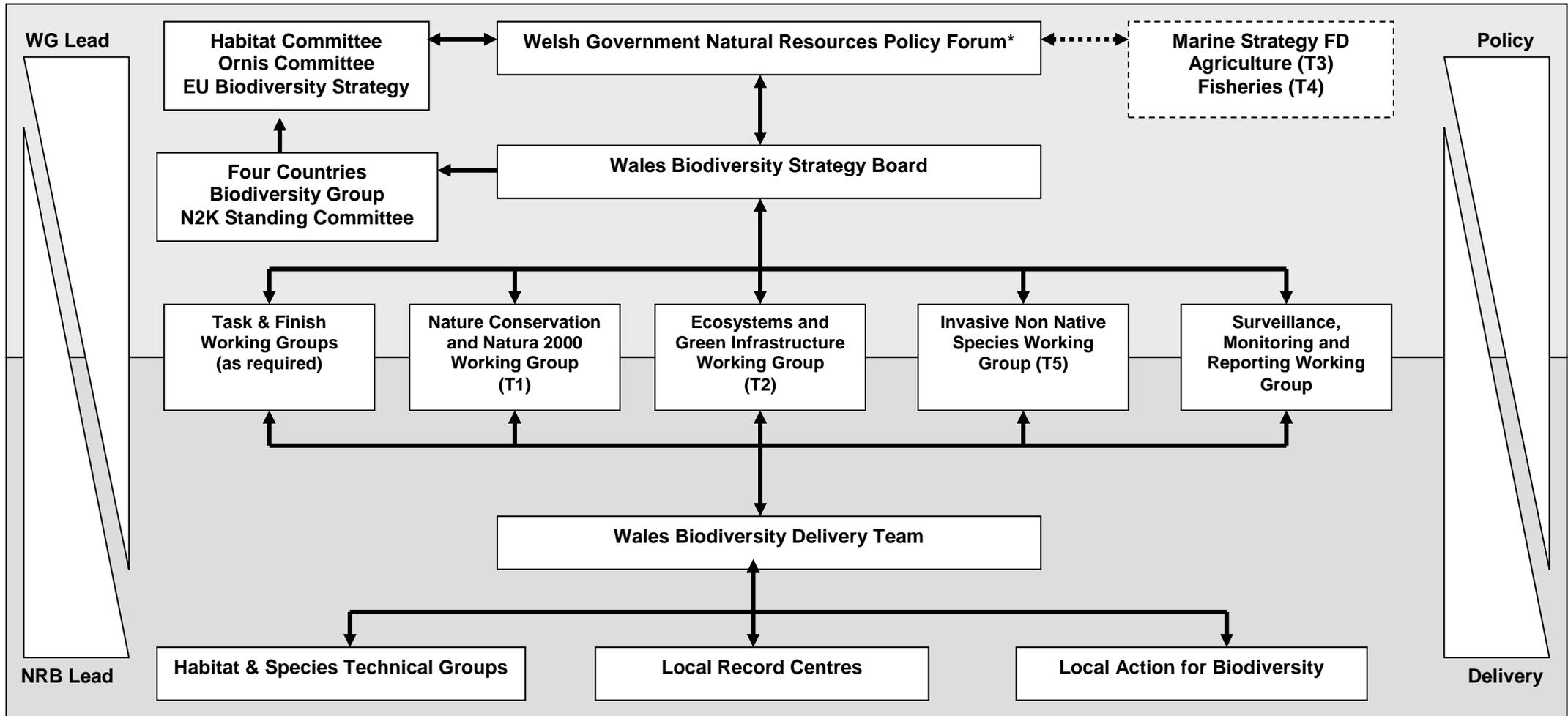
1. Provide the Welsh Government with advice in relation to how best to deliver the 2020 targets in Wales;
2. Develop a robust evidence, monitoring and reporting mechanism so we know what we've achieved, and what we still need to do;
3. Ensure that biodiversity issues are integrated throughout the Welsh position on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and Cohesion Policy where practicable; and
4. Provide a 'golden thread' from strategy to delivery, where expertise and capacity is fully utilised in a coordinated way to tackle the barriers to halting biodiversity loss as part of an ecosystem approach.

Discussion

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group is invited to discuss the draft framework at Annex 1, in advance of its formal development and endorsement.

Annex 1

Wales Biodiversity Partnership: responding to the EU Biodiversity Strategy Common Implementation Framework



* WG NRP Forum remit extends beyond biodiversity, and provides WG coordination and oversight across all natural resource policy and implementation areas

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WBP Ecosystem Groups, Species Expert Group & Invasive Non-native Species Annual Report 2011-12

Note Appendix 1 provides individual group summary reports 2011-12

During 2011-12 WBP groups worked with partners across Wales:

1. to identify Welsh biodiversity priorities and share these at a local level, and strategic level with Welsh Government and,
2. to enable and support biodiversity action delivery on the ground.

The groups provide opportunities to bring together Wales' biodiversity specialists from across NGO and public sector at ecosystem group meetings (2-3/year), and include site visits to priority areas or best practice sites. They continue to develop their capacity where possible, and are developing work programmes to publish on WBP website. Chairs and group members also provided comments, or directly contributed to the review of WBP (Paper 01 by the Future of BAP Group). The chairs meet to exchange experience, best practice, discuss opportunities for joint-working, raise issues and agree actions for groups at biannual WBP Group meetings.

1. Identifying and sharing Wales' biodiversity priorities

1.1 Ecosystem groups developed 'Priority Area Maps' of coastal, upland, arable, grassland and heathland habitat of priority importance in Wales; providing these to all local authorities, and local biodiversity partnerships/ networks in Wales. The maps were supported by details on the priority action required to maintain or restore the mapped habitat. The data effectively informs regional and local prioritisation for targeting management projects, based on strategic guidance. Ecosystem group reps provided workshops at a local level, to share this data with Local Biodiversity Partnerships/Networks in NE Wales, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Brecon Beacons, Gwent, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The workshops were very well received; presenting the opportunity for open discussion on how actions may be met at the local level e.g. proposed North East Grazing Project.

1.2 Planning policy issues, considered to adversely affect biodiversity in Wales, were collated across Ecosystem groups, and provided to the independent advisory group on the planning review; to inform Wales' Planning Bill.

1.3 A prioritised action list for INNS species in Wales has been completed covering terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments.

1.4 A 2011 workshop led to the development of draft species habitat integration matrices for woodland, upland and heathland priority habitats. These will be expanded in 2012, to include other priority habitats. The woodland matrix was used by Forestry Commission to develop Forestry Targeting/Contract Managers Guidance, supported by the Species Expert Group. The Woodland group contributed to the development of guidelines for Glastir Woodland Creation and Glastir Woodland Management schemes.

1.5 Marine BAP targets were reviewed to align the targets with the concept that management of human activities is a more effective means of conserving biodiversity.

1.6 Group members presented and facilitated workshops at WBP conference 2011.

1.7 Opportunities for linkage and joint working/ learning with biodiversity-related research in Wales and UK, have increased with the welcome addition of academic members across Ecosystem groups. Biodiversity research priorities or evidence gaps have recently been identified and collated across all WBP groups. Research needs are currently being linked to policy areas, where evidence can inform policy development. The WBP academics workshop¹ in Sept 2012 will focus on how academic institutions across Wales, and beyond, can work with WBP to identify existing and future mechanisms that may meet these gaps.

The Urban group contributed to DEFRA research, to further refine the definition, and survey methodology of the UK BAP Priority Habitat, "Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land." An MSc project, supported by the Enclosed Farmland group and hosted by WG, trialled remote sensing to identify traditional orchards.

1.8 Wales, UK & EU level engagement: The Wales Green Infrastructure Forum, a formal advisory group for the Urban group, held a highly successful event in 2011. WBP has maintained effective working relationships with DEFRA and the Scottish Government through the GB NNS Secretariat to provide additional context and information for group members at a UK and EU level. Liaison with other UK administrations was facilitated by the Urban group chair's membership of the UK Inter Agency Urban Habitat Working Group and the Urban Forum of the UNESCO UK Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee; and current chairing of the UK Inter Agency Group for 2011/2012. The Urban Ecosystem Chair contributed to the production of the Construction Industry Research and Innovation Association publication.

1.9 Input to the evolving Living Wales agenda (previously NEF) has continued e.g. development of the Urban Ecosystem Guidance Paper for NEF; representation at the recent NEF/SB NATUR conference where the importance of protected sites and the role of wetlands in ecosystem service delivery was stressed.

2. Enabling and supporting biodiversity action on the ground

2.1 Group members reviewed, assessed and supported applications for funding from the Environment Wales Biodiversity Fund 2011 and the Welsh Government's Ecosystem Resilience & Diversity Fund 2011 & 2012, providing a funding panel to assess and approve the final list of funded projects.

