

WBP SG13

 10th February 2011

Cardiff

AGENDA

The 13th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held at the National Museum, Cardiff (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	
10:35	2	Main paper: Ecosystem Groups Reporting Session	Tracey Lovering
11:00	3	Main paper: workshop activity: Climate Change Adaptation Session	Clive Walmsley
12:00	4	Main paper: Living Wales – next steps	Morgan Parry/Andy Schofield
12:40		LUNCH – Please bring a packed lunch	
13:40	5	Presentation: Taxonomic Group: Beetles	Steve Bolchover
13:50	6	Discussion: What can we do to help these species?	
14:00	7	Papers to Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A: Wildlife Crime Update - B: iSpot - C: Environmental Data Sharing Charter - D: Lichen Apprenticeship Progress Report - E: Planning Officers Award Scheme - F: WBP Planning - G: Changes to Published S42 List 	Ian Guildford Madeline Havard Helen Wilkinson Trevor Dines Rebecca Sharp Sean McHugh Trevor Dines
14:45	8	Feedback from WCMP	tbc
14:55	9	Feedback from Standing Committee	David Parker /Diana Reynolds
15:05	10	Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	
15:15	11	AOB	
15:25	12	Date of next meeting	
15:30		Afternoon tea and finish	

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



WBP Ecosystem and Species Expert Groups Report 2010

Highlighted Successes

Action Delivery:

- There is now a greater awareness across Wales NGOs and regulatory bodies of the purpose, functions, delivery and membership of Ecosystem Groups. Groups are now able to liaise directly with relevant identified higher WAG officials. Key academic representatives per group have been identified and will shortly be invited to contribute to groups
- Priority actions have been completed for some habitats and species groups and others are in development. Groups have been working with LBAPs to identify local action programmes e.g. Wetland Ecosystem Group in Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia
- Successful collaboration has been achieved within and across Groups through regular meetings of the Chairs e.g. a partnership of NGOs and public bodies are currently working together to develop a major external funding bid to deliver a 'Grazing Animals' project for West Wales focusing on grassland, heathland and lowland wetland habitat. This project was conceived by the Wetland Ecosystem Group and subsequently supported by the Lowland Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group
- A range of projects have been supported by the Groups e.g. Biodiversity Grant Fund wetland management/restoration projects & management of lowland heathland by RSPB on Anglesey. Many 'Little wins' have been achieved; recognised as important on large sites as they often act as stepping stones & catalysts for larger scale projects – Upland Ecosystem Group. Species actions have included a major survey of declining fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*). Targeted management of its sites is being enabled through the Anglesey and Llyn Fens LIFE project providing a good example of how the Ecosystem Group model can be applied to both species and habitat management
- The Priority mapping project is in progress, with great strides made by Lowland Heathland & Grassland, and by Wetland. This provides an excellent tool for targeting management projects. Woodland Ecosystem group are exploring opportunities for using LiDar technology and other techniques to assess woodland condition
- The Wales Species Experts Group has focused on identifying and confirming lead partners for the s42 species (ongoing). This has identified resource gaps in this coverage which limit capacity to deliver effective conservation across the full suite of priority species
- All Groups have fed into Policy development via WBP Policy Group.

- All Groups responded to NEF development and consultation, through contribution to the background 'narrative' and through the Living Wales consultation. Much time has been given to Glastir development re. prescriptions, regional packages, targeted element and identification of geographical areas for high tier elements. Urban & Brownfield Group chair contributed to the production of the Construction Industry Research and Innovation Association "Good Practice Guide for Transforming Previously Developed Land to Open Space", as well as to the UK Inter Agency Urban Habitat Working Group and the Urban Forum of the UNESCO UK Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee

Issues highlighted for consideration

1. Resources & Scope of Ecosystem Groups

- 1.1. Ecosystem Chairs have been difficult to find in some groups e.g. Marine, new chair for Upland, primarily due to there being a paucity of individuals working to a Wales-wide remit that have appropriate experience and influence. Those fitting the bill are already over stretched in their current roles
- 1.2. Group representation often remains inadequate for purpose e.g. Coastal Ecosystem Group requires reps from within Forestry Commission and Coastal Advisory Groups (Shoreline Management Groups); Enclosed Farmland require reps from NGOs and the farming unions; Marine is working towards extended membership e.g. WAG Fish, DECC, Crown Estate, National Trust, Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership
- 1.3. The scope of the groups varies widely e.g. Marine Ecosystem Group, in comparison to terrestrial groups, encompasses all marine habitats plus all marine benthic and mobile species, supporting structures and functions. Urban and Brownfield Group are delivering in a young and emerging area of conservation e.g. definition of open mosaic habitat has only just been agreed at a UK level. Progress has been delayed as a result
- 1.4. Poor and declining engagement from many members e.g. Relevant Authority Groups (RAGs) in European Marine Sites, Wetland Ecosystem Group where over-worked core of 3 members take on delivery of actions due to disinterest or inability of members to secure time from their employers to engage in delivery. Attendance at Groups meetings often poor with only small core of members represented. Often low interest &/or appreciation of strategic conservation requirements.
- 1.5. 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 e.g. limited progress has been made with the Priority mapping project by most Groups due to competing priorities

2. Engagement & Communication

- 2.1. LBAPs need to engage with the action plans and start to identify actions they can contribute to. Variable response to date. The aim of the Marine Ecosystem Group, is 'to identify discrete projects with tangible outcomes that will attract buy-in from managers and sectoral interests'. This aim could be adopted by LBAP partnerships to further local or regional delivery of actions
- 2.2. No comments have been received to date on any draft priority actions launched through web consultation despite wide sweep notifications by WBP. Likely that poor response is due to low priority being given to these actions. Low interest at consultation level has been disappointing and discouraging. Worry that this low interest may be translated into low interest and lack of commitment to action delivery
- 2.3. It is evident to the Groups that there is widespread misunderstanding or lack of understanding/ knowledge of the economic and societal value of ecosystem goods and services
- 2.4. Communication appears slow and is a major issue e.g. we should not assume that because actions are on BARS that the messages are being heard or being addressed (all groups). The Marine Ecosystem Group has been very disappointed with feedback so far and feels that perhaps the issues have not been understood, as they remain largely unaddressed; the Group is taking steps to address this with WAG Fisheries and higher level WAG officials
- 2.5. Glastir's development was a major focus in 2010, which required substantial work and time commitment from the Ecosystem Groups on developing habitat prescriptions and geographical areas for focussing the high tier elements e.g for biodiversity, carbon and water quantity/quality. The terrestrial Ecosystem Groups look to see wide-scale biodiversity gains through Glastir but there is widespread scepticism as many of the Groups recommendations have not been adopted
- 2.6. Input to the evolving NEF agenda has been a major activity of the Groups, with comprehensive and detailed responses provided for the Living Wales consultation. The outcome needs to be able to address biodiversity action at all scales

3. Evidence Base

- 3.1. Where a lack of clear scientific evidence prevents development of new or revised policies or mechanisms. Members are aware of priority issues/areas that require addressing and appropriate actions to be put in place but are held back through a lack of scientific evidence e.g. current WAG prioritisation for the rapid progression of new Hydro-electric schemes where the effects on internationally important lower plant riverine gorge communities are little known. These communities support species not currently protected under W & C Act or listed as BAP species, since historically this group was not perceived as being under any threat

3.2. Our largest gaps in knowledge and understanding are acknowledged to be in the marine environment. A primary need of the Enclosed Farmland Group is to establish the extent and condition of the resource and for the Urban and Brownfield Group to establish the extent and condition of Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (OMHoPDL)

4. Policy & Legislation

- 4.1. The conservation approach and the delivery mechanisms available to Ecosystem Groups will vary, and depend on those currently available and those evolving (e.g. Natural Environment Framework, Glastir, Policy). Some approaches require management of human activity rather than direct habitat management e.g. marine, upland and urban
- 4.2. Vary widely in scale e.g. fisheries. Action delivery relies on adequate mechanisms being in place to ensure actions are achievable at a National, Regional and/or local scale or that the will and financial means are there to identify, agree and secure new delivery mechanisms
- 4.3. There has been varied implementation of Habitats Directive/Regulations e.g. with regards to the marine environment
- 4.4. Authority for many issues and activities is vested in government under UK legislation. Legislation has evolved piece meal, in response to historic needs, and as such can present conflicting requirements/duties for regulatory bodies; these need addressing e.g. failure of the EIA regs 2002 (Uncultivated Land and Semi-Natural Areas) to protect habitat/ protected species from land clearance works (reported to Regulatory work stream of NEF). Remit of public bodies can cause internal conflict where different areas collide. The development of the Natural Environment Framework should address these conflicts and provide clear direction to public bodies to facilitate prioritisation and coordination of delivery with the Environment at the heart of decision making.

