

Wales Mammals Biodiversity Action Forum Meeting 22 Feb 2010
CCW Offices, Newtown

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Present: Liz Halliwell (CCW) Chair, Rob Strachan (EA), Iolo Lloyd (FCW), Lizzie Wilberforce (WTSWW), Rob Parry (WTSWW), Mike Jenkins (EA), Penny Rudd (Chester Zoo), Sarah Bird (Chester Zoo), Kate Williamson (SNPA), Jane Garner (CCW), Henry Schofield (VWT), Steve Lucas (BCT), Ian Danby (BASC), Jean Matthews (CCW) Minutes

Apologies: Alison Elliott (Defra), Dan Forman (Swansea University), Nida Al-Fulaij (PTES), Kate Taylor (Denbighshire LBAP), Helen Buckingham (NT), Gareth Pritchard (Menter Mon), Rebecca Gwynne-Pritchard (Menter Mon).

2. Actions Points from the meeting of 13 October 2009 and matters arising

	Action	By whom	Progress
1	Look at Wales BAP document on role of leads and suggest route for communication.	JM/KW/LHa	Done. See new AP 1
2	Consider if specific meetings/ training days are required to develop survey methods where baseline data needed for new S42 species	New Species Leads & ALL in this group	No progress yet. Carry forward?
3	Speak to Action Leads to see if there are projects that need to be flagged up and taken forward. Consider what projects are underway for species.	Species Leads	No progress to date. Added to Work Programme.
4	Draft brief objectives and Terms of Reference for group.	ME	Completed. To be discussed in meeting
5	Circulate membership list with minutes and ALL to suggest other potential members.	LH/JM	Done. See new AP 2 & 3
6	Ask Simon Poulton to do presentation on Mam Soc Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme	KW	Completed

3. Draft Terms of Reference for Group

Revisions to ToR discussed at meeting.

AP 4 JM to send out revised ToR.

AP 5 JM/LH send round draft Work Programme.

4. Wales BAP process update

Recent progress of WBP and associated groups. Meeting to be held on 23 Feb to discuss – this should be the last meeting for process group. LBAP seminars to be held over summer. Caerphilly, Swansea (Steve attending both), Bangor (Kate attending). All LPAs have a biodiversity champion and there are Regional champions.

AP6 KW to send brief notes from 23 Feb meeting.

Question re Wales Squirrel Forum & Partnership – still to remain as separate bodies due largely to significant work programme at present.

Discussion about relationship between this group, Species Expert Group and Ecosystems Group. Some members of this group sit on SEG and EGs. This Group should sit under SEG, acting as a Mammal Expert Group. Not necessarily the role of this group to undertake actions, but to provide strategic direction for LBAPS, links with UK BAP groups and act as a safety valve helping to ensure that priority actions for mammals are delivered.

Discussion about relationship with SEG & LBAPs. Summary of actions required. Further discussion to follow Agenda Item 7.

AP7 ALL to prepare update in advance of meetings. Updates should then be disseminated to SEG and to LBAP partnerships.

5. Glastir – update on latest developments

Division between entry level and higher level schemes (ELS & HLS). Prescriptions drafted & now in matrix form. Emphasis of Glastir HLS will change – initially carbon sequestration, biodiversity at a later date. ELS scored for benefit to different species. HLS target area maps for certain species are much more restricted than TG areas. Have asked for opportunity to refine & update before HLS comes on stream.

6. Developing a strategic direction for mammal BAP in Wales

'Summary of Wales BAP mammals' spreadsheet & mechanisms discussed. Will be revised in light of comments.

AP8 ALL to send any comments by 8th March.

AP9 JM to revise spreadsheet and provide explanation / proviso re use of spreadsheet as outlined at meeting.

It was agreed that it would be valuable to have brief species action plans. Template should broadly follow existing format, but should also include regionalisation.

AP 10 LH - Dormouse Action Plan template to be done by Easter.

AP 11 Species Leads - Aim to have as many of other Action Plans as possible done by next meeting in June.

The use of either the WBP or WMG website for posting minutes and documents was discussed.

7. Relationship between WMBAF and Wales Mammal Group

WMG has wider role as includes other non-BAP species. Main aim seems to be to organise conference & have website. Updates on BAP projects should be on WBP website, but can have link to WMG website.

8. AOB Round up – not on Agenda, but should be standing Agenda item? – think we agreed to do this in writing

9. DONM

Tues 22nd June 2010 – focus of meeting will be Draft Action Plans & Water Vole Strategy
Venue to be confirmed

Weds 20th October 2010 – meeting focus to be agreed

Afternoon Session Workshop on new BAP species – harvest mouse, hedgehog, polecat and pine marten (13.00-15.00)

Harvest mouse:

- Little data available on distribution in Wales. Thus, survey information is highest priority. Novel survey methods (RP's refugia) and prioritisation of certain habitats (reed beds, tussock grass, roadside verges, TB set-aside, disturbed scrubby habitats) could be considered.

- Collation of harvest mouse studies suggested
- Could aim to priorities TMS forthcoming harvest mouse survey for Wales
- Need to encourage submission of anecdotal records and raise profile of harvest mice in Wales
- LRCs may play an important role in data collection and raising profile

Hedgehog:

- More information needed on distribution and numbers
- TMS hedgehog survey method (transects with stops to listen for hedgehogs), does not seem to be very effective
- WTSWW undertaken Carmarthenshire public records survey
- Could encourage greater public recording and link to activities, such as doing something in garden, or Watch groups

Polecat:

- VWT are continuing RTA data collection
- Population density information is more difficult to gather as requires trapping (previous VWT study 16 traps / 1km survey square)
- Main issue for polecats is probably impact of rodenticides

Pine marten:

- VWT have written up scat survey work. Due to put on website
- Developing hot pursuit process for high quality records.
- GCT considering adding pine martens to gamebag returns

AP12 RP to circulate paper on small mammal trapping

Summary of Actions from meeting February 2010

	Action	By whom	Progress
1	Disseminate information on process to LBAP officers and ask them to disseminate to local groups.	KW	
2	Email all on current contact list to see if they want to remain as members of the group and if so as full members or corresponding members.	LH/JM	
3	See if anyone missing from list & let JM know.	LH/JM	
4	Send out revised ToR	LH/JM	
5	Send out draft Work Programme	JM / LH	
6	Send brief notes from 23 Feb WBP meeting.	KW	
7	Prepare update in advance of meetings.	ALL	
	Disseminate updates to SEG and to LBAP partnerships	JM/LH & KW	
8	Send any comments on spreadsheet by 8 th March.	ALL	
9	Revise spreadsheet & provide explanation / proviso re use of mammal action spreadsheet	JM	
10	Produce Dormouse Action Plan as template by Easter	LH?	
11	Produce as many of other APs as possible before June meeting	Species Leads	
12	Circulate paper on small mammal trapping	RP	