2.2 A range of projects have been supported by the groups e.g. Llanymynech Hill and Gwendraeth Grasslands, restoration of marginal peatlands at Fenns & Whixall Moss and ongoing restoration of the Covert Coch raised mire at Ynys Hir, Usk Bridges fish easement feasibility studies; Restoration works on the Montgomery Canal, NE Wales Orchards (all ERD Fund 2011); Arctic charr and Llyn Padarn recovery work; Pond and lake surveys to support BAP actions; Completion of Million Ponds project, and extension of Wales Project Officer Post; River BAP Grant funding;

¹ See WBPSG17 PTN D WBP Academics Workshop 'Aims & Outcomes'

Advice to Welsh Beaver Assessment Initiative regarding potential beaver reintroduction.

2.3 A UK HLF bid, the Welsh component of which was conceived by the Wetland group and subsequently supported by the Lowland Grassland and Heathland group, has been successful in obtaining funding for its development year. The 'Saving Our Magnificent Meadows' (SoMM) project focuses on grassland, heathland and lowland wetland habitat restoration in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

2.4 Working with LBAPs continues as an important theme e.g. support for the Gwynedd (particularly Lleyrn) wetland inventory project. Glastir Woodland Creation and management schemes opportunities are being promoted by the Woodland group to local biodiversity managers through other fora that they are involved in.

2.5 Training for Glastir project officers was provided by group members.

3. *Issues highlighted for consideration*

3.1 Lack of baseline data:

The extent and condition of orchards and hedgerows in Wales is unknown; an issue for the Enclosed Farmland group. An agreed survey methodology has been identified for both habitats, and the orchards methodology is in use. Funding is being sought to progress an agreed survey methodology for hedgerows across Wales.

3.2 Wider countryside priority habitat

Priority areas for hedgerows are difficult to identify because of their non site based nature, and the current lack of knowledge of the resource at the strategic level.

3.3 Support for Groups

3.3.1 The following were reported by WBP Groups in 2011, based on 2010. The situation remains much the same.

As 2011: Group representation often remains inadequate for purpose.

As 2011: Poor and declining engagement from many members

As 2011: Widespread concern across all groups with regard to the levels of current and future resourcing of groups; all active members are swamped with work from their day-jobs; ecosystem group memberships are not within job descriptions and often not seen as a priority by representatives' organisations

3.3.2 Agreement is needed over who should chair the Enclosed Farmland Ecosystem Group; this is awaiting a resolution of the needs of the group going forward with the Living Wales programme.

3.3.3 Following the resignation of the Marine chair and secretariat there is a joint stand-in chair, until such time that the future of the group is clarified, pending a WG review. This situation leaves the membership uncertain of the value of their investment in the group.

3.3.4 Much of the work of the Wetland Ecosystem Group has been taken forward by a handful of individuals. The capacity of the group needs to be bolstered to enable more intensive work across a wider platform.

3.3.5 A significant amount of time has been spent in commenting and advising on the development of the Single Body, often at very short notice. This has detracted from delivery of BAP activities on the ground.

3.3.6 As raised at the recent WBP Chairs workshop, WBP Chairs and members currently lack the authority to task their organisations to meet actions arising through WBP. Action completion depends on partner organisation agreement, support, capacity and available resources. This situation is frustrating, and often results in inconsistent response levels across partner organisations; and in some cases actions or are considerably delayed or remain incomplete.

3.4 Marine BAP targets incomplete

The Marine Ecosystem Group has not been able to develop an action plan, since this largely awaits completion of BAP targets. Mapping of the distribution of priority habitats has been ongoing, by CCW, for the last few years, but needs continual updating. The small capacity across the MEG to complete these tasks remains an issue.

3.5 Completion of Prioritisation Maps

Tranche 2 Priority maps and actions are needed from Wetland, Woodland & Freshwater. As freshwater habitats and species are often widespread it is difficult to prioritise key BAP action areas, and a method has yet to be agreed for Wales. The recent grant awarding process has highlighted the need for better BAP prioritisation in river habitats. A landscape scale approach may be possible; the Freshwater group seek to develop a methodology with EA Wales in 2012-13.

3.6 Living Wales Programme and the SB

3.6.1 The Freshwater group are very concerned about the lack of freshwater related technical capacity within the SB, as many key technical staff and laboratories from EA and the Forestry Commission are not based in Wales and their expertise may no longer be accessible. Current SB visions tend to portray the problem as being predominantly one of planning and development policy. We agree that these are important issues, especially in South Wales. However, in most areas degradation of freshwater ecosystems occurs as a result of environmental management practices and / or due to the impacts of past decisions.

3.6.2 BAP delivery needs to be embedded in an integrated way with the aims and work programme of the SB. The overall remit and purpose of the SB has not yet been finalised. However, recent drafts have included few references to ecosystem integrity or biodiversity. We are concerned that the SB – which was conceived in part as a response to deliver 2010 Biodiversity Targets – may not now have an explicit biodiversity remit.

3.7 Links between BAP, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive

There is a need to develop a clear vision of the links between BAP, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. The overall BAP target of no loss of biodiversity is very high level, but has been interpreted without reference to other UK legislation or processes. In freshwater, the Water Framework Directive sets minimum ecosystem standards for rivers and large lakes and can act as a primary BAP

delivery mechanism. Similarly, the protected sites network provides for the protection of ecosystem integrity at specific locations. The needs of many more widespread habitats and species can and should be delivered by strategic WFD measures, whereas BAP work should focus more specifically on habitats, species and issues not covered by these wider measures. This may require a revision of the BAP priority species, and would enable better targeting of limited funds.

ACTION REQUESTED: *Steering Group to ask Welsh Government to agree to:*

- 1. Consider developing a Biodiversity Strategy for Wales to provide clarity on how new International CBD targets and the new EU Strategic Plan targets will be met within Wales. This will clarify links between BAP, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.**
- 2. Raise the profile of WBP work:**
 - across all sectors of Welsh Government delivery**
 - through WBP partners remit letters and partnership grants that specify the role of each partner in WBP action delivery. Partners to include adequate provision within WBP Group reps work programmes to meet the commitments required;**
- 3. Provide the authority to Chairs and group members to take actions to their partner organisations to deliver by agreed dates. Suggestion: to ask larger partners to agree a line of delegation to spread the work amongst the organisation, rather than rely on Group representatives.**

This report is based on WBP Group Summary Reports 2011-12 (Appendix 1)

WBPSG17
Paper 02: ANNEX 01
10th July 2012

ECOSYSTEM GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS 2011-12

Marine Ecosystem Group

The MEG has a very wide scope in comparison to the terrestrial ecosystem groups, covering numerous ecosystems from marine intertidal to offshore benthic habitats and species, including mobile species and the supporting environment. The general approach to marine conservation necessitates the management of disturbing human activity rather than manipulation of the environment itself. To accommodate this, BAP targets have been reviewed to align the targets with the concept that management of human activities is a more effective means of conserving biodiversity. This work is still ongoing within the Group.

To account for the diversity of habitats and species that MEG cover, the membership is wide, covering Local Authorities, Welsh Government (WG), Environment Agency (EA), Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Marine Site managers, NGOs, academics and stakeholders such as Crown Estate, harbour trusts, fisheries managers, etc. In reality, the engagement from most is very poor, with a few determined individuals attending meetings and taking actions forward. Most members are swamped by their day jobs and find it difficult to deliver into the priorities of the group. Local BAP engagement remains poor, due to marine habitats and species operating at different scales and often being broadly dispersed across areas. This is further exacerbated by the limited marine biodiversity resources available within local authorities.

Policy gaps that have been identified remain very broad, due to the nature of marine legislation and the way in which the marine environment is regulated. This leaves the WG carrying a lot of the burden, in respect of managing biodiversity, sustainability and fisheries. The MEG needs to identify where the broad policy gaps can be further disentangled and resolved as manageable chunks.

Priority evidence needs have previously been identified and some attempt has been made to prioritise these. The very broad gaps in knowledge are difficult to resolve without substantial investment and further work is anticipated in breaking these down into achievable projects through imaginative partnership working and funding.

No progress has been made on developing an action plan, since this largely awaits completion of BAP targets. Mapping of the distribution of priority habitats has been ongoing, by CCW, for the last few years, but needs continual updating. The small capacity across the MEG to complete these tasks remains a problem.

At the end of the year (April 2012) Blaise Bullimore stepped down from the role of chair due to time constraints and Aethne Cooke who provided a strong secretariat role resigned from her post in CCW. Paul Brazier (CCW) and Gill Bell (MCS) took up joint stand-in chair, until such time that the future of the MEG was clarified. The future of the MEG still remains unclear, pending a WG review, which leaves the membership uncertain of the value of their investment in the group.

Paul Brazier, Chair

Woodland Ecosystem Group

The Woodland Ecosystem Group has met five times since the last report. The group has completed several of the actions in its action plan, these include prioritising all Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites on the Welsh government Woodland estate for restoration, publication of the Wild Deer in Wales Strategy, guidance on tree species choice has been published and the identification of Woodland S42 species has been completed with the Species Expert Group and guidance on woodland management to benefit them has been developed; progress on the other actions is ongoing.