Decision Points

- to take action on as many of these issues as possible through the Living Wales paper
- to ask support team to identify any that remain unsolved for future action in collaboration with Living Wales

Tracey Lovering
WBP Support Officer
25 January 2011

WBPSG13**Paper 01: ANNEX 1****10th February 2011****ECOSYSTEM GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS 2010****Marine Ecosystem Group (MEG)**

Blaise Bullimore was elected as MEG Chair at the June 2010 meeting following the unpopular resignation of WAG Marine Branch as previous Chair. The MEG has a very wide scope in comparison to the terrestrial ecosystem groups. In addition to marine habitats, the MEG encompasses all marine benthic and mobile species, and supporting structures and functions. The marine environment is highly dynamic and, although degraded, is not a managed environment. The conservation ethos is that the marine environment should be allowed to 'do its own thing' with as little human disturbance as possible; this conservation approach necessitates management of human activity rather than the environment itself.

The scale of conservation issues varies widely, but many remain very broad scale, such as fisheries. This is reflected in the MEG's agreement to set targets at the most appropriate geographic level. Management authority for many issues & activities is vested in government under UK legislation. This legislation identifies the roles of the key government sponsored bodies such as the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) & Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs); in Wales these functions are undertaken by WAG. However, although the MMO & IFCAs are identified as 'relevant authorities' in the 2010 Conservation Regulations, Welsh Ministers are not.

Historically, most local BAP plans had included everything marine that might be present off local coasts - whether or not local partnerships had the ability to do anything tangible or independently – eg for sea duck, scoter. Most LBAP groups have little marine expertise, and fewer LBAP officers have directly relevant expertise or experience. Nevertheless there is enthusiasm for marine work, albeit the views of marine environment tended to be narrow and focussed on charismatic species. Further, most local marine BAP action plans used a 'traditional' terrestrial model for target setting even though this was inappropriate for most (if not all) marine habitats and species. MEG have begun efforts to redirect the emphasis more appropriately.

Key MEG developments include:

1. The initial appointment of WAG Marine Policy as Chair – welcomed by the membership - with membership focussed on conservation community. The Group is working towards extended membership to ensure success e.g. WAG Fish, DECC, Crown Estate, National Trust, Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership.
2. Delivery is achieved via Task & Finish Groups e.g. identifying policy actions; identifying habitat / spp targets / actions.
3. Amendments have been provided to the Framework document *The Delivery of UK Biodiversity Priority Habitats and Species Actions in Wales*, to better encompass the marine environment.
4. Submission of a suite of policy actions which concentrated on the wide scale / high level issues:
 - Poor implementation of Habitats Directive/Regulations with regards to the marine environment

- Poor and declining engagement from members of Relevant Authority Groups (RAGs) in European Marine Sites
- Clear identification of fisheries relevant authority in Natura 2000 site management following passing of the Marine & Coastal Access Bill, the abolition of Sea Fishery Committees and the adoption of inshore fisheries management by WAG
- Include additional marine species on Schedule 5 of Wildlife & Countryside Act.
- Widespread misunderstanding or lack of understanding/knowledge of the economic and societal value of the ecosystem goods and services provided to Wales by Welsh marine environment
- Poor knowledge of seabed structure within Welsh territorial seas.
- Poor, frequently non-existent, inclusion of BAP Section 42 priorities in EIA and SEA assessments, conservation objectives for SAC/SPA features, in the issue of permissions and consents; and poor standards of EIA guidance for marine features.

The MEG has been very disappointed with feedback so far. It is not clear whether the issues have been understood, but they remain largely unaddressed. Project proposals put forward by MEG for a small project grants in late 2009 were rejected which, given their synergy with the messages included in Living Wales (the NEF), had been surprising and disappointing.

Engagement by members is unfortunately poor and delivery is mostly left to a small hard-core of a few individuals. Several members are swamped by their day jobs and find it difficult to deliver into the priorities of the group. A significant proportion of MEG members are not professionally engaged in marine work and have limited interest &/or appreciation of strategic conservation requirements.

Habitats and species target setting has begun to focus on strategic targets with logical measures (e.g. for any given BAP habitat, targets are that activities and operations are being managed such that there is no reduction in habitat extent, range and quality, and are being managed such that increases in habitat extent, range and quality are possible. Target measure is therefore, simply yes or no). Action planning is underway. The aim is to identify discrete projects with tangible outcomes that will attract buy-in from managers and sectoral interests – especially fisheries; BUT also to provide pragmatic targets to meet aspirations of LBAPS who want to DO something; AND to identify strategic Wales-wide actions. There is a clear need to be clear and unambiguous to avoid becoming tied up in terminology semantics and lose sight of goals. Engagement by WAG Fisheries is proving difficult to secure. Despite obvious risks, there is a clear need to use NEF to broaden the focus of narrowly focussed members and marine managers.

Blaise Bullimore, Chair

Coastal Ecosystem Group (CEG)

The group has reasonably good representation from conservation NGOs, but in addition to the Environment Agency we need further involvement from other regulating bodies such as the Forestry Commission and Coastal Advisory Groups (Shoreline Management Groups). We also need further representation from coastal LBAP groups. Attendance at meetings has been poor on occasions, but we have made progress. Priority actions have now been more or less agreed but the most recent draft of the Action Framework needs to be made available on the WBP website.

The next priority is to translate proposals into actions on the ground, a step which generally eluded the previous BAP process and will be the 'acid test' of the effectiveness of these groups. However, there is understandable concern about the levels of future resourcing for the group. As with other groups time has been dedicated to the development of Glastir and we have discussed the NEF proposals, but possibly because the organisations of representatives are involved with the NEF consultation, members have been reluctant to provide specific comments. Finally, biodiversity priority mapping for the coastal zone is being developed and will be given priority within CCW over the coming weeks.

Peter Rhind, Chair

Freshwater Ecosystem Group (FESG)

The membership of the group includes a large number of people that elect to receive group communications and proceedings; recent joiners are Forestry Commission.

The group has completed actions for freshwater species & habitats, all of which have now been agreed (82 actions). No comments were received by the group during the consultation period. The FESG has produced 20 Priority Actions for all to concentrate on, which differ within geographical areas e.g. Priority species. The Priority Actions have been sent out to all LBAP groups, who can act as advocates. Some actions are short-term, while others are long-term working towards the 2020 targets. Actions are delivered as a rolling programme with c. 8 actions per year addressed currently. Forestry Commission are looking at the feasibility of removing/reducing plantation, conifers from the catchment of 15 acid sensitive lakes corresponding to 600 ha which will benefit 100 ha of lake habitat, and potential creation of other habitats such as heathland and deciduous woodland.

Lessons learnt to date are primarily with regard to communication e.g. we should not assume that because actions are on BARS that the messages are being heard or being addressed. We also need to consider carefully our wording and timing e.g. a new environment body is likely to emerge from NEF. FESG are now seeking representation from Dwr Cymru at their meetings.

Tristan Hatton-Ellis

Wetlands Ecosystem Group (WEG)

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. The group agreed the establishment of a 'Grazing Animals' project for West Wales (Ceredigion, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire) as a key priority at its very first meeting and this quickly evolved into a joint project with the Grasslands and Heathland EG. Subsequently, a strong grassland focus has emerged to provide the matrix for this project, reflecting the rather dispersed character of lowland wetlands. PONT (Charles Morgan) has worked tirelessly along with other steering group members to progress the project which is now on the brink of a major external funding bid.

Another key focus for the group has included working with LBAPs at the regional LBAP fora in 2010 and individually with the Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia LBAPs to identify local action programmes for wetlands. A key focus for all areas is work on definitive local wetland inventories and supporting the development of further local grazing initiatives.

Glastir's development was a major focus in 2010, with substantial work on developing the wetland prescriptions and geographical areas for focussing the high tier element for biodiversity, carbon and water quantity/quality.

Biodiversity grant fund support paid for two wetland management/restoration projects in 2010, Nelson Bog (actually a fen) in Glamorgan, and raised bog restoration at Covert Coch within the RSPBs Ynys Hir Reserve. We thank Nick Hudson (CCW), Dick Squires (RSPB) and Caerphilly CBC for driving these projects.

Draft action plans have been completed for lowland raised bog, fen and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.

Species actions included a major survey of declining fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) at its two main Welsh sites on Anglesey and initiation of a population biology study to assess population dynamics and recruitment. Fly orchid is completed restricted to fen in Wales and targeted management of its sites is being enabled through the Anglesey and Llein Fens LIFE project. This provides a good example of how the Ecosystem Group model can be applied to both species and habitat management.

Input to the evolving NEF agenda has been a major activity, with a comprehensive and detailed response provided for the Living Wales consultation. This was important given both the potential of wetlands for ecosystem service delivery, but also the need to retain a strong biodiversity focus for what are often small sites requiring significant intervention after decades of neglect.

Work has started on the priority mapping project, with reasonably well developed maps available for fen and lowland raised bog.

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

Enclosed Farmland Ecosystem Group (EFEG)

The EFEG have met 3 times a year since its inception in January 2009. The group changed its name from Lowland Farmland, to 'enclosed' to better reflect the location of its priority habitats: hedgerows, traditional orchards and arable field margins.

The targets for hedgerows and arable field margins have been reviewed and changes agreed, although these have not been implemented on BARS at this time, while awaiting outcomes from the Living Wales process. Traditional Orchards are a new habitat and the UK Traditional Orchards group have produced a definition and targets for the UK. The group has accepted these without changes for the time being.

