

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP ACADEMIC WORKSHOP 2012

Venue: National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Date: 11 September 2012; 10:00-16:00

Aims:

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

Participants:

Chair: Dr Shaun Russell (Wales Environment Hub); Facilitators: Tracey Lovering & Alys Edwards (WBP Support Team), Steve Spode (Welsh Government), Dr Catherine Duigan (Countryside Council for Wales).

WBP Group academics: Prof Bill Symondson, Prof Steve Ormerod, Dr Isabelle Durance (Cardiff University), Prof Michael Christie, Dr Peter Dennis, Dr Peter Bunting, (Aberystwyth University), Dr Mariecia Fraser (IBERS, Aberystwyth University), Dr Jan Hiddink, Dr John Healy, (Bangor University), Dr Geoff Proffitt & Dr Dan Foreman (Swansea University), Dr Richard Unsworth (University of Glamorgan), Dr Natasha De Vere (National Botanic Garden of Wales), Dr Tim Pagella (Wales Environment Hub) & Angus Garbutt (CEH);

Ecosystem Group representatives: Paul Brazier (Marine), Jan Sherry (Lowland Grassland & Heathland), Pete Jones (Wetland), Charles Morgan (Upland), Stephen Bladwell (Species Experts Group and WEISG rep), Chris Tucker (Woodland), Pete Frost (Urban & Brownfield), rep *tbc* (Coastal), WG rep *tbc* (INNS Group), Dr Tristan Hatton-Ellis (Freshwater) & Clare Burrows (Enclosed Farmland).

Additional invitees: Matthew Quinn (*tbc*), John Watkins (*tbc*), Rhian Thomas, Jim Latham, & Katherine Raymond (*tbc*) (Welsh Government); Kathryn Monk (Environment Agency) (*tbc*); Dr Clive Walmsley (*tbc*) (Countryside Council for Wales), Dr Katie Medcalf *tbc* (Environment Systems).

Suggested Outcomes:

- 1) WBP academic reps understand how they can contribute to the work of WBP and how this work can inform Welsh Government (and proposed Single Body) delivery of the Living Wales Programme;
- 2) Academics will consider WBP research needs prior to workshop, and bring to the table suggestions on how potential/existing/new mechanisms/ research programmes may meet needs in full, or in part; provide links to related research; and future opportunities for integration e.g. student research projects or student placements/secondments within WBP partner organisations;

- 3) to identify and agree leads for particular areas of research for WBP from existing WBP academic pool and to draft a WBP academic work programme 2012-13;
- 4) to agree to publish evidence gaps/research needs on WEH & WBP website;
- 5) WBP academic reps to raise awareness among the wider academic community of the research priorities identified by WBP, to establish links between WBP Groups and institutions within Wales, UK and internationally;
- 6) to highlight to Welsh Government remaining research gaps which may impact on the development and delivery of the WG Living Wales Programme, which seeks to incorporate the Ecosystem Approach, and the delivery of favourable conservation status of Annex 1 & 2 and Sect 42 habitats and species;
- 7) to agree a method by which WBP academics can support each other and link across WBP advisory groups and maintain link/access support from WBP Support Team. This may be achieved through the Hub;

Suggested Outputs (to be agreed at workshop)

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

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