The National Forest Inventory is due to be published this year and the group will review the woodland habitat targets for Wales. The area for the ancient woodland targets within the habitats will also be subject to review once the revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory is published.

The group has contributed to the development of guidelines for both Glastir Woodland Creation and Glastir Woodland Management schemes. In particular contract manager guidance for delivery of woodland priority species requirements through habitat management. With assistance from the Species Expert Group the species needs were identified and the group developed a list of different silvicultural methods that will deliver those needs. This was then developed into guidance which was passed on to the Glastir team. Future work will interpret this guidance for LBAPs and other woodland managers.

Members of the group have been promoting the opportunities under Glastir Woodland Creation and management schemes to local biodiversity managers through other fora that they are involved in.

The group is keen to promote the strategic objectives and guidance to local deliverers and to learn from the experience of other ecosystem groups in holding local delivery workshops. Advice has been given to LBAPs on prioritisation and data sources so there is definitely a need.

The group will be reviewing its action plan at the next meeting with a change in emphasis to a work programme.

Chris Tucker, Chair

Wetlands Ecosystem Group

The Wetlands Ecosystem Group covers the four lowland wetland habitats (raised bog, fen, wet reedbed and grazing marsh), lowland examples of blanket bog, and priority species dependent on these habitats.

Working with LBAPs continues as an important theme, with a workshop planned for summer 2012 with the Ceredigion LBAP – a key area for lowland peatlands. Support for the Gwynedd (particularly Lleyn) wetland inventory project continues.

Training for Glastir project officers was undertaken in 2011.

Significant effort was devoted to promoting the two rounds of WG sponsored Ecosystem Resilience funding. Two successful projects were undertaken in 2011/12 (restoration of marginal peatlands at Fenns & Whixall Moss and ongoing restoration of the Covert Coch raised mire at Ynys Hir) and bids have recently been reviewed for 2012/13.

Input to the evolving NEF agenda has continued, with representation at the recent NEF/SB conference organised by Natur in February 2012 during which the importance of protected sites and the role of wetlands in ecosystem service delivery was stressed.

Work is well underway with the priority mapping project, with a draft tranche of priority wetland area maps and accounts produced and the project overall scheduled for completion in summer 2012.

Much of the work of the group has been taken forward by a handful of individuals. The capacity of the group needs to be bolstered to enable more intensive work across a wider platform.

Peter Jones, Chair

Lowland Grassland & Heathland Ecosystem Group

The LGHEG has re-structured the way it works over the last year and this is working well. We now have just two meetings a year, with the summer meeting being based around site visit to one of the Priority areas for our group. Last summer we had a well supported visit to Gower and this year we are visiting the Radnorshire floodplain meadows.

Our winter meetings are now focussed on reviewing progress where this winter we re-structured our action plans into targeted work programmes for the 2012/13. For specific tasks that need to be followed up, e.g. burning, we set up sub groups to focus on these issues and report back to the group. The burning sub-group has made progress this year with developing closer relationships with the fire services.

We have completed the task to produce priority maps and project synopses. This work is being shared with LBAP groups and we have held 3 regional workshops, Gwent, North East Wales and Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The focus of these meetings has been to share the priority mapping work and facilitate the development of projects to take the work forward, for example the proposed North East Grazing Project.

There were six bids for the ERDF fund in 2011 and 2 of these, Llanymynech Hill and Gwendraeth Grasslands were successful. A sub-group is currently assessing 9 applications for the 2012 ERDF fund.

Helen Buckingham, Chair

Upland Ecosystem Group

The Upland WBP group work during this year is concentrating on getting an outcome focused work plan for the group in place to take its work forward in a measurable and focused way. Recognising the perilous stage of montane heath habitat in Wales it encouraged a working group that had stalled to be reenergised to work on actions that will deliver positive measures on the ground to safeguard the existing resource in Wales.

Priority mapping for the Uplands was finished and following on from a successful regional workshop in the Brecon Beacons held in 2011 is looking to hold workshops in North Wales and the South Wales before the end of 2012.

During 2012 the upland group invited a number of academics from Wales to become engaged so as to try to support and encourage the research that will contribute toward evidence based conservation that could benefit upland biodiversity. So far evidence gaps have been identified and priorities for research identified.

Charles Morgan, Chair

Urban Ecosystem Group

The Urban Ecosystem Group has kept a watching brief for most of 2011 with most efforts being directed into creating the Urban Ecosystem Guidance Paper for the Natural Environment Framework and participating in DEFRA's research to further refine the definition of the UK BAP Priority Habitat "Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land".

Progress is being made by DEFRA in their project "Definition and mapping of open mosaic habitats on previously developed land: phase 2 testing methods and developing the habitat inventory" although their research timetable has slipped. The chair sits as an observer on the project steering group and has played a full part in meetings to guide the project. The project itself has reviewed the survey methodology and now awaits DEFRA approval before approaching stakeholders via an online questionnaire and planning field surveys.

The Wales Green Infrastructure Forum exists as a formal advisory group for the Urban Ecosystem Group and held a highly successful event in September. Delegates from the public, private and voluntary sectors attended to take part in workshops and hear from key speakers on: urban trees; Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems; valuing green infrastructure; and green infrastructure for human health.

The Group were disappointed that no truly urban project was put forward for the Welsh Government's latest round of the Biodiversity Grant Fund. However, the previous round did result in funding for "The River on the Roof" project to develop artificial river-shingle habitats on a "green roof" in Aberystwyth. The likelihood of rare and endangered biota establishing is not great, but the roof will in any case act as an exemplar for other "brownfield" roofs in Wales and so represents very good value for public money.

The Group prepared the Natural Environment Framework Guidance Paper on Urban Ecosystems which was one of two "pilot papers" developed to create a template for other Guidance Papers. In addition the chair contributed to the production of the Construction Industry Research and Innovation Association publication "The Benefits of Large Species Trees in Urban Landscapes: a costing, design and management guide" which is due for publication in March 2012.

Liaison with other UK administrations was facilitated by the chair's membership of the UK Inter Agency Urban Habitat Working Group and the Urban Forum of the UNESCO UK Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee. The chair has taken over the rotating chairmanship of the UK Inter Agency Group for 2011/2012 and as a result will be organising the annual training event for UK agency staff in south Wales.

CCW funding has been secured which should allow us to add-on a survey of Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land in Wales as part of the DEFRA project which has so far been England only. This will form the core of the Group's work in the coming year.

Pete Frost, Chair

Coastal Ecosystem Group

Meetings attendance continues to be patchy although it was reasonably good at our last meeting (1st December 2011). Sadly it is unlikely that Steve Moon our LBAP Bridgend representative will be able to attend future meetings because of ongoing illness. On a more positive note we were pleased to welcome our newest members - Dr Emma Litt and Dr Angus Garbutt. Emma is CCW's new coastal geomorphologist and will fill a crucial missing dimension to the group. Angus is a saltmarsh specialist with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) and will act as the group's 'academic' link. We also look forward to meeting Julia Bowes at a future meeting. Julia is our new Welsh Government Sustainability & Environmental Evidence Division (SEED) representative on the group.

The group continues to make steady progress. The following cover some of the more important initiatives:

Biodiversity Priority Mapping

We have now completed the first phase of biodiversity priority mapping for sand dunes, saltmarsh and maritime cliffs, and we plan to complete work on vegetated shingle in the early part of the New Year. Jan Sherry & Jim Latham are co-ordinating this work within CCW which will be used to provide a focus for national priorities.

External Funding

In terms of the Ecosystem Resilience & Diversity Fund (Welsh Government) the group managed to secure 20k for Pembrokeshire Coast NPA to help implement conservation grazing on 40 coastal sites, and 50k to help develop a dune rejuvenation programme covering up to 10 dune systems in Wales. In the case of the Environment Wales Fund the group secured 15k for restoring fen orchid habitat at Kenfig and smaller amounts for habitat work at Nicholaston Burrows, Pennard and South Gower.

Sand Dune Rejuvenation Workshop

In September 2011 CCW hosted a Sand Dune Workshop to discuss the conservation implications of dune stabilization. The workshop proved to be extremely useful, providing a basis for developing an agreed strategy aimed at helping to restore increased levels of mobility on selected sites. There was tacit agreement that Welsh dunes should support in excess of 30% early-successional habitats including 10% bare sand. The workshop provided a springboard for action which was subsequently helped by the 50k received from the Ecosystem Resilience Fund (see above). As part of this process CCW will also be preparing a EC LIFE bid in 2012 for submission in 2013.

Evidence Gaps

This was discussed at our last meeting in December. The following gaps were highlighted:

1. There is a distinct lack of Phase II maritime cliff vegetation survey data for Wales as compared with other coastal habitats. This continues to be a crucial requirement not least of which because coastal habitats are not covered in the Countryside Survey (Peter Rhind).
2. The requirement for additional nearshore monitoring buoys would be useful to track chemical and physical water attributes (Emma Litt).