Draft action plans have been produced for the three habitats, and these were consulted on at workshops held by WBP in May 2010. They will be finalised imminently and published for consultation on the WBP website. Due to the widespread nature of these habitats, actions are primarily advice and communication based, with a focus on ensuring the use of consistent surveying and monitoring methods across Wales – a primary need being to establish the extent and condition of the resource.

Further work carried out by the group:

- Considered the Glastir options, regional packages and targeted element, and their benefit for the priority habitats and made representations to the development group.
- reviewed policy needs – small gains have been made, for example with regard to exit from Tir Gofal.
- Input to and support of applications for Biodiversity funding in 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- A subgroup has met to agree production of spatial priorities for actions for the three habitats.
- Discussion of future role of the group under Living Wales and response to consultation.

The group attendance peaked during discussion of Glastir, and has since contracted to a small but relevant and effective core of members, who have carried out the bulk of the work. The lack of participation though can sometimes slow progress, and put additional pressure on those who are engaged. It would be greatly beneficial to encourage further participation from NGOs and the farming unions, particularly if the group has a widening remit.

Caryn Le Roux, Chair

Lowland Heathland and Grassland Ecosystem Group (LHGEG)

The secretary Juliet Hynes left to join Natural England in 2010, the group was sorry to see her go and wished her the best in her new job. Alys Edwards took over from Juliet and has proved extremely efficient at organising our meetings and cajoling us into action.

The action plans for lowland heathland and all the grassland habitats except the new calaminarian grassland have been completed and posted on the WBP website for consultation. We received no responses from LBAPs or partners so the action plan will now be loaded on BARS. The groups has been diverted from working on the action plans by the priority mapping exercise and we now need to review what action has been agreed and what progress made. We would ask all partners and LBAPs to sign up for actions on BARS.

We have continued to work jointly with the Wetlands Group on a grazing project for West Wales. As part of the UK Saving our Magnificent Meadows Project we have recently heard we have been successful in obtaining a 1 year HLF development grant. It is hoped that PONT will lead the project in Wales. At the same time we are contributing to a potential LIFE project based around key marshy grassland and marsh fritillary sites in Carmarthenshire.

The group has made great progress with the priority mapping project; we have mapped our priority areas and identified key issues and work required to address these. We are currently tidying-up maps and writing a brief synopsis for each project. These will then go out for wider consultation.

Last year we successfully supported a number of projects through the WAG Biodiversity Grant, an example is the management of lowland heathland by RSPB at South Stack on Anglesey. This year we have had another batch of good projects to recommend to Environment Wales for WAG funding.

Jan Sherry, LHGEG

Upland Ecosystem group Progress (UESG)

The UESG meet 3 times a year, with actions usually being progressed by a core group of people. Priority Actions for the four main upland habitats are now agreed and available on the WBP web-site. Three new Upland Habitats have recently been added to the BAP list and Wales level action plans for these are currently being produced. These actions vary from generic to site specific which can really focus on appropriate management to improve upland habitats.

Most biodiversity gains this year have been 'little wins', which can be important on large sites as they often act as stepping stones & catalysts for larger scale projects. The development of Glastir has taken up much of the time available to the group in recent months, closely followed by the NEF consultation, which requires a group response. The UESG are also collating 10 priority projects; for which the leads are producing a short summary with supporting map; these will help direct priorities for future work in the uplands in the short term. It was noted that the Species Group need to consider further if/how they integrate species actions with habitat actions. There is some concern about the level of resourcing for the group and commitment to achieve progress in the future.

Barbara Jones, Chair

Urban Ecosystem Group

The Urban Ecosystem Group was unable to make significant progress in 2010 because the definition of our Priority Habitat: Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (OMHoPDL) has not yet been confirmed via JNCC. This meant that we could not plan for an all-Wales survey of the extent and location of the habitat - without which it will be impossible for us to decide upon priority sites for formal protection.

Having said that, the group was pleased to receive the final report of the Gwent Baseline Brownfield Survey which sought to use the draft habitat definition to identify potential OMHoPDL sites in Gwent. The study was completed using grant aid from WAG and identified 640 potential sites with 115 of these having the potential to meet the draft criteria for the Priority Habitat. The survey was able to field test the draft habitat definition and feed back to DEFRA on points for improvement of that definition.

The group itself provided DEFRA with comments on the draft definition at each stage of the consultation process and as a result we believe that coal-spoil substrates are now better catered-for in the definition which was submitted to BRIG for approval. Although the group could make no substantive progress on the priority habitat, it did act to exchange information amongst the members and continued to collate information which will be of use in searching for examples of the priority habitat in future.

Comments were submitted during the development of the narratives for the Natural Environment Framework, and the chair submitted comments on the NEF consultation. In addition the chair contributed to the production of the Construction Industry Research and Innovation Association "Good Practice Guide for

Transforming Previously Developed Land to Open Space", as well as to the UK Inter Agency Urban Habitat Working Group and the Urban Forum of the UNESCO UK Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee.

In the coming year the group will link with the nascent Urban Green Infrastructure Forum for Wales and expand its focus to the wider urban ecosystem. It will also ask WBP to endorse the current draft Priority Habitat definition for use in Wales if there are any further delays in receiving the final UK habitat definition. With a formally adopted definition the group will then seek ways and means of identifying the extent, location and quality of OMHoPDL in Wales.

Pete Frost, Chair

Woodland Ecosystem Group

The Woodland Ecosystem Group has met four times in the last year. The group has completed an action plan for development and dissemination of advice on woodland habitats and species for woodland managers and local biodiversity action deliverers. The group discussed the policy issues which members believe were preventing progress towards action delivery and after discussion with Forestry Commission Wales it was felt that the majority of these could be overcome through work with FCW rather than promotion to the policy group.

The group agreed to review the woodland habitat targets in light of further analysis of data from the national inventory of woodlands and trees. The baseline for woodland area in Wales has been revised. 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 completed. There has been much discussion around understanding current condition of native woodlands, monitoring of designated sites, the National Forest Inventory and survey of the Assembly Government Woodland Estate being the only methods available at present. At the last meeting Richard Lucas explained how LiDar technology, and various other techniques that he has been working with, has the potential to measure woodland condition. This is an area which the group feels could be extremely beneficial if it can be delivered. Richard will be presenting on this topic at the next meeting.

The delivery of action for woodland biodiversity through Grants has changed considerably over the last year with the closure of Better Woodlands for Wales and the development of Glastir Woodland Creation and Woodland management schemes. The group has had presentations from FCW on both these schemes and is contributing to the process of developing them.

The group agreed a principal to deliver for woodland species through habitat management and this has been discussed with the chair of the Species Expert Group and several organisations. Members of the Woodland EG are working on developing the principal further and indeed it is influencing species delivery in Glastir woodland management.

The group had the opportunity to comment on the Woodlands for Wales biodiversity policy position which several of the members did. This paper, along with 7 other

policy positions supporting the Woodland strategy, are available on the FCW website.

Jim Latham made a presentation on the priority mapping project and the group has supported Jim's work, adding value and agreeing the priority issues for woodland. It is difficult to pick out individual top priority sites so we have identified examples covering the issues.

A major issues in woodlands and forestry at the moment is *Phytophthora ramorum*. and large amounts of Larch are currently being cleared under Plant Health orders. The group has received regular updates and has highlighted the fact that there are opportunities for conversion to native woodland in the restocking plan.

Chris Tucker, Chair

Species Expert Group

This is the second annual report of the Wales Species Expert Group (WSEG) to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group (WBPSG) and covers the period December 2009 to December 2010.

The WSEG is working to a programme of three meetings per year. However, during this period, two meetings have been held with WSEG4 being postponed from June 2010 to September 2010 due to capacity.

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

During this period the WSEG has focused on the following areas of work:

- Advised on building taxonomic capacity in Wales through WBP programme (see WBPSG10 Paper to Note B).
- Glastir – presentation and discussion was provided by one of the managers of the scheme design in the Welsh Assembly Government Rural Affairs Department.
- Species habitat associations and integration – a series of workshops have been planned and will be delivered in 2011. This series of workshops presents the first step in the process of integrating the relevant requirements of priority species into habitat based project and site management delivery.
- Appraisal of projects put forward for funding through the Welsh Assembly's small grant for biodiversity action delivery.
- Identification of 'priority actions' for species – ongoing
- Identification of 'key policy issues' for the WBP Policy Group to address (see WBP Policy Group meeting 4)

Lead Partners for Priority Species

Although it is not strictly the remit of the WSEG, the group has focused (by necessity and request) a significant amount of time on identifying and confirming lead partners for the s42 species¹. This has also required the identification of gaps (in resources) in this coverage which limit capacity to deliver effective conservation across the full suite of priority species (see WBPSG10 Paper to Note A). This work is ongoing.

Stephen Bladwell, Chair

¹ Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires the Welsh Assembly Government to maintain a list of priority species for biodiversity conservation in Wales. This is the list of species the WSEG focuses attention towards.



