

WBP Lowland Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group Work Plan (2014-2017)

ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES													
			YEAR 1 (2014-2015)				YEAR 2 (2015-2016)				YEAR 3 (2016-2017)			
	Lead	Partners	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb
Habitat and Site Management														
Support the development of the second tier sites system as part of the South East Wales REF project. Depending on outcomes facilitate adoption across other LBAPs	HY	LBAPs	Attend SE Wales Partnership meeting.		SE Wales Project rep attend Nov LGHG meeting to outline project progress			Invite SE Wales Project rep to discuss Lessons Learnt						Ongoing
Start SOMM HLF Project (grassland grazing project for West Wales)	HB	NRW		Update from NT on programme of work at LGHG meeting				Update and site visit at LGHG meeting						
Develop a grazing scheme to deliver across limestone grassland, and priority grasslands and heathland in North East Wales'	SS	NRW		Update progress since the ERD Project	Update progress									
Address issues with heather and grass burning in Wales	JS	? (WG) FRS	Arrange meeting with WG			Arrange meeting with WG			WBP meeting with WG					
Land Management Demonstration Days for Pollinators	SL	Bumblebee CT WG(Gladrir) ?		LWS SE Wales project land engagement days				Potential land management demonstration days (BCT/Gladrir)						
Work with graziers associations to provide training to non-agricultural practitioners	SB?	LGHEG												
Habitat Creation and Restoration														
Compile a set of milestones for determining the progress of grassland creation and defining when the habitat has been successfully created	SS??	Defra NE	Report overdue											
Compile a set of milestones for determining the progress of heathland habitat creation and restoration including defining when a habitat has been successfully created for use in LBAP and national reporting	JS??	LGHEG	HOLD pending confirmation of reporting requirements					HOLD pending outcomes of grassland work						

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Establish a patch size target for Wales. Undertake a mapping exercise for lowland heathland habitats and species to provide a mechanism for spatially prioritising actions at a national and local level.	JS	LGHEG	HOLD pending outcome of FoB Group.				HOLD pending decision on Wales targets							
Developing Llyn Coastal Connectivity Project following results of ERD funded scoping study on Llyn.	HB	RSPB, Plantlife	Await decision of £6M Fund before determining next steps	In Nature Fund	Successful Nature Fund Project	Update								
Information and Databases														
Develop pictorial and outcome / process driven advice / guidance to show pictorially sward characteristics under favourable and unfavourable conditions for foraging chough.	SB	RSPB				RSPB producing species guides (incl. Chough)			All Wales Chough Meeting					
Annually review Priority Action Maps for grassland and heathland to guide conservation effort at a national and local level and ensure updates are transferred to BARS	SS/JS	LGHEG/NRW		Produce update of Action within Priority Areas For LGHEG meeting					Produce update of Action within Priority Areas for LGHEG meeting			Produce update of Action within Priority Areas for LGHEG meeting		
Compile and maintain a reference list of heathland and grassland management and heathland creation information sources and identify any gaps.	JS	LGHEG	Produce list of exemplar project			Produce reference list and summaries and put on WBP website (once NF known)			Annual Update			Annual Update		
Communications - Advisory														
UK Grassland Forum	SS/HB	NGOs, NRW		Circulate information on June Landlife meeting										
Trial the Ecosystem Approach Framework, developed by WG, on one of the Heathland and Grassland projects	HB	WG		Discuss a case study of Trehill as an example of Ecosystem Approach				Field visit to Trehill?						
Continue programme of workshops	EG	LBAPs		Investigate monitoring workshop in S Wales or NW Limestone	Waxcap Workshop			Limestone Grassland in NW Wales						

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LGHEG Meetings	HB HY	LGHEG		Meeting and field visit Pwllpeiran June	Indoor annual meeting Nov			Meeting and field visit Berthlwyd June	Indoor annual meeting Nov			Meeting and field visit June	Indoor annual meeting Nov	
Work with Plantlife to provide advice and guidance on non-native meadow plantings for pollinators	HB	Plantlife	Work with TD to determine what is required		Provide update			Provide update						
Research														
Continue research into hay meadow management & restoration at Elan Valley	SS	Elan Valley Trust/NRW		Update provided	Propose a case for long-term study?	Project completed 2014								
Identify evidence gaps in partnership with Academics and Chairs Group to inform targeted research, by supporting MSc/PhD research in defined areas.	HY	LGHEG Tracey/Lovering	Update evidence gaps and provide details to TL		Review		Review							
Policy and Legislation														
Compile a list of policy drivers which influence the condition/management for grassland and heathland for the Chairs Group Review and update information on a nine month cycle.	HB AW ASK Tracey	LGHEG Tracey/Lovering	Initial list sent to Policy Group (now disbanded) Draft policy template circulated. Future updates to be submitted to TL			Annually review policy drivers and the actions undertaken/progress made in trying to resolve policy constraints.		Review				Review		
Survey and Monitoring														
Provide training to LBAPs in grassland and heathland monitoring	JS/SS	LGHEG/LBAPs		Hold grassland/ and heathland monitoring workshop for LBAPs? (Cancelled)				Hold grassland/ and heathland monitoring workshop for LBAPs?						
Collate and report information on EIA regulations/ cross compliance and any loss of BAP Priority Lowland grassland and heathland and report on BARS.	HY	WG	Follow up with AW	Update provided		Follow up		Ask AW to provide report at June meeting.			EIA Successes added to BARS			Review
SS provide the lead for reporting on all grassland habitats (CBD, EU and Wales-level reporting)	SS	LGHEG WG	Continue to build data for reporting requirements				On-going							On-going

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JS provide the lead for all reporting on heathland habitats (CBD, EU and Wales-level reporting)	JS	LGHEG WG	Continue to build data for reporting requirements				On-going						On-going	
Species Management														
Produce management guidance for uncommon grassland vascular plants using information from Scarce Grassland Plants project	SS	NRW, NE, Tim Blackstock	Continue producing species accounts and work towards publication											
Progress species integration work for heathland habitats – produce management guidance	JS	SEG, UEG	Update lowland heathland management guidance awaiting outcome of £6M for funding for production of visual land manager guidance				Begin grassland work once finalised by SEG							
Funding														
Provide technical advice identifying and ranking national priorities for action including prioritising REF grassland and heathland projects	JS	WG	Provide advice to existing projects				Ensure outputs of successful REF Projects are shared							

Grassland	
Heathland	
Grassland and Heathland	