3. Further studies on the effects of sea level rise on saltmarsh and mudflats are required. EA/CCW is, however, conducting a study on coastal squeeze and its effect on species – the report and a position statement will soon be available which Emma Litt has agreed to circulate.

4. The value of Glastir to coastal habitats. Thompson Ecology has been commissioned to monitor progress which will hopefully provide the group with the coastal perspective.

5. Further information required on the negative impacts of eutrophication on coastal habitats particularly saltmarsh and sand dunes (Peter Rhind).

Peter Rhind, Chair

Enclosed Farmland Ecosystem Group

The group met twice in 2011, a slight contraction due to staff changes and difficulty of resourcing. However a fair amount of work on specific tasks, consultation and feedback was achieved through email correspondence.

Mapping of priority areas for biodiversity action on Arable Field Margins and Hedgerows was successfully completed, particularly for work on Arable Field Margins with much input from Plantlife. Further areas need to be identified for Traditional Orchards. Priority areas for hedgerows are difficult to identify because of their non site based nature, and the current lack of knowledge of the resource at the strategic level – see below.

Applications for funding from the Environment Wales Biodiversity Fund and the much larger Ecosystems Resilience, Diversity and Compliance Fund have been reviewed, assessed and supported by members of the group, with projects receiving funding particularly for work on Traditional Orchards.

A continuing issue for the group is the identification of the extent and condition of orchards and hedgerows. An agreed survey methodology has been identified for both habitats and the orchards methodology is in use across Wales. The group proposes to hold a workshop to implement an agreed survey methodology for hedgerows across Wales and funding is also being sought to progress this. An MSc student project was also supported within WG on behalf of the group on the use of remote sensing for the recognition of traditional orchards.

Although membership of the group has changed, new members joined towards the end of the year and brought fresh input. However new members would be welcome – one suggestion was that, where appropriate, a representative of funded projects supported by the group could be asked to join the group. Agreement over who should chair the group would be helpful – this is awaiting a resolution of the needs of the group going forward with the Living Wales programme.

Caryn Le Roux

Freshwater Ecosystem Group

The Freshwater Ecosystem Group has focussed on several actions and activities this year. Much of this work has been carried out using resources from partner organisations especially CCW, EA Wales and the Wildlife Trusts in Wales

Strategic

A significant amount of time has been spent in commenting and advising on the development of the Single Body, often at very short notice. This has been disruptive and in our view has detracted from delivery of BAP activities on the ground. Looking ahead we are very concerned about the lack of freshwater related technical capacity within the SB, as many key technical staff and laboratories from EA and the Forestry Commission are not based in Wales and their expertise may no longer be accessible.

Prioritisation Maps

Many of the freshwater habitats and species are widespread and this makes spatial prioritisation of key BAP action areas difficult. At a recent meeting we reviewed the JNCC method for river BAP prioritisation and concluded it was not fit for purpose, but as a group we have so far not been able to agree on an alternative method. The recent grant awarding process has thrown the need for better BAP prioritisation in river habitats into sharp relief and we will work towards the development of this during 2012-13. We are currently in discussions with EA Wales towards developing a more landscape scale approach.

Actions and Activities

A number of freshwater BAP activities have been under way during 2011-12. A selection of these include:

- Arctic charr and Llyn Padarn recovery work (EAW / CCW)
- Pond and lake surveys to support BAP actions (CCW)
- Completion of Million Ponds project, and extension of Wales Project Officer Post (CCW / Pond Conservation)
- River BAP Grant funding (EAW)
- Advice to Welsh Beaver Assessment Initiative regarding potential beaver reintroduction (CCW, Wildlife Trusts, EAW)
- Usk Bridges fish easement feasibility studies (Wye and Usk Foundation)*
- Restoration works on the Montgomery Canal (British Waterways)*

We are pleased to say that there has been considerable interest in the WG Ecosystem Resilience and Diversity funding this year and we have assessed 10 applications for funding totalling almost £800,000.

* Work funded as part of Welsh Government Grant funding in September 2011.

Needs, Issues and Threats

There is a need to develop a clear vision of the links between BAP, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The overall BAP target of no loss of biodiversity is very high level, but has been interpreted without reference to other UK legislation or processes. In freshwater, the Water Framework Directive sets minimum ecosystem standards for rivers and large lakes and can act as a primary BAP delivery mechanism. Similarly, the protected sites network provides for the protection of ecosystem integrity at specific locations. The needs of many more widespread habitats and species can and should be delivered by strategic WFD measures, whereas BAP work should focus more

specifically on habitats, species and issues not covered by these wider measures. This may require a revision of the BAP priority species, and would enable better targeting of limited funds.

BAP delivery needs to be embedded in an integrated way with the aims and work programme of the Single Body.

At the time of writing, the overall remit and purpose of the Single Body has not been finalised. However, recent drafts have included few references to ecosystem integrity or biodiversity. We are concerned that the Single Body – which was conceived in part as a response to deliver 2010 Biodiversity Targets – may not now have an explicit biodiversity remit.

Sustainable freshwater ecosystems are an issue of environmental management as well as planning. Current Single Body visions tend to portray the problem as being predominantly one of planning and development policy. We agree that these are important issues, especially in South Wales. However, in most areas degradation of freshwater ecosystems occurs as a result of environmental management practices and / or due to the impacts of past decisions.

Tristan Hatton-Ellis, Chair

Wales Species Expert Group

The WSEG is working to a programme of three meetings per year. There are 32 species specialists (28 attending, 4 corresponding species experts and 3 academic experts) on the groups register with WSEG meetings and work regularly attended or contributed to by half of this number.

The group had not been supported by a secretariat until recently when Alys Edwards joined the group. Alys's presence has been very welcome in the short time she has worked with the group and has progressed a number of areas of work. However, after a reallocation of work within the WBP team, Sean McHugh will now take up secretariat for WSEG and further push the work programme along.

Following a workshop in early 2011, species habitat integration matrices have been drafted for woodland, upland and heathland priority habitats. These are currently being refined and completed and will be expanded to include other Ecosystem groups priority habitats during 2012. The woodland matrix was used by Forestry commission as a first step in developing Forestry Targeting/Contract Managers Guidance, a key piece of work the WSEG has begun to help develop.

WSEG has agreed to take on the development of species lead partner work for Wales, taking on the role of forum for lead partners and a mentoring /facilitation role for those who cannot attend WSEG meetings.

Other areas of work include the identification of research priorities for species, providing advice and assessing grant applications via the Biodiversity grant fund and the ERD Fund, and identification of key policy issues.

Stephen Bladwell, Chair

Invasive Non-native Species Working Group

The INNS WG has focuses its attentions in the past year or so on developing a prioritised action list for INNS species in Wales which covers terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. A final version of this is currently being produced and will be tabled for signing off at the next INSS WG meeting on 20 June 2012.

In addition, further work has progressed on the action audit which has been on-going for some time. Once the prioritised action list has been signed off, the action audit will be re-appraised and it is hoped to be able to start aligning the resources of the INNS WG to deliver actions in a more joined-up way, with the intention of doing so through the lens of the ecosystem approach.

Effective working relationships have been maintained with Defra and the Scottish Government through the GB NNS Secretariat who attend all INNS WG meetings to provide additional context and information for group members at a UK and EU level. The chair also meets relatively informally on an ad hoc basis with the policy leads in Defra and the Scottish Government to discuss relevant issues.

Rob Griffiths, Chair

WBPSG17
PAPER TO NOTE A
10th July 2012

Title: WBP Planning & Budgeting

Produced by Sean McHugh WBP Support team

WBP Budget

Background/Progress

CCW grant aid for WBP activities in 2012/2013 is £100,000 covering 1 Apr 2012 to 31 March 2013. The draft budget plan (Apr 12 -Mar 2013) is provided in Annex 1 in addition to a breakdown of Year 5 spending.

Plan/Proposals

Additions and/or updates may be required to the budget in response to steering group input and these will be included by the support team for circulation after the meeting.