Title: Biodiversity conservation in a changing climate – integrating ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation into the NEF

Produced by: Clive Walmsley, CCW

Background/Progress

There is clear evidence of climate change in Wales. Over the period 1914 to 2006 daily mean temperature rose by 0.7 °C and there has been a 22.4 day reduction in air frosts per year between 1961 and 2006. There has been a significant 24% decline in summer rainfall in Wales (1914-2006), and more recently heavy precipitation events (between 1961 and 2006) have increased in winter and decreased in summer ([Jenkins et al. 2009](#)). Future climatic changes are projected to be greater than those experienced to date. Within Wales, the best estimate of summer mean daily maximum temperature increase by the 2020s is 1.9°C: this is more than double the 0.9°C rise in summer daily maximum observed from 1914 to 2006. Sea-level rise was around 1 mm per annum during the 20th Century but it is estimated that it could be 3-4 mm rise per annum during the 21st Century ([Lowe et al. 2009](#)).

Such climatic changes are already causing ecological impacts in the marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems across the UK ([IACCF 2010](#)) and will clearly have substantial impacts in the future. The [MONARCH](#) project and other impact studies have demonstrated the potential future threat to biodiversity. There is already evidence from Wales to support some bioclimate space projections with greater horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) already being recorded in North Wales well beyond their historical range, while oblong woodsia fern (*Woodsia ilvensis*) shows no indication of regeneration, recruitment or spread in UK populations suggesting that the species may already be outside of its suitable bioclimate space. Such appraisals of the significant potential impacts provided the impetus for developing adaptation guidelines [Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate](#) which have been widely publicised in Wales to stimulate action within the biodiversity sector. More recently within CCW five key priorities have been identified to mainstream our climate change action i) practical actions and policies that improve resilience; ii) monitoring climate change and its impacts; iii) projecting future changes in climate and its impacts to inform action; iv) raising understanding and awareness of climate change, its impacts and potential responses to provide the impetus for action; and, v) reducing emissions within the organisation and facilitating others to do so ([CCW 2010](#)).

This paper provides an update on progress relating to 'practical actions and policies that improve resilience' and discusses the need to link biodiversity conservation with climate change adaptation and mitigation activity through the NEF.

Plan/Proposals

CCW has recently collated case studies for biodiversity adaptation in Wales. The projects range from urban community initiatives to rural landscape-scale projects. The biodiversity sector has developed a wide variety of local initiatives that are addressing adaptation but, in the main, they are locally focussed and initiated by biodiversity centred organisations, sometimes lacking wider stakeholder buy-in. Another characteristic of many projects is that they are primarily scoping or planning adaptive management (e.g. Econet, NER). Few of them have delivered on-the-ground action, although that is expected to change over time. The Cambrian Mountains Initiative has to date been focussed on wider sustainability issues but has recently modelled adaptation potential at the catchment scale and is now exploring the acceptability of options to the local community. There have been few attempts to mainstream adaptation action across Wales, with a few exceptions, such as the Networked Environment Regions Initiative that is being rolled out nationally. It is clear that the biodiversity sector in Wales has accepted the need to adapt, is developing approaches to do so, and is well ahead of many other sectors in terms of awareness and action to address climate change.

There is a need to do more in the sector in terms of adaptation and adaptive conservation management but the major challenge is ensuring that, when considering climate change action, other sectors consider the potential benefits that biodiversity conservation could make to climate change goals of the sector – and vice versa. The conservation and management of biodiversity, and the ecosystem services that it provides, can make an important contribution to tackling climate change, while it is equally true that we must address climate change to effectively tackle biodiversity loss. This synergy arises because there is a substantial overlap between the drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss; for example, air pollution, inefficient resource use and unsustainable agricultural practices.

There are ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation examples across Europe that not only illustrate the potential for reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and supporting societal adaptation but also provide other benefits, including biodiversity enhancement, livelihood, health or recreational opportunities ([Cowan et al. 2010](#)). A lack of policy integration between the biodiversity and climate change areas has been identified as a barrier to implementing these ecosystem-based adaptation or mitigation measures across Europe. However, other barriers to action were identified, including uncertainty, lack of information on best practice and a tendency to prefer short-term decisions and economics to long-term sustainability. While efforts have been made to link both biodiversity conservation and climate change agendas in Wales there is a need for further integration through a concerted effort to deliver ecosystem-based adaptation, and to a lesser extent ecosystem-based mitigation in the form of carbon conservation, particularly in the Welsh uplands.

In future, climate change mitigation and adaptation action in Wales will be driven by the Wales Climate Change Strategy. The production of this Strategy has been guided in part by advice from the Climate Change Commission,

including biodiversity sector reps from WEL and CCW. The Strategy requires the development of Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAP), including for the 'natural environment', which should provide further guidance and stimulus to integrating consideration of biodiversity in the adaptation Action Plan. It has been proposed that the Natural Environment SAP should be closely linked or integrated with the NEF. The SAP should identify both synergies and conflicts between biodiversity conservation and other sectors, particularly those that influence land management, such as water resources, flood management, agriculture, forestry, spatial planning and tourism.

Decision Points

To note the update on adaptation activity within Wales and the CCW request to provide updates or new examples for a future update.

To consider the inclusion of the ecosystem-based adaptation approach within the NEF and the related need to identify both synergies and conflicts between biodiversity conservation and other sectors.

To agree the requirement for the NEF and Natural Environment SAP to be closely linked or integrated.



Collaboration between Living Wales and Wales Biodiversity Partnership

Background

This paper provides an update on progress since paper 1 of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group meeting of 11th November 2010.

Developments under Living Wales since that date include:

- **Living Wales Consultation**

The consultation period closed on 31st Dec. 2010. The Central Web Team in WAG have confirmed that the Living Wales consultation was the second most popular ever by the Assembly with the consultation document being downloaded over 1,200 times.

This response was encouraged by numerous workshops, presentations and media coverage and over 180 responses have been received.

Disappointingly there have been relatively few responses from the industrial sector perhaps reflecting the focus of our consultation efforts.

- The established Workstream Groups have remained active (and continue to do so)

- **Building the Evidence Base** which coordinates work streams :

- Ecosystem Health
- Valuing Ecosystems
- Geographical Information Systems

- **Regulatory and Management Approaches**

- **Refreshing Partnership Mechanisms**

Further details of the progress being made by each workstream group can be found in Appendix A

- Living Wales and the Delivery Bodies Project will hold quarterly joint programme boards (i.e. the two programme boards will come together every third meeting) to ensure that interdependencies are managed successfully. The first such joint meeting will take place Monday 28th February.

- **Welsh Assembly Government** We are encouraging WAG departments to contribute to delivering ecosystem health, resilience and services. One way in which to deliver more at little or no additional cost is by modifying the management of amenity planting on the WAG estate to enable it to directly support declining species that provide pollination services; an Ecosystem Service worth £440m a year to UK farming. Currently Wildlife trust secondee, Clive Faulkner, is working with Health, Transport, CADW and Facilities Management to achieve this. In parallel to this enabling function we are also about to start the next of our regular reviews of biodiversity duty delivery across WAG departments. The review will highlight departmental delivery and identify additional opportunities to deliver the Living Wales Agenda.

- **Network Environment Regions** is beginning to be linked into Living Wales and we are aware of a large range of public sector activities which are already beginning to take a more ecosystem-focused approach. The Living Wales Programme Board is keen to

receive papers about such projects, policies or programmes so that we can ensure that we learn from each other and, where appropriate, link together.

- **WBP Ecosystems Groups** have been re-drafting their terms of reference and protocols in order to become a key element of Living Wales. The terms of reference of the new groups are currently being agreed with the Living Wales Programme Board. (See Appendix B).

Plan/Proposals

The Living Wales Partnership work stream would like to work closely with Wales Biodiversity Partnership in order to secure improved outcomes for ecosystems and biodiversity in Wales.

Ways in which we might do this could include:

- Working together to deliver workshops with sectors who are only just becoming aware of the Living Wales concepts. We are particularly keen to engage more with the industrial/business sectors in Wales.
- Helping sectors to develop meaningful extensions to the Key Messages for their sector (see Appendix C for existing Key Messages)
- We continue to seek a wider range of best practice case studies. In particular we'd be glad to hear from those who are involved in sectors from which we do not currently have examples. (See: www.wales.gov.uk/livingwales)

Please contact Fiona Evans (f.evans@ccw.gov.uk) if you may have projects or policies that would be of interest.

- The SE Wales Networked Environment Regions (NER) project has been adopted by the Living Wales programme as a pilot study. This project seeks to demonstrate at a Spatial Plan scale what the ecosystem approach means, and which partners need to be involved. There are many other sector activities and projects which are already beginning to take a more ecosystem-focused approach. WBP members are encouraged to maintain their support for the SE Wales NER Project in particular, and to submit examples of, and evidence from, other ecosystem projects they are involved with.

Next Steps

The on-line public consultation has been replaced with the following information pages: www.wales.gov.uk/livingwales / www.Cymru.gov.uk/cymrufyw

Organisations and individuals are encouraged to :

- Visit the new web pages
- Identify relevant case studies
- Provide their views on the current regulatory framework
- Request our attendance at workshops to discuss A Living Wales or specific key workstream areas.

An update report, including summary of consultation responses, will be available in February 2011.

A report on Future Environments for Wales, setting out what sort of changes this might mean for Wales – Summer 2011

A report on the effectiveness of current regulatory approaches and initial proposals for change – Summer 2011

Proposals for new approaches to using geographical information and monitoring, including public involvement - Autumn 2011

Consultation on proposals for a new environmental body – Autumn 2011

Decision Points

To endorse appropriate aspects of the proposals above.

To identify ways in which we can engage more with industrial / non-environmental business sectors.

To identify and agree suitable ways of working better together.

M.Parry (CCW) / A.Schofield (EAW)

January 2011

A Living Wales – Programme Update
31st December 2010

Consultation

The A Living Wales consultation was launched on 15th September 2010 and was open for responses until 31st December 2010. A Living Wales was the most popular consultation on the WAG website in September, October, November. (We are currently waiting for confirmation of whether it was the most popular consultation in December.) This consultation has been confirmed by the Central Web Team as the second most popular Assembly consultation ever attracting around 6,600 views and almost 3,000 visits. The consultation document was downloaded over 1,200 times during the consultation period.

So far we have received 162 [-+] responses to the consultation ranging from short email messages to documents with multiple annexes. It will take some time to consider these responses. Two processes have been put in place to achieve this. Project managers and work stream leads are continuing to consider responses as they come in to identify links, gaps and offers of support. In addition, the full set of responses is being analysed in order to develop a summary of responses and statement of next steps.

Please note that the next steps outlined below reflect our current thinking and will undoubtedly be amended in light of consultation responses. A further update report will be provided in February.

Programme Work Streams

The Living Wales Programme consists of the following work streams:

Building the Evidence Base (which coordinates work streams A,B and C)
Ecosystem Health
Valuing Ecosystems
Geographical Information Systems
Regulatory and Management Approaches
Refreshing Partnership Mechanisms

All work streams are managed by a chair and project manager and have held at least two meetings (some have held far more than this). Each work stream had produced a draft project plan, which is currently being amended in light of consultation responses. All work streams are open to involvement from external public, private and voluntary sector bodies, either as part of the core membership

of each work stream or as part of a wider reference group. This is an opportunity for everyone to help us develop this new approach and have an input into its design.

There are strong links with the Delivery Bodies Review: refreshing the institutional arrangement of CCW, EAW and FCW.

A brief update on progress and next steps for each work stream follows:

Ecosystem Health

This work stream is considering the issues of keystone species and resilience and what constitutes a healthy ecosystem. They have drafted an extended set of definitions, a detailed report on reasons for failing to reach the targets and a list of key documents relating to ecosystems goods and services.

The work stream is drawing extensively on existing work on all habitats (terrestrial, freshwater and marine) to answer the question of what ecosystems we want and need and whereabouts they should be in Wales to provide the services we need. This information will be critically important to enable other work streams to fully appraise the effectiveness of the current regulatory and management approaches, to design appropriate GIS and to appraise potential economic tools.

They will be producing map based outputs and will be liaising with the GIS work stream early in the New Year to ensure that these are compatible with delivery systems already in use. We envisage the group being expanded to include increased academic input later in the process and sharing of re-drafted definitions and list of ecosystem types with the other work streams early in the New Year.

The work stream is working on real examples to illustrate the principles of ecosystem health and resilience and have produced a worked model for woodlands, which will be tested with other habitat types. The model looks at the factors and processes which influence site condition and landscape function. They are working closely with SEED to analyse the current monitoring effort to determine how well this can deliver for our future needs and have produced a review of the concept of keystone species as indicators of ecosystem health and determined that they are not suitable for our purposes. As well as maps and a technical summary, they will be providing well worked case studies for most of the outputs. This work stream will produce a shared monitoring mechanism to enable us to maximise the benefit from all the information that we collect, the first elements of which will be in place by May 2011.

Valuing Ecosystems

This work stream will consider relevant economic evidence, economic tools that can be used to secure ecosystem outcomes, as well as wider social and environmental economic data. It is hoped that this group will provide valuations of key elements of environmental capital in Wales and an assessment of current tools for valuing economic capital early in the New Year.

An initial review of the evidence base has determined that, while there is a large (and growing) UK and international evidence base on the value of ecosystem services, there is relatively little Wales specific information available. As a first step to addressing this issue, three case studies are being developed looking at the change in the value of ecosystem services in Wales associated with:

An expansion of the network of Marine Protected Areas;
Increasing access to Urban Green Spaces, and;
A woodland expansion programme.

The group is also intending to identify the key gaps in the evidence base in Wales and to consider how best to address those gaps.

One of the key questions asked of the group in the consultation document was whether there was any value in developing formal accounts for natural capital in Wales. There is a considerable amount of work being undertaken at an International level to develop a robust and consistent methodology for incorporating the value of environmental resources and ecosystem services into national accounting systems. For example, at the recent Convention on Biodiversity in Nagoya, the World Bank launched a global partnership and 5-year pilot project aimed at developing the systems needed to bring the full value of benefits from ecosystem services into national accounting frameworks. While it is felt that there is little value in Wales developing its own accounting methodologies in isolation of what is being done elsewhere in the world, there may be scope to start assembling the physical datasets that will be required to produce natural capital accounts. This is something that will be explored further in the coming months.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

A key deliverable for the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) evidence substream is to source and compile a spatial evidence base of relevant and robust geographic data to support the needs of the framework. This ongoing process has brought together the skills of GIS and data professionals from across the public sector in Wales in a collaborative exercise to improve knowledge of, and access to, a wealth of geographic information held by these organisations. This process has achieved an increase in the breadth and depth of evidence available to support the framework.

Accompanying these achievements have been improvements to the way that data is exchanged across organisations to enable the flow of data to be more efficient and reactive and the creation of a prototype online map portal in support of the 'A Living Wales' consultation process.

Further testing of the NEF GIS mapping portal as a communication tool will be undertaken, with a view to publish interactive maps of key datasets that can be of benefit to different user communities. Improvements will be made to produce a more comprehensive system anticipated for May 2011.

Refreshing Regulatory and Management Approaches

The Regulatory and Management approaches work stream is focusing on a thorough review of the existing regulatory framework as it applies to the emerging Natural Environment Framework principles. Our approach has been to form a core group of experts (principally regulators) to devise an assessment format designed to elicit key insights and provide an initial evidence base that will act as a foundation for our work over the next few years. The assessment is a combination of a targeted questionnaire for a wider group of regulators and the regulated, a literature review of previous reviews of legislation and 1:1 interviews with a wider group of regulators and the regulated. This evidence base will be focused on the effectiveness of the legislation to deliver its intended purpose and its wider impact on the delivery of healthy ecosystems and their services.

The work stream has already identified a key dependency with both the Living Wales principles and the wider evidence work. We need to be clear on what we require from our land and seas and their exploitation by society in order to appraise the effectiveness of current regulatory and management approaches to deliver these outcomes. There may be a future need for key, underlying legislation, however this should not prevent us from identifying and putting in place simple processes and key management approaches to make the implementation of our existing suite of legislation more effective.

Initial indications based on discussion by work stream representatives, rather than from the results of the assessment that has only just begun, are that there appears to be significant scope for the improvement in how the existing legislation is applied and implemented. This is not just in pure process terms but also in how 'embedding' the implementation of legislation in wider management approaches can prove to be an effective delivery approach. This is an area the work stream is keen to investigate further but we need to do this in a sequential manner, having built a strong foundation that will serve us well in the medium-term.

Refreshing Partnership Mechanisms

This work stream is leading consultation activities and managing the communication plan for A Living Wales. A pack of tools (key messages, presentation materials and workshop outlines) has been developed for use by partners. As part of this process, work stream members and other partners are seeking input from a far wider range of stakeholders than are currently involved with ecosystem enhancement and protection.

The work stream membership includes both environmental and non-environmental bodies and includes tourism, manufacturing industry, agriculture and communications experts. Their priority so far has been to raise awareness and encourage responses. Whilst difficult to directly attribute to this work, attendance and presentations at numerous conferences and meetings seem to have ensured a significant response in terms of visits to the WAG website, downloads of the consultation document and formal responses submitted.

The group believe that they have achieved their initial priority of wider engagement with stakeholders and key sectors. In the current economic climate with many organisations suffering financial hardship, we have to work at a pace that is conducive to them and their resources. There is a feeling that we need to focus on securing even wider and deeper sign-up to some of the fundamental Living Wales principles. More time is required in which to seek responses from organisations and assess whether any sectors have been missed and we need to discuss the Living Wales concepts more with the wider general public. We are seeking to ensure continuity of approach following the Assembly elections in May and have recommended that a Summit be held as soon as practicable after the elections to ensure that the new Minister/Government is as committed to change as the current one.

The fact that this work stream has concentrated on soliciting consultation responses by attending "partner" organisations' meetings and making presentations means that they deliberately haven't begun the work of exploring how partnership working will be different under the new framework which we believe will be their key work in phase 2.