Action Requested

1. To approve the budget as outlined and suggest any changes required

Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW) 2013

Background/Progress

WBW has run annually since 2002 and is typically held in the second week in June and is well established feature on the calendar. Suggested dates for 2013 are 8th - 16th June. WBP supports the event centrally, providing merchandise, publicity and a centralised web resource including an interactive events calendar. This year's approach (and awareness events in general) compliments activities around the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May 2013); International Decade for Biological Diversity (IDB) and Springwatch. [WBW 2011 Report link](#)

Action Requested

2. To agree WBW 2013 approach and confirm dates
3. To note complimentary initiatives as a focus for environmental awareness

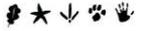
WBP Conference 2012 Reminder

WBP conference 12th and 13th September, University of Glamorgan "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Approach in Wales –visioning the future"

The conference programme and booking form are available on the WBP website

WBP Conference 2013

A location and venue is required for the 2013 conference. Suggested location - Bangor North Wales. Suggested dates: 10th - 11th Sep or 17th -18th Sep 2013
[WBW 2011 Conference Report](#)



Action Requested

4. To finalise location and date of WBP Conference 2013

WBPSG17
Paper to Note A: ANNEX 01
10th July 2012

DRAFT Budget - Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Year 6 2012 - 2013

Staff costs (2 staff)

Salary	56775
Travel and Subsistence	3100

Administration/Office costs

Office Overheads (hosting /accounts)	9000
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Volunteer Costs

Volunteer Expenses	400
--------------------	-----

Capital Expenditure

IT and Communication equipment	100
Mobile Phones	600

WBP Workplan Project Items

BARS strategic support	10000
Website	400
Conference	6400

Taxonomic Groups Funding/Nature Conserv Funding

Vice county book fund	400
LRC wildlife recording training	3600
Taxonomic groups (SG presentations x2)	3600

Wales Biodiversity Week

Wales Biodiversity Week	3525
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WBP Workplan General Items

Marketing/Publicity/Materials	400
Shows/Events/Meetings	500

Other project costs

WBP Staff Development	1200
-----------------------	------

Total **100000**

WBP Year 5 Expenditure 2010/11

Staff costs (2 staff)

Salary	55,401.12
Travel and Subsistence	3,899.55

Administration/Office costs

Office Overheads (hosting/accounts)	9000
-------------------------------------	------

Volunteer Costs

Volunteer Expenses	0
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Capital Expenditure

IT and Communication equipment	300.02
Mobile Phones	570.06

WBP Workplan Project Items

BARS strategic support	10000
Website	210.92
Conference	3719.21

Taxonomic Groups Funding/Nature Conserv Funding

Vice county book fund	411.99
LRC wildlife recording training days	3146.1
Taxonomic groups (SG presentations)	5140.44
Lichen Project	994

Wales Biodiversity Week

Wales Biodiversity Week	6257.75
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WBP Workplan General Items

Marketing/Publicity/Materials	124
Shows/Events/Meetings	312.42
Other project costs	
WBP Staff Development	477.95

Total **99965.53**

An audit of data sharing between volunteer recorders and Welsh Local Records Centres

Background

Welsh Local Records Centres (LRC) hold nearly 6 million species records and provide the most up to date and complete biodiversity dataset in Wales. The data is used in many ways to aid biodiversity conservation and help assess the possible negative effects on biodiversity. It is estimated that approximately 70% of all species records held by the Welsh LRCs come from volunteer recorders, as such their role is vital in maintaining a constant flow of important biodiversity information.

A paper entitled “*Complexity of biological data flow and the recognition of volunteer recorder effort*” was submitted by the Welsh LRCs to SG15. This paper outlined some of the issues associated with data flow to LRCs and also highlighted the great effort of volunteer recorders. Following SG15 Welsh LRCs were asked to audit data coming from volunteer recorders and report back to a subsequent Steering Group meeting.

Data Audit

Between January and April 2012 an audit was carried out to investigate which volunteer recorders were sharing data with Welsh LRCs. The information was compiled during June 2012 and forms the basis for discussion in this paper.

The audit concentrated mainly on those individuals and groups which have a major role in collating and sharing data, for example Vice County Recorders, and for the purpose of this paper these are termed Local Experts, even though some have a regional or national role. The audit concentrates on data sharing with Local Experts and does not include the many ad-hoc or smaller datasets shared with LRCs or data shared from organisations.

Data from the audit relates to 13 Watsonian Vice Counties and two pre-unitary authority counties, the main geographic recording units for Wales (see the map in Annex 1). In total 148 Local Experts (individuals or groups) were identified; the proportions for each LRC are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of data sharing relationship between Local Experts and Welsh LRCs

	Number of Records @ 13/06/12	Vice Counties Numbers	Local Experts	Data Exchange Agreements	Data Shared
Cofnod ¹	1,115,711	48,49,50,51,52	41	10	29
BIS	1,400,000	42,43,47	38	16	31
SEWBRcC	2,324,283	35,41	35	25	24
WWBIC	897,430	44,45,46	34	13	28
Total	5,737,424		148	64 (43%)	112 (75%)

Data Sharing

The most important issue to address from the audit was a measure of data shared between Local Experts and Welsh LRCs. Data sharing is difficult to assess objectively, unless you know exactly how much data someone shares, and can accurately compare this with how much data they could possibly share. The scope of

the audit did not cover this detail, as LRCs rely on the generosity of volunteer recorders and tend not to keep records of how much data someone could possibly share. Therefore the only measure of 'data sharing' from Local Expert to Welsh LRCs was drawn by comparing the number of Local Experts with the numbers who shared data in some form. Also the audit results made it difficult to make an accurate or consistent assessment of whether full or partial data sharing had occurred, so for the purpose of this paper partial and full sharing were combined.

Of the 148 Local Experts identified by the audit only 64 (43%) have a formal Data Exchange Agreement (DEA) with Welsh LRCs. These agreements are used to clarify the responsibilities of both the Local Expert and the LRC in the data sharing process. An overview of the numbers of DEAs, shown in Table 1, demonstrates that SEWBRc have the greatest number of DEAs (25), whilst Cofnod, who have adopted a policy driven approach to data exchange, has the fewest (10). However, as the figures below will demonstrate, the lack of a DEA does not necessarily preclude the sharing of data.

Overall results showed that even though only 64 (42%) Local Experts have DEAs, a much larger proportion 75% or 112 shared data with the LRCs. Furthermore, a crude estimate of an on-going relationship, suggests that 84 or 56% have exchanged more than just part of their data and often resupply their data regularly.

The audit gathered information about which recorders collated data for which taxonomic groups. This information was aggregated into a series of broad groups, shown in Table 2. The audit showed that mammal recorders have the greatest number of DEAs (15), partly due to the large number of Local Experts (30). However as a percentage of those that could have and those that have DEAs, bryophyte (mosses and liverworts) recorders came out the highest at 77%. Both these groups have very high percentages of data sharing too, with 77% for bryophytes and 80% for mammals. Perhaps one of the most surprising findings was that one of the lowest numbers of DEAs corresponds with one of the highest percentages of data sharing. This occurs with Lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) recorders, with 23% DEAs compared to 91% data sharing. These figures hold true in experience terms, as Lepidoptera recorders are generally the most willing to share data with LRCs, possibly as a result of Butterfly Conservation's proactive stance to data sharing.

Although the lowest percentage of data sharing is for fungi *et al.* and lichens, this can be explained by them having low numbers of Local Experts. Therefore the lack of one or two experts sharing data can have a big effect on the percentage. The small numbers of experts for these and other groups such as freshwater fish should be noted, as without experts data can be sparse and what data there is may have no mechanism for quality checking.

Perhaps the most striking low sharing percentage (although it is still 68%) is with bird Local Experts. This may in part be a result of bird recorders sharing through other established mechanisms, such as the various schemes organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Data sharing between LRCs and Local Experts showed a similar pattern to sharing between Local Experts and LRCs. Of the 148 Local Experts, 104 (70%) have received data from the LRCs. Plant and lichen Local Experts benefit from greater sharing from LRCs than the other way around, whilst all other groups demonstrate the same or slightly lower percentages. Nevertheless the general trend shows there is a good two-way relationship of data sharing established between LRCs and Local Experts.

Table 2. Data sharing and verification by broad taxonomic groups

	Local Experts	DEAs	Shared data with LRC	Shared data with Local Experts	Data verification
Amphibians & Reptiles	9	5 (55%)	9 (100%)	8 (89%)	2 (22%)
Birds	19	8 (42%)	13 (68%)	11 (58%)	10 (52%)
Bryophytes	9	7 (77%)	7 (77%)	6 (66%)	7 (77%)
Lepidoptera	22	5 (23%)	20 (91%)	20 (91%)	17 (77%)
Fungi, Slime Moulds, Rusts & Smuts	9	5 (55%)	5 (55%)	5 (55%)	5 (55%)
Lichens	6	3 (50%)	4 (66%)	5 (83%)	5 (83%)
Mammals	30	15 (50%)	24 (80%)	19 (63%)	17 (56%)
Marine	4	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	0 (0%)	3 (75%)
Other Invertebrates	23	8 (34%)	18 (78%)	16 (70%)	15 (65%)
Plants	15	6 (40%)	11 (73%)	13 (86%)	12 (80%)
Freshwater Fish	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	1 (100%)
Totals	148	64 (43%)	112 (75%)	104 (70%)	94 (64%)

Data Verification

The process of data verification is one of the most important roles performed by Local Experts. Their expert knowledge helps assess and standardise variable quality data across a region. For some time LRCs have been working with Local Experts to assess data that comes into the LRC from other sources. In total 94 or 64% of Local Experts have an input to this verification process, with the highest percentages being with the taxonomic groups with fewer Local Experts, such as freshwater fish, lichens and bryophytes. Of the larger groups plant experts show 80% engagement with the verification process, whilst surprisingly amphibian and reptile experts seem to have very little engagement, just 22%. These contrasts could be due to the way Local Experts are organised across the taxonomic groups, but also may reflect the relative importance placed upon the verification process. It is no surprise for instance that plants show the highest percentage, as their Local Experts are particularly used to verifying records, led by standards promoted by the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI).