Next Steps

The on-line public consultation has been replaced with the following information pages: www.wales.gov.uk/livingwales / www.Cymru.gov.uk/cymrufyw

We are continuing to encourage engagement by asking organisations and individuals to:

Ask us to come along to meetings or provide a workshop to explore what this all means for their group or organisation;
please contact: Andy Schofield (andy.schofield@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk)

Visit our web pages and read the case studies or suggest a case study of their own by contacting Fiona Evans (f.evans@ccw.gov.uk)

Feed back their views on the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework: contact Jennifer Dack (jennifer.dack@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list to receive a questionnaire

Ask us to come along to provide a workshop about the prototype Geographical Information System (GIS) portal and how this might be used; contact Colin Chapman (colin.chapman@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Join one of our work groups which are looking at how we make this happen; contact natureconservation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The work will be taken forward over 2011 as follows:

A summary of responses and statement of next steps, along with a selection update reports such as: a refreshed and extended definitions paper and progress reports on indicators and monitoring and the potential for natural capital accounting. Additional case studies and further developments of the GIS Portal will also be available.

– February 2011

A report on Future Environments for Wales, setting out what sort of changes this might mean for Wales – Summer 2011

A report on the effectiveness of current regulatory approaches and initial proposals for change – Summer 2011

Proposals for new approaches to using geographical information and monitoring, including public involvement - Autumn 2011

Consultation on proposals for a new environmental body – Autumn 2011

WBPSG13
Paper 03: ANNEX 02
10th February 2011

DRAFT: WALES-LEVEL SPECIALIST GROUPS Terms of Reference: DRAFT

The aim of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) is to bring together key players from the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote and monitor biodiversity action in Wales, including protected sites and section 42 listed habitats and species. Delivery of biodiversity action in Wales is undertaken by a network of Wales-level specialist groups. These include 9 Ecosystem Groups, the Species Expert Group, the Invasive Non-native Species Group, the Wales Environment Information Steering Group and the Outcome 21 group.

Every group has the following responsibilities with regard to their particular focus:

- Collaborate with others in Wales to support the development and implementation of an ecosystem approach¹, focused on ecosystem health and resilience as set out in the WBP Framework and Living Wales.
- Work with relevant stakeholders on practical projects to provide ecosystem and biodiversity benefits.
- Act as a source of expertise for appropriate WAG Officials, within the context of Living Wales, to secure ecosystem outcomes and reduce barriers to ecosystem enhancement and protection within all areas of WAG policy and delivery.
- Contribute to monitoring, surveillance and reporting to promote positive use of scientific evidence within policy development, delivery and action. Identify knowledge gaps and recommend how these can be filled and contribute to the strategic approach being developed by the Living Wales evidence work stream.
- Share data and report actions, and encourage others to do so, in a timely fashion on the Biodiversity Action Recording System (BARS), Special Sites Database (Environment Strategy Wales Outcome 21), local record centres and/or NBN Gateway or other relevant national database.
- Work with each other, and with relevant public authority funding managers, to coordinate funding bids.
- Contribute to coordination of reporting on status and trends for habitats and associated species.
- Keep under review the skill set and membership of the group to ensure that it fully reflects the ecosystem approach.

¹ As defined by NEF Evidence workstream, insert reference to ecosystems definitions paper.

WBP Group Meeting Protocol (based on Living Wales meeting protocol)

Basic Principles

- Be honest, open and accessible at all times
- Give and receive positive feedback
- Seek to understand the reality of the barriers being faced by stakeholders
- Endeavour to overcome these in the most effective, sustainable way possible
- Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and help

Decide on the meeting objectives – make sure it is action centred.

Arrange a number of meeting dates ahead at each meeting, so that people are more easily able to attend.

Choose the most appropriate venue and communication channels; video conferencing, audio and/or face to face.

Send meeting details to the group; including date, start and finish times, venue location, refreshment availability, communication channels and agenda. Provide all meeting papers to WBP for publication on WBP website. State clearly that an appropriately briefed deputy should be sent to attend if an invitee cannot attend.

Establish who can attend, including the deputies, and ensure that all potential attendees have received the meeting details.

The meeting should have a Chair who keeps the meeting on track and to time, Members who are responsible for ensuring action takes place between meetings, and a Secretary who records the action points and decisions made at the meeting.

The previous meeting's uncompleted action points should be reviewed at each meeting.

At each meeting three key messages should be agreed that can be shared by Members with their colleagues and wider networks. Members will ensure that the three key messages from each meeting are fed back to their colleagues and wider networks.

The Chair will end the meeting by summarising the action points for the Secretary and the group. The action points should be assigned to individuals with milestones/deadlines. The Chair may set up sub-groups or task and finish groups to determine issues requiring more detailed input outside the core work stream meeting.

As soon as possible, or within a week following a meeting, the action points should be circulated to all, including those relevant outside the meeting, who may need to take action or be informed.

Members will chase actions and ensure that they are carried out to a good standard and to reasonable deadlines. If there are problems they will take appropriate timely action and/or seek advice or assistance from the Chair.

Chairs will ensure that they are in regular contact with other ecosystem group chairs in order to assist each other with interdependencies.

Living Wales – Key Messages

Our life support system is under pressure

Our land, water, seas and air provide us with a wide range of vital services. They create employment and income worth billions of pounds, offer us health, recreation, sport and learning opportunities, provide fresh water and prevent floods, absorb our pollution and produce our food, energy and timber.

This is our life support system. It is a complex living biosphere made up of many ecosystems – which need a healthy diversity of plants and animals to function.

There is deep concern about the fast pace of biodiversity loss worldwide, and the increasing impact of climate change on these ecosystems. The benefits we derive from these ecosystems are under threat. Despite many successes in conserving plants and animals and in cleaning up our environment, there is evidence of these longer-term negative trends in Wales.

Up until now we have tended to look at parts of the environment separately rather than managing them as systems. This way of managing and conserving the environment has had limited success, and we have failed to put a value on many of the benefits the environment provides.

Wales leading the way

Maintaining healthy ecosystems is less expensive than treating problems later on. For example, good land management in river catchments can keep water clean and reduce flooding. Well-functioning ecosystems will be more resilient to climate change and extreme weather events. Wales could be the first country to put this “ecosystem approach” into practice.

A recent study has shown that for every pound invested in the natural environment we get ten to a hundred pounds in return. In Wales the environment contributes at least £8.8billion to the Welsh economy every year - 9% of Welsh GDP and one in six Welsh jobs – but it could be worth much more.

A compelling case for change

Our present lack of success and the future increase in pressures add up to a compelling case for change. In order to get the best social and economic

outcomes, Wales must radically rethink how it manages and protects its environment.

A Living Wales looks for a new contract between environmental managers and regulators, industry and commerce, and the public. Every sector, every age group, every community needs to make the conservation of our “life support system” our number one priority.

In doing this, Wales can reflect its deep historical and cultural links to the natural environment. We should find a distinctively Welsh approach, based on the best scientific evidence and latest thinking from around the world.

What could this mean:

For people

Responsible enjoyment of an accessible environment where nature is seen to be important for our health, our education and our present and future economic success

For volunteers

Recognition of the value and importance of the efforts of every individual contributing to a healthy environment.

For fishermen

Rivers lakes and seas that sustain healthy fisheries through good regulation that benefits everyone now and into the future

For farmers, foresters and landowners

Prosperous livelihoods, where the provision of public goods and services is well rewarded and where nature thrives

For wildlife

Larger, connected and diverse habitats which allow full ecological functionality and adaptation to climatic change

For developers

A simpler regulatory system based on the assessment of risk to the ecosystem and clearer guidance on what should be avoided

For regulated industries

A more integrated system of environmental management which is administratively simple and cost-effective but fully protective of our environmental assets

For planners

Better decision making about use of land and water that reflect all the costs and benefits to society, conserving wildlife and environmental assets but allowing developments in the right places

For policy makers

Sustainable development becomes a *central organising principle* through which all policies are developed and delivered, and the environment is always conserved or enhanced

Get involved!

Read the consultation paper *A Living Wales* and its background papers.

Contribute to the work streams developing the policy and actions.

Post your views on the online consultation forum or write in to us.

Enjoy, learn about and conserve the nature around you!

Title: Wildlife Crime Update

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

Background/Progress

The first meeting of the Welsh Biodiversity Partnership – wildlife crime prevention and enforcement working group was held at the Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters on Monday 29th November 2010. The meeting was chaired by Chief Superintendent Gwyn Thomas of the Dyfed Powys Police.

The enforcement working group is charged with ensuring interoperability through the production of a Welsh wildlife crime strategy; developing codes of practice and data sharing agreements; progressing UK and Welsh wildlife crime priorities; and delivery of an annual wildlife crime conference.

The actions arising from the first meeting of this group can be found at the following link:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/WC%20Enforcement%20Group%20Meeting%201%202911201.doc>

The next meeting of this group will take place on 2nd March 2011 at the Police Divisional HQ's in Brecon.

The next PAW Open Seminar will be held on the 2nd March at the Royal Botanical Gardens KEW, London. More information including booking forms are available on the PAW website homepage: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/>

The National Wildlife Crime Units annual report for 2010 can be found at the following link:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/pdf/nwcu-annual-report10.pdf>

On 1 January 2011 the Welsh general licences were renewed. There are significant changes to species, methods and other terms and conditions from the licences issued in 2010. Canada geese and ruddy duck have been added to some general licences whilst house sparrow, starling, herring gulls, lesser and great black backed gulls have been removed from most general licences. Copies of the new licences can be found on the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/wildlifelicences/wildlifelicences/?lang=en>

Cases

In October last year, after a trial lasting 7 days at Cardiff Crown Court, Anthony HOLWELL was found guilty of 7 charges relating to the running of an illegal waste site, treating and keeping controlled waste. His co-defendant, Stephen RICHARDS had previously pleaded guilty to 17 similar offences, which included four offences of carrying out unconsented operations within a SSSI. All these offences relate to work carried out on and around the Gwent Levels - St Brides Site of Special Scientific Interest. At the present time the defendant RICHARDS has failed to appear at court for sentencing and a warrant for his arrest has been issued, the defendant HOLWELL is currently serving a prison sentence for offences of Blackmail.

This case was the conclusion of a joint investigation by CCW and the EA which was prosecuted by the EA. It is believed that this is the first time that the Environment Agency has acted as the prosecuting agent for CCW in relation to offences under Sec28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

In October this year wildlife crime officers across Wales took part in Operation Ramp, this was a worldwide operation co-ordinated by INTERPOL and involving 51 countries across all five continents targeting the illegal trade in reptiles and amphibians. The global operation resulted in arrests worldwide and the seizure of thousands of animals as well as of products worth more than 25 million Euros. Within Wales various offences were disclosed which are still subject to enquiry. The following link provides further information:

<http://www.interpol.int/Public/ICPO/PressReleases/PR2010/PR089.asp>

A MAN who previously fed a live rabbit to an alligator has admitted breaching a ban on keeping pets. Damien French was banned from keeping animals for 10 years for animal cruelty after he was found guilty of throwing the rabbit into the alligator enclosure at a zoo. When North Wales Police wildlife officers and RSPCA inspectors searched French's flat in Russell Road, Rhyl, last month they found various animals. At Prestatyn magistrates' court, French, 24, pleaded guilty to breaching the order and was fined £100. He was also ordered to pay costs totalling £100.

A man from Tonypany received a suspended jail sentence for badger digging with dogs, Christian Latcham, of Tonypany, was told it was "unspeakable cruelty" after admitting eight charges under animal welfare and badger protection laws at Rhondda magistrates. He was given a five-month sentence suspended for a year and was banned from owning dogs indefinitely. He was

caught after police found images on his mobile phone. Latcham was also told to do 250 hours community work.

Plan/Proposals

Action Requested

- Form a task and finish team to carry out next step NO
- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES
- Ask all WBP members to comment on the format of the report YES



Title: Linking biodiversity experts with the interested public: *iSpot*

Produced by: Dr Madeleine Havard, OU Biodiversity Mentor for Wales

Background/Progress

iSpot – ***your place to share nature*** (www.iSpot.org.uk) is the social networking website about engagement with nature, developed as part of the Biodiversity Observatory in the Department of Life Sciences, The Open University. It is an easily accessible resource to engage and inform anyone interested in wildlife, from the casual viewer of wildlife programmes to the more knowledgeable naturalist. The site was launched in June 2009 and now has over 8000 registered users. In October 2010 it won the ARKive New Media Award at the international Wildscreen Panda Awards.

As part of the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) project, funded through the Big Lottery Fund, the Open University is running a number of biodiversity projects. These include: supporting a team of Biodiversity Mentors throughout England to promote *iSpot*; the development and use of Bayesian Keys (as highlighted on the *iSpot* website); and a new OU course focused on individuals learning how to survey and monitor local wildlife: S159 *Neighbourhood Nature*.

During the summer of 2010 the success of the scheme was recognised, with the award of a grant from the Open University Development Fund to appoint additional Biodiversity Mentors in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The aim is to encourage greater public participation with nature across the UK and Ireland.

Plan/Proposals

OU would like to encourage as many people as possible to get involved with *iSpot*. As well as encouraging people to post pictures and descriptions of wildlife that they want to find out more about, we are keen to engage more “experts” in using the site. *iSpot* offers a great opportunity to share both knowledge and enthusiasm for any or all wildlife, and also to find out more about wildlife in Wales. There have been a number of very interesting sightings reported on *iSpot*, including a new moth species for Britain (a *Euonymus* Leaf Notcher), spotted by a 6year old and her father!

Anyone can use the site, to post a picture for identification you need to register, but this is quick, easy and free. Organisations can be formally linked to the *iSpot* website, once a representative registers on the site and that representative (and/or others from that organisation) agrees to input to the

site: identifying species, supporting identifications and adding comments. We would also encourage organisations to put links to *iSpot* from their websites.

The *iSpot* website is a useful attraction at events and open days, and both training and supporting materials can be provided. The outcome of special events, such as BiodiversityBlitz days, can be recorded in an identified area on the site, as can the records from a particular site, such as a nature reserve. *iSpot* thereby generates and shares useful information, as well as encouraging people to get engaged with local wildlife.

The website functionality is currently being developed such that geographical information will be able to be extracted more easily, making the information held in the database of direct use to our Local Records Centres, Recording Groups etc.

For anyone interested in classification and particularly the use of Bayesian Keys, we are looking for experts in a wide range of groups to assist in the development of more keys, and would be delighted to hear from you.

For further information contact: m.s.c.havard@open.ac.uk, and see www.iSpot.org.uk

Action Requested

- That it is suggested that all WBP members, as individuals and as organisations, be encouraged to become engaged with *iSpot*
- That the link to *iSpot* already on the WBP website (thank you), be placed more prominently

Title: Evaluation and continuation of the Lichen Apprenticeship Scheme

Produced by: Trevor Dines & Ray Woods (Plantlife Cymru) and Alan Hale (CCW).

Background/Progress

- Sixty-nine (12.7%) of Section 42 priority list species are lichens, and two lichen communities are listed. However, there is currently the equivalent of just **1.5** employed posts dealing with the conservation of lichens in the field in Wales (two half-time post in Plantlife Cymru and another half-time post in the Countryside Council for Wales) and only **three or four** field lichen recorders regarded as experts in Wales at the moment. None of these people are under the age of 50 and the eldest is 63.
- The Lichen Apprenticeship scheme was established with the help of WAG to address the shortage of lichen field expertise in Wales following a successful scheme in Scotland funded by SNH. The scheme provides a small amount of funding for books and equipment and relies on organisations allocating time in their staff work programmes to provide specialist training or attend the courses as apprentices.
- Since its start, around 25 people have been included in the Lichen Apprenticeship scheme. Most of these are CCW staff, plus 5 from WAG, 1 from Cofnod, 1 from Natur, 1 from a local authority and 1 recent graduate. The scheme encourages participating organisations to give their staff the time to attend the workshops and field meetings.
- Of those in the scheme, three have shown a good level of competency and could go on to become good field lichenologists. It is difficult to assess their individual progress as there is no means of formal evaluation, but they will need significantly more training before they can be regarded as experts.
- Training is provided through the provision workshops and field meetings. The staff administering the scheme, producing the website and providing this training come from CCW, Plantlife Cymru, WAG and NMW. They have spent a total of approximately 31 days providing these services with no additional funding.
- A high quality website has been produced (www.wales-lichens.org.uk) and this has seen a steady growth in visitors; in October there were on

average 49 separate visits and 194 pages viewed daily. The full statistics for the website are given in Appendix A.

- The scheme has certainly developed the competency of a few people to a good standard, and widened the general awareness of lichens and conservations issues around them with a good number of other people. This general awareness element is very important and it would be very beneficial to bring in people from other organisations such as Forestry Commission, National Trust etc.
- More workshops and a lot more opportunities for apprentices to join the experienced lichenologists in the field would be better. The limiting factor has been shortage of time on the part of the trainers. In particular, Alan Hale (CCW) would benefit from more time to refine the website and deal with organisational matters.
- Ideally a "bursary" would be provided to help the 2-3 more competent apprentices to improve their lichen skills sufficient to become full-time experts. This is what has happened in Scotland and fulfils the aim of training the next generation of expert lichenologists. At the very minimum, some expenses should be available to those who are not funded by an organisation (for travel etc.).
- The shortage of time on the part of the trainers is more difficult to address. There is a particular problem in coverage of north Wales. Some funds to pay for visiting external lichenologists would certainly help.

Plan/Proposals

We ask that:

1. The Lichen Apprenticeship scheme is continued. It has achieved significant results and is improving the recording and appreciation of perhaps the most threatened and least understood groups of S42 species at a time when the number of employed experts is continuing to decrease. The scheme requires long-term commitment and support from WAG and participating organisations.
2. Uptake of the scheme is improved by allowing and encouraging staff from a wider range of organisations, such as Forestry Commission and National Trust, to participate in the workshops and field courses.
3. WPB seek to provide some financial support for course trainers. This is the critical issue at the moment as currently they are providing the service within their current roles at no additional cost. Expenses to encourage external lichenologists to visit and run workshops and field courses would be extremely helpful.