National Recording Schemes and Societies (NSS)

Although relations between LRCs and the NSSs are very good, it is not always clear how individual LRCs make approaches to the NSSs to share their data and visa-versa. One NSS which is currently negotiating a DEA with Welsh LRCs is the British Dragonfly Society; they are proactive about this for as a relatively small society they wish to have simple methods applied to all LRCs. Currently however there is only one formal agreement to share data at the national level, between Vincent Wildlife Trust and SEWBRc. However there are quite a few informal sharing relationships, many of which have been pioneered by BIS. There are continuing concerns however about data shared at a national level being returned to the LRC through another route, such as the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway. It is likely that in the future LRCs will develop more automated methods to share data with NSSs, and also LRCs will gain greater access to the data they hold either directly or through the NBN Gateway.

Conclusions

The audit highlighted some interesting patterns of sharing biodiversity data between Local Experts and Welsh LRCs, and although the audit was limited in detail, it presented a fairly positive picture of how data is shared. It was also surprising that it did not highlight any glaring areas where data is not being shared. In fact it could be said that the pattern of sharing indicates a general acceptance of the LRC/Local Expert relationship and an overall resolve to share data. Based on these positive findings, Welsh LRCs urge continuation and development of the data sharing model operating in Wales and will work with Local Experts to fill the gaps, both geographically and taxonomically. One of the future challenges is how LRCs, the NBN Gateway, NSSs and Local Experts interact. Welsh LRCs understand many of the issues related to this challenge and are working hard to try and resolve them. In conclusion Welsh LRCs would like to offer a formal word of thanks to volunteer recorders across Wales, since without their enthusiasm, dedication and skill, the overall data resource that is Local Records Centres Wales would be greatly depleted.

Action Requested

- Ask all WBP members, to where possible, influence greater sharing of records with LRCs
- Ask all WBP members, to where possible, influence greater use of LRC information services

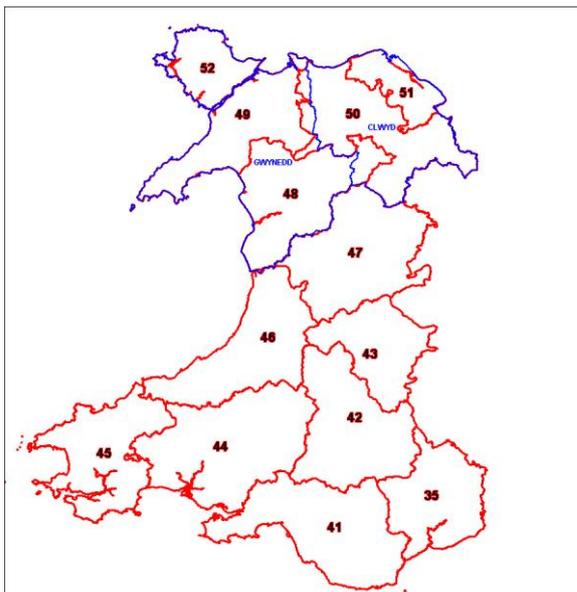
Roy Tapping

Manager, Cofnod. On behalf of Welsh Local Records Centres.

¹ Cofnod – North Wales Environmental Information Service, BIS – Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons, SEWBReC – South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre, WWBIC – West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre

Annex 1

Watsonian Vice Counties and the Pre-Unitary Authority Counties which form the biological recording areas of Wales



VcNumber	VcName
35	Monmouthshire
41	Glanorganshire
42	Breconshire
43	Radnorshire
44	Carmarthenshire
45	Pembrokeshire
46	Cardiganshire
47	Montgomeryshire
48	Merionethshire
49	Caernarvonshire
50	Denbighshire
51	Flintshire
52	Anglesey

Title: Wildlife Crime Update

Produced by: Sgt Ian Guildford, South Wales Police/Countryside Council for Wales

Background/Progress

The Welsh wildlife crime enforcement group met at the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Carmarthen on Friday 27th April 2012. The actions from the meeting dated are attached (Appendix 1). Members of the Group will be providing a display at this years Royal Welsh Show, it is proposed that the display will be in the CCW marquee on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th July 2012.

A one week Police Wildlife Crime Officers Foundation training course was held at the Dyfed Powys Police HQ's in Carmarthen from the 23rd – 27th April 2012. In total 21 officers from the Dyfed Powys, South Wales and Gwent Forces attended the course which was opened by Ian Arundale the Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police, all these officers are now in post and an updated list of Welsh PWCO's can be found at Appendix 2.

The Environmental Audit Committee is continuing its inquiry into the scale of wildlife crime in the UK, at the time of the this report it is taking oral evidence from various organisations, details of this can be found on the following link: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/wildlife-crime/>

As part of the continued crack down on the illegal persecution of Badgers, in March this year RSPCA inspectors accompanied by Police Officers visited more than 30 homes in England and Wales as part of the ongoing Operation Meles. Operation Meles is a UK-wide multi-agency investigation aimed at gathering intelligence following reports of suspected badger crime and involvement in such activity. The RSPCA proactively visited addresses in England and Wales during a week of action, in conjunction with the SSPCA in Scotland, USPCA in Ulster, the Badger Trust, Scottish Badgers as well as several police forces. Within Wales a number of addresses were visited by RSPCA inspectors accompanied by police officers, a number of dogs were examined and intelligence relating to the illegal activities of a number of people has been gained.

In March this year the first ever North Wales Police Wildlife Crime Conference, sponsored by the Countryside Council for Wales, was held at Maes Y Fynnon, Bangor. The conference was an opportunity for North Wales Police wildlife officers to meet with various people from other agencies, such as the RSPCA & Environment Agency, to name just two. The full day's conference was attended by over 70 delegates who enjoyed various

presentations from a wide variety of guest speakers on Wildlife subjects personal to North Wales. The feed back received from delegates was extremely positive and it is anticipated that this conference will again take place sometime in 2013.

During the above conference in North Wales the Wildlife officer of the Year Award for the North Wales Police was awarded to PC 2699 Dewi Evans, based at Pwllheli. Dewi has been a local Wildlife officer now for 3 years and 2011 was an exceptional year for him in the field of wildlife crime investigation.

A new initiative aimed at protecting woodland areas in North Wales has been launched in Abergele. North Wales Police along with the Forestry Commission, Countryside Council of Wales, the Woodland Trust, Conwy Council, The Arson Reduction Team and local members of the community and schools came together in early April to launch Woodland Watch. The pilot area for the scheme is Gwrych Castle / Rhyd Y Foel Mountain and Tan Y Gopa woods, Abergele.

The Welsh Wildlife Crime Conference will be again held at the Dyfed Powys Police HQ's in Carmarthen, a provisional date of the 21st November 2012 has been provided.

As part of South Wales Police's policy of reducing the number of officers within the force, Sgt Ian Guildford, the Wildlife and Environmental Crime officer seconded to CCW's South Eastern region, will be retired from the South Wales Police and thus will be stepping down from his role as a Wildlife and Environmental crime officer. It is hoped to appoint a new officer in the near future, in the meantime Sgt Andy Scourfield who is seconded to the Forestry Commission and based at their offices in Resolven will act as the SPOC for the wildlife crime matters within the South Wales Police.

Cases

LLwyn, Llanraeddr SSSI update - Two North Wales men have pleaded guilty to an offence of third party damage to the SSSI. The matter is now listed for a two day court trial on the 9th /10th July in relation to the required restoration.

A case against a Newport man for carrying unconsented work on the Caeau Blean-yr-Orfa Site of Special Scientific Interest had its first hearing at Llanelli Magistrates Court on 24th May 2012, the case has now been adjourned until 14th June 2012 for pleas to be taken.

An official police warning letter was issued to a male from Anglesey for damage to a protected habitat. Work was carried out at the Malltraeth RSPB bird reserve on Anglesey which consisted of a number of anti-fox fences being erected. Unfortunately no licenses had been obtained or consultations taken place with other agencies as the work was completed in a nationally important rare water vole habitat. The fences had been erected in good faith however

the consequence of this work had impacted on the vole's habitat, in that it appeared that several burrow entrances had been damaged. A survey was conducted by specialist staff and it was found that the damage wasn't permanent and was certainly recoverable with good future management.

A case against a Cardiff man regarding a false application to export a Rhino Horn which was purchased for £43,384 (including charges) is proceeding and a first hearing court date is due to be set.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES/NO

WBPSG17

Paper to Note C: ANNEX 01

10th July 2012

Welsh Biodiversity Partnership – wildlife crime prevention and enforcement working group.