4. WPB seek to provide a bursary for expert-level training of 2-3 competent apprentices improve their skills to become full-time. This is the model undertaken in Scotland and it has produced lichenologists skilled enough to become consultants or take on full time posts.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES/NO
- Ask all WBP members to allow their staff to attend Lichen Apprenticeship courses and events. YES/NO

Title: WBP Planning

Produced by: Sean McHugh WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

WBP Biodiversity Conference 2011

This year's WBP conference will be held on the 14th and 15th September at Trinity College Carmarthen. Ideas are welcome for the conference theme; the general format will follow on from last year's successful Bangor Conference.

WBP and UK BAP Conference proceedings 2010 are available from the WBP website: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wbp_activities-18.aspx

Action Requested

1. To agree this year's WBP conference theme
2. To circulate the WBP conference date & location to your contacts
3. To suggest/volunteer speakers/topics for the conference

Wales Biodiversity Week 2011

Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW) dates are 4th -12th June.

WBW is designed to raise awareness with the public of the importance of biodiversity to society and the consequences of its loss. In 2010 events included Open Farm Sundays; 'Go Wild' – a large-scale community wildlife/environment fair; a biodiversity display at a major music festival and a 'Meet the neighbours' mobile interactive town centre display, attracting passing shoppers and facilitating awareness, the format which has potential to be adopted across Wales. The WBP support team will coordinate WBW events, merchandise and an on-line pledge system on behalf of LBAPs. An evaluation of WBW 2010 is available at:

http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wales_biodiversity_week-121.aspx

Global Biodiversity Awareness Initiatives

2011 is the International Year of Forests (IYF) and its likely the UN will declare a Decade of Biodiversity from 2011 until 2020. The International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) will be celebrated on 22nd May and events to celebrate IDB are required. An outline of notable dates in the environmental calendar is listed in Appendix 1. Note: an evaluation of the IYB-UK 2010 campaign will be available in the near future from Defra.

Action Requested

4. For partners to agree to circulate WBW date (4th - 12th June) to your contacts
5. For partners to agree to host WBW/ IYF & IDB events and/or coordinate with LBAPs in hosting events
6. For partners to agree to send WBW/ IYF & IDB event details to LBAPs/WBP secretariat (Sean McHugh) for publicity purposes

Biodiversity Year Planner 2011

International Year of Forests 2011	
International Year of Forests	www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011
Year of the Bat 2011-2012	www.yearofthebat.org
Big Garden Bird Watch 29th-30th Jan	www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch
World Wetlands Day 2nd Feb	www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-wwds-wwd2011index/main/ramsar/1-63-78%5E24770_4000_0
National Nest Box Week 14th -21st Feb	www.bto.org/nnbw/index.htm
National Science Week 11th -20th March 2011	www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/index.htm
Climate Week 21st -27th March	www.climateweek.com/
International Dawn Chorus Day 1st May	www.idcd.info/events-in-your-area
The International Day for Biological Diversity 22nd May – Biology & Forests	www.cbd.int/idb
World Environment Day 5th June	www.unep.org/wed/2009/english
Wales Biodiversity Week 4th -12th June	www.biodiversitywales.org.uk
National Marine Week 30th July - 14th August 2011	www.wildlifetrusts.org/?section=events:summer:marineweek
Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference 14th-15th Sept	www.biodiversitywales.org.uk
Great Nut Hunt Autumn	www.greatnuthunt.org.uk
National Tree Week Nov-Dec (tbc)	www.treecouncil.org.uk
International Volunteer Day 5th Dec (tbc)	www.unvolunteers.org/



Title: Changes to Published S42 List

Produced by: Trevor Dines, Plant Link Cymru & Wales Species Expert Group.

Background/Progress

Since publication of the Section 42 list for Wales, various changes are now needed to update taxonomic name changes, species that were recorded erroneously in Wales (and should therefore not appear on the S42 list), and UK BAP species that have now been recorded in Wales for the first time (and should therefore be included on the S42 list).

Importantly, this paper does not include species whose status (level of threat and selection against BAP criteria) have been reassessed and would now qualify for inclusion.

CHANGES TO THE PUBLISHED SECTION 42 LIST

Three types of changes are covered in this review:

1. Those where recently published taxonomic revisions have changed the currently published name (i.e., the taxon itself has not changed, but its' name has). In these cases the name on the Section 42 list changes.
2. Those where UK BAP taxa are now known to have been recorded in error and have never been recorded in Wales. In these cases the species should be removed from the S42 list.
3. Those where UK BAP species have been recorded in Wales since publication of the Section 42 list (which includes all UK BAP species recorded in Wales) in 2006. In these cases new species appear on the Section 42 list.

1. Taxonomic name changes

The names of these species should be changed on the S42 list:

Taxon group	Current name on S42 list	NEW name to appear on S42 list	Reason for change Publication of revised name in
Vascular plant	<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	<i>Cerastium nigrescens</i>	Stace (2010)*
Vascular plant	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella subsp. cambrensis</i>	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella var. cambrensis</i>	Stace (2010)*
Vascular plant	<i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	<i>Euphrasia officinalis subsp. anglica</i>	Stace (2010)*
Vascular	<i>Euphrasia</i>	<i>Euphrasia</i>	Stace (2010)*

plant	<i>rostkoviana</i> <i>subsp.montana</i>	<i>officinalis subsp.</i> <i>monticola</i>	
Vascular plant	<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	<i>Hypopitys monotropa</i>	Stace (2010)*
Vascular plant	<i>Monotropa hypopitys subsp. hypophegea</i>	<i>Hypopitys monotropa subsp. hypophegea</i>	Stace (2010)*
Vascular plant	<i>Monotropa hypopitys subsp. hypopitys</i>	<i>Hypopitys monotropa subsp. monotropa</i>	Stace (2010)*
Bryophyte	<i>Cryphaea lamyana</i>	<i>Dendrocryphaea lamyana</i>	Hill et al. (2008)**
Bryophyte	<i>Dicranum bergeri</i>	<i>Dicranum undulatum</i>	Hill et al. (2008)**
Bryophyte	<i>Funaria pulchella</i>	<i>Entosthodon pulchellus</i>	Hill et al. (2008)**
Lichen	<i>Parmelina quercina</i>	<i>Parmelina carporrhizans</i>	Smith et al. (2009)***

* Stace, C.A. (2010). New Flora of the British Isles, Third Edition. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

** Hill, M.O., Blackstock, T.H., Long, D.G. & Rothero, G.P. (2008). A Checklist and Census Catalogue of British and Irish Bryophytes. British Bryological Society, Middlewich.

*** Smith, C. W., Aptroot, A., Coppins, B. J., Fletcher, A., Gilbert, O. L., James, P. W., and Wolseley, P. A. (eds.). (2009). The Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland. The British Lichen Society, London.

2. Species recorded in error and never recorded in Wales

The following species should be removed from the S42 list:

Taxon group	S42 species recorded in error	Source of information
Lichen	<i>Arthothelium dictyosporum</i>	Ray Woods

3. Current UK BAP species newly recorded in Wales

These species should be added to the S42 list:

Taxon group	UK BAP species to add to S42 list	Year and location of record	Source of information
Bryophyte	<i>Daltonia splachnoides</i> (Irish Daltonia)	Brechfa Forest, 2010	Sam Bosanquet
Bryophyte	<i>Orthotrichum</i>	Aberystwyth, 2008	Sam Bosanquet

	<i>obtusifolium</i> (Blunt-leaved Bristle-moss)		
Bryophyte	<i>Seligeria oelandica</i> (Irish Rock-bristle)	Craig-y-Cilau, 2009	Sam Bosanquet
Bryophyte	<i>Sphagnum balticum</i> (Baltic Bog-moss)	Ceredigion, 2008	Sam Bosanquet
Lichen	<i>Cryptolechea carneolutea</i>	Stackpole 2008	Bryan Edwards
Fungus	<i>Hypocreopsis rhododendri</i>	Brechfa Forest, 2009	Sam Bosanquet

In addition, we would like to support the addition of the following UK BAP bryophyte species to the Section 42 list for the reasons given. Their original omission from the S42 list was in error and is preventing work on their conservation in Wales:

Micromitrium tenerum (Milimetre Moss) is an ephemeral moss of lake and reservoir margins that was recorded on Anglesey in 1971. It is only apparent in summers when water levels are very low, and has recently been rediscovered in south-east England after an absence of several decades. Its continued presence on Anglesey is highly likely.

Weissia multicapsularis (Many-fruited Beardless-moss) was recorded in Monmouthshire in 1981 and the same taxon is still present near the 1981 site. DNA analysis is required to establish the relationship between these plants and the only officially recognised *W. multicapsularis* in existence, in Cornwall, but provisional results support they are conspecific.

Plan/Proposals

We ask that WPB formally accept the above revisions and that the S42 list available for download on the WBP website is amended to include them.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above

YES/NO