Meeting held at Fire Authority Room, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Carmarthen.
10.30am Friday 27th April 2012

Present

Gwyn Thomas – Dyfed Powys Police (Chair)

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	Iwan Hughes (Phone)
Dyfed Powys Police (DPP)	Pete Charleston
Gwent Police	Rob Maddocks
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS)	Richie Hammond
North Wales Police/Environment Agency Wales	Eryl Lloyd
RSPCA	Keith Hogben
South Wales Police/Forestry Commission (FC)	Andy Scourfield
South Wales Police/MWWFRS	Jo Jones
Welsh Government (WG)	Nicholas Shilton
Welsh Government (WG)	Mark Stafford
Welsh Government	Jason Westerberg-Liptrot

Apologies.

Peter Jones, CPS

Rhys Hughes

Colin Thomas

Matthew Howells

Rob Taylor

Ian Guildford

Pat Lindley

Rachael Hodson

The group wish to thank Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service for providing the use of office and video conferencing facilities.

Actions

	Action	By	By whom	Outcome
4j	To work with other forces to see the NWP/EAW ISA and DSA being used across Wales. Discussions already taking place with SWP and EA	July 2012	Eryl Lloyd	
4k	Gwent Police to provide point of contact to Eryl	May 2012	Rob Maddocks	
4l	To circulate the gazetteer paper provided by Rachael to all members for noting.	April 2012	Pete Charleston	

	To forward paper to Eryl for reference and action..			
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34	Welsh Deer Strategy	April 2012	Andy Scourfield	Report received.
34a		January 2012	Force wco's	Figures provided for annual report.
34b	Deer working group			To submit written reports to WWCWG a week prior to each meeting.
34c	To consider production of standard operating procedures for offences relating to deer poaching	July 2012	Andy Scourfield	
34d	To establish whether force command and control systems create automatic links from keywords to guidance documents.	May 2012	Rob Taylor Colin Thomas Matthew Howells	
34e	To provide written briefing to other welsh lead wco's	May 2012	Andy Scourfield	
37	Production of an all Wales wildlife crime report for 2011	July 2012	Iwan Hughes/Rob Taylor	Draft received, Rob to be asked to consider further matters.
38a	Jason to forward copy of presentation to Pete for circulation to all members.	April 2012	Pete Charleston	
39	Received report from wildfire working group		Jo Jones	To submit written reports to WWCWG a week prior to each meeting.
39a	Prepare and circulate written report on the work of the wildfire group	May 2012	Jo Jones	
40	Group to consider production of a series of guidance notes for officers investigating wildlife crime dependent on outcome of actions 34c and 34d	July 2012	Chair	
41	Group will take up an offer from CCW to feature on one afternoon the work of the group on their stand at the Royal Welsh Show (23 rd -27 th July)	July 2012	Richie Hammond	To work with other members to deliver this initiative at the RWS
42	Develop a short 10 min presentation on Landscape Crime (dvd and PowerPoint), which can be presented by leaders at various local Forest Schools within the Torfaen area and then rolled out into Gwent. (Not to be confused with the work on-going with WAG and the National School Curriculum).	July 2012	Rob Maddocks	

43	To consider the delivery plan for 2013	July 2012	All	
44	To produce a calendar of key events.	July 2012	All to email Pete Charleston with details of events key to the work of this group	

Next meeting

It is hoped to hold the next meeting during the week commencing 2nd July. Meeting to be hosted by the Environment Agency at a location to be notified.

SOUTH WALES POLICE					
Officer	Station	EMAIL	MOBILE W	LANDLINE	ADDRESS
Central					
PC 3626 Mark Goulding	Cowbridge	mark.goulding@south-wales.pnn.police.uk		101	Cowbridge Police Station, Eastgate, Cowbridge. South Glamorgan CF63 1T
PC 4857 Suzette Williams	Pyle	Suzette.Williams@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07584 883538	101	Pyle Police Station, Pyle Police Station, Brynteg Avenue, Pyle, Bridgend CF35 6BB
PC 3597 Gerard Mackay	Pyle	Gerard.Mckay@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07805 301446	101	Pyle Police Station, Pyle Police Station, Brynteg Avenue, Pyle, Bridgend CF35 6BB
Northern					
PC 3520 Mike Perry	T. Green	Mike.Perry@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07805 5301123	101	Talbot Green Police Station, Heol y Gyffraith, Talbot Green, CF72 8AJ
PC 3151 Julian Williams	Ton Pentre	Julian.Williams@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07584 770458	101	Ton Pentre Police Station, Maindy Road, Ton Pentre, PENTRE, CF41 7HA
PC 748 Andrew Thomas	Cynon	andrew.thomas2@south-wales.pnn.police.uk		101	Aberdare Police Station, Cross Street , Aberdare, CF44 7EG
PC 4985 Neil Griffiths	Merthyr	neil.griffiths@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07584 771220	101	Merthyr Police Station, Central Police Station, Swan Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8ES
Western					
PC 4643 Kevin Richards	Pontardawe	kevin.richards@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07805 301570	101	Pontardawe Police Station, High Street, Pontardawe, West Glamorgan, SA8 4JL.,
PC 164 Phil Davies	Gower	Philip.Davies2@south-wales.pnn.police.uk	07805 301600	101	Mumbles Police Station, Newton Road, Mumbles, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA3 4AR
PC 4756 Nathan Smith	Morrison	Nathan.Smith@south-wales.pnn.police.uk		101	Morrison Police Station, Sway Road, Morrison, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA6 6HT
PC 4714 Dale Davies	P.Talbot	dale.davies@south-wales.pnn.police.uk		101	Port Talbot Police Station, Station Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1JB
DC 3427 Paul Harry	Cockett	Paul.Harry@south-wales.pnn.police.uk		101	Cockett Police Station, John Street, Cockett, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA2 0FR
Eastern					
PC 642 Paul Tebbutt	Ely	Paul.Tebbutt@south-wales.pnn.police.uk		101	Whitchurch Police Station, 70 Merthyr Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 1DJ
Seconded					
PS Ian Guildford	CCW	I.Guildford@ccw.gov.uk	07748 037416	02920 772446	Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, Fortran Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0EY
PS Andrew Scourfield	FCW	andrew.scourfield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk	07867 940246	03000680229	Forestry Commission, Coed Y Cymoedd, Resolven, Neath, SA11 4DR
GWENT					
Officer	Station	EMAIL	MOBILE W	LANDLINE	ADDRESS
Caerphilly					
PC2005 Alan Tinsley	Risca	Alan.Tinsley@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Tredegar Street, Risca, South Wales, NP11 6YA
PC 1150 Mark Wilkinson	Bedwas	Jonathan.Wilkinson@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Church Street, Bedwas, South Wales, CF83 8EB
Blaenau Gwent					
PC 207 Ian Withers	Ebbw Vale	Ian.Withers@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Bethcar Street, Ebbw Vale, South Wales, NP23 6UY
PC 1494 Rob Heel	Abertillery	Rob.Heel@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Somerset Street, Abertillery, South Wales, NP13 1XX
PC 1416 Katie Williams	Brynmawr	Katherine.Williams@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Brynmawr Police Station, Somerset Street, Brynmawr, NP23 4YG
Monmouthshire					
PC 576 Maldwyn John	Abergavenny	Maldwyn.John@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Tudor Street, Abergavenny, South Wales, NP7 5YL
PC 2058 Peter Lewis	Chepstow	Peter.Lewis@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Chepstow Station, , Moor Street, Chepstow, South Wales, NP16 5XW
Newport					
PC 682 Anthony Williams	Alway/Llanmartin	Anthony.Williams@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Alway Police Station, Unit D, Alway Parade, Newport, South Wales, NP19 9NU
PC 580 Owen Davies	Newport Central	Owen.Davies@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Newport Central Station Police Station, 1-3 Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales, NP20 2EH.
Torfaen					
PC 668 Mark Ruddick	Cwmbran	Mark.Ruddick@gwent.pnn.police.uk		101	Cwmbran Station, Tudor Road, Cwmbran, South Wales, NP44 3XH
Seconded					
PC 75 Robert Maddocks	Torfaen	Rob.Maddocks@torfaen.gov.uk		101	
DYFED POWYS					
Officer	Station	EMAIL	MOBILE W	LANDLINE	ADDRESS
Carmarthenshire					
PC 677 Adrian Ward	Llanelli	adrian.ward@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Waulanllyrafon, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA15 3AA
PC 935 Rhodri Treharne	Llandeilo			101	17/18 Carmarthen Road, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AN
PC 830 Vanessa Vaughan	Burry Port	vanessa.vaughan@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Burry Port Police Station, Sandfield Road, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, SA16 0LH
Ceredigion					
PC 973 Hefin Jones	Aberystwyth	hefin.jones@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Aberystwyth Police Station, Boulevard Saint Briec Aberystwyth Ceredigion SY23 1PH
PC 916 Richard Marshall	Lampeter/Tregaron	richard.marshall@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Lampeter Police Station, High Street, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7BH.
Pembrokeshire					
PC 1025 Martin Morrell	Haverfordwest			101	Divisional Police Headquarters, P.O.Box 31, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1PF
PC 436 Chris Grayell	St Davids			101	St. David's Police Station, High Street, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6SB
PC 10 Shaun Doble	Milford Haven/Tenby	shaun.doble@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Milford Haven Police Station Charles Street, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 2HP
PC 227 David Norman	Milford Haven	david.norman@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Milford Haven Police Station Charles Street, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 2HP
PC 1157 Kelly Jones	Fishguard	kelly.jones@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Fishguard Police Station, Brodog Lane, Fishguard, SA65 9NR.
Powys					
PC 221 Fean Thomas	Hay-on-Wye	fean.thomas@Dyfed-Powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Heol-y-Dwr, Hay-on-Wye, Powys, HR3 5AS
PC 594 Ryan Sweetman	Newtown	ryan.sweetman@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Park Lane, Newtown, SY16 1EN
PC 757 Jenny Lloyd	Newtown	jenny.lloyd@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Park Lane, Newtown, SY16 1EN
PC 118 Mike Hapgood	Ystradgynlais	michael.hapgood@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	Station Road, Ystradgynlais, SA9 1DY
PC 862 Wayne Ballard	Llandrindod Wells	wayne.ballard@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	High Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD16BG
PC 971 Ailsa Lawton	Llandrindod Wells	ailsa.lawton@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk		101	High Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD16BG
PCSO8087 Tom Milne	Welshpool			101	Welshpool Police Station, Welshpool Police Station Severn Road, Welshpool Powys SY21 7AR
Seconded					
PS 974 Matthew Howells	CCW	matthew.howells@Dyfed-Powys.pnn.police.uk	07976 060967	01267 226649	Dyfed Powys Police, PO Box 99 Llangunnor, Carmarthen SA31 2PF
NORTH WALES (All events must be brought to the attention of Sergeant Taylor for coordination.)					
Officer	Area	EMAIL	MOBILE W	LANDLINE	STATION
Western					
Pc 1402 Dave Owens	Anglesey	david.owens2@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Valley, Trearddur Bay, Rhosneigr & Aberffraw Police Station, Lon Spencer, Valley LL65 3AD
Pc 2699 Dewi Evans	Gwynedd	dewi.evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			
PC 2376 Gemma Booth	Gwynedd South (Dolgellau)	Mike.owen@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Barmouth Police Station, Barmouth, Gwynedd, LL42 1LU.
Pc 787 Mark Holland	Gwynedd Caernarfon / Bangor	Mark.holland@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Caernarfon Police Station
Pc 280 Dewi Roberts	Gwynedd (LLeyn)	Dewi.roberts.280@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Nefyn Police Station, Nefyn, Gwynedd.
Pc 2661 Dylan Jones	Gwynedd Blaenau Ffestiniog/Bala	Dylan.Jones3@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Blaenau Ffestiniog
Central					
Pc 1602 David Hall	Denbighshire (Llangollen)	Neil.Davies@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Llangollen Police Station, Llangollen, Denbighshire, LL20 8PW.
Pc 1417 Mike Butlin	Denbighshire	michael.butlin@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Ruthin Police Station
Eastern					
Pc 1952 Allen	Flintshire Mostyn	david.allen@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Mostyn
Pc 2531 Colin Oare	Flintshire Holywell/Greenfield	Colin.Oare@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Mostyn Police Station
PC 1955 Gareth FERGUSON	Buckley Police Station Eastern Division	gareth.ferguson@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Buckley Police Station
Pc 2394 Paul Davies	Wrexham (town)	Paul.davies@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Wrexham Police Station, Bodhyfryd, Wrexham, LL12 7BW
Pc 1381 Mike Howell	Wrexham (south rural)	Michael.howell@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Chirk Police Station, Holyhead Road, Chirk, Wrexham, LL14 5HF
Pc 2499 Gary Edwards	Wrexham Acton/Borras	Gary.edwards2@nthwales.pnn.police.uk			Wrexham Police Station
Seconded					
Sgt 985 Rob Taylor	CCW	Rob.taylor@nthwales.pnn.police.uk		01745 539187	Air Operations Unit, Rhuddlan
Pc 1847 Eryl Lloyd	Environment Agency Wales	Eryl.Lloyd@nthwales.pnn.police.uk		01248 484090	Environment Agency Wales, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd

WBPSG17
PAPER TO NOTE D
10th July 2012

Title: Wales Biodiversity Partnership Academic Workshop 2012

Produced by: Tracey Lovering, WBP Ecosystems Advisor, WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

Over the past year WBP has been working with The Wales Environment Research Hub to identify potential participants for the work of the WBP in order to increase academic representation on our Ecosystem, Invasive Non Native Species and Species Expert Groups.

Better links with current academic research would greatly benefit the BAP process through up-to-date information on management advice, autecology, survey methods, responses to climate change etc. The groups have also been asked to keep the Welsh Assembly Government informed of research needs and priorities that can be fed through to DEFRA, and academics could also help greatly in this respect

Plan/Proposals

Aims:

1. WBP academic representatives will understand how they can contribute to our work through enabling research links with Wales, UK and international institutions/ organisations; and specifically, agreeing to lead on priority work related to meeting research needs/evidence gaps identified by WBP advisory groups.
2. WBP will gain an understanding of how our evidence work can contribute to wider research developments in Wales, UK and overseas; to reinforce connections and forge links thereby ensuring that Wales' biodiversity and ecosystem research adds value to the evidence pool informing policy development.

Suggested Outcomes:

- 1) WBP academic reps understand how they can contribute to the work of WBP and how this work can inform Welsh Government (and proposed Single Body) delivery of the Living Wales Programme;
- 2) Academics will consider WBP research needs prior to workshop, and bring to the table suggestions on how potential/existing/new mechanisms/ research programmes may meet needs in full, or in part; provide links to related research; and future opportunities for integration e.g. student research projects or student placements/secondments within WBP partner organisations;
- 3) to identify and agree leads for particular areas of research for WBP from existing WBP academic pool and to draft a WBP academic work programme 2012-13;
- 4) to agree to publish evidence gaps/research needs on WEH & WBP website;

5) WBP academic reps to raise awareness among the wider academic community of the research priorities identified by WBP, to establish links between WBP Groups and institutions within Wales, UK and internationally;

6) to highlight to Welsh Government remaining research gaps which may impact on the development and delivery of the WG Living Wales Programme, which seeks to incorporate the Ecosystem Approach, and the delivery of favourable conservation status of Annex 1 & 2 and Sect 42 habitats and species;

7) to agree a method by which WBP academics can support each other and link across WBP advisory groups and maintain link/access support from WBP Support Team. This may be achieved through the Hub.

Suggested Outputs (to be agreed at workshop)

1. Produce a register of/report on evidence gaps/research needs on WEH and WBP Website
2. Produce a register of Welsh Biodiversity Research and update annually (include research from universities, Govt. agencies NGOs etc.). This may be done to a certain extent but probably does not include all the agency and NGO research.
3. Produce a WBP academic work programme 2012-13

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES/NO

WBPSG17
PTN D: ANNEX 01
10th July 2012

WBP ACADEMICS WORKSHOP PROGRAMME 2012

11 September 2012, S. Wales (venue tbc)

10:00 **Tea and coffee** available

10:30 **Welcome & Introduction to workshop**
Aims and desired outcomes

10:45 **Introduction to WBP:** structure, governance and role.
Introduction to the Welsh Government Living Wales Programme.
Questions: *What are the links between WG and WBP? Where should/could they be?*

11:15 **Introduction to Academic life:** Academics to share what is required to run research projects at different academic levels e.g. MSc projects, PHDs, post-doc research etc. Consider timings and length of academic projects; how funded etc. How can projects deliver WBP work?

11:45 **Workshop Session:** Discuss how WBP may meet existing evidence gaps, through working with academic institutions & securing appropriate links. Attendees to divide into sub-groups to consider evidence gaps under 4 broad themes:

1. Biodiversity specific: species and habitat declines; species dispersal; genetics; fragmentation; landscape scale science; permeability; habitat management
2. Biodiversity and ecosystem health, and ecosystem services
3. Climate change, adaptation and mitigation
4. Pollution; eutrophication, atmospheric nitrogen etc.

12:30/12:45 **LUNCH**

13:30 **Share discussion threads and results**

14:00 **Return to thematic groups to identify and agree leads** for particular areas of research for WBP and a work programme for group – agree priority gaps remaining

14:30 **Share agreements and lead work areas across groups;** consider opportunities for linkage. Develop a work programme for WBP academics 2012-13.

15:10 **Agree priority gaps remaining.** Provide to Welsh Government for their consideration.

15:20 **Re-visit desired outcomes** to gain consensus agreement. Identify lead for research registers.

15:40 **Agree how WBP academics can link across WBP advisory groups and access support**

16:00 **Depart**